

**Parish Calendar 2016**

December			Event	Sidesmen women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Thursday	7.30 pm	The Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Christmas Dinner and Party</i>	
2nd	Friday	7.30 pm	Concert	Chatburn Christ Church	<i>To start the Christmas Tree Festival</i>	
2nd to 4th	Friday evening to Sunday 4 pm		Christmas Tree Festival	Chatburn Christ Church	<i>See page 7</i>	
4th	Advent II	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean	<b>NO FLOWERS</b>	Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey
5th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	<i>Chatburn, Christ Church</i>		
6th	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Management Cttee	Village Hall	<i>Meeting</i>	
8th	Thursday	noon	Coffee Club	Village Hall	<i>Club Christmas Lunch</i>	
		7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>Bill Blackledge - Radio Gardener</i>	
11th	Advent III	10.50 am	Matins Rev'd Ann Hardacre	Mrs A. Wallace	<b>IN</b>	Mrs D Briathwaite Mrs F Eldridge
14th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion	Mr B. Lewis		
18th	Advent IV	11.00am	Holy Communion Rev'd Brian Whitley	Mrs E. Parker	<b>ADVENT</b>	Mrs A Moyle Mrs D Wilkins
		6.30 pm	Carol Singing	<i>At The Assheton Arms</i>		
19th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	<i>Chatburn Methodist Church</i>		
23rd	Friday	2.00 pm	Decorate Church			
24th	Christmas Eve	3.00 pm	Christingle Rev'd Ann Hardacre	Mrs B. Lewis	<i>In aid of the Children's Society</i>	
		11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Mr I. Walton		
25th	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Brian Whitley	Mrs P. McFall	Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C Naylor	
<b>January</b>						
1st	Christmas I	11.00 am	Carol Service Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs E. Parker	Mrs P. McFall Mrs M. Roskell	
2nd	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	<i>Chatburn, Christ Church</i>		



**OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE** – Rev'd Andy Froud

The Vicarage Church Street Clitheroe BB7 2DD  
01200 423317 / 0796 957 6691

**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484



**St LEONARD'S FUND RAISING & ORGAN APPEAL**

Mr Brian Lewis Hon Treasurer - 440925  
Mr Ian Walton (H) 445063 and (W) 442777 - Mr Philip Naylor 440445

**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

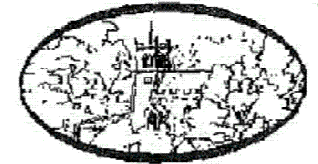
**Chairman and Bookings Secretary** Mr Shaun Roney—441667  
**Hon Secretary** The Hon Mrs R. C. Assheton—441210

**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**

**newsletter**

**2016 Issue 12 December**



**From The Rev'd ANDY FROUD**

Dear Friends,

*When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.*

Matthew 2:3

We live in a world of fear. People are afraid of terrorism, illness, old age. We fear war, crime and change. Some people fear the effects of Brexit, some the election of Donald Trump. People even, as I pointed out last month, fear clowns.

The problem with the world? In my opinion, the wrong people are afraid of the wrong things.

It may seem strange to us that the birth of a child and especially the birth of Jesus, should cause fear. But we are told that Herod was frightened when he learned of the birth of Jesus. And when Herod got frightened, much like the stock markets of today, everyone else got frightened.

Herod achieved great things as a client king of the Roman Empire but at a terrible cost. He was responsible for the killing of his wife and two of his sons - the massacre of the innocents of Bethlehem was, a one of his recent biographers wrote "wholly in keeping with all that we know of him".

The powerful should still be frightened by Jesus: the Song of Mary, the Magnificat proclaims "he has put down the mighty from their seats and exalted the humble and meek". The High Priests of today's financial markets should fear God's justice.

Into the world of fear, Jesus promises peace to those who are prepared to receive him. May the peace of the Christ child live in our hearts, in our communities and in our world this Christmas,

Yours



Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

## SPECTATOR



I CANT'T believe that I'm writing Decembers Spectator!!! Where did the year go? I suppose it went faster for me as my life revolved around hospital appointments and trips to Liverpool hoping to become Downhams first bionic woman. I almost missed the coming and going of the seasons and have only 1 batch of plum gin on the go. I can't be bothered looking for sloes and will be sorry to miss my favourite Christmas tippie of sloe gin and tonic although Jon always said it's a waste of good gin!

One thing I have noticed is the number of new babies. Some have arrived and others still making their way. I am of course three times a grandma and will be a 4th when Lucy's little Archie arrives... in fact he may be here now. There are some first time grandparents and you can recognise them by the excited look which stays on their faces even when they find out how much a pram costs nowadays! Sorry, they are not prams now, they go by the name of Travel Systems and you could almost buy a bungalow or a small island near the Bahamas for the same price!

I found some grandparent quotes which made me smile. Hope they make you smile too. HAPPY CHRISTMAS to one and all

- " My grandchildren believe I'm the oldest thing in the world...and after two or three hours with them, I believe it too"
- "Grandchildren don't stay young forever, which is good because granddads only have so many horsey rides in them"
- "Grandchildren are God's way of compensating us for getting old"
- " An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again, anything longer and you start to age quickly "
- "On the seventh day God rested, his grandchildren must have been out of town"
- "A grandparent is old on the outside but "young on the inside"
- "No cowboy was ever faster on the draw than a grandparent pulling a baby picture out of a wallet"

### IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS

Carole Ashworth,  
Linda & Jon Whitsey,  
Kath Swarbrick

#### Farewell Edith Hart

EDITH has downsized and moved from Old Well Hall, Downham to a bungalow in Clitheroe. She had recently retired from her role at the Coffee Club but remained a member, which is where we look forward to seeing her in future. Good Luck In your new home Edith.

ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES	October	2016
COMMUNICANTS	42	577
COLLECTIONS	££	
SERVICES	197	1,814
VISITORS	136	499
DONATIONS	464	6,493
HOUSE BOXES	-	45
SPECIAL	352	5,374
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>14,225</b>

### FAREWELL Tom Parker Springs Farm Downham

TOM'S NEPHEW KEITH HAS WRITTEN : We have now said goodbye to Tom who left for pastures new on 20th November. He has journeyed to Thirsk to enjoy his retirement at his bungalow on Sutton Road. taking with him a few sheep to keep him busy.

Tom has lived at Springs farm for 78 years and it is with a little sadness that we see him leave, but at the same time happy for him to move on. Whenever you visited Tom at Springs it was as if time had stood still and being "far from the madding crowd" He has enjoyed visits from many people over the years and passed many an hour talking with walkers passing through the farm. All will have fond memories of spending time with him. So as he leaves we wish him well and hope to visit him soon in his new home.

RCA ADDS For many years Tom was a familiar figure riding his horse bare-backed (with string for a bridle) to the Post Office once a week. Tom was a character of the old school, who ran his farm virtually organically, long before the idea became popular. Reputedly, the nearest that he got using weed killer was to drop a pinch of table salt onto the cut off stalk of any thistle he found and decapitated. It was only in his latter years that he ceased clipping all his farm hedges by hand; years after everyone else had moved to using a tractor mounted flail. Happy retirement Tom.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOM'S FAMILY AT TWISTON AND DOWNHAM

Great Grandparents Thomas Parker (born 1821 Twiston) and Alice who lived at Twiston and Hollin Row, Downham. Grandparents Thomas Parker (born 1867 Downham) and Mary Ann who lived at Hollin Row and Hollin Farm. Mary Ann lived with her parents Isaac Blezard Cundall and her mother Hannah who were the Landlord and Landlady of the George and Dragon, now Assheton Arms between 1891 and 1892. Parents Thomas Parker (Born 1902 Downham) and Mary Ellen Whipp, lived at Hollin Farm then moved to Springs Farm in 1938 with Tom and his three sisters Fanny, Mary and Margaret.

KJ

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT & TREE FESTIVAL at CHRIST CHURCH CHATBURN

THIS popular Christmas Concert at 7.30 pm on Friday 2nd December will this year take place amongst the Christmas Tree Festival in church, creating a visual magic to enhance the evening's seasonal music, carol sing-a-long, mince pies, wine and the biggest Christmas cracker pull in Lancashire. Elliott Brass Ensemble and Barbershop choir Wrong Direction will perform seasonal favourites, and it is hoped to have a unique video link to a special person at the North Pole. Concert entry is only by advance £10 tickets from Roy Porter Butchers Chatburn or by calling 01254 384893. Tickets include light refreshment and all proceeds go to the church.

#### THE CONCERT IS SOLD OUT

The Christmas Tree Festival will be open from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm on Saturday 3rd and 12.00 midday to 4.00 pm on Sunday 4th December. There will be craft stalls and refreshments amongst the decorated trees. Entry is free admission, although donations are



## PENDLE HILL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

### Pendle Hill Project Volunteering Activities!

**When:** 9.30am – 3.30pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

**Where:** Higher Gills Farm, Rimington, BB7 4DA

**What:** Hedge laying with trainer Dave Padley

Please come prepared for all weather types, with sturdy outdoor boots and suitable outdoor clothing which you don't mind getting muddy and plenty of layers. Please also bring a packed lunch for the day.

For any more information please contact Jayne Ashe on 01200 448000 or email [jayne.ashe@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.ashe@lancashire.gov.uk).



## downhambanner.com

downhambanner.com has been working to brief a group of UCLan students who are conducting a research project on benevolent societies in rural Lancashire. It is hoped that they will be able to verify information that will go into an information leaflet for the museum that eventually exhibits the conserved banner.

The position regarding the museum of Lancashire remains unchanged. Lancashire County Council closed five museums as part of budget cuts at the end of September.

The council said they could now reopen in 2017 after four organisations submitted "encouraging" plans for them. However, there is "a lot of work to do".



### STAGE 2 DOWNHAM ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

**AN EXCELLENT production** directed by Kim Croyden played to good houses from 23rd to 26th November at Downham Village Hall.

This favourite old farce has never been seen in a better production. All parts were superbly interpreted by the cast. The sisters gave polished performances that had the audience amused for the total time they were on stage. We have seldom seen at Downham such excellence in the set with three levels portrayed: the cellar door (where the bodies were buried) imaginatively using the front of the stage with steps down to the under stage area. A working window used for quite strong stuff, getting bodies over the cill was believably constructed. An altogether outstanding evening's theatre..



# Carol Singing



**SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER 2016**

**Assheton Arms Car Park**

**From 6:30pm**

**Proceeds to St Leonard's Organ Fund**

### REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND AND CONCERTS

**R**EMEMBRANCE weekend was certainly one to remember! The Saturday morning saw a small army of Latter-day Saints arrive to rehearse for their concerts, followed later by an Army Reserve contingent to lay Poppy crosses on our War graves.

The soldiers were from The Queen's Own Yeomanry (once upon a time commanded by The Warden) based in Wigan. They were in the area to have a team photograph at Clitheroe Castle and visit the Castle Museum's new WW1 exhibition. They marched smartly from the Hall, laid their Poppies and were then poignantly serenaded in Church with an arrangement of I Vow to Thee my Country by the Mormon choir. They had a brief (and almost tea total!) lunch in The Assheton Arms

before departing.

Meanwhile the Mormons arranged seating, lighting and sound equipment, as well as rehearsing late into the evening. The 20 performers had come from across the country, from as far afield as Jersey and Edinburgh. The cast and crew, augmented by their choir from Chorley, returned at Sunday lunchtime for final rehearsals, before crossing to the Hall to change and eat.

**On Sunday our usual 10.50 am service of Remembrance was conducted by the Rev. Brian Whitely. This was well attended and as moving as always, when the priest read out the names of the fallen from the memorial stone as part of our Act of Remembrance.**

For the concerts the Church was laid out with seating in a horseshoe arrangement facing Pendle, around a small stage sticking out from the south aisle. By 5pm all 150 seats were filled with a predominantly Mormon audience awaiting "curtain up". The show, which was a mixture of well known songs (such as Somewhere over the Rainbow), together with some specially written pieces, told a moving story of the seven ages of man. The singing was magnificent throughout from both soloists, cast and choir.

Before the second, equally well attended, performance at 7.15, President Gratton from the Chorley Stake (similar to a Deanery) gave a short speech to explain how important Downham and the surrounding area is to their Church. The first Mormon missionaries who came to England in 1837 were based in the lower Ribble Valley and even then reported that Downham felt special. They much appreciate that Downham remains unspoiled and welcoming. He then handed over a donation of £5,000 for the Organ Appeal!

To finish the evening, Mrs Allison Warner, who (together with two of her sisters) had flown over especially from Salt Lake City, gave a further donation of \$1,300 collected from descendants of Thomas Emmett who converted to the Mormon faith and emigrated there from Downham in 1851.

We owe a big debt of thanks to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for their generosity of time and money; and for a wonderful evening of beautiful music. RCA

**ALL AT  
ST LEONARD'S  
PARISH CHURCH  
WISH OUR  
READERS  
A VERY HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS**



**we are also to be found on  
the internet  
[www.downhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.downhamvillage.org.uk)**



**THE PARISH CHURCH**



**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**CHRISTMAS 2016**

may be remembered for many things good and not so good, but we hope that the break in tradition with our annual carol singing will be on the good list!

This year in an attempt to boost our fundraising efforts for our fantastic new organ, Carol singing will ONLY happen on the Sunday before Christmas, the 18th at 6:30 pm.

We hope that residents of Twiston, Downham and visitors to The Assheton Arms will join us in a festive sing song with friends old and new.

KW

**ORGAN ARRIVAL**

AS foretold in last month's issue, the Organ has now arrived and been installed. The whole operation went very smoothly, so that we now have an instrument that sounds lovely and meets our organists' expectations. The only additional item, that is due in a couple of weeks, is a remote control facility that will allow pre-recorded organ music to be played on occasions when we have no organist, by the press of a button from the Vicar's pew.

RCA

**GOOD NEWS GREAT JOY**

THE time has come again to prepare gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Derek and Anne have written: Thank you for helping us to send 71 shoe boxes full of children's gifts to Operation Christmas child..

**CAROL SERVICE**

THIS year's carol service will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January at 11am.



**BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS**

THINGS certainly went with a Bang!! on Bonfire night. It was a dark evening and the people were using their phones for lights, then sure enough our patience was rewarded. Francis was there offering us delicious Bonfire Toffee . No more waiting, the first firework went off and we were treated to a brilliant display of pyrotechnics (I think that's what they are). The fireworks went on for about 25 to 30 minutes getting better and better until the magnificent finale! Then it was a great rush to get inside for our homemade supper of pie and peas followed by tea, coffee and the big favourite of the evening - Hot Chocolate.



We have many people to thank Graham, Francis, all the marshals, the ladies who served the supper and our thanks as always to the Village Hall Committee, especially Barbara, for organising it all. A very successful evening .



**COFFEE CLUB**



THERE was almost a full house on Thursday, 10th despite the inclement weather. It was good to see Edith, and to catch up on her new life in Clitheroe. We miss her living in Downham and it's great that she can still meet up with all her friends at coffee club. Thank you to everyone who donated delicious cakes, we really appreciate your generosity.

We decided to make our December meeting a bit special so we're going to have a coffee club lunch at 12 o'clock with home made soup and sandwiches, plus mince pies of course. If you weren't there on Thursday and I haven't contacted you, please give me a call and you'll be added to the list. Looking forward to seeing you all there and having a jolly time.  
BL.....01200 440925

**DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL GARDEN CLUB**



The Garden Club's last meeting is on Thursday 1st December at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. it is the Christmas dinner and party, after which members hibernate until March 2017.

The PCC is grateful to Newsletter Sponsors.  
The Sponsor for the Month of January is Adams Accountants of Clitheroe

There will be two months report in January.



**Carol Singing**



**SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER 2016**

**Assheton Arms Car Park**

**From 6:30pm**

**Proceeds to St Leonard's Organ**

**Fund**

**TREE NEWS**

SADLY the teenaged Yew tree opposite the Pre-school is no more. Not only did it appear to have contracted some disease, but it had grown outwards rather than upwards and was useless as a Christmas tree, which had been its original purpose. It will be replaced.

Tree surgery work on roadside trees has recommenced. This will see more pruning, lopping and (when needed), felling of sick and potentially dangerous trees around the Estate. Once the roadsides have been sorted, work will concentrate on trees near buildings and footpaths. Replacement trees will be planted wherever possible.

RCA