


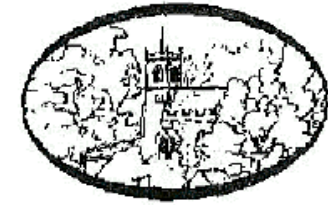


Parish Calendar 2015						
December			Event	Sidesmen & women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
3rd	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Christmas Dinner	
6th	Advent II	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs B. Lewis	NO FLOWERS	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A, Chadwick
7th	Monday	6.30 pm 7.30 pm	Village Hall Mgt Cttee Joyful Noise	<i>Meeting of Committee postponed from 16th December</i> Chatburn Christ Church		
9th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs P. McFall		
10th	Thursday	12.00 noon	Coffee Club	Village Hall	Christmas Lunch	
		12.,15 pm	Wedding	James Da Costa & Emma Cooper		
		7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Spellbound	
13th	Advent III	11.00am	Matins Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mr I. Walton	IN	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
20th	Advent IV	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Alan Reid	Mt T. McLean	ADVENT	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
21st	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Methodist Church		
23rd	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T McLean		
		2.00 pm	Decorate Church			
24th	Thursday Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Christingle Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs B Lewis		
		11.30 pm	Midnight Mass Canon David Mewis	Chatburn Christ Church		
25th	Friday Christmas Day	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr B Lewis		
27th	Christmas I	11.00 am	Carol Service Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs E. Parker		Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs F Eldridge
January, 2016						
3rd	Christmas II	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mrs P. McFall	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
6th	Wednesday	Epiphany				
<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
2015 Issue 12 DECEMBER



From The Rev'd ANDY FROUD

Dear Friends



"Drill for oil? You mean drill into the ground to try and find oil? You're crazy." --Associates of Edwin L. Drake refusing his suggestion to drill for oil in 1859.

"Guitar groups are on their way out, Mr. Epstein," *Decca Records Dick Rowe to the manager of the Beatles 1962*

History is littered with examples of people's failed predictions: it could almost be said that history is the record of people's failed predictions. As I write this in 2015 I wonder what 2016 will hold for us, our church and our world: sadly a fairly safe prediction is war, conflict, injustice. Business, as they say, as usual.

Into this world God sent His Son. It was a birth predicted by the prophets of the Jewish Scriptures (what we call the Old Testament) Prophecy, though, is not the same as prediction, although it may contain some prediction in it. The prophet speaks the word of God. And the word of God is not just about the future but about how we respond now. One of the Old Testament's best known prophets is Jonah. Reluctantly, and after possibly the most bizarre detours in history (no, you don't have a sat nav fail story to match) he gave God's message of repentance to the people of Ninevah. When they did repent, God withdrew His threat of destruction, much to Jonah's annoyance.

We are still called to repent of the evil we have done and the good we have failed to do. And I believe that call is for everyone everyday. Maybe if we were all to fully heed that call to repentance that the prophets made and which Jesus repeated, we would live in a better world.

A final thought - maybe some predictions just take longer to come true:

"The ordinary "horseless carriage" is at present a luxury for the wealthy; and although its price will probably fall in the future, it will never, of course, come into as common use as the bicycle."
Literary Digest, 1899

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Yours in Christ,

STIR UP SUNDAY

TRADITIONALLY, families gathered together in the kitchen to mix and steam Christmas pudding on Stir-up Sunday (the Sunday next before advent). The collect for this particular Sunday is at the top of page 2.

Parents teach their children how to mix ingredients for the pudding. Everyone takes a turn to stir the pudding mixture; each person involved is able to make a special wish for the year ahead. Practically, stirring the mixture is hard work, therefore as many as possible are involved.

By tradition the pudding mixture is stirred from East to West in honour of the three wise men who visited the baby Jesus.

In some households, silver coins are added to the pudding mixture. It is believed that finding a coin brings good luck. Nowadays, sterilised (i.e. boiled) silver coins may be placed under each serving on Christmas Day to avoid emergency visits to the dentist - and family arguments.

In recent times, two-thirds of British children surveyed, revealed that they had never experienced stirring Christmas pudding mixture. Maybe it comes with our preference for the ready made puddings available in our shops.



Material for publication may be emailed to the Editor tomingsend@talktalk.net or by snail to
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Rimington, Clitheroe, BB7 4EH



**POPULAR FUNDRAISING
CANDLE LIT
CONCERT**
at
CHATBURN CHRIST CHURCH
on
FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER
at 7.30 PM
CLITHEROE POP CHOIR
**St CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL
SWING BAND**
Christmas Favourites and Carols

**Lancashire's Largest
Cracker Pull
Mince Pies and Wine**

**Tickets £10
from Roy Porter's
or call
01200 441624
or
01254 384893**

In aid of Christ Church

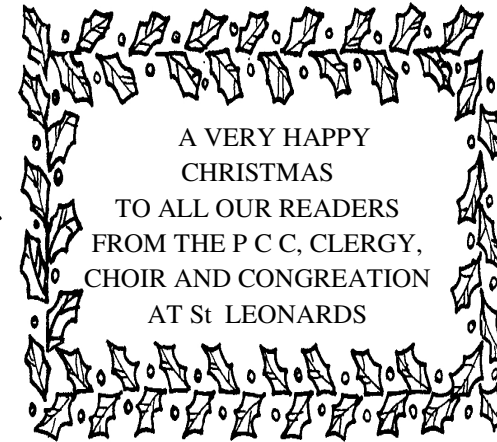


HISTORY GROUP

The Group's November meeting will be a talk about the Calder Valley, a return visit by Roger Frost on Monday 30th at 7.30 pm in the Village hall. No meeting in December

FROM ANNE HARDACRE

OPERATION Christmas child has resulted in a total of 76 Christmas shoe boxes for children in countries where there may not be any gifts this year. Revd Anne wishes to thank all those who have contributed to this large number. "It is an excellent result" she says.



A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR READERS
FROM THE P C C, CLERGY,
CHOIR AND CONGREGATION
AT St LEONARDS

CARDS

CHURCH greeting cards suitable for Christmas cards but left blank inside for your own message or for use as notelets at any time. Available at back of church or Molly Roskell 01200-440450. £2.50 - Pack of 5
MR

DVH

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

A FANTASTIC DISPLAY of fireworks delighting both young and old was thrown into the air on a warm but dry and clear evening. by Graeham Robinson and team, on Friday 6th November at the Village Hall car park. The display, which drew gasps of pleasure and appreciation and ending with hearty applause, was second only to the new year's eve show in our capital city.

After the display a supper was served in the hall to a hundred parishioners and visitors by Village Hall Committee members and helpers.

Our thanks are due to Barbara Lewis who made many of the arrangements for the display and supper before departing for the long awaited family visit to Australia in October and who returned in time to help with the delivery of the activities, for a really great evening.





THE PARISH CHURCH

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMNTS

WE ARE approaching the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus in a well established and traditional way in Downham St Leonard. Our usual communion service on Christmas Day at 11,00 will be led by our Vicar and choir. Around this day will be a number of other activities. Starting with Carol singing led by the choir on Sunday evening 20th December at Twiston our arrangements continue with decorating the church after the austerity of Advent on Wednesday 23rd at 2.00 pm. We shall have the usual Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 3.00pm. This will take the form of a DIY story where the congregation will make their own Christingle with materials supplied and learning the significance of the component parts as they go. Carol Singing around Downham will start at the Post Office at 6.30pm. A midnight mass starts at 11.30 pm at Christ Church, Chatburn. Our nine lessons and carol service will be at 11.00 am on Sunday, 27th December, at which we invite the congregations from our partner churches at Chatburn and Clitheroe St Mary, along with the members of the Blackburn branch of the Prayer Book Society.

CHURCH REPAIRS

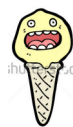
THE long awaited repairs to the Church path have been carried out. The broken flagstones have been replaced and the worst of the wobbly ones made firm. The steps into Church have also been tidied up with new pointing between the stones.

ST LEONARD'S DAY

IN view of the rain and gales on 7th November, the Warden was thankful that he had not made arrangements for a Churchyard tidying party this year! There was just space between storms to ensure that our war graves were tidy and marked with a poppy.

HALLOWEEN

WHAT a night it was! All Hallow's Eve and they were all there! Witches, a vampire, a ghoul and a couple of pumpkins, all that was needed was Elvis for a full house. The ice cream shop was buzzing, lots of games and prizes for the young ones and a superb supper of home-made potato pie and peas (lovely thick crust). It was a reasonably warm night for the end of October and the tables were full of chattering people, no not teeth - voices. A wonderful evening which ended with the prize for the Best Dressed Witch going to Morticia (personally I thought the vampire was quite good).



Our thanks go to Dave and Michelle for hosting this lovely evening. We must not forget though what the evening was for - to raise money for Macmillan Care for the cancer sufferers of this country. So thanks to Michelle, David and all who donated, the sum of £132-26p has been sent to Macmillan Care. Thank you everyone. CA

COFFEE CLUB

IT was back to normal at the coffee club this month, almost! Brian & Barbara were back from Aussieland full of news about their wonderful holiday (skiving I call it). But the big news of the day is that Edith has retired from the bring & buy stall. Edith and June ran the stall from the beginning, until June moved away a couple of months since, and now Edith has decided to retire. I am sure everyone joins us in saying a big thank you for all the work you have put in for us. Of course we now needed someone else, so yours truly has volunteered, for now. Anyway Edith we all hope you enjoy yourself on the other side.



We had a very busy morning, almost sold out of cakes, it was wonderful to hear all the chatter going on. I think I can safely say a good time was had by all.....

GARDENING CLUB

THE first Thursday in November the garden club met. What a nasty night it was! However quite a few members came and enjoyed a lovely demonstration by Gill of Sylvan Wreaths. Gill showed us how to make the base for the wreath using chicken wire and moss, then she produced all these wonderful leaves, all brought from her own garden. Marrying the two together was just using your own imagination and trial and error even adding false flowers for porch wreaths. Gill showed us other wreaths made from such as clematis stems and other plant material. A very enjoyable evening finished with a very amusing raffle (you had to be there) and of course supper. The next meeting is the Christmas Dinner on Thursday 3rd at 6.30 for 7.00 pm at the Village Hall and I would like to remind everyone to please take your own drink and a present, all wrapped up with a pretty bow on top. See you all there. CA



TARMAC

RVBC were as good as their word in carrying out the repairs to the entrance to the village car park. Discussions are under way between RVBC and the Estate over the future management of the car park as the current arrangement is not line with what goes on elsewhere in the borough. The re-surfacing work on the track next to Ash Tree Cottage has been hampered by the endless recent rain. Thankfully the drainage repairs appear to have been reasonably successful. Now all we need is a few days of fine weather so that the contractors can lay the new tarmac. RCA



Coffee Club cont.....Oh! I nearly forgot, (par for the course). Welcome back Andy, you were missed. The next meeting will be the Christmas lunch, which will be served hopefully, around 12 noon. on Thursday, 10th December See you there! CA

PRESIDENT Frances Garner, welcomed members and guests to Downham W.I.'s Christmas outing. After a rousing singing of 'Jerusalem', members enjoyed a delicious three course meal at Greendale View Kitchen. Crackers were pulled and hats were worn in the snug and cosy restaurant.



Entertainment was provided by 'Betsy the Scullery Maid'. 'Betsy' came in, supposedly, to look for some servants for 'the Big House'. She then regaled us with tales of the 'Big House' and explained what sorts of skills were needed to work there. In doing so, 'Betsy', uses the old fashioned expressions of the time and has rather a 'knowing' manner about her. It is fair to say, Betsy is hilarious, and when she found out a bit more about members of the audience, and their suitability for work in the 'Big House', it only added to the fun.

Barbara Lewis was thanked by the President, Frances Garner, for the organization and planning of the Christmas outing.

Mrs Garner also thanked Rosemary Norgrove for all the work she put into the Bingo Evening and presented her with some flowers. A substantial amount of money was raised, from the Bingo in November, towards the Denman Bursary which will be drawn at the December meeting.

The December meeting will be on the 10th at the Village Hall at 7.30. A film will be shown by Anne & Gordon Sharp. New members are always welcome. AK

