

PARISH CALENDAR 2023

JANUARY		EVENT	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Christmas I	11.00 am	United Benefice of Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham Farewell Canon Andy Froud Service at St Mary Clitheroe		Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
8th	Epiphany I	11.15 am	Matins Chris Hegg	Mrs K Herron	Mr & Mrs I Walton
11th	Wednesday	6.00 pm	Village Hall Mangt Committee	Village Hall	Committee Meeting
15th	Epiphany II	11.15 am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs A Wallace	Mrs J Shepherd Mrs A Wallace
18th- 21st	Wednesday to Saturday	7.30pm 2.00 pm	Stage 2 Downham Postponed Play	Village Hall	George Bernard Shaw—Pygmalion
22nd	Epiphany III	11.15 am	Matins Chris Hegg	Mr T McLean	Mr & Mrs A Herron
29th	Epiphany IV	11.15 am	Assheton Sermon Matins Canon Timothy Lipscombe	Mrs B Lewis	Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell

FEBRUARY

5th	Epiphany V	11.15 am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs P McFall	Mr & Mrs P Mercer
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THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE
INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS
THAT SPONSOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE
Vacancy

OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton —441210 = Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 =Mr Ian Walton—07979 598 057

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

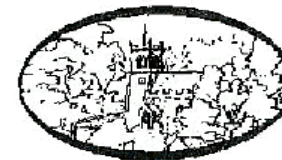
Chairman Mr Neil Wallace —441196
Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —445112
Village Hall Bookings —info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk .

Downham Social Media Resources
The public Facebook page -
"Downham Village"
The private Facebook page
"Downham & Twiston Residents"

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

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2023 Issue 1 January

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From Canon Andy Froud

Dear Friends.

Was it all a dream?

The long, sunny days. The blue sky, uncrossed by cloud or aeroplane trail. The nightly wait for a government minister to appear on TV. The meetings by laptop or phone camera, the subject, more or less well framed in their study, kitchen or bedroom.

The height of the covid 19 pandemic now seems to us to be a fever dream. Did we really stay in our homes, wash our shopping, wear masks and argue about how far constituted a walk? There were many terrible things about the lockdown period: some of them obvious at the time, some of them still coming to light. People dying of covid, unable to breathe and unable to be visited by their friends and relatives: children unable to go to school and playgrounds closed. The huge amounts of taxpayers money lost to fraud.

We should, in my opinion, try to hold on to the best of what is past and learn from its lessons. While many saw lockdown rules as something to be avoided, others saw them as an opportunity to protect others, and especially the vulnerable, from a new and potentially fatal disease. Drivers were more courteous and considerate of other road users, families spent more time together; neighbours got to know each other and looked out for each other.

Our church is a repository of shared memories: of those who have gone before us, whose goodness and love has inspired and strengthened us, of the teachings of Christ who taught us to share bread and wine in His name. May we hold fast to that which is good, remembering what we have learnt and loving others as Christ first loved us.

Yours in Christ



LORD, we stand with a new horizon ahead. We are entering a new phase of life. Help us to seize each sunrise, and fully live each day. May we be guided by You, and walk into this new phase with hope and confidence.

DOWNHAM St. LEONARD FACTS & FIGURES		
	November	2022
Communicants	53	370
Collections £		
Services	693	6,274
Visitors	3	274
Donations	222	8,562
House Boxes	80	80
Special	4,486	15,877
Total	5,484	31,067

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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

THANK YOU.

Thank you to you all for your generous contributions to the British Legion
Poppy Appeal. We collected £145.92. Ian and Anne.

WELCOME

We welcome a few new faces to the Parish, including Paul, Becky and sons at Hey House, David and Rebecca at Fir Tree and Graham at Lowergate. We also wish Carole well, having relocated from the wilds of Red Syke to the comfort of Lower Hall! RCA



The Civic Society meets monthly on the first Monday of the month, except bank holidays, 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.

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

6th February	John Spencer	The Ribble and its history
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John is Secretary of the Clitheroe Civic Society



Join us during February half-term as we raise our gaze skywards to celebrate the beauty of Bowland after dark.

This year's Dark Skies Festival (11th – 19th February) not only offers a helping hand to navigate the stars, it's also the perfect chance to indulge your creativity, delve into the history book of local astronomy and find out about some of the fascinating wildlife which populates Bowland once the sun has dipped. We'll be hoping for clear skies when scientist and amateur astronomer, Robert Ince, takes us outside for a traditional stargazing evening then swiftly sets up his camera the following night to give us a virtual tour of the late winter planets.

Graham McLoughlin, of Preston and District Astronomical Society, will be looking back online at the history of what could be the oldest public observatory in the UK – just down the road in Preston.

We'll be linking with the library service and local storyteller, Sue Allonby, for virtual family-friendly dark skies tales and heading off with Outdoors 4 All on a lantern-lit campfire adventure.

Artist, Anne Somers, will be showing us how to make beautiful, fused glass pieces on a nocturnal theme and we'll be enjoying skies and pies with local astrophotographer, Lee Hunt.

For full event details go to <https://www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events> or email sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk



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, a Christmas Gathering - with festive food and drink, carol singing, music and merriment took place on Tuesday 13th December - from 7.30 pm

Organised under the auspices of the Garden Club - members and friends had a lovely evening with scrumptious refreshments. The spade work for the event was provided by Helen and Jason and their band of helpers

These new shoots of life at the village hall auger well for a restart of the Garden Club and its great mixture of activities and fun events. We have missed its kindly and un rushed atmosphere and regular occasions for meeting-up, not to mention some gardening.

Other groups are available.....

Village Hall Committee

The next meeting will be Wednesday 11th January at 6pm at the Village Hall.

The Committee is now turning its attention to refurbishment of the flat roof Section of the building which covers the entrance and toilet areas, marketing the hall to would be hirers from outside the parish and to local people and groups.

As a first step in this process a questionnaire is being used to gather local opinion, suggestions and needs. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter and may be returned to any committee member – most of you know who at least some of us are! You can also email info@downhamvillage.org.uk for a word copy to fill in and send back.



STAGE 2 DOWNHAM Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

performances postponed
due to COVID 19 until **18th to 21st 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.

Please note that for the first time ever we are introducing a 2.00 pm Saturday matinée performance instead of a Saturday evening.

We are very excited to see you all again in our natural home of Downham Village Hall. Best wishes from all of us at Stage Two.

To book tickets
please visit www.stagetwodownham.co.uk
Also available from Clitheroe Visitor Information Centre at the Platform Gallery, Clitheroe or call 07845926295

BOWLAND INNS & HOTELS SECURES THE ASSHETON ARMS

BOWLAND INNS & HOTELS, the parent company behind Bowland Brewery & the James' Places collection of hotels, inns and restaurants is pleased to announce that it has successfully reached a lease agreement with the Trustees of the Downham Estate. This iconic Lancashire country inn is set to re-open its doors under new ownership in February 2023.

James Warburton, the Bowland Inns & Hotels Owner and Chairman, explains: "We are absolutely delighted to announce that we have secured the Assheton Arms and will be bringing it into our family of local hotels and inns. As a big admirer and customer of this wonderful pub, and past resident of Downham itself I know just how fond of the pub people are." "Thanks to the way Downham Estate manages its properties, the eighteen months closure has been kind to The Assheton Arms. We just need a few weeks to warm the building through, refresh one or two things and we will be on our way. February 2023 can't come soon enough."

Said the Hon Ralph Assheton: "The business lease of the Assheton Arms came back into the ownership of Downham Estate at the beginning of this year. Since then, we have taken the opportunity to carry out a number of essential repairs to the main building and its 12 letting rooms, as well as redecorating the exterior and sprucing up the garden areas. "Our search to find the best way forward for the Assheton Arms as a business, a sustainable part of Downham Estate and a valued village and wider community hub has resulted in the lease being awarded to Bowland Inns & Hotels. We couldn't be more delighted and are confident that, with this local company's excellent reputation and track record, the Assheton Arms will become, once again, a bit of a draw and one of the Ribble Valley's major tourism assets."

James Warburton, the Bowland Inns & Hotels Owner and Chairman, said: "The past couple of years have been unkind to many types of businesses but few more so than hospitality. It has to be said that it's been more than a bit grim, but with the support of our fantastic employees, our great suppliers and of course our wonderfully loyal customers we are delighted to have made it through. Bringing the Assheton Arms into the James' Places family is the first step of a much-delayed expansion plan. Hopefully there are one or two others that we can announce soon. There's no change of direction and no scaling up, just one or two pieces are falling into place. Great buildings, great locations that just need a bit of love and attention"



THE PARISH CHURCH

THE INTERREGNUM

WITH THE sad departure of Andy we enter a period of "Interregnum" when we have no Vicar or priest in charge. The Wardens, together with the PCC and their counterparts in the other three Parishes in the Benefice, are working hard to ensure the smooth running of the Parishes until Andy's successor arrives.

Thanks to kind offers of assistance from Anne Hardacre and Chris Hegg we have cover for four Sundays each month until at least March. Anne will take the Communion services and Chris (who is training as a Lay Preacher) will lead Matins.

Rev Catherine Hale-Heighway has kindly agreed to add to her workload at St Paul's and Christ Church, by organising any funerals that may sadly be needed.

The process of selecting a new Vicar is a protracted one. We have been warned by the Diocese that it will probably take 9 months. We can perhaps take some comfort from the fact that we survived and to a certain extent flourished during our last Interregnum which lasted 15 years!

CAROL SERVICE

AS MENTIONED last month, our traditionally Carol service will not be taking place on the Sunday after Christmas! To mark Andy Froud's departure there will instead be a joint service for all four Churches in the Benefice at St Mary's on Sunday 1st January. At 11.00 am. This will combine a carols service and a celebration of Andy's time with us..



ASSHETON SERMON

THE ASSHETON SERMON will go ahead on its customary date of 29th January. At 11.15. This year's preacher will be Canon Timothy Lipscombe, one time Vicar of Preston and recently retired as Vicar of Dyserth in Denbyshire.

NEW VAC

GOOD NEWS for our hard working. Church cleaning volunteers. We have a brand new and, hopefully, very efficient Seebo vacuum cleaner. It's a cylinder, very light to manoeuvre and uncomplicated to use and should last for years. There will be laminated instructions in the vestry, have fun!

TREE PLANTING

MEMBERS of The Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints planted an Oak tree in the field beyond Brookside, to mark Her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

DOWNHAM BRIDGE

THE LCC HIGHWAYS Department has eventually got around to erecting some warning signs near the wagon-damaged bridge in the middle of the village, several months after the damage was reported. Hopefully it will eventually be repaired, but in the mean time avoid touching the dodgy parapet!

DOWNHAM PRE-SCHOOL

OVER THE AUTUMN half term work was carried out to renew the cracked and pitted tarmac in the school yard. On peeling back the old surface, the yard was revealed to be cobbled underneath. Sadly the cobbles (which are too great a trip hazard for the modern world) have been covered by the new tarmac, but for a moment the yard returned to its Victorian self.

RAINFALL

IT MAY COME as a surprise to some people that 2022 has thus far not been the drought that the rest of the country seems to have suffered. Up to the middle of November we had had 39.48 inches, which already makes 2022 wetter than the whole of 2010 (35.49"), 2013 (37.502) and considerably wetter than 1995 when we had 33.02". That said, we will probably be below the 151 year average of 47.06" and almost certainly less than the average over the last 10 years of 50.50".
RCA

COFFEE CLUB

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Coffee Club Christmas Lunch. Brian and I were delighted by your enthusiasm and it made us very happy, that Downham VH was back in business again!

After a stirring effort, very much appreciated, by Frances, Peter and Clare, our party officially started at noon, but by 11.30 most of you had arrived and were catching up with each other, some, after an absence of almost 3 years. It was heart warming to see.

Before lunch, we raised a glass in memory of our dear friend Carole, who sadly passed away a few years ago and is missed by all. We also remembered Di, a founder member and good friend, who is still in hospital following surgery, we send you our good wishes Di.

A rather frantic raffle followed lunch, with a saucepan for the tickets and no claimant for the first prize (eventually sorted) With lots of laughter, music and fellowship, it made for a wonderful party, here's to next year!

Footnote, thank you to everyone who helped clear up afterwards, you did an amazing job.
Brian & Barbara



THE ASSHETON ARMS

AFTER a long time the future of the pub is settled. Bowland Inns and James Places are taking on the tenancy and aim to open in earnest in February.

This will be especially good news for the Church congregation who will once more have access to a loo!

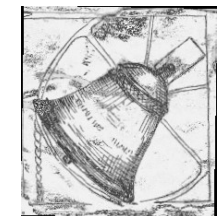
CONGRATULATIONS Mrs BROWN

MICHELLE has completed ten years at the Ice Cream Shop. Very well done Michele and Dave. We look forward to another ten years of the unique experience that is the Downham Ice Cream Shop.

Michelle has written to us:

To celebrate our 10th year at Downham Ice Creams we would like to offer all residents of Downham and Twiston half priced E~Bike Hire, Commencing in March 2023, also a very happy Christmas and new year to everyone

McFall C 2000



Drawing by Michael

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS

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HAPPY AND PEACEFUL

NEW YEAR