

PARISH CALENDAR						
DECEMBER		EVENT		Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
30th 3rd	Wednesday to Saturday	Stage-2-Downham play 9		Village Hall	<i>Pygmalion</i> —George Bernard Shaw Postponed	
4th	Advent II	11.15 am	Holy Communion Canon Andy Froud	Mrs A Wallace	NO	Mrs S Travis Mrs A Chadwick
7th	Wednesday	From 11.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall	See page 5	
11th	Advent III	11.15 am	Matins Canon Andy Froud	Mrs K Herron	FLOWERS	Mrs L Ennis Mrs A Harris
13th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Garden Club Gathering	Village Hall	See page 6	
18th	Advent IV	11.15 am	Christingle Service	Mrs B Lewis	IN ADVENT	Mr & Mrs P Eldridge
21st	Wednesday	6.30 pm	Carol Singing	Outside Assheton Arms	All Welcome	
23rd	Friday	2.00 pm	Decorate Church			
25th	Christmas Day	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Mrs P McFall		Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
JANUARY 2023						
1 st	Christmas I	United Benefice of Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham Farewell Canon Andy Froud Service at St Mary Magdalene Clitheroe			Mr & Mrs B. Lewis	
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SPONSOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER						
<p>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE — Canon Andy Froud The Vicarage, Church Street, Clitheroe BB7 2DD 01200 423317 —0796 957 6691 —andyfroud@gmail.com</p> <p>OUR CHURCH WARDENS The Hon Ralph Assheton —441210 = Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 =Mr Ian Walton—07979 598 057</p> <p>DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Chairman Mr Neil Wallace —441196 Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —445112 Village Hall Bookings —info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk .</p>						
<p>Downham Social Media Resources The public Facebook page - "Downham Village" The private Facebook page "Downham & Twiston Residents"</p>				<p>CHURCH RESOURCES Regular worship is streamed by Canon Andy Froud on Youtube via St. Mary Magdalene website www.stmarysclitheroe.co.uk</p>		

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2022 Issue 12 December



From Canon Andy Froud

Dear Friends.

FOR MANY PEOPLE Christmas is a time of mixed emotions: amidst the festivities and parties there is for many a keen sense of loss. There may be someone missing from the table whose absence brings heartache and pain.

This year there will also be many more people than usual worrying about the cost of Christmas. For many people it has always been a challenge to make it a Christmas that they feel it should be: this year as rising fuel costs, mortgage payments and price rises across the board bite there will be many more worried about how they will provide for a family Christmas.

For my family, there are mixed feelings this Christmas. This will be our thirteenth and last Christmas in this parish. We have had some wonderful times here and been privileged to have been part of this community. I know that we would like to thank everyone for their kindness, hospitality and support. We've seen a lot of changes while I have been here: from priest in charge of one church to being priest in charge of two, three and finally four. Serving as an NHS chaplain in Clitheroe Hospital with the wonderful and hardworking staff there through Covid 19. I have lived here for approximately twice as long as I have lived anywhere in my life.

So why move? There are reasons of course - unhappiness is not one of them. I hope that behind them all is the same one that moved the Holy Family both before Jesus' birth and after: it is God's will. There will be new challenges for us in Foulridge, Laneshawbridge and Trawden and someone else will be able to share the privilege that I have enjoyed of serving God in this place.

Only God is eternal: everything else in life changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

May I wish you all in Downham a peaceful, joyful Christmas and every blessing for 2023

Yours in Christ



O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,
 and with great might succour us;
 That whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered
 in running the race that is set before us,
 Your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Spirit,
 be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

DOWNHAM St. LEONARD FACTS & FIGURES		
	Sept/October	2022
Communicants	20	317
Collections £		
Services	1,190	5,581
Visitors	41	271
Donations	524	8,340
House Boxes	-	-
Special	-	11,391
Total	1,758	25,583

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Friends and neighbours who have been unwell or who are in hospital
 Lord Clitheroe, Diana Braithwaite and Shaun Roney

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Matrimony

17th November Neil William Kall and Rachel Louise Ainsworth of West Houghton



The Civic Society meets monthly on the first Monday of the month at 7.30 pm at the at Michael and St John Centre on Lowergate Clitheroe Speakers cover a wide range of local history topics. Membership is open to all and visitors are welcome.

5th December	Dr Jan Graffius	Stonyhurst College
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Dr Graffius is the curator of collections at Stonyhurst

9th January 2023	Paddy Brown	Clitheroe Races
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The earliest record of a meeting in Clitheroe was on Sunday 19th July 1617 when Nicholas Assheton, Lord of the Manor of Downham recorded his attendance.

Paddy Brown is a local historian and author whose recent work was a study of the buildings and history of Whalley



PLANNING A BUSY YEAR IN BOWLAND

Our Festival Bowland programme may have come to an end for this year but we're busy planning a packed calendar for 2023.

Next year's line-up will include everything from bluebell walks and moorland safaris, to arts, heritage and dark skies.

We'll be launching the new programme in January, so don't forget to keep an eye on our website at www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events

And next year's Discover Bowland guide will be following hot on the heels of the new events programme. The free guide is a great way to dig a bit deeper into what's going on in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, so why not pick up a copy from the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe? It should be hot off the press during February and is always full of fantastic Bowland photos!

For more information email bowland@lancashire.gov.uk

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All welcome for Christmas Gathering in the village hall...

TO CELEBRATE Christmas, the end of several years of COVID restrictions and the re-opening of our lovely village hall, everyone is invited to a Christmas Gathering - with FREE festive food and drink, carol singing, music and merriment.

Downham Village Hall, Tuesday 13th December - from 7.30 pm 'till late.

Although organised under the auspices of the Garden Club - everyone with any association with the Parish is warmly welcome - past members, local residents, family and friends - old and new - absolutely no gardening skills necessary. It promises to be a fun evening and an opportunity to meet up and enjoy the festive season. All completely FREE of charge.

To help with assessing the catering requirements, please RSVP by Thursday, 8th December via the Downham Village Facebook page or telephone Helen on 441015.

'Edgerow 'Arry

THE NEW ROYAL CIPHER of King Charles is a careful design that reflects tradition with a thoughtful aesthetic. There is a deep symbolism within the artistic creation.



A stroll through the village of Downham can find the light-touch of monarchy woven in its built environment. Some of the icons of the Crown have been carefully curated within a street scene that has changed little over the decades. The red post box in the wall of the 'old Post Office' comes from a time just after the old, old Post Office had moved 20 yards from next to the old George and Dragon. The cipher on the cast iron door is "GR" - the then, modern cipher from a 'no-nonsense' monarch, George V (1910-1936).

Looking towards to the old stocks is a delightfully vintage oak bench that has welcomed countless visitors over the decades. A careful inspection will find a confidently carved crown with the initials G and E with the date 1937, the coronation year of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Beside the steepest part of Main Street is the old Telephone cabin, a sturdy K2 model that now has a new, important use as a defibrillator, thanks to the work of the late Chris Ennis. There is a subtle clue in the cast iron as to its age - the K2 was first made in 1935. The crown atop ours is a Tudor Crown. Later telephone boxes, from the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 have St Edward's Crown (and, North of the Border, the Scottish Crown, after effective campaigning by Loyal Nationalists).

Beyond our built environment is a poignant reminder of our ties of loyalty to the Crown - earlier this year was a communal planting of trees beside Jubilee barn (named to celebrate Queen Victoria's long reign). The new trees now form part of the Queen's Green Canopy, that now, with her late Majesty's passing, forms a nationwide living legacy to honour a lifetime of unstinting service.

Let us also consider another significant consequence of such a green memorial: In his book, the nature of Oak, Dr Tallamy explains that a 2" downpour releases more than 54,000 gallons per acre. A forest's leaf litter and humus can absorb most of this and then slowly release it into groundwater and then into the water table. On land devoid of trees, the same 2" downpour can cause a flood ,
JA

RIBBLE VALLEY CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA LEAD ON JOY TO THE WORLD

JOY TO THE WORLD, under the auspices of Clitheroe Christians in Partnership, will begin at **3pm on Sunday December 4th at Trinity Methodist Church and Community Hub**, Parson Lane, Clitheroe.

The concert will feature Ribble Valley Choir and orchestra and will be celebrating Christmas with music, poems, dance and drama, including items for the audience. It will also be recalling important anniversaries and recent events. The concert will end at about 4-15 pm when mince pies and hot drinks will be served.

Joy to the World is free to attend and there will be a retiring collection for the Christian Aid Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. The mayors of both the Ribble Valley and Clitheroe will be taking part.

Steuart Kellington, who conducts Ribble Valley Choir and orchestra, said: "I look forward every year to conducting the choir again as we prepare for the Joy to the World concert. Joy to the World has evolved over the last twelve years and is a popular town event probably because of the variety of items we include. "Traditional carols with audience participation are included as in a conventional carol service but we also enjoy amusing but relevant drama items and recall anniversaries and recent events. It is the kind of event to appeal to a wide variety of musical tastes and content to begin the Christmas season. For me, the concert heralds the start of Christmas.



**STAGE 2 DOWNHAM
Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw
performances postponed
due to COVID 19 until mid JANUARY**



The classic and delightful play that inspired the popular musical My Fair Lady. Set in London in the Edwardian era, *Pygmalion* was first performed in London in 1914. Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, is so confident that he can train anyone to speak perfect English that he makes a bet with his associate Colonel Pickering that he will train this poor Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, to pass for a duchess.

The roles of Higgins and Eliza are two of the most sought after in British theatre and the play was made into an Oscar-winning film in 1938. Most notably, it was then adapted into the stage musical *My Fair Lady* in 1956 and the immensely successful film in 1964. Its enduring theme has inspired other plays and films such as *Educating Rita*, *Trading Places* and *Pretty Woman*

Please note that for the first time ever we are introducing a 2pm Saturday matinée performance instead of a Saturday evening, so if dark November evenings are not your thing and that is your preference, make sure to get your tickets as soon as possible! We think they will be popular.



THE PARISH CHURCH

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

THE ACT of Remembrance took place within our morning service at 11.00 am on Sunday, 13th November. On behalf of the Parish a wreath was laid on our War Memorial by Col. Philip Naylor.

The words of the Exhortation were recited by the vicar.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them

The Flag was flown at half mast

The National Anthem was sung.



CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Our arrangements for the Festive period are these all are most welcome to join the congregations

Christingle – Sunday 18th December 11.15

Carol Singing – Wednesday 21st December outside the Assheton Arms at 6.30 pm (irrespective of whether the Pub is open or closed).

Decorate Church Friday 23rd December 2.00pm

Christmas Day – Holy Communion at 11.15

United Benefice Service—Farewell to Andy at St Mary Magdalene on 1st January, 2023

No service at St Leonard's on 1st January

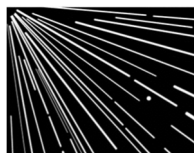


CIVIC REOPENING OF VILLAGE HALL

AFTER closing on 19 March, 2020 as part of the lockdown for the prevention of the spread of Covid 19, followed by an extended period of closure for serious renovation the Village Hall is set for the opening of another chapter.

The committee is now, following the retirement of Shaun, who did so much to keep the facility going, devising cleaning methods, booking procedures and all that goes with that and use and care of the heating system.

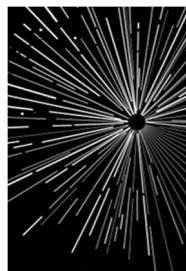
Almost ready, the Hall has hosted a small number of sessions of yoga and rehearsals for Downham's Stage Two production of Pygmalion.



So it was decided that the 5th November Bonfire event would mark the re-opening of the Hall. At 5.30 pm a gathering, fortified against the chill with a glass of mulled wine, heard the Chairman, Neil Wallace, thank all those who had been involved including grant giving bodies, the teams who did the physical work and the management committee members.

Following this a short speech from the Mayor of Ribble Valley Councillor Stuart Hirst, on the value of Community Halls, his worship declared the hall open.

Those assembled went out into the cold damp air to enjoy the bonfire, the fire-works. and refreshments.



COFFEE CLUB

Dear Members,

Here's a reminder about our Christmas soup and sandwich lunch on Wednesday 7th December, from 11am. We're meeting in the downstairs room, but the main doors will be open too.

Before we begin, I'd like to raise a glass in memory of Carole, a founder member, good friend to many and a champion custard pie maker! we miss you.

For anyone with special dietary requirements, please can you let us know a.s.a.p.

Weather permitting, we're hoping to restart Coffee Club on a regular basis from February, I'll keep you informed.

If any regular members haven't been invited yet, please get in touch.

Really looking forward to seeing you all Barbara and Brian
01200 440925
07810267703



GARDENS OPEN 2023

RALPH AND OLIVIA ASSHETON have announced that the external charity to benefit from the gardens open next year will be Ribble Valley Crossroads Care alongside the Downham Village Hall..

The gardens will be open on Sunday 30th July.

Crossroads Care is a registered charity that provides home care to enable family carers to have some help with, and respite from, their caring duties.

As well as home care, Crossroads provides a number of day-time activity groups for people living with dementia and their families notably Time4U at West Bradford Village Hall every week and a number of lunch clubs. These groups also provide an opportunity for volunteers.



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
CLERGY
CHOIR

&
CONGREGATION

of
THE PARISH CHURCH
of
DOWNHAM St LEONARD

WISH ALL OUR READERS

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

