

PARISH CALENDAR 2019

MARCH			Event	Sidemen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Friday	7.00 pm	Quiz	Village Hall	<i>In Aid of World Scouts Jamboree</i>	
3rd	Next before Lent Quinquagesima	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs P McFall	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs B Lewis
Ash Wednesday						
6th						
7th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>AGM and Gordon and Ann</i>	
10th	Lent I	11.00 am	Matins Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mrs K. Herron	NO	Mrs J. Whitsey Ms Z Ward
11th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Christ Church		
13th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr B. Lewis		
14th	Thursday	10.00 am 6.30 pm	Coffee Club History Group	Village Hall Clitheroe Castle	<i>Downham Banner</i>	
17th	Lent II	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean	FLOWERS	Mr & Mrs P Eldridge
21st	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>99th Birthday Party</i>	
24th	Lent III	11.00 am	Matins Rev'd	Mr I. Walton	IN	Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
25th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Methodist Church		
26th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	PCC	Church		
27th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs B. Lewis		
27th/ 30th	Wednesday to Saturday	7.30 pm	Stage 2 Downham	Village Hall	<i>Play—Wait Until Dark</i>	
31st	Lent IV	11.00 am	Matins Rev'd	Mrs A Wallace	LENT	Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell
April						
4th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall		
7th	Lent V	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs E. Parker	-	Lady Clitheroe Mrs A Wallace

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THOSE BUSINESSES,
ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER.
IN MARCH THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY
DOWNHAM WI—HAPPY BIRTHDAY WI !

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Rev'd Andy Froud

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OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 Mr Ian Walton—445063

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667

Hon. Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2019 Issue 3 March

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From This Rev'd Andy Froud

Dear Friends

I went to university. Yes it's amazing isn't it? But this is a story of someone who never went to university.

Oseola McCarty was born at the beginning of the last century in Mississippi and she spent her life making other people look nice. Day after day, for most of her 87 years, she took in bundles of dirty clothes and made them clean and neat for parties she never attended and weddings to which she was never invited.

She never married, had children or learnt to drive. She visited the Niagara Falls once but found it "too noisy" and never went again.

According to neighbours she lived a very simple life and never even turned on her air conditioner except when the company came to service it. And week after week she worshipped at Friendship Baptist Church.

One day she went into her local university and explained that she wanted to give a scholarship of \$150,000 so that someone could go to university. She had saved up all that money from the little that she had to give a really generous gift to a complete stranger.

Although she didn't want her name put on the scholarship Miss McCarty did ask one thing: to be allowed to be in the hall when the first person received the scholarship. People in Oseola's home town just call her scholarship "The Gift" .

This Lent we will be celebrating generous people like Miss McCarty and above all the generous God we worship

Yours in Christ,

ETERNAL Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

ST LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES	
	January 2018
COMMUNICANTS	25
COLLECTIONS	
SERVICES	221
VISITORS	20
DONATIONS	442
HOUSE BOXES	-
TOTALS	688

IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS:

Helen Addy, Kath Brown, Betty Mercer
others who are unwell.

With the sympathy of the Parish: to the family of Jean Whitsey.
and to Kath and the family of of Bob Swarbrick

Philippa McFall has written to us all:

"Many thanks to the very kind people who sent cards and flowers to Croft Cottage on our removal here. A perfect example of what fantastic neighbours we have. We are extremely lucky to have been given the chance to live in such a delightful, convenient and comfortable place and yearnings for the wild seclusion of the Mill are fading fast"

NEW ARRIVALS

WE welcome Ian and Jayne Feibel who have moved into Fir Tree House.

JEAN WHITSEY 1924 - 2019

A loving tribute to a wonderful mother and grandmother is made elsewhere in this newsletter by Spectator and that is the most important portion of what any eulogy should say.

A more traditional obituarist may have said that Jean was born in 1924 in Burnley came to Downham as the wife of the Vicar with their three children in 1968 and moved away when her husband became Bishop of Hertford in 1971. This was followed by a long period as Bishop of Chester from 1974 to their retirement to Twiston in 1981. Vic died in 1987 and eight years later Jean moved to Downham where she lived, supported latterly by family and neighbours, until her admission to a care home only a few months ago. Jean was a much-valued asset to her community and served the Parish Church for many years as a member of the PCC where she made perceptive contributions to the debate and also supported many village activities.

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QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 1st March 2019

at Downham Village Hall

Doors open at 7.00

Quiz starts at 7.30pm

Licensed Bar

Tickets £5.00 pp inc. Pie and Peas
Teams of up to 4—Prizes and a Raffle
Proceeds to World Scout Jamboree

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Call Denise on 445079 for tickets

OCTAMERON in concert

With accompanist and Musical Director
Brian Heaton

SONGS SACRED AND SECULAR

...a musical feast introducing
our latest recording

GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL CHAPEL

23rd March 2019 , 7.30pm

Tickets £12 (accompanied children FREE)

giggleswick.ticketsolve.com
or Tel: 01729 893180

From group member Robin
Tel: 07778 291402

Tickets will also be available on the door.

about her:

Emma (age 14) granddaughter,

"Aw, my nana Whitsey, she's had a very good life and very lucky to survive all her falls

R Debbie (sister) she was the most gentle lady I ever met, wise, honest and kind, the nearest I ever had to a nan"

R Pat (sister)" she was the most caring loving person who would have done anything for her family "

Vicky (number 2 daughter) "she was kind, graceful and always smiling, helpful to others, beautiful inside and out

Jessica (granddaughter)" my Nannie is an inspiring woman with buckets of confidence and independence. Nanny Whitsey was nothing short of a beautiful lady"

R Elaine (cousin from Bratford) " I was always struck by her natural ability to be, in the same moment, both sprightly and elegant. You can't teach that. She welcomed me with kindness and no judgement. She was funny and I won't forget her front room chats, the afternoon sherry, the sometimes stale crisps, and the twinkle in her eyes. God bless her beautiful soul as she had one of the best"

Lucy (daughter number three) " she was a true lady with a big heart who accepted us into her family readily . She never made me feel bad for having a different situation, or when I hadn't seen her for ages, she would still treat me like I had made the effort to see her even tho I didn't. "

Not a bad tribute, though mum would probably poo poo it! I once mentioned how lovely it was that she had long standing friendships and wonderful neighbours here in Downham, who would do anything for her. " well Mum said, I don't know why, I don't do anything " I said she must do because she inspired such loyalty, love and respect, but she was very unassuming and genuinely self effacing..

She will be missed.

RADIO PLAY The Waiting room

'The Waiting Room' is a radio play set in the oncology waiting room of a UK General Hospital. Written by Olivia Assheton and produced and performed by *Stage 2 Downham*, it tells the moving stories of patients, and their carers, at various stages of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Tackling just some of the many issues faced by cancer patients, the characters tell their own personal stories in a series of monologues linked by interactions with each other, as their wait to be seen lengthens over a morning.

Although they are very different in their backgrounds and their stories are sometimes difficult to listen to, the characters' wait unites them in an uplifting spirit of camaraderie, understanding and co-operation.

The play was launched on World Cancer Day (4th February) to support the Rosemere Cancer Foundation's appeal for £842,000 to remodel the Ribblesdale Ward at the Royal Preston Hospital to a design by staff and patients.

LISTEN ON <https://rosemere.org.uk/media/audio/versions/aud57tyher4t2424.mp3>

SPECTATOR

MOST people will have heard by now that my lovely mother-in-law, Mrs Jean Whitsey has passed away. She died peacefully and in her sleep just before her 95th birthday in February. Mum was the closest I had ever come to meeting a lady and in return, poor mum met the closest she had ever come to meeting a broad Yorkshire lass from "Bratford" who was very opinionated, never stopped talking and was, shall we say a bit loud?...yes let's say a bit loud!

Although we were worlds apart, we became best friends and I grew to love her very much. I like to think she grew to love me. She used to tell people that I was her best friend and when we went on day trips with the "The Little Green Bus" people, she always offered me the window seat even though I liked the aisle seat. "no wonder you're not good at geography, you never look out of the window" "well I'm looking out now and all I can see is a hedge so how does that help?!!!" Mum pulled a disapproving face. She was so funny sometimes and when I was diagnosed with Parkinson's she said, "who will carry the tray back to the table now when we go out for lunch!"

Mum was, shall we say 'careful' with her money, yes let's say careful, so I ended up drinking tea that she had left on the Aga and had set on fire. "I'm not throwing it away, It's good tea" she said. "it's ok I will pretend it's Lapsang souchong!" Another disapproving look. We often had sherry after church on a Sunday and mum had the smallest sherry glasses I had ever seen so I used to race to the living room and pour out one for me and one for Jon and we would slug it back then I would pour another and be sat smiling when she came in with sometimes out of date biscuits and crisp crumbs, "I'm not opening another packet of crisps till we finish off the bits" "wow you make them sound so attractive!" Yes you guessed it, another look from mum!

She accepted my modern day family and before taking me to meet his Mum for the first time, Jon said it might be best if we let her know about me being married twice before and divorced with three children and two grandchildren....in small, need-to-know chunks! I needn't have worried as she took everything in her stride. She loved us and we certainly loved her right back. My life has been richer for knowing her and here's what they think

Ribble Valley Music Festival

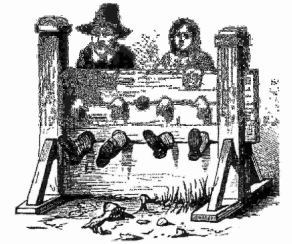
Opening Event

Jazz at the Abbey at Whalley Abbey, 7.30 pm, Friday, 15th March

Mark Lewis Trio and Lyn Fairbanks

NOT SO SAFE

AT the tail end of January (after the Newsletter had gone to press), both the Church and Pre-school were robbed. In the Church the crooks took great pains to prize the door off the wall safe (the one used by visitors to make donations), dislodging it from the wall in the process. Thankfully it had been emptied only the day before, so the felons only collected pennies for their trouble. A generous donation from a saddened parishioner, has covered the bulk of the replacement and repair costs.



At the Pre-school a window was smashed to gain access and some minor damage was done, together with the theft of a few pounds of petty cash.

It is thought that the crimes happened in the early evening. To date, no perpetrator has been apprehended, though the Police promptly investigated both sites and have thoughtfully passed on what information they can.

BRIDLEWAY FRUSTRATION

SADLY the proposed bridleway between Downham and Chatburn has been held up by planning department concerns about potential damage to trees and the Roman road. Hopefully human safety considerations will be taken into account, but for now the plan is on hold.

DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

On February 26th Martin Seddon outlined his work on a Quarry Arts' oral history project, funded by the Heritage Lottery. The aim was to collect, record and make available to schools and the general public, material about quarries in the Clitheroe area. Local people were selected to gather information and tell stories, which were then published in a book and on a website www.quarryarts.org.uk. Limestone burning in Clitheroe has always had a long history, with the lime being used in the making of cement and for agricultural purposes. On a British Geological survey map, Martin pointed out the rich seam of rock, with reef knolls extending as far as Downham and beyond, producing limestone of a high quality. His presentation showed the past and present workings of quarries such as the Bellman quarry, that of 'Whistle Down the Wind' fame, in a series of photos and videos, as well as interviews with people who have worked there over the years. A guided tour is available on open days.

JP

On 15th March Downham and Twiston History Group members are invited to the preview of the Downham Banner on show at Clitheroe Castle. The Steering Group is grateful for the support of the Downham History Group and grateful for the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund which has enabled conservation and presentation of the banner to a wide audience.

THE PARISH CHURCH

ASSHETON SERMON

THIS year's preacher was Canon Cecelia Hawkes, who is an Assheton cousin. Her great grandfather Richard (together with his brother Ralph) made the stained glass in the east window at St Leonards. Her grandfather Revd William Assheton gave the sermon in 1907. Her theme was that faithful worship by faithful people continues. RCA



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

THE fundraising Candle-light Supper held in early February at the Community Church in Clitheroe, and well supported by our Parish raised close on £700 for the work of the society. As ever a really good lasagne and salads followed by delicious puddings was finished off by an entertainment; this year by the Clitheroe Ukulele Orchestra who gave a rattling good and uplifting performance,

STAGE 2 DOWNHAM

OUR Spring production will be 'Wait Until Dark', written by Frederick Knott, directed by Kim Croydon from Wednesday 27th March to Saturday 30th March 2019 inclusive, at 7.30 pm in Downham Village Hall.



The play is a thriller set in a basement flat in Notting Hill in the sixties. The leading role is that of a blind woman. A 1967 film version starred Audrey Hepburn.

Admission is by programme/ticket priced at £7. Booking for tickets is now open. To make a ticket reservation, by email use address below and state: Your full name; Date of performance; Number of tickets required; Contact telephone number. We will send you a confirmation and your tickets will be available for collection on the door on the night of the performance. stage2playinfo@gmail.com

We have arranged, once again, a pre-performance, meal plus ticket deal with 'The Assheton Arms' in Downham—a meal and ticket £22 for 2 courses or £25 for 3 courses. Please telephone 01200 441227 to book a table.

COFFEE CLUB

WHAT a busy morning we had at our Valentine days meeting, it was wonderful to see so many friends, especially Jonathan, enjoying each other's company. Carol was back in charge of the bring and buy and encouraged everyone, in her own inimitable style, to part with their money. It was lovely to have Helen and Jason with us too, hope to see more of them in the holidays, and young Joseph of course, we miss our youngest member.

Thank you to our guest bakers, helpers and to Frances for her beautiful table decorations and at the risk of being accused of nepotism, I'd also like to say thank you to my better half, who rarely gets a mention, but who does a sterling job in the kitchen, leaving me to do what I enjoy most, catching up on village life. Our next meeting is on March 14th at 10 o'clock, hope you can all make it, BL



**WW2 DOWNHAM
'Digging for Victory'**

AS this year sees the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) have begun a "Dig For Victory" archive campaign.

If anyone has any information - photographs, documents, memories or anecdotes about Downham parish's role in the wartime food effort please contact Jason whilst attending the Garden Club or History Group. Alternatively please telephone 441015.

JA

GARDEN CLUB

THE first Garden Club of the year (starting with the AGM) will be on Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm. The evenings' entertainment provided by the ever popular Gordon & Ann Sharpe of Spellbound Productions.

Everyone very welcome.



Village Hall Management Committee

THE meeting of 29th January took stock of ongoing maintenance issues. Past successful events that used the village hall were discussed together with suggestions and news of forthcoming events.

Date of next meeting and AGM: Tuesday 2nd April, 6pm.

theWI AT Downham WI this month the speaker, Emma Logan, from Carers Link Accrington, with her subject 'Music to

make you feel good' took everyone by surprise by bringing along drums and maracas for everyone to play. Firstly, she explained what the charity 'Carers Link' does and then showed how one of their music workshops can give some respite and help ease away some the tension that can inevitably build up in someone who is devoting their time to caring for a loved one 24/7. Everyone had great fun following the three basic drum tones and using them to beat out short phrases such as 'I love apple pie'.

The business of the evening included reports from the LFWI Quiz held at Grindleton last month where Downham Ducks came second, narrowly missing top spot by one point. Those who attended Clitheroe Light Operatic Society performance of Jesus Christ Superstar said what a terrific night it had been and one of the very best in recent years. The next meeting is Thursday 21st March at 7:30 for Downham's 99th Birthday party where there will be a finger buffet (bring your own bottle) and entertainment from Clitheroe Ukulele Band. So do come along and join in what promises to be another good evening – it doesn't matter if you are not a member, visitors are always welcome. Just contact Diane on 07904 111167 for more details.

