

PARISH CALENDAR 2024							
JANUARY				EVENT	SIDESMEN/ WOMEN	ALTAR FLOW-	CHURCH CLEANERS
7th	Epiphany I	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Revd. Dr. Judith Clark	Mrs B. Lewis		Mr I. & Mrs L. Walton
<b>PCC Meeting</b>		<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>DOWNSTAIRS ROOM @ THE ASSHETON ARMS</b>				
14th	Epiphany II	11.15 am	Matins	Revd. Dr. Judith Clark	Mrs. A.Herron		Mrs A. Wallace
21st	Epiphany III	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Revd. Anne Hardacre	Mrs P. McFall		Mr B & Mrs B. Lewis
28th	Epiphany IV	11.15 am	Matins	Revd. Dr. Judith Clark	Mrs A. Wallace		Mr A & Mrs K Herron
<b>February 2024</b>							
4th	Epiphany V	11.15 am	Candlemass	Revd. Dr. Judith Clark	Mr B. Lewis		Mr P. & Mrs M. Mercer
<p>THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SPONSOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER</p> <p><b>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE</b> <b>Revd. Dr. Judith Clark</b> <b>OUR CHURCH WARDENS</b> The Hon RC Assheton 07817 634392 = Mrs P McFall 441484 = Mr Walton 07979 598 057</p> <p><b>DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b> Chairman Mr Neil Wallace —441196 Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —445112 Village Hall Bookings —info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk .</p>							
<p><b>Downham Social Media Resources</b> The public Facebook page - <b>"Downham Village"</b> The private Facebook page <b>"Downham &amp; Twiston Residents"</b></p>				<p><b>CHURCH RESOURCES</b> Morning Prayer for Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham is streamed on Youtube Monday - Saturday. Access it via St. Mary Magdalene' Facebook page or via the link on the website site</p>			

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

## DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

**2024 Issue 1 January** [www.downhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk)

**From the Revd. Dr. Judith Clark**

It is the start of another New Year, are you excited for the year ahead, praying that it will be better than this last year, or feeling the winter blues kick in, now that the baubles have been packed away for another eleven months and there is a constant stream of diet adverts and advice on the television and in the media.

Well, don't despair because technically, we are still in the Christmas season till Candlemas on 2nd February. The period from 6th January onwards is known as Epiphany, when we remember the Magi visiting the baby Jesus and leaving gifts of Frankincense, Gold, and Myrrh. Gifts which proclaim Jesus as King and point towards His death on the cross.

Jesus' birth changed the world and opened up the path to salvation for so many who had never heard of the Messiah, nor gone looking for him. So, if you have never stepped foot into Church and always wondered, but thought you wouldn't be accepted, or thought that God can't be interested in you, remember the Magi. With God there is no RSVP, no dress code, no restrictions, simply an open invitation for all.

Why not take Him up on it and come and see for yourself?

Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year.

Yours in Christ

Judith



## IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Friends neighbours who have been unwell or who are in hospital at this time.



Following the service for Kirsteen at the start of December please see below a message from her husband Paul:

Hello everyone

I'd just like to say thank you to everyone who attended & helped with Kirsteen's celebration of life service at St Leonard's on December 1st. The day was absolutely perfect. The sun was shining & the church was standing room only. The service was a true celebration of Kirsteen, laughter & wonderful singing, I've never heard singing like that at St Leonard's in a very long time if ever. Kirsteen was a devoted member of the church & never missed a Sunday morning. Her love for the village was very clear, it was her home & it eventually turned into my home & even though we moved to Clitheroe it's still the place that I call home

Paul, Callum, Alice x

## Coffee Club Christmas Party

It was that time of year again and our Christmas party was very well attended. John and Rachael happily joined in with our festivities too. Frances and Peter kindly decorated the tree as usual and it looked very elegant indeed; thank you so much. Thanks also to the band of willing helpers on the day, who ensured a good time was had by all.



A glass of sherry or orange juice, on arrival, gave everyone the opportunity to have a good catch up, before sitting down to enjoy a delicious plate of meat or cheese pie and mushy peas from a local family run business.

We finished with warm mince pies and chocolate mints, during which the raffle was drawn, the prizes generously donated by our members. Everyone won at least once and hopefully no one went home with their own contribution! We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and hope you did too and it would be lovely to see some new faces next year. We start again in March, dates to be confirmed, just drop in for a brew, you'll be made very welcome.

Brian and I want to say a big thank you to you all for your loyalty over this year. Despite the prolonged period of lockdown, our numbers are more or less pre covid, despite sadly losing Tom, Sheila and Linda, who we all miss. Once again, our appreciation to everyone who "mucked in" - we couldn't do it without you. And finally, we wish you all a wonderful, joyous Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

See you in March  
Best Wishes Barbara & Brian xx

## Stone the Crows - Who Are the Stone Wallers of this Parish?

**KIDNEY  
& GALL**  
EST 2021  
**STONE  
WALLERS**

Alan 07715 411881

Ian 07979 598057

[kidneyandgall@gmail.com](mailto:kidneyandgall@gmail.com)

To read more about this dynamic duo and their Stone Waller service, look out for our February's newsletter, where the Editor will be reporting back on an in-depth Q & A with Kidney & Gall, aka Alan and Ian, to learn more about their venture, about the craft of dry stone walling in general and how they have turned a lifetime of Lego expertise to build the business.

## December News - ROUND & ABOUT

### DOWNHAM TO CHATBURN CONCESSIONARY BRIDLEWAY –TEMPORARY CLOSURE

As mentioned previously, in order for repair and maintenance work to be carried out, the bridleway will be closed on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th January. Notices will be put up on site closer to the time.

### THE ASSHETON SERMON POSTPONED

Due to an administrative glitch on the part of the organiser, the Assheton Sermon will NOT take place at the end of January as is customary, but at a date later in 2024. Instead, Chris Hegg will be taking the service of Matins and preaching.

### RAINFALL

In order to meet the Editor's copy date (hopefully!), a rainfall reading was taken on Christmas Day, in order to provide an approximation of the annual rainfall volume in time for this edition! The December rainfall up until Christmas was 8.65 inches (against an average of 4.83). The annual rainfall was 57.37 inches, as compared with the 158 year average of 45.40 inches and an average of 50.64 over the last 10 years. Although this year (and this autumn in particular) have felt very wet, in 2015 we had an amazing 14.80 inches (most ever recorded) on the back of November 2015 when we had 10.64 inches.

### NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

A big thank you to all the readers (and the choir!) for making the Carol Service work so well. You can all relax as you will not be approached to read again for at least a decade!

RA

### Diamonds in the Landscape

From Sandra Silk, Project Officer, Forest of Bowland National Landscape



Originally designated in 1964, the Forest of Bowland celebrates 60 years in 2024 and starts the New Year with a new name – Forest of Bowland National Landscape. To mark the anniversary of this very special area, Clitheroe Castle Museum will host the launch of a brand-new photography exhibition in February.

Entries for the exhibition have been chosen from images submitted to the National Landscape Partnership's recent Diamonds in the Landscape competition.

From far-reaching moorland vistas and stunning wildlife shots to majestic woodlands and atmospheric pastoral scenes, the talented photographers have perfectly captured the variety and beauty of the Bowland landscape.

The exhibition will run from 9th February until the 28th April, before going on to tour selected venues across Bowland during 2024.

February will also see the return of the annual Bowland Dark Skies Festival from 10th to 17th. Stargazing, photography tips, family crafts – even a dark-skies inspired food tour – are all on the menu this year. And don't worry if you miss the main event: there'll be more opportunities to explore Bowland's starscapes in autumn as part of the wider Festival Bowland 2024 programme.

### Stage Two Downham Autumn Play - God of Carnage by Yasmina Reza



Downham Village Hall saw the stage set once again for Stage Two Downham's latest production, God of Carnage. Except it wasn't exactly the stage. In something of a first for the drama group, Stage Two presented their play in the round. In the middle of the auditorium with seating on every side, audiences found themselves in the heart of the drama and close to the action; maybe to close for comfort, as those on the front rows will attest! But audience members were full of praise for this entertaining play, and enjoyed seeing something modern that had a resonance with lives today. Originally a French play, and still set in France, the story involves two couples who meet in the spirit of decent civilised behaviour, to resolve the playground fight of their 11 year old sons. But as the evening progresses civility and decency fly out of la fenetre, and with the help of a little rum, ends in the tumult of tulips. Funny and fraught, subtle and slapstick, the drama was full of those one of great human contrasts, that made it so real. In the hands of the excellent cast of four, all on stage for the full duration of the play, we were skilfully kept on our toes, all laughing and gasping in equal measure, at the domestic scene laid out before us. Trying not to get involved wasn't an option, but that's what made it so enjoyable. Well done Stage Two Downham.