

PARISH CALENDAR 2018						
DECEMBER			Event	Sidemen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Saturday	7.30 pm	Stage 2 Downham	Village Hall	<i>Last Night of The Admirable Crichton</i>	
2nd	Advent Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr I Walton	<b>NO</b>	Lady Clitheroe Mrs A Wallace
3rd	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Life &amp; times of Ethel Carnie Houdsworth</i>	
			Joyful Noise		<i>Christ Church Chatburn</i>	
6th	Thursday	6.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Christmas Dinner and Party</i>	
9th	Advent II	11.00 am	Matins Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mrs A. Wallace	<b>FLOWERS</b>	Mrs S. Travis Mrs A Chadwick
12th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean		
13th	Thursday	12 noon	Coffee Club	Village Hall	<i>Christmas Lunch</i>	
		6.30 pm	WI	Spread Eagle Sawley	<i>Christmas Party</i>	
16th	Advent III	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs E. Parker	<b>IN ADVENT</b>	Mr & Mrs C. Ennis
22nd	Saturday	2.00 pm	Decorate Church		<i>All Welcome</i>	
		6.00 pm	Carol Singing	Assheton Arms Car Park		
23rd	Advent IV	11.00 am	Christingle Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs B. Lewis		Mr & Mrs B Lewis
24th	Christmas Eve	11.30 pm	Midnight Communion Rev'd	Mr B. Lewis		
25th	Christmas Day	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs P. McFall		
30th	Christmas I	11.00 am	Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols	Mr T. McLean		Mrs L. Whitsey Ms Z. Ward
<b>January, 2019</b>						
6th	Epiphany	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs A. Wallace		Mr & Mrs P. Eldridge



**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 Mr Ian Walton—445063

**VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Chairman and Bookings Secretary** Mr Shaun Roney—441667  
**Hon. Secretary** Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112



## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

## DOWNHAM & TWISTON

# newsletter

2018 Issue 12 December

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



**From The Rev'd Andy Froud**

Dear Friends

When you hear the phrase “Santa's Little Helper,” do you think of elves or a man who flogs bad children?

In Belgium and France, St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) is sometimes known as Père Noel (Father Christmas) and his assistant is Père Fouettard. The legend says that Père Fouettard was a gruff innkeeper who killed his wife and children. As a punishment for his crime, he is forced to be Santa's assistant who travels with Santa to dispense punishment to any misbehaving children.

All around the world there is a dark side to Christmas traditions - and even within the Bible there is the Slaughter of the Innocents commemorated on December 28th.

The darkness in Christmas today lies in the unfulfillable expectations raised by our consumerist society, the pressure on parents (which incidentally I believe doesn't come from children) to spend more than they can afford. The loneliness of those who believe that everyone else is having a much better time than them, the despair of those who believe they have nothing to celebrate in the middle of the party.

The actual Christmas story is pretty dark when you strip away the pretty, mainly Victorian traditional elements to it. Jesus is born into the dirt and cold and poverty of this world. But in that cold darkness shines the light of God's love for the world he created. In our churches we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, a light the darkness can never put out.

May the light and peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas

Yours in Christ




**A**LMIGHTY 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



ST LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES		
	OCTOBER	2018
COMMUNICANTS	53	368
COLLECTIONS	£	
SERVICES	200	3,421
VISITORS	65	639
DONATIONS	258	7,373
HOUSE BOXES	37	102
SPECIAL	3,153	8,115
TOTAL	3,719	19,650



#### IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS:

Helen Addy, Bob Swarbrick, Kath Swarbrick,  
Jean Whitsey, Kath Brown, Betty Mercer  
and others who are unwell.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD  
IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THOSE BUSINESSES,  
ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT  
SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER.  
IN DECEMBER THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED  
BY Adams and Co, Accountants, York St Clitheroe



#### St LEONARD'S DAY

Due to St Leonard's Day falling mid-week this year, there was some confusion as to when volunteers should turn out! As it was a number arrived on the Saturday before and number on the Saturday after, with a few coming to both. Blissfully the weather was kind on both occasions and much tidying was achieved. The Lime trees have been shorn once again, the Triffid-like rose on the south wall has been cut back and a the area around the sexton's shed has had a makeover. Grateful thanks are offered to all those who helped. Many hands really do make light work.

RCA



#### SPECTATOR



WELL is that time of year again. The time when everyone starts saying, "where did this year go?" Yes it's CHRISTMAS. Well actually its still only November but we need things for the Parish Mag in early so that Ed can put it all together and you can have a calendar that lets you know what's going on in the village

The very first time I wrote something was when the late great Micheal McFall, who was Editor before Ed, and who gave me the title of Spectator, asked me to write a piece on Christmas but forgot to mention it had to be in by November so my first piece on Christmas went in in January! It was about memorable Christmas's pre Jon, like the Christmas we had a one legged turkey because the cat got to it before I did!

A few years ago I found on the internet, a very funny article called, "church ladies with typewriters"

About genuine mistakes and typing errors. A lot of people enjoyed them so when I looked the other day and found "Kids in Church", I thought it might be another hit. Here goes

One three year old not quite got it right,

"Our Father who does art in heaven, Harold is his name

Another three year old learning the Lords Prayer said

"lead us not into temptation but deliver us some emails"

A Sunday school teacher asked

what was Jesus mother's name? One child answered "Mary"

"And who knows fathers name, "Verge" said a little boy,

the confused teacher asked where he got that from,

"well you know they are always talking about Verge an Mary"

A mother was making pancakes for her 5yr old Kevin and her 3yr old Ryan who were arguing over who would get the first one. Seeing an opportunity for a moral lesson she said,

" if Jesus were here he would say let my brother have the first one, I can wait"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,

" Ryan, you be Jesus"

A father was on the beach when his 4 yr old grabbed his hand and led him to where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy what happened to him"

"He died and went to heaven" dad replied,

the boy thought for a minute,

" then did God throw him back down?"

A four yr old at Sunday School,

"And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive them who put trash in our baskets"

Teacher asked who knew the last commandment and Susie raised her hand,

" thou shalt not take the covers off the neighbours wife"

A peaceful, healthy and joyous Christmas to one and all ☺



**STAGE TWO DOWNHAM**  
presents

# THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON

**By J. M. BARRIE**

Wed NOVEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>  
To Sat DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>  
In DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL  
7:30p.m.



**£7**

Tickets available from  
**stage2playinfo@gmail.com**  
Ticket Hotline 07845 926295  
Tourist Information 01200 425566  
Book a meal deal at the Assheton Arms.  
Meal plus ticket £22  
Tel. 01200 441227 to book a table

be used in one way or another. Some will become wood chip fuel, while the bigger and better trunks will become beams and planks.

The disease is a fungus, so the spores spread far and wide. Only in Great Britain has the disease attacked Larch trees. Elsewhere in the world it kills Oak and Rhododendron, so the Forestry Commission hope to stop the disease from reaching Europe (where Larch makes up a bigger proportion of forests than it does here) by felling every diseased tree they find.

The woods will all be replanted with broad-leaved trees, but it will be a number of years before they look impressive in the landscape.

To add yet more grief, the Ash trees are increasingly suffering from another deadly tree disease. Whilst these do not have to be felled to halt the disease (it is another fungus, but this time we are the last country in Europe to get it), many trees, both young and old will have to be felled over the coming months and years to avoid damage to people, roads, buildings and animals.

RCA

## TREES

It has been a sad few months for tree lovers to see so much felling of trees and woods. Sadly Hookcliffe Wood was discovered to have contracted the deadly (to Larch trees) disease Phytophthora Ramorum. Although it had been planned to fell the wood due to the extensive damage caused by the late spring storms, it is disheartening to have to fell the young Larch trees at the top of the wood as well. As if that was not enough, Jubilee Barn woods were also infected and have had to go, even though they should have grown on for several more decades. No sooner were they gone than Stony Bank Wood on Pendle Road has been condemned and will have to be felled by March 2019. Thankfully all the timber can

Enquiries ring



Kirsteen 422336

**HAVE YOOU EVER WANTED TO SING WITH A CHOIR?**

**Why not join us for our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**On Sunday 30th December at 11.000 am**

**Choir practices will be held in St Leonard's Church at the following times  
Thursday 6th and 12th at 6.60 pm and Sunday 2nd and 9th December at 5.30 pm  
All Welcome—and don't worry if you can't attend all the practice dates**

## CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS AT St LEONARDS

ALL the basic information is in the calendar.

There are just a couple of notes to add. Our traditional timings are slightly altered this year, we have moved the Christingle from Christmas Eve to 11.00 am on 23rd this to be followed by coffee and biscuits.

We would very much like to augment our choir for our big important Carol Service and so are inviting anyone who would like to try singing in a choir to join us.



## HELL HOLE

ONE particularly awkward to reach wood on the edge of the parish, against the Rimington border, has long been known as Hell Hole. Work is about to commence in fencing of the banks of the brook up-stream from the wood to create more native woodland. The scheme is one of the strands of the Pendle Hill Project and is being overseen by the Ribble Rivers Trust. The woodland is designed to help reduce silt getting into the brook, increase the shade on the water, help to link natural habitats, look beautiful and not be too great an imposition on the farmers concerned.

Part of the scheme has been to erect a cattle (and sheep) bridge over Twiston Beck, so that stock and quad bikes can avoid having to ford the stream. The new bridge is immediately next to the public footpath bridge, so be sure to admire it when you next pass by. Once the fencing is complete the trees will be planted, hopefully sometime in January.



If you fancy the idea of helping to plant some trees, why not contact the Ribble Rivers Trust and join their volunteers? You can find them on the Web, or telephone them on 01200 444452.





## REMEMBRANCE

Thank you to everyone in Downham who was involved in remembering the centenary of the end of WWI. The "There but not there" installation in church was admired by all who saw it over the final 100 days, as was the beautiful cascade of Poppies and Corn Flowers above our war memorial for Armistice Day. Thank you to the ringers who performed twice on the day, to those who built the beacon and the seven bonfires for our war dead. Thank you to those who took part in the Service of Remembrance, including The Revd John Ball whose sermon was on the value of silence and the bugler's most poignant contribution, and to those who lit the fires to end the day and to those who publicised it all on Facebook RCA

## MOSAMARIA TRUST FUND

Thanks have been extended to the congregations of the two Visitation Services held in the diocese in October. The collections, amounting to £4,316, were donated to the trust to support its work in Africa with children and families affected by aids.

**The Parish Church  
of St Leonard  
sends best wishes for a  
very Happy Christmas  
to all our readers**

## GARDEN CLUB

THIS MONTH we had great pleasure in welcoming back Steuart and Anita Kellington who showed us some beautiful film of Gardens of the South. These were not the usual very well known but smaller ones that were all the more wonderful for being small. Of course being Steuart and Anita it was all accompanied by some great music. As well as the film and the commentary, For part of their presentation you are left to wander around almost as if you are there! A lovely evening finished off with the usual supper and raffle.



Next month is of course our Christmas Party in the village hall 6-30 for 7-00pm. AND, PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR WRAPPED-WITH-A-BOW PRESENT. CA

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY QUIZ

Children's Society funds benefited to the sum of £679 as a result of the most enjoyable quiz mounted by the Children's Society Fundraisers at Clitheroe Cricket Club.

## VILLAGE BONFIRE

REMEMBER, remember, the 5th of November, or so the rhyme goes and many villagers certainly will remember the 5th of November this year and the Community Bonfire and Firework Display.

A wonderful crisp and dry evening was the setting for the Bonfire which was soon ablaze. Almost 120 adults and children turned up for the evening and were delighted with the Firework Display successfully produced by Shaun and Graeham. The evening was rounded off with a splendid Supper in a crowded Village Hall. PN

## COFFEE CLUB,

WE had a good meeting in November despite missing a few of our regulars. Betty is recovering from her stay in hospital and we send her our love and good wishes. Fran and Peter are still on the other side of the world, enjoying getting to know their first Great Grandson and I bet they can't wait to tell everyone about him. Carol drummed up customers in her own unique style, and encouraged us to spend, spend, spend on the bring and buy, in order to make room for new and interesting items in the New Year. Our thanks to all who contributed on the day, we couldn't manage without you. We look forward to seeing everyone plus guests, at our Christmas lunch on 13th December at 12 noon. There'll be food, drink, music and good friends. A perfect combination, can't wait. BL



## THE DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting is on Monday 3rd December at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm our speaker is Janet Swan who will give a talk on **Ethel Carnie Houldsworth** a working-class writer, feminist, and socialist activist from Great Harwood. As a young woman she was a poet, journalist (writing for the *Woman Worker* in London), children's writer and author. She published at least ten novels during her lifetime and her work is significant not just locally but also nationally, as she is the first working class woman in Britain to be published.



AT THE end of October, Downham WI did the annual weeding of the Village Hall car park, in anticipation of the

daffodils coming up next spring. Afterwards the volunteers enjoyed a deliciously warming soup made by Olive Awbry. As it was Halloween, Helen Addy had made buns topped with chocolate ghosts, ghouls and pumpkins. Here's everyone sporting their Halloween napkins – getting into the spirit of the occasion!



There was great fun had at The November meeting of Downham WI when the speaker, Fiona Smithson, brought along 50 items from her 'Curiosity Corner' that members tried to identify. Items ranged from farm and kitchen implements to the weird and wonderful from bygone eras. Members were split into four teams and only had six minutes in which to guess what a basket of strange objects were used for before it was all change and that batch swapped for another. With the race against time and the wacky suggestions being made the room was filled with laughter!

The December meeting is the Christmas party at the Spread Eagle at Sawley on the 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6.30 pm where there is the chance to win a fabulous food hamper in our bumper raffle.

New members are always welcome.