

## PARISH CALENDAR 2020

APRIL	Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners	
ALL gatherings of more than two people have been banned until further notice. Some events have been postponed and we look forward to notice of new arrangements in due course, others including our regular church services are cancelled. Arrangements are in hand to conduct some meetings by email or other electronic means					
14th	Tuesday	6.00 pm	Village Hall Management Cttee	BY EMAIL	<i>Committee Business</i>
25th	Easter II	TBA	Annual Parochial Church Meetings	BY EMAIL	<b><i>Annual Report for 2019 Election of PCC and Wardens</i></b>

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THOSE BUSINESSES, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER. IN APRIL THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL



PRIOR to the AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> April Shaun Roney tendered his resignation as a committee member and Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. Shaun had been a committee member for 40 years and chairman for at least ten. His work and dedication on behalf of the Village Hall, which extended far beyond the job of chairman as it is generally understood and over this colossal period was recognised and thanks expressed. The committee agreed that a suitable token of their appreciation and that of all who use the hall be presented to Shaun.

Other members of the Committee were re-elected. From their number the following were elected or re-elected, unopposed: Chairman, Mr Neil Wallace, Hon Treasurer Mr Brian Lewis and Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth.

At the Committee meeting which followed the elections The Chairman said that a most important issue to settle now was the arrangement for booking the hall. Committee agreed that The Hon Mrs R Assheton and Mrs Linda Ellis carry out the duties of Booking Secretary. A dedicated telephone number for bookings is to be set up.

**OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE** – Revd Andy Froud  
The Vicarage, Church Street, Clitheroe BB7 2DD  
01200 423317 0796 957 6691 andyfroud@gmail.com

**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**  
The Hon Ralph Assheton - Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 Mr Ian Walton—445063

**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Chairman** Mr Neil Wallace—441196  
**Hon. Secretary** Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112  
**Village Hall Bookings email** [info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk)  
**or phone** 0784546 796818

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

### DOWNHAM & TWISTON

# newsletter

2020 Issue 4 April



[www.downhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk)

### From The Revd Andy Froud

Dear Friends

Hope is what keeps us alive.

Not our circulation, respiration or our food or drink. But hope. That was the conclusion that Dr Viktor Frankl came to from his observations of the concentration camp that he was imprisoned in and contained in his slim but powerful book of his experiences "Man's Search For Meaning".

He found that he could not predict who would survive. The healthiest, youngest and strongest might go out to work one day and then fail to return at night. While the oldest and most infirm seemed sometimes.

In his four years in various camps he survived a typhus infection and once swapped queues, accidentally avoiding the gas chambers. Viktor came to believe that those inmates who "were oriented toward the future, toward a meaning waiting to be fulfilled" were more likely to survive. It was those who kept hope in something, whatever that hope might be – being reunited with a loved one, seeing home again. Even just seeing another sunrise. What do you hope for?

The disciples must have despaired after seeing Jesus die: the great crowds who had followed him vanished, even many of the disciples abandoned him. We find it difficult to get into the heads of those first disciples during that first Holy Week because we know the resurrection hope. They had seen their leader and friend die and all their extravagant hopes for a restoration of the kingdom of Israel being dashed. But into the darkness and despair of that catastrophe, Jesus came to bring hope.

The Easter faith is that there is no situation into which Jesus cannot bring hope. In fact one of the lesser known Christian doctrines is the "harrowing of hell": the belief that following his death on Good Friday Jesus brought salvation to all of the righteous who had died since the beginning of the world. We affirm our faith in this in the creed we recite in the eucharist – "he descended to the dead".

May the hope and joy of Christ be yours this Eastertide

**Please don't forget that all Church services are cancelled until further notice.**

At difficult times we have a choice.  
 We can focus on fear, on ourselves and what we cannot do.  
 Or we can turn to God and let God lead us into praying for the world,  
 and let prayer flow into us, taking creative and loving action.

ST LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES		
	February	2020
COMMUNICANTS	38	
COLLECTIONS £		
SERVICES	176	384
VISITORS	33	58
DONATIONS	344	776
HOUSE BOXES	5	30
SPECIAL	205	205
TOTALS	763	1,453

### IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS

All who have or will be affected by the Coronavirus.  
 In particular the most vulnerable -  
 those subject to ongoing medical treatments and official "shielding".

### Molly Roskell has written...

MOLLY, Nichola, Jonathan, James, Maria, Sam & Ben Roskell would like to thank everyone who contributed to the local Air Ambulance fund in memory of John, a beloved husband, Dad and Grandad. It raised £700 and he would have been amazed but so delighted. A very sincere thank you for so much support in so many ways from friends, relatives and neighbours.

We were only supposed to stay in Downham as a temporary measure; that was 24 years ago! John was very soon on the church clock winding rota which he did for 15 years. He was destined for a flying career in RAF but colour blindness put a stop to that. However, he was able to fly glider planes which he loved and did until 18 months ago at Chipping. I found this quote in his bedside drawer. *"Once you have tasted flight, you will walk the earth with your eyes forever turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will return"* (Leonardo de Vinci)

## OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

WE THOUGHT we would share with you our experiences of the Coronavirus over the last three weeks, and how it has affected our lives.

We were lucky (and unlucky) enough to be skiing in Northern Italy during the February half-term, flying in and out of Milan. A trip that as a family, we had been looking forward to for a long time. We embarked on the trip with the knowledge that the Coronavirus existed and that it was spreading, but not that the situation could escalate to the extent that it did so quickly.

Four days into our holiday we saw the news that ten towns around Milan had been placed in lockdown and that the situation in Italy was getting more serious. However, we decided that as we were staying at a small family-run hotel halfway up the mountain with only one other family staying there, that we would continue to the end of our holiday and return on schedule.

Although the situation was worsening around Milan, there was no discernible difference noticeable in the resort, it was still busy, and it was as though no-one was worrying about it. Everyone was carrying on enjoying themselves in the sun and snow.

On returning to the UK, we decided to self-isolate as a precaution, which at the time was not the advice of Public Health England as none of us displayed any symptoms. Still, we were conscious that we did not want any of us to be patient zero in the north-west and felt that we should act responsibly to ensure that if we did start to show symptoms, we did not run the risk of passing the virus on.

After two weeks of isolation, none of us displayed any symptoms. We returned to work and school with a sense of relief that life was returning to normal, and that we did not have the virus.

Unfortunately, five days later our 11-year-old came home from school with a high temperature and feeling unwell. Time for self-isolation again, and a call to 111. The high temperature was then followed by a persistent cough which lasted for five days. So far, three out of the four of us have had the cough and have felt unwell, but our 12-year old seems to have escaped so far.

For us, although the situation has been inconvenient, we have not been affected too severely. The virus has been more like a cold than a severe illness. The children have continued to do their school work, my husband has continued with his work from home, and I have continued working remotely. We are nearly out the other side of this, and it feels like we have come off lightly, as others have been affected far worse than us.

We also feel fortunate to live in Downham with the beautiful views, the lambs prancing around the fields, and we cannot imagine a better place to have to be in isolation. We have also been inundated with kind offers from members of the community to get us shopping or anything else we needed. In times like these, you feel lucky to live in such a beautiful place surrounded by a fantastic community.

Anna Wren New Close Farm

### GARDEN CLUB

THE Garden Club A.G.M. was a very lively affair with several decisions being made by the membership. In light of what has happened since of course everything is moot. The next two meetings have been cancelled and we will look at the situation as it develops. In the meantime KEEP SAFE and Love to everyone

CA

## STAGE TWO DOWNHAM

THIS is confirmation that we have had to cancel our performances of 'Strangers On A Train' planned for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in Downham Village Hall. Right up until last Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020, we were hoping to go ahead by limiting the audience size and taking some other sensible precautions. However the revision of Government advice on measures to tackle the spread of Covid 19, issued on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, meant that cancellation was sadly inevitable.

Circumstances permitting we are fully committed to rising like a phoenix from the ashes with an Autumn performance and you will receive information on that just as soon as we have made a decision.

The number of bookings for 'Strangers On A Train' were good and director, cast and production crew all put in a lot of time, effort and positivity into making it happen. Therefore we are looking hard at the feasibility of putting this play on as our Spring 2021 production at the end of March.

Once again a big thank you to all Ribble Valley businesses who freely displayed our publicity and to individuals who promoted us via social media. A huge thank you to our Meal Deal partners, 'The Assheton Arms' who took nearly 50% of the total bookings.

Now for some nuts and bolts stuff!

If you made a ticket only booking/received confirmation via this gmail system then you need do nothing – your booking is now automatically cancelled.

If you booked a Meal Deal with 'The Assheton Arms', then they should already have contacted you directly regarding your booking but, if you still have any concerns, contact them on 01200 441227. Any problem issues please advise me using the email address: [stage2playinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stage2playinfo@gmail.com)

Finally there are a small number of people who have bought and paid for tickets via The Tourist Information Office at The Platform Gallery in Clitheroe. If you know anybody who has, please ask them to contact me, preferably on the gmail or on the Hotline number: 07845 926295.

To everyone who booked, thank you very much for your show of support. To you all, please come to our next production – we will have new chairs!! Best wishes from us all at Stage Two and keep yourselves safe.

## COFFEE CLUB

Dear members, it's with regret that our coffee club will be suspended until further notice, due to the corona virus outbreak. We hope to see you looking hale and hearty when life gets back to "normal" but in the absence of a crystal ball or tarot cards, I couldn't possibly comment on when this could be.

Had I known that our March meeting was going to be our last for a while, I'd have organised a "leaving" party with balloons, banners and a knees up. So I'm suggesting that we postpone it until we meet again and have a "special celebration" coffee club meeting, with all of the above. Wishing you all a safe and healthy journey until then, Carole, Brian and Barbara xx



## Coronavirus - help is available to overcome isolation

A group of volunteers is currently coordinating the Downham and Twiston Communities' response to the coronavirus.

We are looking at how best to supply the villages with essential groceries and medication, in particular for those who are in the most vulnerable group and are locked down for 12 weeks. This policy is known as "shielding".

I have been in contact with a group in Clitheroe who are coordinating with Local Government bodies looking at how get supplies to those who need it the most and I will update you when I know more as I am sure you can appreciate this is a rapidly developing situation.

If you need any help please contact either **Clare Ashworth on 445112** or **Christine Naylor on 441352** they will be more than willing take your request for either essential groceries or Medication and arrange for one of the Team to collect for you. Or even if it is just a chat you want to keep in touch with the outside world then please contact us.

Now more than ever it is important to come together as a community to overcome what the next few months will bring and please listen to the instructions from the government regarding staying in your homes in order to avoid social contact and virus transmission.

If you would like to help in this effort please contact me on **440368**.

For those with Internet access, there is a **DOWNHAM VILLAGE Facebook** page that is regularly updated.

For those without internet access or who need information without wishing to burden the official local/regional services, please contact one of our local volunteers on the telephone numbers above.

Those people deemed "**extremely vulnerable**" (who have received an official Government letter/text message can register online (a local volunteer can do this for you over the phone). It would be helpful to have your NHS number (this is on your prescription labels)

UK Government instructions  
ARE CLEAR:

## STAY INDOORS AT HOME

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work
- If (briefly) outside, stay **TWO** metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

If any Downham Estate tenants have concerns about rental finances, please contact Ingham and Yorke - Tom Manson - [tmanson@inghamandyorke.co.uk](mailto:tmanson@inghamandyorke.co.uk) or 423655.

The Estate will of course help wherever it can, within the limits of its own resources

**Dr Dave Awbery who has delivered a letter to each address in the parish wishes to add that should his telephone not be answered, callers should be reassured that they may leave a message confident that he will return all calls**

**THE PARISH CHURCH**

THE Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called on Church of England churches to put public worship on hold and become a “different sort of church” in the coming months to face the challenge of coronavirus. In a joint letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said it was now necessary to put public services on hold until further notice.

So there will, for the time being be **no regular services** at St Leonard’s .

Our church buildings will be closed until further notice

We continue to pray.

Clitheroe Parish church is setting up a telephone support network which you can join by phoning either of the numbers below.

We will do everything we can to support everyone who is in need through this difficult time. Anyone is very welcome to contact the Vicar, Andy Froud on 0796 957 6691 or 01200 423317 if you have any need, physical or spiritual or would just like a chat

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**

THANK YOU for the wonderfully kind and thoughtful gesture of distributing beautiful potted flowers to some of the mothers within the Parish with younger children. The message of support on the back of the note with parish contact number is yet another truly heart warming example of local community spirit and compassion. HA/JA

**“THE SWINGING SIXTIES DISCO”**

was a great dancing and singing experience with DJ Keith Harrison from Whalley. Some people got a bit carried away with ‘Lily the Pink’, .some hilarious costumes too.

Thanks to Brian and Ralph behind the bar, Chris for help with choosing what was behind the bar, to Greendale Kitchen for providing the food, and to Tom for organising the kitchen. A profit of £430 went to the Village Hall.

Look out for October dates for the Sensational Seventies Disco. SH

**BRIDLEWAY**

THE WORK was severely hampered by the wet weather, but has now resumed. The section from Greendale to Chatburn is useable (with care), but has yet to have gates and signs installed.

**INFORMATION CENTRE**

REFURBISHMENT of the information centre next to the Lower Hall car park is well under way. This is another project organised and mainly funded by the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership. A new window opening has been formed and the window frame and benches are under construction. When complete, the amenities provided will include a bike repair “station” for those who suffer a flat tyre or have the sudden urge to tighten their nuts.

**COVID- 19**

WE ARE ALL being fed a constant stream of information about how to behave during these unprecedented times. Do remember that Downham and Twiston are a community that cares for one another. There are numerous people who have offered to shop or otherwise help out anyone who becomes ill or has to self-isolate. Anyone who is feeling in need only has to pick up the phone, text or email a neighbour and a suitable rescue package can be arranged. Do not suffer in silent isolation.

**THE BELLS**

HOPEFULLY by the time you read this the bell clappers will be back in place after their restoration in Loughborough. Sadly the planned bell ringers outing to tour the foundry and bring them back has been postponed, but a brave soul has volunteered to drive there to collect them. RCA

**Paper recycling**

CLLR Gary Scott has confirmed RV council is suspending paper recycling collection with immediate effect. It is suggested that households store it (where possible) for recycling at a later date.

**Scam warnings**

LANCASHIRE Country Council advises vigilance against a number of known telephone, internet and cold-calling scams happening at the moment. Do not give personal information to unsolicited enquirers. Please take care.

**CMV folk weekend**

WE HAD A very successful and enjoyable evening at the village hall with the *Lives on the Line* event. Karin Grandal Park performed songs all about the lives of the navvies that worked on the Settle to Carlisle Railway, this was followed by Ava Greenall and Phil Knightly who entertained us to a fantastic set including audience sing along. The evening was finished off by a 4 piece band Mail Train who kept the audience captivated until almost midnight.

A great big thank you to all involved and not least our audience who turned up in force despite the virus.

Unfortunately since this show and due to the current Covid-19 outbreak we have had to cancel our CMV Folk N Roots weekend in May, we will keep everybody informed as to future plans. C&L E

**RAINFALL**

THIS February was the wettest one in Downham since 1865, with 13.39 inches. This beat the previous wettest February in 2002 when we had 11.82 inches. The long term average is 3.39 inches. There has only been one other month with more than 12 inches (which was also the wettest) that being December 2015 when we had 14.80 inches.

Sadly the Church suffered from driven rain soaking right through the stonework of the tower, dripping down to leave standing water in the Choir robing room on several occasions. Mopping and the de-humidifier have rectified the situation, though a detailed inspection of the tower will be needed to see if there is any repair that can be done. The last time this occurred was in 2000, soon after the new ringing chamber floor and glass screen were installed.

Thankfully we got off lighter than some communities, with only a couple of reports of serious damage. If you are aware of any near misses please let the Estate know, so that we can attempt to improve matters further. Some may have noticed that work already done includes the deliberate removal of small sections of roadside wall (one above the Village Hall and one beyond New Close) where the road tended to flood. RCA



DOWNHAM WI was able to enjoy the first of its Centenary celebrations on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March with a lunch and entertainment at the Higher Trapp Hotel.

The recent developments with the Covid-19 had cast some doubt as to whether this would go ahead but the majority of members felt that this long-anticipated event should not be missed.

After an excellent three-course lunch, members were treated to songs and stories from a professional entertainer, Judith Hibbert. With a superb voice, she gave medley of songs from the Sound of Music and other shows as well as hilarious skits from the likes of Brief Encounter.

After lunch a certificate was given to Anne Sharp who has been a WI member for sixty years.

To mark the 100 years, Downham WI members themselves had each embroidered a leaf that Julie Ascroft and Bev Thompson had used to create a Commemorative tree, which was on display for the first time.

Each attendee was given a bar of chocolate with Downham WI centenary logo and also took home a lavender bag, embroidered by Julie. Other members of the Committee had also been busy making crafts to sell and a Word Search quiz with the opportunity to win a Gin Hamper!

Afterwards, Downham WI President, Diane Poole, said “it was a brilliant afternoon for everyone who came.

Unfortunately, we have had to postpone our other Birthday party celebrations that should have continued in March but it’s Downham WI’s Centenary for the whole of 2020 so we hope to hold the Open Day, Exhibition and Village Hall party later in the year.”

Since then, Downham WI has created a new ‘Here to Help’ WhatsApp Group so that members can help each other with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc, as well as just keeping in touch in the rapidly unfolding pandemic.