

**PARISH CALENDAR 2021**

FEBRUARY			EVENT	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
7th	Epiphany V	11.15 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs A Wallace	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
14th	Epiphany VI	11.15 am	Matins Revd Andy Froud	Mr T McLean		Mrs B Lewis Mrs J Shepherd
16th	Tuesday	6.00 pm	Villabe Hall	Zoom		Management Committee Meeting
17th	Ash Wednesday		First day of Lent			
21st	Lent I	11.15 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs E Parker	<b>NO</b>	Mrs J Feibel Mrs A wallace
<small>Shep</small>						
28th	Lent II	11.15 am	Matins Revd Andy Froud	Mr A Herron	<b>FLOWERS</b>	Mrs P McFall Mrs M Roskell
<b>MARCH</b>						
7th	Lent III	11.15 am	Hoy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs P McFall	<b>IN LENT</b>	Mr & Mrs P Mercer

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE  
INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SPONSOR THE  
PARISH NEWSLETTER  
IN FEBRUARY, 2021 THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY DOWNHAM WI

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01200 423317 —0796 957 6691 —andyfroud@gmail.com

**OUR CHURCH WARDENS**  
The Hon Ralph Assheton —441210 Mrs Philippa McFall - 44148 Mr Ian Walton 445063

**DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Chairman Mr Neil Wallace —441196  
Hon Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth —445112  
Village Hall Bookings —info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk

**Downham  
Social Media Resources**

The public Facebook page -  
**"Downham Village"**  
The private Facebook page  
**"Downham & Twiston Residents"**  
Various Whatsapp groups including  
**"Downham WI Here to Help"**

**ONLINE CHURCH  
RESOURCES**

Regular worship is streamed  
by Rev Andy Froud on  
**Youtube** via  
St. Mary Magdalene  
website  
www.stmarysclitheroe.co.uk

**PARISH OF ST. LEONARD**

**DOWNHAM & TWISTON**



**newsletter**

2021 Issue 2 FEBRUARY

www.downhamvillage.org.uk

**From The Revd Andy Froud**

Dear Friends,

*"I am not a number: I am a free man!"* Thus began simultaneously one of my favourite TV shows and an hour of the most confusing television ever made, in the form of The Prisoner, starring Patrick McGoohan in the title role. There was something about that exclamation that resonated in the 1960s and still does today. I reflected on this as I read an article about why so many people are either indifferent to the numbers of people who have died of Covid 19 or actively deny the reality of the pandemic.

The number of people recorded as having died of, or with Covid 19 has passed 100,000 or by some estimates 120,000. That's a hard figure to visualise. It is more than the population of, for example, Durham (94,000) It's bigger than the Wembley Stadium (90,000). You might be able to imagine what that looks like or not. But what I believe changes people's minds is knowing someone who has died: the numbers become real when they have names. Approximately 1 in 660 people have died since last year of coronavirus. The average person apparently knows approximately 600. So perhaps we are getting closer to the point where everyone will know someone. But we have to bear in mind that Covid 19 has affected some groups more than others: the elderly, those with disabilities, the poor and ethnic minorities. Some will have suffered more grief and loss than others.

There is debate about the numbers, including even how many people actually live in the United Kingdom. Government ministers being pressed on figures of whatever kind might draw some comfort from the fact that thousands of years ago in the Bible King David was thought to have sinned by counting the people. The census in 2 Samuel 24 was regarded as sinful because you could only count what belonged to you. And the people belonged to God and not to the king.

Whatever the number of those who have died we should always remember that each number is a person, a unique individual created by God and mourned by their loved ones

Yours,

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
 make your home among us, and present us pure and Holy  
 to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

<b>DOWNHAM St. LEONARD FACTS &amp; FIGURES</b>		
	December	2020
Communicants	81	282
Collections	£	
Services	628	3470.
Visitors	N/A	123
Donations	322	9243.
House Boxes	N/A	30
Special	182	7852.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1132.</b>	<b>20718.</b>

#### IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS

Ian Walton Shaun Roney, and Jon Whitsey.  
 and to those with ongoing medical treatments and those shielding.  
 Harry and the family of Kath Brown

#### CHURCH CLEANING

If anyone out there would like to give a couple of hours every six to eight weeks we would be very pleased to hear from them – the more names that are on the list the less frequently the duty comes round.

#### CHURCH SERVICES & NEWSLETTER BACK PAGE

IT WAS with a heavy heart that the decision was taken to continue the halt to Sunday morning worship in St Leonard's.  
 The position will be re-evaluated at the end of February.

So that we may be ready we show the rota that we will follow if things change during the coming days and before the Newsletter for March is delivered.

#### SPECTATOR

“DIFFICULT as it may be?” Could you let me have your snippets for the next Newsletter etc etc

Difficult? That could be the understatement of the century. Only I could find herself needing a new battery implant in the middle of a pandemic! They have assured me that I will not, like the Duracell battery bunnies, just keel over suddenly mid step, as long as they can get me in within the next two months. So I need a surgeon to carry out the Op when they are cancelling all non-emergency Ops, then a coved negative test so I can go into hospital and not infect anyone. I thought the battery change would be like changing one of the kids toys , when you get a tiny screwdriver and then open the tiny compartment and pop 2xAAAs in. But no, the whole thing has to come out! After its bedded in for the past five years. The good news is I may be able to go home the same day if I just have a local anaesthetic, that means I will be awake but was assured it would only be like being at the dentist!!!

So if you could keep me in your prayers please, that would be grand.

“Send me your snippets“ my eye, when will I get time for that Ed ? Eh? Tut!

#### BOWLAND DARK SKIES FESTIVAL

THE Forest of Bowland AONB and Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership are delighted to bring you the third Bowland Dark Skies Festival! Why not join us online for some night-sky discovery Events are free but places need to be booked in advance by emailing [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk). from whom further information may be obtained. (All under 18s need to be accompanied).

**Aurora Watch**, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm – 8pm

Join amateur astronomer and professional scientist, Robert Ince, for a livestream from the Arctic Circle where, weather permitting, our expert guide Matt will show us the Northern lights.

**Constellation Stories**, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 5.30pm – 6pm

Legend has it that the night skies are filled with fable and populated with a host of characters. Join us for an early evening of fun as local storyteller, Sue Allonby, shares stary tales from the constellations and the Pendle Hill team reveal fascinating facts about the twinkly patterns which emerge as darkness falls. Aimed at families with children between eight and 12 years old – although older and younger children are welcome.

**What's in the Night Sky Tonight?** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Join Robert Ince who will show us the Bowland night sky tonight and in the next few days

**Bowland's Owls**, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30pm – 7.45pm

Join the RSPB's James Bray for an insight into these fascinating creatures. Owls are some of the most elusive and mysterious birds on the planet. They can be found from the tropical rainforests to the arctic tundra.

**Live Moon Watch**, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

Join our guides, Robert Ince and Wil Cheung, and see a live transmitted show of our own moon through large telescopes. We will hear about the features we hope to see on the moon's surface

**Free Family Nature Event: Animals of the Night**, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 10am - 11.30am or 2pm – 3.30pm

Learn about the animals that come out at night around Bowland and Pendle Hill.

**Introduction to Smartphone Night Sky Photography**, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm – 8.30pm  
 An online introduction to astrophotography using smartphones.

<https://www.forestofbowland.com/online-events-learning>

## 'Edgerow 'Arry

THIS is a good time of the year to try an old country delicacy - daisy greens (the leaf/rosette) is traditionally a cold weather food plant. Be quick—March may be too late.

This humble plant stares at the sun for most of the year, but when it rains or at night the flower closes and droops its head. This peculiar behaviour has led to its popular vernacular title of "daisy" believed to be a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon *daeges*, meaning 'day', and *eage*, meaning 'eye', thus 'day's eye'. The name became 'daysie' or 'daysy' and eventually 'daises' and 'daisies' as it was known by the time of great herbalists like Gerard and Culpeper.

Further north the flower was called *bairnwort*, because children were so fond of it.

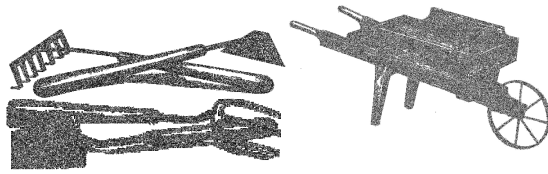
Geoffrey Chaucer was said to be especially fond of daisies - so much so that he left his sick bed to visit the flowers, saying: "*That blissful sighte softeneth all my sorwe.*"

So, here's to the humble daisy"

.....

'Edgerow "Ariet and young 'Arrison have been busy spotting winter birds in and around the village:

In addition to the wrens, nuthatches, blackbirds and robins who look somewhat forlorn in the winter gloom, they are sure they spotted a rather majestic Snowy Owl. The recent weather has been perfect



## GARDEN JOBS FOR FEBRUARY

THE winter snows have heralded a most appropriate, and welcome, arrival of snowdrops to our village gardens and becksides. The arrival of Candlemass, or Imbolc to those so inclined, marks the stirrings and promise of Spring.

Here are a few suggestion to help prepare for the warmer soils and the magical life that awakes after winter dormancy: Perhaps now is the time for trimming of tired winter blooms, lank ornamental grasses and shrubs, bushes, creepers and climbers. How about treating your garden beds to some slow release fertiliser around and roses and other flowering shrubs.

Unless we have some odd weather, there should also be time to transplant any bulbs and shrubs to more preferred locations whilst they are still dormant.

There is a lovely phrase that has given our family much hope over the years – Spring always follows Winter  
JA

## AONB ON LINE EVENT MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 6.30pm – 8.00pm**

Bowland's many traditional farm buildings add to the AONB's landscape character and sense of place.

Join architect and historic buildings consultant, James Innerdale, as he shares practical ideas and helpful tips on how to care for, and maintain, them.

James has delivered a number of training sessions on behalf of SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings).

**Booking essential.** For more information and to book a place please email [sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.silk@lancashire.gov.uk) or phone 07973 923142

## VILLAGE HALLS WEEK

[www.acre.org.uk](http://www.acre.org.uk) action with communities in rural England



TOOK place at the end of January (25 to 29) and, in the centenary year of village halls featured online events, videos, podcasts, and blogs showcasing the history of village halls and the benefits they have derived for rural communities over the years. In a survey undertaken by Action with Communities in 'Rural England (ACRE) last year, it was found that 60% of village halls provide the only meeting space in the local community. An estimated 50,000 individuals too are reliant on the use of village halls to make a living.

As with many other Halls, Downham has been closed for the best part of a year due to the government's coronavirus restrictions, but it played its part in the early days of Covid by providing a hub for distribution of food to the vulnerable and shielding. A recent committee zoom meeting was told that a survey of the fire safety aspects of the Hall has thrown up yet again, more issues which are likely to add to the growing costs of re-opening. The March newsletter will outline the situation in more detail as well as any updates on funding applications and simple ways that the community can take part in fundraising. So, as they say, watch this space OA

## WELCOME TO CHESTNUTS

WE welcome Alan and Kate Heron, who have moved all the way from Barley (not the sunlit island), to be with us. Alan and Kate are regular worshippers and keen members of Stage 2, so will be known to many readers already. Hopefully you will enjoy your time here..

## FAREWELL FROM RADBROOK

AFTER almost 30 peaceful years, Sue Haighton has moved from Radbrook to a smaller property in Bashall Eaves. Sue very much kept herself to herself, but thoroughly enjoyed the peace and quiet twixt Pendle and Worsaw. We hope that she has many happy years in her new home.

## KATH BROWN

**WE WERE all saddened by the news of Kath's passing at the end of the month. A worshipper at St Leonards and member of the choir until the very end of her life we shall miss her quiet contribution to life at Downham. An appreciation of her life will be included next month. Our prayers are with Harry and Ian and Jason**

**Kath's Funeral will be on 11th February at 11.00 am at St Leonards. Some of us will line her route from 10.50 a,m numbers in church being restricted.**

## TREE PLANTING

Another 3,000 trees have been ordered for planting in Hookcliffe Wood. This should all but complete the replacement of the diseased trees felled in 2018. The initial signs from the trees planted last year is that they have not been adversely affected by the Phytophthora Ramorum spores that were inevitably covering the ground after felling. The race is now on to see if the trees can grow quicker than the brambles and not get devoured by the deer. Frustratingly the deer seem to be thwarting attempts to keep them out, but rather than leaping over the 7 foot high fence, they seem to be squeezing under it using holes under the wire made by Badgers.



**THE PARISH CHURCH**



**ASSHETON SERMON**

THE decision was taken in mid January that the Assheton sermon would be postponed until January 2022 when Revd Mark Williams will hopefully be able to preach without any Covid restrictions (fingers crossed!). This is almost certainly the first time since 1680 that the sermon has not been preached to mark Sir Ralph's demise. Hopefully he would understand the breach in the terms of his Will! RCA

**Church during Lockdown**

Although the government has not closed places of worship as they did during the first lockdown our church (along with the majority of local churches) has suspended in-person worship on a Sunday. We did this following the strong advice of the Director of Health for Lancashire and others. We are regularly reviewing the local situation and will reopen as soon as the situation improves. In the meantime you can join in Sunday morning worship with people from all over the country at 10 am on Zoom (just email andyfroud@gmail.com to request a link) or watch a prerecorded service from St Leonard, Downham at 11.15 am on Sunday on Youtube (youtube.com/c/StMaryMagdaleneClitheroe)

**Holy humour...**

Just quick jokes from the Vicar - because I'm not giving up jokes (good or bad) for Lent:

Adam and Eve were the first people not to read the Apple terms and conditions

Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return" as it says in the Bible. That's why I never dust. It might be someone I know.

I'm giving up drink for Lent and I'm giving up Lent for St Patrick's Day.

**Hyndburn & Ribblesdale  
"Community Connector" Scheme**

We are The Community Connectors, your Social Prescribing Link Workers and during these uncertain and unprecedented times we are trying to reach out to those individuals whom under normal circumstances are not anxious or lonely and would know who to turn to if they had a problem but now, during COVID-19, are not in the same frame of mind.

Many more people are now socially isolated and lonely; anxious about their future; their livelihood, their family and it is our aim to support them through positive reinforcement, friendly advice and get them the right support to help them through these difficult times.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from a regular, friendly chat to try to describe it as 'an amazing achievement' and he also urges everyone who receives a letter to attend for vaccination to do so. This is the way we are going to defeat this virus and this pandemic. From Monday of this week, thousands of people are expected to attend the centre every week to be vaccinated. Blackburn with Darwen Council is coordinating free parking nearby to facilitate the work. alleviate their stress or loneliness, or in need of further support in any non-medical way then please pass on our contact details to them or their family/ friend and we will be more than willing to help.

Likewise if you wish to notify us direct of anyone who may benefit from our help, that would be fine providing their verbal consent has been given for us to phone them. Our contact details are:

mail@hrv-cvs.org.uk  
01254 888614  
Suite 15, The Chambers, Town Hall Sq,  
Great Harwood, Blackburn BB6 7DD, UK

**BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL**

RECEIVING a lot of media coverage recently was the new mass vaccination centre at Blackburn Cathedral. After the success of its initial few days Bishop Julian gave thanks and praised everyone involved in getting the whole project off the ground including, of course, the Dean and the Cathedral community. As Blackburn Cathedral settles into many months of being home to one of the mass vaccination hubs against Covid-19, the Bishop of Blackburn has praised and thanked all those involved in making it happen.

The Rt Rev Julian Henderson describes it as 'an amazing achievement' and he also urges everyone who receives a letter to attend for vaccination to do so. This is the way we are going to defeat this virus and this pandemic. From Monday of this week, thousands of people are expected to attend the centre every week to be vaccinated. Blackburn with Darwen Council is coordinating free parking nearby to facilitate the work.

Bishop Julian said: "Since the beginning of the pandemic we have been praying for deliverance from the virus. Now, thanks to the brilliance of scientists in this country and overseas, the vaccine will enable us to battle Covid-19 head on. "For our Cathedral to be able to be at the heart of that battle, offering its building to be a mass vaccination centre, is a wonderful development and I'm delighted we are able to help in this way.

"Across Lancashire we also continue to pray for a swift end to the pandemic and we pray particularly at this time for anyone in our County who has lost a loved one to the virus."

**WHALLEY ABBEY**

**AN exciting new chapter is about to begin with the announcement of a new Director for Whalley Abbey; alongside a fresh new purpose for the Abbey site; including establishing a new monastic community for the first time in nearly five centuries.**

The Abbey is owned by The Church of England (Blackburn Diocese). The new Director will be Revd Adam Thomas, who is currently Curate at St Cuthbert's Church in Lytham. Prior to ordination, one of Adam's roles was Lake District

New members welcome, contact: Diane on 07904 111167 or by email [dianepoole1984@gmail.com](mailto:dianepoole1984@gmail.com)



National Park Authority Development Programme Director and Head of Commercial Services. Adam will take up his new post on 1<sup>st</sup> March. He will steer the Abbey's life in a new direction during 2021 and beyond as we emerge from the pandemic. Currently the aim is for the site to be fully reopened by September of this year as a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer, pandemic restrictions permitting at that time of course, but the build-up will begin soon as bookings can be made from this Easter.

As well as launching an engaging programme to help people grow in their relationship with God, activities at the Abbey will all be underpinned through the development of a new monastic community of prayer; lay and ordained, resident and non-resident.

The Cistercian Abbey ruins date back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the neighbouring Abbey House and chapel will be at the epicentre of the new plans.

Adam said: "I am so excited at this opportunity to ensure that Whalley Abbey is a place where all are welcome; where people can come for respite, rest and restoration.

The Venerable Mark Ireland, Archdeacon of Blackburn and Chair of the Whalley Abbey Steering Group, commented: "I am absolutely delighted at the appointment of Adam as Director and I am also full of anticipation for what the future holds. "We have a strong business plan to make the Abbey a real spiritual powerhouse and place of learning.

