

**PARISH CALENDAR 2021**

DECEMBER		EVENT	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners	
5th	Advent II	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Mrs P McFall	NO	Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
9th	Thursday	<b>6.45 pm</b>	WI	Calf's Head	Christmas Meal and Entertainment	
12th	Advent III	11.15 am	Matins Canon Andy Froud	Mrs K Herrom	FLOWERS	Mrs B. Lewis Mrs j Shepherd
16th	Thursday	1.15 pm	Pre school	Church	Nativity Singalong	
19th	Advent IV	11.15 am	Christingle Canon Andy Froud	Mrs B Lewis	IN ADVENT	Mrs J Feibel Mrs A Wallace
20th	Monday	6.30 pm	Carol Singing	Hare Green		
22nd	Wednesday	2.00 pm	Decorate Church	All welcome		
24th	Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion	Parish Church of St Mary Clitheroe		
25th	Christmas Day	11.15 am	Holy Communion Canon Andy Froud	Mrs E Parker		
26th	Christmas I	11.15 am	Matins Canon Andy Froud	Mr A Herron		Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell
<b>JANUARY 2022</b>						
2nd	Christmas II	11.15 am	Carol Service	Mrs A Wallace		Mr & Mrs P Mercer

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE  
INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS  
THAT SPONSOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER 2021  
THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED IN LOVING MEMORY OF BETTY MERCER

**OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE** — The Revd Andy Froud  
The Vicarage, Church Street, Clitheroe BB7 2DD  
01200 423317 —0796 957 6691 —andyfroud@gmail.com

**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**

The Hon Ralph Assheton —441210 = Mrs Philippa McFall - 44148 =Mr Ian Walton 445063

**DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Chairman Mr Neil Wallace —441196  
Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —445112  
Village Hall Bookings —info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk .

**Downham Social Media Resources**

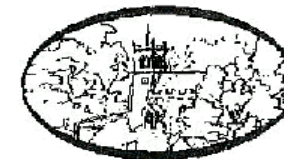
The public Facebook page -  
"Downham Village"  
The private Facebook page  
"Downham & Twiston Residents"  
Various Whatsapp groups including "Downham WI  
Here to Help

**CHURCH RESOURCES**

Regular worship is streamed  
by Rev Andy Froud  
on **Youtube** via  
St. Mary Magdalene website  
www.stmarysclitheroe.co.uk

**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**



**newsletter**

2021 Issue 12 DECEMBER

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

**From The Revd Andy Froud**

Dear Friends.

A few years ago I wrote most of this article as a reaction to the many articles about political correctness "killing" or "cancelling" Christmas. Since then, of course we have all lived through our own cancelled Christmas - but it has happened before covid 19.

You might have also heard that during the seventeenth century Puritans tried to outlaw Christmas. Just because they were miserable killjoys who wore black and didn't like anyone to have a good time. In fact, the real story is much more complicated than that.

Why did the Puritans object to Christmas? Firstly, they saw it as both papish and pagan: anything that came between the believer and God was to be opposed. And, some argued, the feast had just replaced the Roman festival of Saturnalia - there was no evidence that Christ's birthday even fell on December 25th. Perhaps bizarrely this led to Puritans campaigning to close churches on Christmas Eve and Day. Secondly, and maybe this is easier to understand, they opposed the commercialisation of Christmas. Yes, even before all the Chinese junk that we now have foisted on us, people objected to the money-making side of Christmas. In those days a Christmas market really was a Christmas market (the whole 12 days), not a December or even November one.

From 1646 onwards as Parliament gained the upper hand over Charles I, attacks on the traditional Christmas grew. In June 1647, a Parliamentary ordinance abolished the feasts of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun, and substituted as a regular holiday for students, servants and apprentices, the second Tuesday of every month. Not very easy to remember.

However, the law proved difficult to enforce (ironically, the Puritans were most successful in closing churches at Christmas.) Many businesses also started to close over the Christmas period, partly as a reaction to Puritan legislation but that just left people free to enjoy the festivities at parties, feasts and alehouses.

Christmas for me is about remembering the nature of a gift: as something undeserved, unworked for and bringing joy. God's gift of His only Son and the gift of life itself are what I look forward to celebrating in Christmas 2021

Yours in Christ

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

<b>DOWNHAM St. LEONARD FACTS &amp; FIGURES</b>		
	October	2021
Communicants	31	272
Collections		
	£	
Services	675	5,521
Visitors	78	198
Donations	272	8,757
House Boxes	-	157
Special	-	8,701
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>23,334</b>

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### Interment of Ashes

November, 2021 Margaret Riley, 1947 – 2021 of Chatburn

#### Marriage

27th November Harry McFall Carnegie, Grandson of Philippa McFall, and Emily Glenister of Dulwich, in London.



### THE VILLAGE HALL BONFIRE

ON ITS RETURN to our village calendar the annual bonfire and fireworks display held on 5th November, was enjoyed by nearly 100 adults and lots of children and made just over £700 including kind donations from the Langden Food Truck and Downham Ice Cream shop as well as an anonymous donation of £50.

The inclement weather held off for the best part. The food was of a very high standard, the queue at the van being constant for the whole evening. Barbara's fireworks were, as usual, EPIC and the feedback on all aspects of organisation and experience was amazing. The number of volunteers needed for a safe and successful event both in planning and on the night is just phenomenal. Many thanks to all involved. A great Village Hall event. OA

### SPECTATOR

### Speccy special

ON THESE dark and drizzly days, we miss the neighbours too, as neither of us, or just us, don't potter in the garden any more but we usually txt on a Saturday night to swap views on which Strictly dance was the best and who should go out of the competition

Me and Jon took up dancing lessons many moons ago and were doing really well until we got to the quick step and couldn't turn the corner, could only dance in a straight line. DISASTER DARLING!

Anyway who should knock on the door one dark afternoon but our esteemed Editor himself, looking as dapper as usual. We spent a lovely hour or so discussing new Downham residents and too many old still sadly missed Downham residents. We also talked about the new additions to his family, five cats for the price of one!

We are hoping to get to church on Christmas Day, with the family to help. We will be the ones wearing silly Christmas hats, big smiles and putting our best wheels forward .... You've got to laugh haven't you ☐

### Bowland Dark Skies Festival

Here at the Forest of Bowland AONB we're very excited to share advance notice of our fourth Bowland Dark Skies Festival!

Now an annual fixture in the Festival Bowland calendar, this nine-day programme of events, celebrating Bowland's wonderful dark skies, will bring a scattering of stardust to February half-term once again.

So, whether you want to wrap up and experience the beauty of Bowland after dark, or curl up and discover the "virtual" heavens online, here's a taste of what's on offer.

- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Live Moon Watch (Rimington Memorial Institute)
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Live Moon Watch (online)
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Exploring the Universe with Robots (online)
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Discovering Bowland's Bats (online)
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> An Introduction to Smartphone Night Sky Photography (online)
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Free Family Nature Event (Whitehough Outdoor Centre, Barley)
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> The Right Light at Night (online)
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Stargazing (venue TBC)
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Forest Moon Bathing (Gisburn Forest)
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Aurora Watch (online)

Full details are now on our website at: <https://www.forestofbowland.com/dark-skies-festival-2022> and booking will open during December. For more information email [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk)

THE CONGREGATION, CHOIR, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL & CLERGY  
OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF DOWNHAM AND TWISTON St LEONARD  
WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

## A59 WHALLEY / CLITHEROE BYPASS and THE DOWNHAM HA HA

### Michael Parkinson

AN ARTICLE earlier this year in the Clitheroe Civic Society's journal on the Golden Jubilee of the opening of the bypass in January 1971 brought back memories to me. I joined Ingham & Yorke as an assistant to the late David Yorke in 1966 and was heavily involved during the planning process, construction and subsequent negotiations of compensation claims for both landowners and tenants in relation to the bypass - I became a partner shortly after the opening. Given the firm's extensive involvement in the land through which the road was to run, which went beyond the Downham Estate, somewhat unusually we were quietly consulted as the plans were being developed. We were for instance able to persuade the North West Road Construction Unit to adapt the proposed flood relief arch by Smithies Bridge Farm to allow cattle access thus avoiding Brian Parker's dairy stock from having to cross the A59 which they had hitherto. Similarly, the proposed Downham Road Bridge was widened to allow a dedicated lane for movement of dairy stock at Townhead Farm Chatburn. We were also involved in agreeing the specification of the highway boundary which incorporates a thorn hedge with post and rail protective fence and it is good to see that through the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership a section of hedge at Smithies Bridge Farm has recently been laid.

McAlpines were the contractors who undertook the construction and thankfully we soon established a good working relationship with Howard Stevens the engineer in overall charge of the project. This enabled the inevitable issues which arose to be resolved amicably.

I recollect that early on in the construction I was standing with Howard by my vehicle at the top of Chatburn Village, supposedly a safe distance from blasting to make the cutting above the Village was taking place (now an SSSI). To our horror blast debris fell around us, damaging my car with some minor property damage nearby but thankfully no injuries - they had underestimated the hardness of the blue limestone in the cutting.

Whilst the extracted limestone was used for infill in the road construction there was a need for sites to tip other surplus material and such a site was identified on the Downham Estate (now planted with trees as despite best endeavours the reinstated agricultural land was never the same). When the Ha Ha at Downham Hall was first constructed in the 19th century this was incomplete as apparently there were plans to construct a private driveway to Chatburn Station which never materialised. The consideration for providing McAlpines with a tip site was for them to complete the Ha Ha - a win, win situation.



## STAGE 2 DOWNHAM

STAGE 2 has kept going through the two years of this awful pandemic by recording Under Milk Wood and then in the summer we took photos of the characters in costume and have put them into an album which has been filmed someone turns the pages to correspond with the recording. Fingers crossed it has worked It is sad that the hall cannot be used for some time so we are looking at another venue for the time being.



## VISITORS FROM CANADA

HISTORIANS, researchers and authors Bob and Patricia Malcolmson from Nelson, British Columbia visited us in early November to get some history and atmosphere of Blackburn, Clitheroe and Downham for a book they are writing based on Kathleen Johnston's diaries.

Kathleen was a nurse trained in Blackburn her father, George, was butler at Downham Hall for 16 years in the 1930's and 40's.. She enjoyed visits to her Father's house at Top Row and later, from May 1944, at Hillcrest, Downham for her off duty from the Royal Infirmary. She kept a diary for many years as part of the national Mass Observation project, started in 1937 as evidence for the history of the lives of ordinary people.

Bob and Patricia visited the Clitheroe Advertiser archive and Library as well as the Lancashire Archive at Preston. In Downham they had a tour of the village and church and heard some Downham and Assheton history. A number of Kathleen's family arranged to visit Downham during the time that Patricia and Bob were here. Having come from Nelson, BC their visit included a short trip to Nelson, Lancs as part of a tour round the local countryside.

We look forward to the book which will be published in 2022.

## CHRISTMAS 'EDGEROW 'ARRY

WALKING along the hedgerows this time of year, the ivy is especially verdant and the holly bushes have generous amounts of red berries. The Christmas message of peace on earth and goodwill to everyone to mark the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ. Such a sentiment is important and appropriate to mention in our Parish newsletter, because it has been a facet of village life for over a thousand years. The richness of Christian heritage is underpinned by the adaptation of diverse traditions that enhance the message of hope and celebration during these dark, cold months. Indeed, emerging research is shedding new light on the origins of some of most colourful characters celebrated on a very special night...

Father Christmas, with his sledge of presents, made by elves at the North Pole and drawn by flying reindeer, renown for quietly slipping down chimneys to leave wondrous gifts beneath a pine tree bedecked with beautiful ornaments...

One clue may be found in the charming Christmas illustrations loved by the Victorians showing Germanic wintry scenes of fun around red and white mushrooms. Professor John Rush, in his book *Mushrooms and Christian Art* and Professor Allegro in his controversial works both consider the *Amanita Muscaria* (Fly Agaric or Holy Mushroom) and its connections with Christmas celebrations. These distinctive red and white fungi are an important feature of Arctic culture where they commonly grow beneath pine trees. Shamans and mushroom foragers wear a red traditional costume with white fur trimmings and hang the colourful yet poisonous bounty to dry on smaller pine trees before processing them to reduce their toxicity. During the suppression of pagan worship, it is said the shamans crept into the homes of fellow believers by creeping down chimneys with their sacramental 'shrooms secreted in a sack. The dangerous practice of partaking in the rituals were said to cause hallucinations and euphoria, including sensations of flying and sightings of "little people". Reindeer were apparently obsessed with any remnants of the mushroom ingested by humans.

Thankfully, western society now has the civilised safety of "holiday" revelling with Santa Claus from the advertising copybook of Coca Cola and its mixture of highly refined carbohydrate and mysterious "merchandise number 5". Yo Ho Ho - Merry Christmas everyone! JA

## LOST PROPERTY

A PAIR of walking boots and a hat were found in the alcove seat opposite the Stocks. Anyone wishing to claim them should contact the Editor with a description of the items and (as it is Pantomime season) a pair of feet that fit them!

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

**COVID**

RESTRICTIONS remain in place as the congregation at St. Leonard's will be very strongly encouraged to wear face coverings when entering and moving around the church either side of, and during, services.

The congregation will also be encouraged to egress the building as soon as practicable following the service, whilst avoiding congestion in the porch in the advent of inclement weather. Wardens

**Christmas Day Service 11.15 am**

Please be sure to book a seat in advance (even if you are a "Regular"), via the Hon Secretary, as numbers are strictly limited, due to our Covid reduction measures. It would be a shame to have to turn people away if "Regulars" are Christmasing elsewhere.

There will be a Midnight Holy Communion at St Mary's Clitheroe at 11.30 pm on 24th December.

**Nine Lessons and Carols  
2nd January 2022**

AT THE time of going to press we anticipate holding a shortened service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 11.15 on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. As with the other Christmas services, Please book in advance!

**St Leonard's Day Tidy**

THANK you to all of those who turned out to assist with pruning (the early shift), leaf sweeping and cleaning of the backroom areas of St Leonards. The opportunity was taken to carry out a full check of the Church inventory, which thankfully did not uncover any missing items! RCA

**BELLS**

RINGING stopped before the first official lockdown, so it is almost two years since the team saw action. Since then much work has gone on to repair and service all the workings. The bells have all had their clappers renovated by Taylors Foundry in Loughborough (as previously reported), the wooden frames have had all of their bolts tightened (probably for the first time since 1948!) and repairs have been carried out to the damaged metal frame of Number 2 bell.

Most of this work has been carried out by Paul Mercer, with help from members of the ringing team, together with specialist help from Geoff Laycock from Clitheroe.

Thanks to everyone, but especially to Paul.

Now that the mechanism is repaired a risk assessment has indicated that it is safe for some ringing to begin! After a couple of practices in November, we hope to be able to ring briefly at Christmas and New Year. Fingers crossed! RCA



**Remembrance Sunday**

Was observed on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November at morning prayer with the act of remembrance at 11.00. This included reciting the names of the fallen after the two minutes silence and laying the parish wreath by John Hardbattle..

The memorial and altar were decorated with cascades of poppies and the eight Perspex sculptures representing the seven WWI and single WWII service men who made the Supreme Sacrifice were seated throughout the church, a part of the *There but Not There* presentation..

**POST OFFICE COUNTER SERVICE**

**Downham Ice Cream Shop  
CORRECTION**

The Post Office is open on a Wednesday morning between 10.00 and 12 noon not 11.00 -12 noon as published last month. GS

MEMBERS met at the Calfs Head Worston for their November meeting. New members making their first visit were made welcome, together with guest, Jayne Fisher, New President of Barley WI.



Birthday cards included a special birthday to Eileen Roberts, celebrating a big milestone, just to say it wasn't her 80<sup>th</sup>!!!!

An update on the car park Gardens given by Dawn, when she announced the completion with the bark being final touches, we just await the bulbs to appear in the Spring, when there will a glorious display. Now looking to have a plaque.

A humerous report was given on the Sound of Music evening, including, a Julie Andrews lookalike, aka Julie, with the mother superior, aka, Sheila, and brief The Hills are Alive!! Members also received huge complimentary choc ices, from Andrew, our host at the cinema. He had made us very welcome with a huge Welcome Downham WI on the cinema screen. Next visit will be Mama Mia, in the Spring. Can't wait, apparently costumes are already being planned!!

Members had a bespoke chocolate bar on the table, compliments of their speaker, Alasdair Carter. He arrived, in his lycra outfit, his bike in tow, to relate his adventure, Ride of his life" Lejog, Lands End to John O'Groats, the thrills and spills, in the blazing heat of 2018. Unfortunately his planned photos had to be put to one side due to a technical hitch. However he had members hanging on to every word as they felt he took them on the journey by painting the picture, including mishaps, and who knew you could order a sleeping bag from Amazon, to be delivered to the next stop on your journey, Alasdair did, and his forgotten sleeping bag was quickly replaced!!! In the process of his gruelling journey Alasdair raised an impressive £2000 for Marie Curie. Following questions, Alasdair, held a raffle, with tremendous prizes, and had more chocolate bars as souvenirs for a

for a donation. All in all the evening raised £194 for Marie Curie, and a huge thank you to members for their support for Alasdair. Frances Garner gave an equally humerous vote of thanks for his fascinating talk.

The members collected hats gloves and scarfs for chemotherapy patients at the Royal Blackburn Hospital in response to an article in the Advertiser requesting them as chemotherapy patients feel the cold after treatment. Frances Garner volunteered to take donated items to the hospital on members behalf, she had a huge bag full thanks to the generosity of members.

The next event is the Christmas meal at Calfs Head on 9th December, arrival 6.45pm meal at 7pm. Entertainment by Phil Knight.

Seasons Greetings to everyone, stay safe and well.

Visitors and new members always welcome. Enquiries to 07904 111167 DP

**DOWNHAM PRE SCHOOL**

.WE ARE starting to get ready for Christmas at Preschool, we have lots of fun activities planned. This year we will not be holding our annual party and nativity sing-along at the village hall, so instead we will be using the church for our performance. You may see Mary, Joseph and the gang walking up the village at around 1.15 on Thursday 16th Dember, please give us all a wave and wish us luck.

Merry Christmas from all of us. SC

**FILMING**

PERHAPS fortuitously (in light of the Whistle Down the Wind Exhibition), a group of film students from Salford University will be making a short film in Downham. On 27th November they will be in and around Lower Hall car park and Middle Steading Yard. On 4<sup>th</sup> December they will be around Twiston Mill house and buildings. Who knows whether they will discover another Hayley Mills?