

PARISH CALENDAR March 2025

Date and Event			Officiating	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd Mar	Sunday next before Lent	11.15am Holy Communion	Revd. Anne Hardacre	Mrs A. Wallace	TBA	Mrs A. Chadwick & Mrs S. Travis
9th Mar	Lent I	11.15am Matins	Revd. Chris Hegg	Mr A. Herron	TBA	Mr I. & Mrs L. Walton
16th Mar	Lent II	11.15am Holy Communion	Revd. Anne Hardacre	Mrs P. McFall	TBA	Mrs A. Wallace
23rd Mar	Lent III	11.15am Matins	Revd. Chris Hegg	Mrs K. Her- ron	TBA	Mr B. & Mrs B. Lewis
30th Mar	Lent IV	11.15am Mothering Sunday	Revd. Chris Hegg	Mr I. Walton	TBA	Mr A. & Mrs K. Herron
April 2025						
6th April	Lent V	11.15am Holy Communion	Revd. Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis	TBA	Hon . Mrs. R. Assheton & Mrs C. Naylor

YOUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton (Parish Safeguarding Officer) 07817 634392
 Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 Mr Ian Walton—07979 598 057

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr Neil Wallace 441196

Hon. Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112

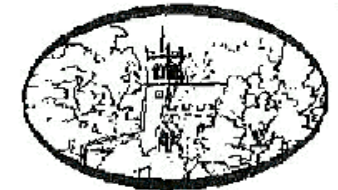
Village Hall Bookings email info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk

or phone 0784546 796818

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

Newsletter



New email: Downham@mail.com

Website: www.downhamvillage.org.uk

March 2025

O Lord, who hast set the bounds of the earth and clothed the hills of Pendle with Thy beauty, we give Thee thanks for the gift of this season of Spring.

As the earth awakens from its slumber and the flowers begin to bloom, we pray Thee, O Lord, to renew the hearts of Thy people. Grant that, like the crocus and the primrose, we may burst forth in joy and gladness, showing forth Thy love in all our ways.

Bless this land, O Lord, and the folk who dwell therein. May we walk in the light of Thy truth, and, by Thy grace, grow in faith, hope, and charity.

As the days lengthen and the warmth of the sun returns, strengthen our resolve to serve Thee with gladness and singleness of heart.

We humbly ask, O Lord, that Thy peace may reign in our homes, and Thy bounty in our fields, that all may share in Thy goodness and grace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Almighty God, who dost make the earth to bring forth fruit in due season, we thank Thee for the promise of Spring and the renewal of life.
As the days grow longer and the earth awakens from its winter's sleep, grant us grace to renew our hearts and minds in Thy service.
Bless this parish, O Lord, that we may reflect Thy glory in the beauty of creation and the love we show one another.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Some prominent Saint's Days for March:

March 1st – St. David's Day

St. David (Dewi Sant) is the patron saint of Wales. His feast day celebrates his life and work in spreading Christianity throughout Wales and associated Brittonic Celtic Cumbric speaking kingdoms such as Elmet and Craven.

March 17th – St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is widely remembered for bringing Christianity to Ireland. His feast day is celebrated with great enthusiasm, especially in Ireland and among the Irish diaspora and fans of Guinness .

March 19th – St. Joseph's Day

St. Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and earthly father of Jesus Christ, is commemorated. He is the patron saint of workers, fathers, and the universal Church.

March 25th – The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This day marks the visit of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, announcing that she would conceive Jesus by the Holy Spirit. It is a significant feast day in the Church calendar.

Some events from our history for March

March 1st, 1801 – Act of Union

The Act of Union came into effect, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. This marked a significant political change in British history - and an evolution in flag design.

March 4th, 1812 – The Luddite Uprising

In Lancashire, the industrial towns around Manchester saw unrest as workers protested against the rise of machines that were threatening their jobs, part of the wider Luddite movement. Their activities persist today in those who refuse to upgrade to Windows 11.

March 22nd , 1642 – The First English Civil War (of the 17th Century)

King Charles I raised his standard in Nottingham, marking the beginning of the First English Civil War (barring the anarchy of Stephen and Matilda/Maud in the 12th Century. This conflict (that the BBC now describe as the "British" civil war) would have a lasting impact on Lancashire, as it was a key region in the Parliamentary vs. Royalist struggle.

March 19th , 1963 – The Great Train Robbery Trial

The trial of the gang responsible for the infamous Great Train Robbery of 1963, which involved stealing £2.6 million (equivalent to £50 million today) from a Royal Mail train, began. Some of the criminals involved were from Lancashire and may have been an inspiration to those who delivered last autumn's Budget Statement.

Bowland Bus Walks - Spring 2025

In March, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape is hosting two guided car-free walks to showcase the car-free walking opportunities offered by the Service 11 route.

Start and finish times will line up with the Number 11 bus service from Clitheroe.

The Service 11 Bus connects villages across the Ribble Valley, Forest of Bowland and Yorkshire Dales, providing a welcome boost to public transport to the rural communities on both sides of the Lancashire-Yorkshire Border.

Service 11 buses operate Monday to Saturday, running every two hours between Clitheroe Interchange and Horton in Ribblesdale – connecting with rail services at either end of the route.

As well as providing vital links to villages along the route, the new service delivers a boost for sustainable tourism, opening up car-free access to some of the most popular visitor attractions and walking routes in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Dunsop Bridge - Thursday, March 13th 9am – 1.30pm

A pleasant 8-mile ramble up into the foothills of the Bowland Fells between Dunsop Bridge and Slaidburn, returning via Newton.

From Dunsop Bridge, we'll climb steadily up to the 'Queen's View' above the village before traversing the base of Beatrix Fell, then descending to the village of Newton. From here, we'll follow the River Hodder downstream through fields alive with spring lambs back to our starting point in Dunsop Bridge.

Stocks Reservoir -Saturday, March 29th 11am – 3.30pm

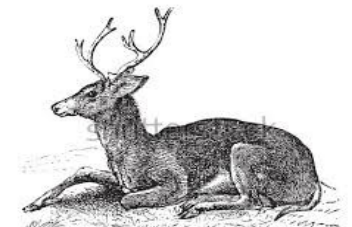
A challenging 11-mile circular route from Slaidburn climbing above Stocks Reservoir and returning via Gisburn Forest.

From Slaidburn, we'll head up the secluded valley of Croasdale and onwards to Stocks Reservoir. We follow the shoreline path around the reservoir, looking out for early spring migrant birds like sand martins and upland waders like the curlew as they start re-establishing their nesting territories. We'll return via the dense conifer woodlands of Gisburn Forest, where the resident crossbills will already be nesting in the top of the pine trees and early migrant warblers like the chiff-chaff may be calling from the understory.

Both these guided walks are FREE thanks to support from the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, but booking is ESSENTIAL. Voluntary donations to Champion Bowland either in cash on the day or via the Champion Bowland fundraising website – would be most welcome.



**Forest of
Bowland
National
Landscape**



The heavens above Downham this month...



Planets:

Venus: Venus will be visible in the evening sky, setting in the western horizon after sunset. It will be a prominent "evening star."

Mars: Mars will be visible, particularly later in the night, in the eastern sky as it rises after sunset.

Jupiter: Jupiter will be visible, rising later in the evening and prominent in the night sky.

Saturn: Saturn will be visible in the pre-dawn hours, towards the southeast before sunrise.

Stars:

Orion: The constellation Orion, with its prominent stars such as Betelgeuse and Rigel, will be visible in the early evening sky.

Sirius: The brightest star in the night sky, part of the constellation Canis Major, will be visible in the southern sky.

Aldebaran: The red giant star in the constellation Taurus will be visible, near the Pleiades.

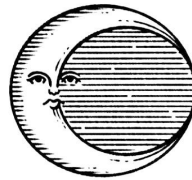
MOON phases in February

New Moon: March 1, 2025

First Quarter: March 8, 2025

Full Moon: March 14, 2025

Last Quarter: March 22, 2025



Bin - around the world but - which Thursday?...

Red bin every week and...

6th March - Green and paper

13th March - Blue

20th March - Green and paper

27th March - Blue

Ribble Valley Archaeology event

Together with local historian Brian Stott, Ribble Valley Archaeology are holding a Heritage Day at the Rimington Memorial Institute on Sunday 16th March from 11am to 4pm.

There will be information on local heritage and the exciting archaeological digs around Rimington: on the Roman road and in search for a lost chapel.

Everyone welcome to attend and ask questions. Activities for children are also planned.



As further inspiration to "Dig for Victory" here are some WW2-inspired recipes that include the local vegetables suggested above :

"Victory" Lancashire Hot Pot:

Serves: 4 | Cooking Time: ~2 hours

1/2 Lbs diced lamb

A tin of corned beef (cubed)

1 lb potatoes (peeled and thinly sliced)

2 medium carrots (grated)

1/2 lb broad beans

1 medium onion (sliced)

1 pint of lamb stock (or from 2 OXO cubes for stock)

1 tbsp plain flour

1 tbsp beef dripping (for browning)

1 tsp Worcestershire sauce (optional, if available)

Salt and pepper to taste

A small sprig of fresh thyme or 1 tsp dried thyme (optional)

A few cloves of chopped, home-grown garlic for that *Charles De Gaullic* twist.



salty beefiness

1. Prepare the Lamb and Corned Beef:

Heat the dripping in a large, heavy-bottomed casserole dish over medium heat. Lightly brown the diced lamb on all sides. Sprinkle with plain flour and cook for 1–2 minutes, stirring to coat the meat. Remove the lamb and set it aside.

Add the sliced onion to the same pan and cook until softened.

2. Layer the Ingredients:

In the greased casserole dish, layer half of the sliced potatoes at the bottom.

Add half of the grated carrot, broad beans, browned lamb, and cubed corned beef.

Sprinkle with a pinch of salt, pepper, and thyme (if using).

Repeat with the remaining grated carrot, broad beans, lamb, corned beef, and finish with a layer of overlapping potato slices on top.

3. Add the Stock:

Mix the Worcestershire sauce (if using) into the hot lamb or beef stock.

Pour the stock over the layers, ensuring it just reaches the top of the ingredients but does not completely submerge the top potato layer.

4. Bake the Hotpot:

Cover the dish with a lid or foil and bake in a preheated oven at 160°C (140°C fan) or gas mark 3 for 1.5 hours.

Remove the lid or foil for the final 30 minutes to allow the top layer of potatoes to crisp and turn golden brown.

5. Serve:

Serve hot with a side of pickled red cabbage, or simply enjoy as a one-pot meal.

Next Month (for consumption after Lent) there will be a wartime-inspired "Victory" Treacle Pudding to get us prepared for austerity and further belt-tightening in the after math of the

NEWS FOR March 2025

New vicar

After the sad news last month of Rev Judith's resignation, discussions are under way as to the way forward. The PCC are of the opinion that we cannot afford to pay for even part of a paid vicar. Our annual collections and donations of roughly £20,000 are just enough to pay for the running of the Church building (heat, light, insurance etc). If we have a paid vicar (even part time, as we have had for the last 20 years) we need to find at least an extra £12,000 each year (and rising) to pay the Diocese. The interest on our investments does not cover this, but we could afford to remain contributing to the overall "head office" costs. We feel that we have to live within our means, in order to do our best to ensure that St Leonard's survives for decades (if not centuries to come).

Hopefully we can come to an agreement on the way forward with the Diocese soon. Watch this space for updates over the coming months!

Apologies for late delivery of Feb edition

Sadly the February edition of The Thunderer suffered a technical glitch between the Editor's and the printer's desks. Apologies for the resulting late distribution.

Bridge repair

Following months of inaction after the report to LCC of damage to the bridge over the brook, a Council team appeared unannounced one day. To the alarm of some, the carved top stones were removed on the same day. A panic call was made to RVBC, to alert them to the removal of part of our Listed Building. (After all, the same Highway Department took away our traditional lamp posts in a similar raid, for them never to be seen again). Thankfully the Bridge Repair Team had only removed them temporarily and returned at 4am the following morning to reinstate the stones and complete repairs while the road was quiet.

Farewells

Rosie from Top Row has moved to Chatburn, whilst Lucy and Andy have moved from Old Well Hall. In Twiston, Stuart W has moved from Red Syke. We wish them all well.

Hedge laying competition

This year the Forest of Bowland leg of the Lancashire Hedge Laying Competition will take place on Saturday 8th March at Clay House Farm (8am till 3pm). There is sadly no on-site parking for visitors, but why not walk up the footpath from Brookside and through the Clay House farm yard to admire the skills of those taking part? Walk quietly through the farm yard as lambing will be in full swing.

Safeguarding

No reports of any incidents have been made in the last month to the Safeguarding officer.

Village Hall Pickleball!

Monday nights are filled with the exciting fun game of Pickleball in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. To see what you are missing out on, pop over on a Monday after 6.30pm or contact Alan Herron via the village FB page or 'phone 077715 411881.

- 07715 411881 - or message me on FB.

James (Jim) Jackson RIP

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of James Jackson (Jim) at the ripe age of 97 years!

He lived at Hey House and New Close for most of his life. Jim thoroughly enjoyed all his pastimes; helping his daughters with their horses, racing his pigeons and last but not least, sheep dog trialling!!

A service to remember James will be held at Downham Church on Wednesday 12th March at 2.30pm. He will be greatly missed.

Phyllis, Julie, Sheila and family

Coffee Club

Hi to all our present Coffee Club members and potential newcomers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month, the next one, being the 26th of March, from 10.30 am.

Garden Club - trip to Gresgath Hall Open Day...

We have a trip planned to Gresgarth Hall near Lancaster for the Hellebore Garden Open Day on Sunday March 9th, 11am-3pm. £15 entry. Car shares from Downham would be a good idea. (We plan to set off from "The Ducks" at about 10.15am) Please contact Helen via Downham@mail.com for further arrangements.

Dig for Victory (to celebrate VE Day 80 and the August Village Show)

Veg to consider starting in March

Outdoors (if the weather isn't too frosty):

Broad Beans: Plant directly into the soil. Hardies such as '*Aquadulce Claudia*' are perfect for early sowing.

Onion Sets & Shallots: Plant sets in well-drained soil. Low-maintenance and grow steadily through the spring.

Garlic: Some say that garlic should be planted before Christmas Day. However, you may still have time. Choose a sunny spot with well-drained soil.

Under Cover (greenhouse, cold frame, or cloches):

Salad Leaves: Varieties like lamb's lettuce, spinach, and rocket are great for sowing now. They grow quickly and are very rewarding.

Peas: Sow early varieties like '*Kelvedon Wonder*' in pots or trays under cover to transplant outdoors later.

Carrots: Early varieties like '*Amsterdam Forcing*' can be started in containers under cover or directly in the soil if it's not too frozen.

