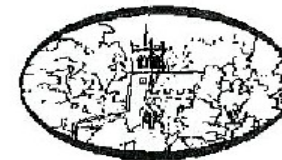


PARISH CALENDAR 2024

APRIL				EVENT	SIDESMEN/ WOMEN	ALTAR FLOW-	CHURCH CLEANERS
7th	Easter I	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Dr. Judith Clark	Mrs B. Lewis		Mr B. & Mrs B. Lewis
14th	Easter II	11.15 am	Matins	Rev. Dr. Judith Clark	Mr A. Herron		Mrs A. Wallace
21st	Easter III	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Dr. Judith Clark	Mrs P. McFall		Mr A. & Mrs K. Herron
28th	Easter IV	11.15 am	Matins	Rev. Dr. Judith Clark	Mrs A. Wallace		Mr P & Mrs M. Mercer
MAY							
5th	Easter V	11.15 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Dr. Judith Clark	Mrs B. Lewis		Mrs S Travis Mrs A Chadwick
<p>THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SPONSOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER</p> <p>OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE Rev. Dr. Judith Clark</p> <p>OUR CHURCH WARDENS The Hon RC Assheton 07817 634392 = Mrs P McFall 441484 = Mr I. Walton 07979 598 057</p> <p>DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Chairman Mr Neil Wallace —441196 Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —445112</p> <p>Village Hall Bookings —info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk .</p>							
<p>Downham Social Media Resources The public Facebook page - "Downham Village" The private Facebook page - Downham & Twiston Residents</p>				<p>CHURCH RESOURCES Morning Prayer for Clitheroe, Chatburn and Downham is streamed on YouTube Monday - Saturday. Access it via St. Mary Magdalene' Face- book page or via the link on the website site</p>			

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2024 Issue 4 April www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From the Revd. Dr. Judith Clark

Dear Friends

The origins of April Fool's day are unknown, but one theory suggests that the joviality of the day and the association of foolishness with 1st April arises from one of the Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer - The Nun's Priest's Tale. In this tale a vain cockerel Chauntecleer is tricked by a fox on 'syn March bigan thirrtty dayes and two' which would literally be 32nd March, as there is no such date, it naturally followed that the date Chaucer meant, was 1st April. Whether this source is the correct or not, most people agree that the origin is Medieval. Some have associated it with the 'Feast of Fools' Day which in the Medieval Period was a Christian festival. Alternatively, it has been linked with early 'renewal festivals' which celebrated an end to winter and the beginning of spring. Either way, role reversals were common during Medieval Christian Festivals with servants being able to boss masters for a day and children able to give instructions to parents. Disguises were common and people played tricks on both friends and strangers. There was a general inversion of the normal social order.

Historians believe that the Feast of Fools Day tradition began as a thanksgiving for the incarnation of Christ and that the role reversals were to commemorate Mary's exclamation that God 'ha [d] put down the mighty from their seat and exalted the humble and meek.' However, the reputation of these festivals (which were largely confined to Northern France) was less than pure, and these festivals were eventually forbidden by the Council of Basle in 1435.

Interestingly though, within the Orthodox tradition, there are still Holy Saints who are remembered as being 'Fools for Christ.' A term which perhaps comes from 1 Corinthians 4:10, where Paul states that he and the other disciples are 'Fools for Christ's sake.' This is because the early Christians were seen as foolish in the eyes of the world, for their belief in Jesus as the Messiah. Paul is reminding the Corinthians, who are fixated on what the world considers to be wise, that it is better to be a fool in the eyes of the world than in the eyes of God.

A lesson as crucially relevant for today, as it was over 2000 years ago!

If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," (1 Corinthians 3: 18-19)

Yours in Christ
Judith

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

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



IMPORTANT UPDATE:

On 7th May 2024 the Downham Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be held at 18.00 (in the Village Hall).

A proposal will be made at the AGM to alter the Constitution. In essence the proposal is to create a smaller Executive Committee which will become responsible for the day to day management of the Hall, and replace the Committee of Management.

In the proposals the substantive work of the Hall will be the responsibility of a number of sub-committees: Finance, Premises and Gardens, Operations and Marketing and Fund Raising and Events. The membership of these sub-committees will become more open and more informal.

The Annual General Meeting will be responsible for the election of officers and the determination of the strategic objectives of the Hall.

If you could put the date in the diary, The draft proposals will be formalised at the next Committee Meeting on 23 April and we will ensure that the decision is circulated **as soon as** the draft is ready.

On the matter of dates we are proposing to hold an event in the Village Hall on Thursday 6

More travel insights from our (sort of) very own Chris Moss, who lives at Springs Farm. Chris is also an established travel writer for The Guardian, the Daily and Sunday Telegraph, amongst other publications. In between all that, Chris has kindly agreed to be a regular contributor to our newsletter too. Thank you for this thought provoking piece Chris—Ed

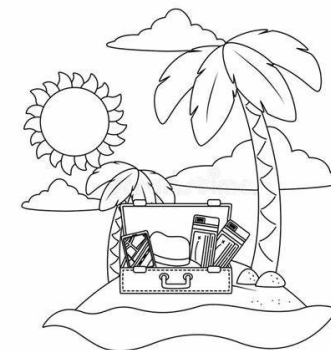
Where Tourists Seldom Tread

The pandemic made everyone think about travel, home and the impacts our far-flung holidays have on the climate, planet and each other. Some of my journalist colleagues have given up flying, which is an admirable, virtuous decision (even if it comes after decades of globetrotting).

I'm not there yet, but I have been trying to reconsider my own, and our general, attitudes to tourism and leisure. Every summer, reports of over tourism in honeypots like the Lakes and Dales make headlines. When there are too many people in a beauty-spot, locals suffer, but so do trippers; crammed car parks, noisy trails, clamour-filled pubs and cafés don't make for a sense of wellbeing or a break from routine. Of late, I have been scribbling pieces on Accrington, Croydon and Wrexham – and many other towns off the mass-tourism radar – for the Guardian, partly to test my theory that everywhere is interesting so long as you go there with the right approach, and also to promote the idea of not following the hordes down the most heavily-trodden roads and footpaths.

Here on Pendle Hill we are at a frontier between post-industrial towns, with their heritage as well as their scars, and rural-cum-agricultural areas that people like to tour and explore. You often hear people remarking that such and such a town over there has a lousy high street or is too far down the path of decline. But if we visit even the least “picture postcard” town or city and, for an hour or two, forget shopping, meals, photogenic views and clichés, I think it can be deeply rewarding – and even pleasurable.

Chris Moss



**DOWNHAM HALL OPEN GARDENS
SUNDAY 28TH JULY, 2024. 12-4**

A quick update on where we're up to with Open Gardens this year. It will be in aid of the East Lancashire Hospice and the Village Hall. Though physically based in Blackburn, the Hospice covers the Ribble Valley area and, as well as outstanding inpatient care for terminally ill patients, they offer a range of outpatient and outreach services that many might not be aware of. These include 'Hospice At Home', where medically-trained staff come out to visit and provide a range of essential care services, as well as lots of outpatient therapies based at the Hospice including meditation, massage and arts and craft activities (more later) for people with life-limiting illnesses.

Quick update on organisation for the day though ...

Barnoldswick Town Band and the Clitheroe Ukulele Orchestra are both booked, as is 'Witchy's' food truck. There will be the usual teas, ice creams, Human Fruit Machine, prosecco stand, musicians and lots of stalls selling plants, antiques and food. Many have already re-booked from past years, reporting good sales and contributing a great deal to the overall amount raised for charity.

Please do volunteer a bit of time – either with setting up, helping on the day (teas, gates etc), or both. We're always looking for raffle prizes and the Hospice will be running a craft stall so donations for that are very welcome too. They are particularly looking at the moment for small terracotta pots which their patients decorate during the therapy sessions and then sell to raise funds. If you think you can help with any of these. Or have an idea for running anything else on the day (which won't get us into trouble!), please email me – olivia@asshetonpr.co.uk.

OA.

PS. Do tell your friends!



FIELDS OF GREEN FOLK CLUB

Presents an evening of Music at Downham Village Hall

This will be lead by

The award winning Reg MeROSS, a remarkable singer - songwriter who was introduced onto the stage of the Albert Hall by Mike Harding as 'one of this country's finest' and is a true modern troubadour, representing contemporary English folk writing at its best.

Reg will be supported by Cobalt Tales.

Tickets£20/ concessions £15

Contact Linda: 07401 629304 / fieldsofgreenfolkclub@gmail.com

Included is a complimentary drink from our Licensed Bar

**Venue: DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL
Date: Friday 12th April Doors Open: 6.30**

This is a Charity event, with proceeds, including a raffle, going to the Village Hall



February News - ROUND & ABOUT

RAINFALL

A rhyme learnt in childhood springs to mind:

The rain it raineth every day

upon the just and unjust fellow,

but more upon the just, because

The unjust has the just's umbrella!

February ended with a monthly tally of 4.78 inches, while the first half of March showed 2.41 inches. Both of these are only just above average, but the absence of any significant periods of dry (let alone sunny) weather has helped to make this winter feel particularly soggy. Let's hope that the arrival of Spring brings with it some more uplifting brightness.

HEDGE LAYING COMPETITION

Due to the sogginess of the fields, the hedge laying competition had to be moved at short notice to the roadside fields between Smithfield and the village. Many thanks to the Binns's for being so accommodating and to Bowland Bioenergy for allowing use of their yard for car parking.

As it turned out, competition day was dry (until 3pm!) and initially sunny. 30 competitors, ranging from 13 to around 70 years of age and including the whole range of beginners to professionals, busily worked all day. The end result was a gloriously rejuvenated hedge and a happy band of satisfied hedgers.

The Lancashire and Westmorland Hedge Laying Association, together with Forest of Bowland National Landscape (formerly the Bowland AONB) team organised a trouble free day, which they hope to repeat here next year.

RA

STAGE TWO DOWNHAM



Stage Two Downham are pleased to announce our next production **The Dresser, by Ronald Harwood**, which will take place on June 12th - 15th. Tickets will be on sale the next couple of weeks and we will keep you posted.

The Dresser is actually set in the theatre, albeit more behind the scenes than in front. It tells the story of a group of 'Shakespeareans' - touring groups of actors who travelled up and down the country, playing the Shakespeare classics, night after night, at all the provincial theatres, and rarely London if they were very lucky. It was not a glamorous life but the love of the art was everything to them.

This play is set at the end of the era for these groups, as young men, who might have become actors, were going off instead to the theatre of war and the crumbling Victorian venues were being bombed by enemy action. These were hard times for the Actor-Managers, who were usually the Principal Player in each play, as they struggled to hold their Company together.

The Dresser is a bittersweet tale presented with full on wit, hilarity, pathos and great tenderness - a perfect play for theatre lovers. And a date for your diaries.

VILLAGE HALL'S OWN PERSONAL TRAINER

Personal trainer Laura May Blay now operates from what was the room adjacent to the downstairs kitchen at the Village Hall and is now transformed into a small bespoke gym area. Laura commercially rents the space, which has been a real benefit for the Hall's income stream and her clients have also appreciated the setting and peace of the village.

Bit of a win/win.

Laura is a Level 3 personal trainer and Level 1 CrossFit coach with a PGCE in secondary physical education and a BSC in Applied Sports Psychology.

Living in Clitheroe and married to Tom, with Theodora (5) and Hunter (6months) to look after as well as her dogs, Laura trains clients who come to see her as individuals or small groups of two or three – generally on weekdays. Her particular interest is in helping maintain bodily strength and conditioning and designing achievable exercise programmes that can be followed up at home and tailored to individual needs, challenges and changing physical circumstances.

Laura is no stranger to the village, having worked previously out of Brookside Barn, and can often be seen running with her clients around the lanes or enjoying well-deserved post-workout refreshment with family members at the Ice Cream Shop. Do give her a wave or say Hi!

OA.

