



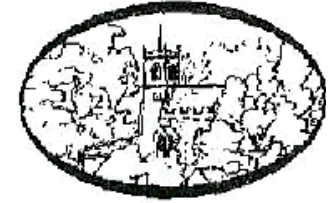
Parish Calendar 2016						
April			Event	Sidesmen & women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd	Saturday	9.30 am	Village Hall	AGM		
3rd	Easter I	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs P. McFall	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell
7th	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall		
10th	Easter II	11.00am	Matins Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mr I. Walton		Mrs S. Marlow Mrs E. Parker
11th	Monday	3.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Christ Church		
13th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs B Lewis		
14th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
		7.30 pm	PCC Meeting	Church		
17th	Easter iii	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs E, Parker	Mrs M Roskell	Mr & Mrs H. Brown
18th	Monday	6.30 pm	Cookery Club	Village Hall	<i>Michael Heathcote</i>	
21st	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall		
24th	Easter IV	11.00 am	Matins Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs D Wilkins		Mrs S. Travis Mrs A. Chadwick
		11.30 am	Annual Parochial Meetings	Church		
25th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Methodist Church		
			History Group	Village Hall		
27th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean		
May						
1st	Easter V	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
2nd	Monday	<i>Early May Bank Holiday</i>				
<p>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Rev'd Andy Froud The Vicarage Church Street Clitheroe BB7 2DD 01200 423317 / 0796 957 6691</p> <p>OUR CHURCH WARDENS The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484</p> <p>VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667 Hon Secretary The Hon Mrs R. C. Assheton—441210</p>						
 www.downhamvillage.org.uk 						

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2016 Issue 4 APRIL



From **The Rev'd ANDY FROUD**

Dear Friends

I remember reading a complaint by an atheist in the Guardian letter page that "Christians are always moving the goalposts" As I read his letter I realised that actually what he was really complaining about, but either didn't realise or didn't understand, was faith in the resurrection. The resurrection is certainly about more than just "moving the goalposts"; it is more than what the Americans call "a game changer". It is more than the stunt that a young Captain Kirk plays in Star Trek while still a student at Starfleet Academy, beating the Kobayashi Maru scenario that is "impossible to win"; it is also all of the above. I remember many commentators at the time and since saying that the 9/11 attacks "changed everything": they changed a lot but they didn't everything in any sense; the resurrection really does change everything.

The resurrection, as the Bishop of Durham, David Jenkins famously remarked over 30 years ago now "is more than a conjuring trick with bones". The resurrection redefines our lives because death is no longer the end in either sense of the the word "end". We were not created for death but for eternal life and because Christ is raised "the first-fruits of those who have died" we know that we too will come to share fully in His eternal life. Death is not the final victor but life in its fullest has the ultimate triumph.

Easter is a celebration of new life and new hope in its widest and deepest sense. As we see the signs of new life around us in the lightening mornings and evenings, young animals, birds and new life we see only a shadow of the reality of the new life which the resurrection of Christ brings to us. We are called to be Easter people and to take that new life and hope to a world sadly in need of both.

Yours in Christ,

SPECTATOR

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES		
	February	2016
COMMUNICANTS	62	107
COLLECTIONS	££	
SERVICES	278	579
VISITORS	10	10
DONATIONS	232	464
HOUSE BOXES	-	-
SPECIAL	300	300
TOTAL	820	1,353

IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS

Helen Addy, Olive Awbery, Glen and the family of Nicholas Wright.

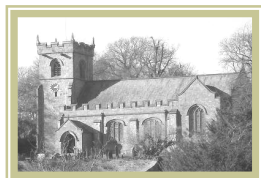
LETTER


Glen Wright of Top Row, Downham has written:

On behalf of my family I would like to thank all the wonderful people of Downham for their messages of support following the tragically sudden death of our beautiful son Nicholas. It is at times like these when you realise how much people really care.

Nick was funny, articulate and very enigmatic—a true character who touched the lives of all who knew him.

Thank you all Glen Wright



	<p>AGM The Annual meeting of this fine village institution takes place at 9.30 am on Saturday, 4th April at the Village Hall and prior to a bit of a clean up.</p> <p>We are all welcome to either or both these events.</p>
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“ *In like a lion, out like a lamb,*” ...is an old saying which is applied to the weather at the beginning of March and tries to predict what we can expect at the end. I am writing this in March, for you to read in April, and as I am desperately hoping for signs of warmer weather to arrive, I am watching this March 2016 weather very closely. So far, it has come in like a lion...yay...no wait, it's in like a lamb...oh no..but wait, it's a lion...no, back to lamb...right, I give up! The only certainty about our weather for the past few months has been that it would rain at some point during the day...every day, and if Noah comes knocking on our door to say we should build an Ark, I will be right behind him. If there is even the slightest murmurings about droughts this summer, I shall do a Victor Meldrew and shout loudly, “I don't believe it!”

Thoughts of warmer weather makes me think about holidays and we are so lucky to have a standing invitation to Jersey, courtesy of the Jersey Whitseys where it is always warmer and sunnier than home. This is in complete contrast to the Isle of Man, one of our favourite places but not a place to visit if you want guaranteed sunshine or warmth. I have tons of photos of summer holidays where you can see the goose bumps on legs wearing shorts and lips turning blue whilst waiting for photos to be taken. Don't get me wrong, I would encourage everyone to go and holiday in the Isle of Man. I fell in love with it on my first visit. It is a wonderful, magical place with fairies and cats with no tails, steam trains, horse drawn trams and three legs everywhere! But, the weather is a law unto itself. So go and say hello to the fairies on fairy bridge, visit castles and the kipper factory but don't go for the weather. In fact I found a postcard which I bought there but never sent and which now really sums up the recent weather at home. Tut.

*It rained and it rained and rained and rained
 The average fall was well maintained
 And when the tracks were simply bogs
 It started raining cats and dogs!*

*After drought of half an hour
 We had the most refreshing shower
 And then the most curious thing of all
 A gentle rain began to fall*

*Next day was also fairly dry save for the deluge from the sky
 Which wetted the party to the skin
 And that is when the rain set in!*

Please can whoever is in charge turn the tap off now? We've had enough! Thankyou!

NICK O' THUMBS Cont.....

The application 'charity' was a misnomer. Contributions were made to the common stock, the idea being to share alike and exhibit brotherly charity. The term 'Nick'O'Thumbs' comes from the group's 'sign' which was to hike thumbs at the base of the thumb joint. The ritual formula for becoming a member of the Nick'O'Thumbs was to recite the tongue-twister:

"Thimbling Thistlethwaite thievishly thought to live through thick and through thin by throwing his thimbles about but he was thwarted and thwacked, thumped and thrashed with thirty thousand thistles and thorns for thievishly thinking to live through thick and through thin by throwing his thimbles about".

It is unclear when the event ceased but it seems not to have survived the second world war. Many Downhamers and Twistoners can remember Nick'O'Thumbs, always held in the field across from Twiston Mill House. If anyone can lay claim to knowing the recipe, send it to the editor!

RIBBLE VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

7.30 pm Saturday 23rd April

ST. MARY'S CENTRE CLITHEROE A ROYAL SALUTE

The Ribble Valley Music Festival opens in grand style with a celebration on St Georges Day of the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

with music performed from each decade of Her Majesty's reign
by

award winning Championship section
Wingates Band

with soprano Caitlin Wineyard,
Stage Two Drama Group,
Pipe Major Bill Barlow,

plus specially commissioned poetry
and all the flag waving from favourites.

Tickets £10 from 01254 384893
or St Mary's Centre 01200 422828.
All proceeds go to St Mary's

Another Local Bowland Festival Event

Climbing Pendle Hill 1

Saturday 23rd April 10.00am – 3.00pm
Meet at Downham village car park

We will catch the bus to Barley and from there climb Pendle Hill. Our descent will take us across Downham Moor with glorious views of the Ribble Valley and Bowland. Returning to Downham you can enjoy the village with its ice cream shop and pub. Dogs welcome on a lead.

Bring a packed lunch for the walk.

Booking essential. For more information about this and other events contact the AONB office on 01200 448000 or email cathy.hopley@lancashire.gov.uk
£3 + bus fare, 5 hours, terrain guide 4-5, 5 miles

NICK O THUMBS

THIS article was written, by Elizabeth Wrigley, for the Newsletter, about fifteen years ago. We are coming up to the season when the event would have taken place

ON the first Sunday in May, companies of men from Burnley, Colne, Nelson and Barrowford assembled early in the morning with food and cooking apparatus and spent the day in nomadic fashion cooking on improvised hearths. There would be meats, onions and mushrooms served on thick slices of bread. The celebration is best remembered for the main item on the menu - nettle pudding, cooked in a cauldron over the camp-fire. No-one knows the exact recipe, but according to historian Jessica Lofthouse it was a concoction which included 100 eggs, 10 lbs onions, 11 lbs sausage meat, dripping and a clothes basket full of tender young nettles. The nettles were picked when the men arrived early in the morning. I have been told that oatmeal was also an ingredient. Miss Monica Assheton was known to have tasted nettle pudding when Downham villagers made the trek up to Twiston to visit the event.

Nick'O'Thumbs was supposed to have its origin in the legend of the witch meetings where they danced round a boiling cauldron, the area near Pendle being the supposed place of the witch revels. Nettle pudding is the supposed lineal descendant of the products of the cauldron. The 'charity' had existed for hundreds of years but was discontinued for different periods, to be resuscitated around the 1860s by 'American Tom', a home-returned Barrowford man, who had gained experience in camping in the backwoods of the New World. He suggested men from his home town who were members of the 'Lamb Club' should make the trek towards Pendle and have a field day and barbecue. Although the Barrowford group was said to be a type of 'secret society', Nick'O'Thumbs grew into a big event and drew people from miles around.

Cont on opposite page



Extra Time for Threatened Museums

The five Lancashire County Council museums threatened with closure will now stay open until the end of September, to allow more time for discussions to continue with organisations keen to take them over, and for other interested parties to come forward.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Cultural Services, said: "As has been widely reported, the county council's dire financial situation means that we can no longer afford to run these museums.

"We took the decision to cease funding these five museums with very heavy hearts. We recognise their immense cultural and historical value but when it is unclear how we will pay for essential services for the vulnerable in just two years' time, it is one of many difficult decisions we have had to make.

"I am pleased to say that we are in active discussions with bodies interested in taking over all five museums, and we will keep the museums open until the end of September to give those discussions the best possible chance of success. It may also present an opportunity for other interested parties to come forward."

The five museums in question are:

The Museum of Lancashire
Fleetwood Museum
Helmshore Mills
Queen Street Mill
The Judges' Lodgings, Lancaster

Opening times may be subject to change at short notice. Visitors are advised to check before their visit at;
<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/museums>

WEST BRADFORD VILLAGE HALL

CHARITY

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY

1st APRIL 2016

7.30 pm

QUIZ MASTER

BILL HONEYWELL

HOT BUFFET SUPPER

By TIM SLATER

ADMISSION by TICKET ONLY
£10

Telephone 01200 422104 or 423689



DVH
DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

Heard the Buzz?

Saturday 9th April 1.30pm – 3.00pm
Downham Village Hall
Bees, butterflies and other insects are the buzz-ness when it comes to pollinating our beautiful plants and flowers! Come and join us for an afternoon of crafty activity making bee headbands and butterfly collages.
Fun for all the family. Adults come free

For more information contact the
AONB office on 01200 448000 or
email sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk
Full programme of Festival Bowland on
<http://www.forestofbowland.com/festivevents>

THE PARISH CHURCH

ORGAN

THE PCC continues with the replacement project for the church organ, this is taking some time and our Warden has submitted a planning application (or faculty application) only to be asked for more information, thus extending the time taken.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

A beautiful service of thanksgiving for mothers and all their love and work in caring for children was conducted by the Revd Andy Froud on Sunday 6th March, at 11.00 am. Our numbers were swelled by wedding couples and their families who came to hear the banns of marriage read. The service ended with presentation of daffodil pots by the vicar and the to all the Mums and Grandmothers in the congregation.

EASTER SERVICES

THERE will be a sung Eucharist on Maundy Thursday at 7.30 pm and a simple service remembering the events of Good Friday with a time for prayer and contemplation on Good Friday 2.00pm both at **St Mary Magdalene, Clitheroe.**

Here at St Leonard's there will be a Holy communion at 11.00 on Easter day.

On Saturday, 27th at 2.00 pm we will be decorating church for the Easter Festival all are welcome to come and help.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual General meetings of the Parish Church of Downham St Leonard take place on Sunday, 24th April at 11.30 am after a shortened morning service. The two short meetings are:

Vestry Meeting at which the Church Wardens are elected.

The Annual Church Meeting which Receives the annual report and elects the PCC and sidesmen & women.

All parishioners are entitled to attend and are most welcome.

THE GAMES AFTERNOON

I HAVE just discovered a quite sociable way to spend a Sunday afternoon, I recently attended a games afternoon in the village hall where I joined about a dozen like minded people and played several games, including Table Tennis and Who's in the Bag, but the most fun I had was when we played Scattergories. It is a game I have never come across before and Some of the teams (not myself and Tom, of course) told some very Tall Tails. An afternoon of fun, games and a great deal of laughter, interspersed with beautiful cakes, biscuits and tea or coffee. I shall definitely be paying another visit. CA

GARDEN CLUB

ON THE first Thursday in March the new season of the Garden Club began with the A.G.M. This year is the 25th anniversary of the Club, we began in October 1991 and though many faces have changed the club is as strong, if not stronger than ever.

This month we welcomed new faces to the committee, Dave Awbery became the new Chairman, joined by Lynda England and Philippa Mcfall, new committee members.

We were entertained by Anne and Gordon Sharpe who took us on a wonderful journey through parts of North Yorkshire including Aysgarth and Askrigg, Middleham and Masham, also taking in Hardraw Force, the highest single drop waterfall in England. As this wonderful journey came to an end our new Chairman gave the thanks on behalf of the club, as once again we have been treated to some wonderful entertainment. This was of course then followed by the usual tea and biscuits and a raffle.

The next meeting 7th on April entitled 'Talking Shop' with Anne and Ian. Please remember that the club is open to all and everyone and we hope to see you all at the next meeting, CA



COFFEE CLUB

THE Coffee Morning - It was with some trepidation that I prepared to go to this months coffee morning, as Februarys coffee morning held a nasty surprise for me, as you all know I had a slight touch of indigestion, but all is well.



I must begin this report by thanking everyone that has volunteered to help us with all aspects of the coffee morning. It was a jolly crowd that gathered this Thursday morning to enjoy good conversation and amusing stories along side the usual coffee and cakes, with brisk trade being done by the book stall and bring and buy stall. It was very nice to see Betty and Norman once again, Betty regaled some of us with stories of her childhood which was well remembered, considering it was a year or two ago.

Once again a certain person was playing hookey, Barbara was having fun at the seaside. Our thanks go to all who helped out during Barbara's morning of absence. We hope to see you all next month. CA



COOKERY CLUB

We will be having another event at Downham Village Hall on Monday 18th April, at 6.30 pm. We are lucky to have Michael Heathcote once again demonstrating to us and if you have seen Michael before you will be assured that it will be well worth attending.

To have your name put on the list (numbers strictly limited) please let Olive Awbery know in good time as places do get filled quickly; either phone 01200 415926, or by e-mail (daveandoliveawb@onetel.com) It will be the same arrangement and price as before -- £10 paid at the door, and a vegetarian option will be available.

We look forward to enjoying a good evening. OAwb

HISTORY GROUP—21st March

REVEREND Andy Froud's talk on Dr John Webster, 1612-82, gave us a rare insight into the upheaval incurred, following the regicide of Charles I in the Civil War, the Commonwealth period and subsequent Restoration of Charles II in 1660.

John Webster, born in York, was a radical preacher and medical doctor who served in many different guises: as a master at Clitheroe Grammar School in 1643, as a surgeon in Colonel Shuttleworth's Parliamentarian army and as magistrate and bailiff in Clitheroe.

This was a time of fervent preaching, violent debating and apocalyptic thinking. A host of radical sects such as Ranters, Seekers, Shakers and Quakers, unleashed by the political turmoil, had benefitted from the proliferation of free-thinking pamphlets and books, brought about by the withdrawal of censorship. John Webster, influenced by the Grindletonian Roger Brierley, awaited the Kingdom of God on earth. He wrote one book on metallurgy (chemistry) and another on witchcraft. (a copy is available in Clitheroe library) In it he expounded a psychological theory that the Pendle witches had been the victims of suggestibility, and that belief in witchcraft was mere superstition.

The plaque containing occult symbolism in St Mary's church, Andy suggested, was John Webster's epitaph, written by himself.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 25th April when the topic is a Ribble Valley Potpourri by Brenda Fox. Some of us remember the excellent talk she gave about toll roads and milestones. JP