

## PARISH CALENDAR 2017

DECEMBER			Event	Sidemen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st/ 2nd	Friday/ Saturday	7.30 pm	Stage 2 Downham	Village Hall	End of Run of Michael Palin's play The Weekend	
3rd	Advent I	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs A. Wallace	NO	Mrs A Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins
4th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Christ		
7th	Thursday	6.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	Christmas Dinner	
10th	Advent II	11.00 am	Matins Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs E. Parker	FLOWERS	Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
13th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean		
14th	Thursday	12 noon	Coffee Club	Village Hall	Christmas Lunch	
		7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Deborah Cornwall Mountaineering to the Paralympics	
17th	Advent III	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mr I Walton	IN ADVENT	Mrs P McFall Mrs M Roskell
22nd	Friday	2.30 pm	Decorate Church			
23rd	Saturday	3.30 pm	Christingle Revd Andy Froud	Mrs B. Lewis		
24th	Advent IV	11.00 am	Matins Revd Andy Froud	Mr B. Lewis		Lady Clitheroe Mrs A. Wallace
	Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion Revd	Mr T. McLean		
25th	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs P. McFall		
27th	Wednesday	10.00 am	NO Service			
31st	Christmas I	11.00 am	Carol Service Revd Andy Froud	Mr B. Lewis		Mrs S Marlow Mrs E. Parker
January						
7th	Christmas II	11.00 am	Matins	Mrs B. Lewis	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs H.Brown
8th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise			

### OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Revd Andy Froud

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

### OUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton – 440173 Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 Mr Ian Walton—445063

### VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Chairman and Bookings Secretary** Mr Shaun Roney—441667

**Hon. Secretary** The Hon Mrs Ralph Assheton—441210

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

## DOWNHAM & TWISTON

# newsletter

2017 Issue 12 December

www.downhamvillage.org.uk



### From The Revd Andy Froud

Dear Friends

In August 1945, the US army dropped a secret over Japan: nuclear bombs, which instantly killed tens of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

More than 6,000 miles away, in northern New Mexico, one newspaper carried this headline “Now They Can be Told Aloud These Stoories [sic] of the Hill” blared the Santa Fe New Mexican. The article revealed that Los Alamos – a mysterious town, built on a picturesque mesa – had been instrumental in the creation of these new weapons of mass destruction. To guard its secret, Los Alamos had been built to be almost completely self-contained. There were schools, a hospital, and theatres that doubled as dance halls on Saturdays and churches on Sundays. All incoming truckloads were labelled as common items to conceal the true nature of their contents, and any outbound correspondence by those working and living in Los Alamos was censored by military officials. By the end of the war, it had a population of 6,000.

Perhaps the biggest secret in the world had been revealed, causing death and destruction and changing the course of human history.

But was it really the biggest secret? Over 2,000 years ago a baby was born into abject poverty to the parents of refugees. His birth, life and death went largely unnoticed by the world's greatest empire. But steadily and with increasing speed the news was taken to the whole world that God had been preparing history for a decisive turn.

Jesus' secret birth in Bethlehem was to change human history and to bring life and hope to all humanity: “Now They Can Be Told Aloud These Stoories!”

Every blessing for Christmas and 2018,



**BLESSED** Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

ST. LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES		
	October	2017
COMMUNICANTS	38	384
COLLECTIONS	£	
SERVICES	262	3,377
VISITORS	32	389
DONATIONS	192	6,882
HOUSE BOXES	-	173
SPECIAL	61	5,036
TOTAL	547	15,857

#### IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS:

Kath Swarbrick, Ann Chadwick, Jean Whitsey, Kath Brown, welcome home from hospital and The Family of Joyce and Edwin Jackson

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

##### Holy Baptism

**LOGAN MICHAEL** son of Kirk Villiers and Gemma McBride of Clitheroe.

##### WELCOME

**LUKE DRIVER** and Ksenia Dewhurst, of Clitheroe are busy renovating 2 Pendle Cottages, Twiston and hope to move into their new home in the Spring. They both have family connections with the Clitheroe area, Luke's great grandfather John Driver was a gardener at Downham Hall and his grandfather, Bernard Driver, grew up in Downham, living at Old Well Hall. We wish you every happiness in your new home.

#### SPECTATOR

December again, where did this year go? I know where the summer went, everywhere except here..tut.

THIS time last year, I had my Deep Brain Stimulation operation, 32 stitches removed from my head, was coming to terms with Post Operative Confusion, one of the scariest things I have ever gone through and was awaiting a miracle cure after being "switched on"

What a year, with numerous appointments and trips to the Walton Centre, tweaks and disappointments. There have been moments when I wondered if it was worth it, moments when I felt like I couldn't or didn't want to go on. It is difficult to imagine what i would have been like had I not had the op. Then something magical happened. It was like I was in my favourite Christmas film, It's A Wonderful Life but instead of getting to see what life would have been like if I hadn't been born, I got to see a video of me before the operation. I could hardly believe what I was seeing. I looked like an octopus on speed! I watched horrified as my arms and legs spun around continuously with no let up. I looked exhausted, pale and thin. No wonder people stared at me....I would have stared at me! I was shocked and vowed to be more grateful from that day forward.

Didn't last long. I had 2 moans on the way home but Zoe reminded me..tut... can't get away with anything. Thank you Zoe, no really, thank you Zoe, for being on this incredible journey with me, through the highs (few as they were) and the many lows (see, I'm off again!) you really are the best of daughters and have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Hope Santa brings you something really nice this year, you deserve it.

PS couldn't help smiling at this in the news recently, Angry villagers, upset over slow broadband speeds, burned an effigy, on Bonfire night of a BT Open Reach van. Some wit had crossed off "Open" and written . "Won't"!

BT admitted it was finding the rollout of fibre optic broadband more challenging in rural areas, they obviously didn't have a determined Bryn Hart! Ha Ha. So to end the year on a moan, just for a change.....never mind faster broadband....what about a mobile phone signal?!

#### FOREST OF BOWLAND AONB FESTIVAL BOWLAND 2018

**T**HIS year's Festival Bowland programme has now finished but we're busy planning ahead for 2018. With events from dawn chorus bird walks and night-time storytelling, to felt making and map reading, there'll be plenty of opportunities to explore and enjoy Bowland.

Pick up a copy of our new Discover Bowland guide or take a look at the calendar on our website at [www.forestofbowland.com](http://www.forestofbowland.com) to find out all the details. (Both available from early February 2018.)



## STAGE 2 DOWNHAM

Downham Village Hall



### 'The Weekend' by Michael Palin

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
7.30 pm

Director Fran Osborne

lots of laughs and a few home truths

Admission by programme/ticket £7

#### Tickets

by email to [stage2playinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stage2playinfo@gmail.com) with your full name; date of performance; number of tickets required and contact telephone number. confirmation will be sent and tickets will be available for collection on the door on the night

or telephone the ticket hotline, 07845 926295,

Or in person from the Tourist Information Office at the Platform Gallery 01200 425566

#### pre-performance meal deal

Once again we are delighted to be able to offer a meal plus ticket deal, with 'The Assheton Arms', Downham at £22 per head for: a two course meal of starter and main course; a small glass of house wine or a pint of beer or a soft drink and an admission programme/ticket.

For all enquiries and reservations on this deal please contact the Assheton Arms direct on 01200 441227, quoting 'Stage Two Downham' when you book.

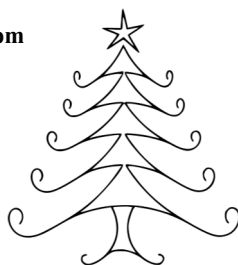
#### 'From Darkness to Light'

Advent Carol Service – Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 6.30pm

**T**HE NEW DEAN of Blackburn invites our Parish to the Advent Carol Service at the Cathedral.

The Advent Carol Service is an example of the very best in liturgical drama, moving from darkness to light through the great space which is our cathedral. It seeks to reflect the great Advent themes of hope and expectation which precede our celebration of Christmas.

The service will, as usual, include music sung in procession by the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Young People's Choir. There will also be the opportunity for all to join in those traditional Advent hymns which sound so powerful in the midst of a great congregation. This is one of the ways in which we can serve parishes and individuals by giving them a powerful experience of worship which is not easy to replicate in a parish church.



#### TOP ROW ACCESS

**T**HE shared access to Top Row and the Assheton Arms has been re-surfaced. Unfortunately the job took longer than planned as the surface water drain was in a worse condition than anticipated, so lots of digging was required! Hopefully the end result is worth the wait for all concerned.

RCA

#### STREET LIGHTS

**A**T THE Parish Meeting, concern was expressed about the unexpected changes made to Heritage street lights around the village, replacing them with stainless steel LED down lighters and then re-replacing some with a different Heritage lamp. Enquiries made on our behalf by RVBC have found that an over enthusiastic contractor who was meant to be repairing/replacing lights in Chatburn had gone further than he should. LCC is meant to consult the Parish and District Councils, but are too short staffed to do so. LCC hopes to consult (staff permitting) with a view to eventually changing all the lights to the new Heritage pattern (these have square panels rather than round ones). An example is by the bridge. The bulbs will eventually be changed to LEDs. The end result should be lamp posts that do not stick out like sore thumbs during the day, but give reasonable lighting at night.

RCA



#### PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

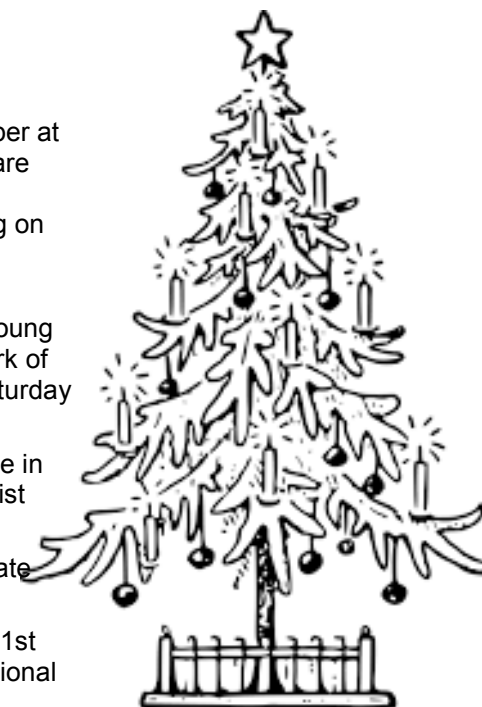
We begin towards the end of Advent, by decorating church on Friday 22nd December at 2.00 pm. in readiness for the Festival. All are most welcome to help or bring flowers and greenery. This is followed by Carol Singing on the Pub car park from 6.00 pm again all parishioners and visitors are invited.

Our Christingle service for Children and Young People and Families, held in aid of the work of the Children's Society is at 3.30 pm on Saturday 23rd. Our Vicar Andy will be officiating.

Christmas Eve has a normal Matins service in the morning at 11.00 and midnight Eucharist starting at 11.30 pm.

On Christmas morning at 11.00 we celebrate the Nativity with Holy Communion.

On the first Sunday after Christmas, on 31st December at 11.00 am, we have our traditional Nine lessons and Carols Festival.



## THE PARISH CHURCH

### ST LEONARD'S TIDE

**V**ERY many thanks to the team who spent the beautiful morning of Armistice Day tidying the Church and Yard. The Lime trees were trimmed, ivy and shrubs removed from walls, sunken grave plots filled with soil (to ease summer mowing), a "Topple Test" was carried out on the standing grave stones, the ashes plots cleared of turf and the Vestry cleared out. We even found where a stray hen had laid 26 eggs!

The Wardens are very grateful for all the hard work given to help keep St Leonard's spick and span.. RCA



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**M**ANY THANKS to all who assisted in reaching the grand total, from our combined churches of 66 shoe-box presents for children who would otherwise receive none at Christmas, AF

Operation Christmas Child was created in 1990, in the UK, by Dave Cooke and his wife Gill for children in Romania. Each

November thousands of churches, groups and individual donors prepare and collect shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, personal items, and other small gifts.

Three years later the shoebox gift project merged in a partnership with Samaritan's Purse, sharing 20 years of expertise in relief and aid work and expanding the reach of the shoebox gifts to more than 28,000 children during that year. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to over 146 million children in more than 100 countries.



## CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CLITHEROE—CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

**T**HE WARDEN at St Paul's Low Moor welcomes us to attend the annual Christmas Tree Festival, including trees decorated by local organisations, with craft stalls, games and more, and live festive music.

The Festival will be opened by the Mayor of Ribble Valley during a Service starting at 6.00 pm on Friday 1st December and continues Saturday 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. The festival will close with Carol singing on Sunday 3rd December.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

**M**IRIAN CHADWICK laid the poppy wreath on the war memorial at Downham St Leonard on Sunday, 12th November at 11.00 am. at the start of the Remembrance Day Service conducted by the Revd Anne Hardacre. After the two minutes silence the morning service followed; the organist was James Robinson. DB

## BONFIRE

**G**UY FAWKES Night was celebrated in style at Downham. On November 4th a magnificent bonfire and fireworks display was followed by a pie and peas supper at the ticket-only event, which could have been sold out twice over. Many thanks to all who helped out in any way. DB



The Clergy and PCC, Choir and Congregation of St Leonard Downham and Twiston wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas

## COFFEE CLUB



.It was another busy morning at Novembers coffee club ,with lots of catching up going on. The cakes were delicious as always ,thanks to Philippa and Molly. Our thanks also to Frances for her beautiful table decorations (I got to take one home because I'd had a cataract removed a few days earlier). Carol and Di manned the stall as usual ,thank you ladies.

Our December meeting on the 14th is our Christmas lunch and it looks like it's going to be a full house. There will be soup to warm you up ,sandwiches to fill you up ,plus mince pies cakes and sweets to cheer you up .Looking forward to having a really jolly party ,see you there. at noon. BL

## THE GARDEN CLUB

**T**HE NOVEMBER meeting included a presentation by Steve Halliwell about Gresgarth Gardens near Caton. . This was a plantsman's guided tour with good slides taken at monthly intervals showing the seasons and specimen trees, roses and other plants. The present Garden is the creation of Lady Arabella Lennox Boyd, herself a landscape architect and is open every month and well worth a visit. Steve is obviously very taken by this garden, returning time and again to take pictures and discuss progress with the gardeners and owner.,

The Secretary reminded every one that the next meeting is the Christmas social with dinner at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm. on Thursday, 7th December at the Village Hall. She further reminded every one that they had agreed to bring one present, wrapped and tied up with a bow and BYO drinks CA



THE PCC IS GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER.

IN DECEMBER

THE NEWSLETTER IS

SPONSORED BY

Adams and Co Accountants,

York St, Clitheroe

and Downham Village Hall



**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

**T**HE next meeting of the Downham Women's Institute is to be held on Thursday 14th December at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall.

The speaker on this occasion is Deborah Cornwall and her presentation is entitled "From Mountaineering to the Paralympics".

The competition is Photographs of Mountains.



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