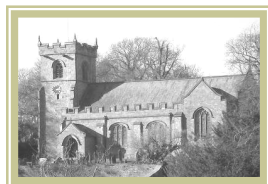
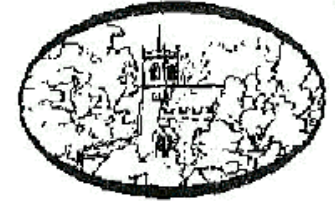


| Parish Calendar 2015 | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| January | | Event | | Sidesmen & women | Altar Flowers | Church Cleaners |
| 4th | Christmas II | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud | Christ Church Chatburn | Mr & Mrs B. Lewis | Mr & Mrs B. Lewis |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Revd Andrew Whitehead | Mr T. McLean | | |
| 5th | Monday | 7.30 pm | Joyful Noise | Chatburn Methodist Church | | |
| 6th | Tuesday | | The Epiphany | | | |
| 8th | Thursday | 10.00 am | Coffee Club | Village Hall | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 11th | Epiphany I Baptism of Christ | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud | Mrs D. Wilkins | | Mr & Mrs J. Whitsey |
| | | 11.00 am | Matins Revd Andy Froud | Mrs B. Lewis | | |
| 15th | Thursday | 7.30 pm | WI | Village Hall | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 18th | Epiphany II | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Revd Andrew Whitehead | Christ Church Chatburn | | Mrs D. Braithwaite Mrs F Eldridge |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Revd Alan Reid | Mrs P. McFall | | |
| 19th | Monday | 7.30 pm | Joyful noise | Chatburn Methodist Church | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 25th | Epiphany III Conversion of Paul | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Revd Andrew Whitehead | Mrs E. Parker | | Mrs A. Moyle Mrs D. Wilkins |
| | | 11.00 am | Matins Revd Andy Froud | Mr B. Lewis | | |
| 26th | Monday | 7.30 pm 7.30pmory | History Group | Village Hall | <i>Peter del Strother History of Clitheroe</i> | |
| | | | | | | |
| February | | | | | | |
| 1st | Presentation of Christ | 8.30 am | Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud | Christ Church Chatburn | Lord & Lady Clitheroe | Hon Mrs R. Assheton Mrs C. Naylor |
| | | 11.00 am | Holy Communion Revd Andrew Whitehead | Mr T. McLean | | |
| <p align="center">OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Revd Andy Froud—01200 423317</p> <p align="center">OUR CHURCH WARDENS</p> <p align="center">The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall—441484 Mrs Diana Wilkins – 445250</p> <p align="center">VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</p> <p align="center">Chairman and Bookings Secretary Mr Shaun Roney—441667 Hon Secretary The Hon Mrs R. Assheton—441210</p> | | | | | | |
| | | | | www.downhamvillage.org.uk | | |



PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON



newsletter

2015 Issue 1 January

From The Revd Andy Froud

Dear Friends

A few years ago (you can tell it was a bit more than a few actually) a man was stopped by police in London. He was driving slowly back and forward on a quiet street and when the police asked what he was doing he excitedly pointed to the mileometer - it was 999999. He was driving backwards and forwards to watch the dial change to 000000 over and over again.

Some people would no doubt find that noteworthy but many of us would just shrug our shoulders. But what in a sense is the New Year except the changing of the dial?

I decided to give up New Year resolutions some years ago, not because I believe there is no point in resolutions but because I don't believe that we need to wait for an arbitrary change in the calendar. In fact I find that it is very tempting to wait for "the right moment" to take an action or make a change: and then, funnily enough, my self imposed deadlines move further and further away.

The philosopher Charles Fort said that you can make a circle starting from anywhere. I take from that that we can start from anywhere. Most importantly it means that we can start afresh anytime - it doesn't need to be New Year to make a New Year Resolution.

But how many of us can honestly say we have kept all those resolutions (New Year or not)? As a medieval monk once put it: I get up, I fall down again, I get up, I fall down again.

As Christians we can look to God who, as the Bible tells us, "makes all things new" (Revelation 21:5): he offers us, complete forgiveness and love and creates each new day and New Year with possibilities and challenges.

So if you have already broken your New Year Resolution (and the statistics would seem to show at least one of the readers of this piece will have) - don't despair. And if you haven't already made one - its never too late (or early) to start

Every blessing for 2015

Andy Froud

Oh Thou, who art ever the same, Grant us so to pass through the coming year with faithful hearts, that we may be able in all things to please Thy loving eyes. Amen. Mozarabic, 700 A.D

| ST. LEONARD—FACTS & FIGURES | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | November | 2014 |
| COMMUNICANTS | 74 | 576 |
| COLLECTIONS | £ | £ |
| SERVICES | 195 | 2132 |
| VISITORS | 5 | 504 |
| DONATIONS | 8,375 | 17,233 |
| HOUSE BOXES | - | 34 |
| TOTAL | 8,753 | 19,903 |

OUR PRAYERS ARE SAID FOR

Betty Mercer who has returned home after a spell in hospitals.

The Flower List—2015

This is displayed at the back of church for the year 2015. We have regular donors who either do the altar flowers or make a donation to have them arranged in their name. This may be in memory of a loved one or to mark an anniversary. The Flower coordinator is Warden Mrs Philippa McFall ably assisted by Mrs Molly Roskell from whom further information may be obtained.

Usual form is to book a date on the list and to arrange the flowers on the Friday prior to the Sunday services.

THE NEWSLETTER

IS SPONSORED this month by Betty Mercer. Betty wanted to do so in December in order to wish all her friends and neighbours a Very Happy Christmas. She was prevented from doing so by a health emergency leading to hospital treatment. Betty now wishes to sponsor the January Issue and say thank you to all who have sent flowers, cards and messages of good luck for a speedy recovery. She is so pleased to be back in her own home and wishes all readers a Very Happy New Year.

The Parish Church is very grateful to Betty and all who sponsor the Newsletter.

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

Coffee Club cont.... Carole, Brian and myself would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way and of course thanks to all our members for your continued support. Throughout the year, we couldn't do it without you. B L

GARDEN CLUB

THE Christmas party was held on our usual Club Night, the first Thursday of the month. The atmosphere was festive the hall having been decorated beautifully by the Sugarplump Fairy and helpers.

After a superb supper courtesy of Country Kitchen, Waddington there was entertainment by the Gardenaires—Diana Braithwaite and Ann Chadwick, Roy Porter and Geoff leading community singing including favourite Carols and Christmas numbers. This was interspersed by two seasonal poetry readings by Di. An altogether delightful



part of the sequence of events planned for members by Sugarplump Fairy. As it happened the Fairy could not attend and sent a very amusing and quite tearful message of apology. She was unable any more to do the flitting about required of her particular breed and the elves, in particular Elve and Safety were also retiring this year. However Santa was on hand with Mrs Clause and the Club Secretary, who looked just a little like the absent Sugarplump, distributed the magnificent Raffle Prizes with everyone a winner.

A collection in support of the work of St Dunstan's amounted to £100.

Chairman Shaun Roney thanked all those who had prepared such a great evening and the Stars and helpers on the night. We meet again on 5th March, next year.



theWI INSPIRING WOMEN Downham W.I. enjoyed their annual Christmas outing in December to the 'Calf's Head' at Worston.

Mrs Frances Garner, Downham W.I. President, welcomed members and guests. Everyone enjoyed a delicious three course meal, entertainment, and the evening ended with traditional carols. An evening enjoyed by everyone!

The members of Downham W.I. have many events and courses to look forward to, in the very special, Centenary Year, of the W.I. New members are always welcome so perhaps a New Year's resolution should be to try the W.I.

Downham WI wishes everyone very Best Wishes for the New Year. AK

HOWZZATT?

Could anyone help former Downham Cricket Club Members locate items connected to the club? I.e. cups, scorebooks etc.

Please ring Di Braithwaite 01200 441277 or Gem Swarbrick 01200 441193 if you have any information. Thank you.

**A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS
FROM
THE EDITORIAL STAFF, NEWSROOM,
REPORTERS, CONTRIBUTORS
PRINT AND ART WORK DEPTS
CIRCULATION AND DISTRIBUTORS**

ROUND AND ABOUT

THE PARISH CHURCH

DOWNHAM Church Choir members and friends were invited to the home of Steve and Diana Wilkins in Twiston to sing carols and enjoy mince pies, mulled wine and nibbles, on December 14th.

On Christmas Eve they were carolling round Downham and were blessed with fine weather as they made their way door to door, they were welcomed in for festive fare at various homes.

The Ebola Appeal was the charity chosen this year and £250 was sent from the choir.

The Ebola Appeal was also chosen to receive the collection taken at the Carol Service held on Sunday morning 28th. This added £139 to the Choir's fantastic efforts. Revd. Andrew Whitehead conducted the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, and Mr James Robinson was the organist. The readers were Marshall Peters, Chris Swarbrick, Jonathon Rumbold, Helen Addy, Gill Cragg, Helen Assheton, Lindsay Shuttleworth, Andrew Lopiccicolo, and Revd. Andrew Whitehead. DB

WINDOW

St Leonard is grateful to Andy Leeming, Window Cleaner, (01282 700197) who has cleaned the large window, both sides, between the Tower—ringing chamber— and the Nave. This window, too high for us to reach, has not been cleaned for some time and was done free of charge.

CHRISTINGLE

OUR annual Christingle service took place on Christmas Eve at 3.00 pm. and was led by the Revd Andy Froud. The theme, Christ brings us out of Darkness, began with the lighting of a candle at the front of the congregation and was continued after the offering of gifts and prayers in support of the work of the Children's Society, when the Christingles were distributed and lit. The gifts in support of the Society amounted to £137.

Thanks to the small working party that donated materials and assembled the Christingles for this important symbolic service and the immensely practical use to which the donations are put.

The Children's Society is also the beneficiary of the Annual Lasagne Candlelight Supper (see advertisement on Page 3.) This event is a jolly get together where members of about six local churches sit down to a delicious meal (the puddings to die for) supplied by committee members and friends.

This year, following the retirement of head lasagna cook, Rodney Nicholson, the Committee has opted to buy-in from Tim's Country Kitchen a Waddington—so the quality will be maintained.

COFFEE CLUB

ABOUT thirty four members came together on 19th December at the Village Hall, to enjoy a Christmas lunch. We had delicious soup, provided by Olive and Dave and a variety of sandwiches, cakes and mince pies, plus the obligatory Christmas crackers. We even had music thanks to the new Village Hall sound system.

The atmosphere was very jolly and everyone seemed to be having a good time. Cont.....



DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

THE group's January meeting will be held at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday, 26th when the speaker will be Peter del Strother on his new book History of Clitheroe. Peter, a former general manager at the local cement works, has written extensively on historic, technical and scientific matters connected with limestone and its extraction and processing. The History of Clitheroe is Peter's latest publication. Already sold out at Amazon we are searching locally for a copy.

Non members are most welcome, we meet in the small (warm) meeting room behind the stage and have an opportunity for chat and tea after the main business.

ROAD REPAIRS

THE successful repair to Main Street, between the School and telephone box, should have been reported last month. An LCC team discovered that the stone flags that made up the lid of the old drain had been broken and collapsed. After cleaning out, everything was repaired and reinstated to benefit us all.

Another long awaited piece of tarmac that has been fixed is the strip below the new roadside wall at the pub. Not only will this help to ensure that the road drain does not get filled with debris so quickly, but it completes access to the alcove in the pub wall allowing those waiting for the bus a convenient and (usually) dry spot to relax.

Tree safety

AS part of the Estate's regular maintenance programme, an inspection has recently been carried out of the roadside trees. Work will commence in the new year to ensure (as best we can) that all is safe and well. Remember that while we are blessed with many old and beautiful trees, there is always a chance of a twig or branch becoming dislodged in a storm. RCA

Whalley Deanery



Fund Raising Committee

Candlelight Supper

The Kings Centre

Millthorne Avenue off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE

on

Sunday 8th February, 2015 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

BRING A BOTTLE OF WINE (and your glasses) Soft Drinks available
Vegetarian Option available Great Selection of Salads Delicious Puddings

ENTERTAINMENT AFTER SUPPER

Why not come along and enjoy the evening
Support the Society by making a donation at the Supper

SPECTATOR.



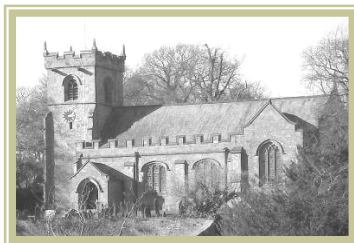
I TRIED really hard to think of something very jolly and glass half ' full' to start off the new year but I kept coming back to the not very jolly and 'glass half empty' thoughts. I even lost my smile for a few days and that was quite scary because I need my smile to hide behind, it is my protection against an often harsh world.

I think it started when a neighbour came to tell us that she was moving away to be nearer her family. I tried to be happy for her but found myself choking back tears as I thought of Downham without her and then a Downham without, no doubt, a few others over the coming years. It made me think about a Downham without people that I am fond of and without me and Jon or without Jon and just me! I heard someone say that home is not just a building, it's whatever is in your life that stops you feeling alone so I guess when I thought about people leaving Downham, I started to feel alone...and that would make anyone lose their smile!

We have been talking to my eldest daughter Zoe about the possibility of her coming to live with us here. As the Parkinsons progresses, I am finding it increasingly difficult to manage everything and sometimes anything. It is so frustrating to not be able to wiz around and clean the house or fasten a zip or even open a packet of biscuits and what a relief when she is here, to have such a capable, able bodied angel to help out and do jobs that I could have done so easily not so long ago. I have quoted this before and I will no doubt do so again in the future, "old age ain't no place for sissies" you can say that again! And I'm not even old!

Just as I was beginning to despair of ever finding my smile, I went out to lunch with a good friend who listened and cared and let me cry and laugh then hey presto, my smile returned (it may also have had something to do with the bottle of wine we polished off between us!)

You can't keep a good man (or woman or person or whatever is politically correct now in this mad PC world!) down forever. So maybe now, with a recently found smile in place, I can find something jolly to say at the start of 2015, here goes.....nope...got nothing..... maybe next month.



The work of the PCC

SOME people will have read the annual report. of the Parochial Church Council. A bit dull admittedly, but essential to the business of running the Parish Church. A straightforward reading of it might not give absolute clarity to the who does what question, so here goes.

Having a Church building in a parish is very important. But the real church is the membership, those who come together to worship and to celebrate. So that the purpose of the church is carried out effectively and efficiently and with accountability to the whole membership (transparency its called these days) there is an elected Council of members (PCC) for just that purpose.

Parochial Church Councillors are elected by the parishioners at the AGM. Councillors are the non executive directors of the company and charity which is, in effect, St Leonard's Downham . The three church wardens also elected, but separately, are ex-officio members of the council and, together with the Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary, (elected by PCC members from among their own number), are the rather like the executive directors. The company chairman is the Priest-in-Charge.

Decisions about what happens, how we spend our income, how we raise income, long term thinking about the Church and its place in our community and how we account to the membership for this, are matters that are the responsibility of the PCC. Much of this is affected, if not predetermined by the Diocese, which has a higher responsibility for clergy and funding their stipends (pay) and pensions. Account has to be taken of the availability and affordability of men and women who are the workforce of priests. So, where it is determined, by forces beyond Parish level, that a priest will have three (or more) churches it is for the PCCs in all those parishes to assist in implementing that decision so that the work is done in the way that people like and want and in a way that gives the Priest-in-Charge help and a life of his or her own.

At Downham we are part of a team ministry led by Revd Andy Froud that serves three parishes. These are St Mary Magdalene, Clitheroe, Christchurch, Chatburn and our own. So it is essential that Wardens and PCC members do as much as possible to assist the Vicar in his task. We do this by sharing out the work, the Music for example is the work of Choir Mistress Kirsteen Walmsley, the Hon Treasurer (Finance Director to continue the parallel with limited companies) is Brian Lewis, help to the Wardens with the administration is given by Hon Secretary Tom McLean and the lead person for the PCC's responsibility for the building is Warden Ralph Assheton.

Wardens receive their stave of office and are charged by the Bishop to assist the priest in charge, other PCC members are sworn-in to assist the Wardens in their duties.

Wardens and members look to share the duties and responsibilities that combine to make our Church. All this under the spiritual lead of Andy. Quite a complex organisation for a relatively small firm but one with many facets and responsibilities and one of which people have high expectations,