

PARISH CALENDAR 2020

January			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
5th	Christmas II	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs P. McFall	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Lady Clitheroe Mrs A Wallace
7th	Tuesday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	<i>Shirley Penman on Clitheroe Mayoral Regalia</i>	
8th	Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs B Lewis		
9th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
12th	Epiphany I	11.00 am	Matins Rev Andy Froud	Mr A Herron		Mrs D Briathwaite Ms J. Shepherd
16th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall		
19th	Epiphany II	11.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs E. Parker		Mr & Mrs P Mercer
22nd	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	<i>Mr B Lewis</i>		
26th	Epiphany III Assheton Sermon	11.00am	Matins Revd Andy Froud	Hon R Assheton		Mrs S Travis Mrs A Chadwick
February						
2nd	Epiphany IV Candlemas	11.00am	Holy Communion Revd Andy Froud	Mrs P McFall	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs C Ennis

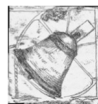
THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THOSE BUSINESSES,
ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER.
IN JANUARY THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY BOWLAND BIO ENERGY

OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE – Revd Andy Froud
The Vicarage, Church Street, Clitheroe BB7 2DD
01200 423317 0796 957 6691 andyfroud@gmail.com

OUR CHURCH WARDENS
The Hon Ralph Assheton – 441210 Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 Mr Ian Walton—445063

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

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



PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

newsletter

2020 Issue 1 January



www.downhamvillage.org.uk

From The Revd Andy Froud

Dear Friends

PART of me wishes that I had got married on a more memorable anniversary than April 3rd. Even as I type this date I'm not entirely convinced that I've got it right.

Which anniversaries we celebrate and how, of course define us as human beings.

Anniversaries can be good and bad: in medieval Europe Good Friday was a dangerous day to be Jewish, November 5th was when a Catholic and often the Pope were burnt in effigy and the Battle of the Boyne (which confusingly is commemorated on the 12th July when the battle took place on 1st July) is still marked by parades, tension and violence in Northern Ireland today.

In 2020 the anniversaries of the end of the war in Europe and the Far East (VE Day and VJ Day) will be celebrated by millions: but we should be careful what we celebrate. We celebrate the courage and sacrifice of those who fought against fascism, racism and injustice. We celebrate the end of the war and the coming of peace.

But we should not celebrate "our" victory. In two senses it is not ours. Those of us too young to take part can only know second-hand, the suffering and sacrifices needed. Indeed it is interesting to note that the "celebrations" at the end of the war were far less extravagant than those planned for the anniversaries: those involved greeted the coming of peace with relief and a feeling of accomplishment. They belonged to a different, more reserved era than ours where a sense of duty and humility made overt triumphalism of the kind that we see now every day on a football pitch unthinkable.

In another sense it is not "ours" - while we should commemorate those British servicemen who gave their lives we should also remember the many allies who worked together to defeat an evil ideology that attempted to exterminate entire races.

Let us, as we celebrate that, commit ourselves to working for peace between people of all races and nationalities who are all equally children of the same heavenly Father

Yours in Christ

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

ST LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES

	October	November	2019
COMMUNICANTS	41	41	418
COLLECTIONS £			
SERVICES	316	209	4,960
VISITORS	36	15	577
DONATIONS	289	298	6,178
HOUSE BOXES	4	-	14
SPECIAL	-	620	7,404
TOTALS	645	1,142	19,233

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY

7th December 2019 Bethany Gill and Anthony Beard both of Burnley

OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS:

Helen Addy, Kath Brown, Olive Awbery, Kath Swarbrick
John Roskell and others who are unwell.

ALTAR FLOWERS

APART from Advent and Lent there are always fresh
flowers on the altar at St Leonard's Church.
A list for 2020 hangs at the back of Church.

If anyone wishes to arrange flowers or have
flowers arranged, for particular date, possibly on
an anniversary or in remembrance of a loved one,
please fill in your details in the appropriate slot on the list. PMcF



STAGE 2 DOWNHAM

OUR NOVEMBER 2019 production of 'A Bunch Of Amateurs' was a
huge success in every way with a full house every night and many
people still wanting tickets.



Director Fran Osborne says:

"Thank you Ian Hislop and Nick Newman for writing such an interesting play and to our
"Bunch Of Amateur Downham for bringing it to life! This is a play of two halves. We have a
group of amateur actors in Suffolk, desperate to save their theatre from closure and we
also have the challenge of one of Shakespeare's most complex plays 'King Lear', not to
mention the arrival of an American Superstar! I hope that the combination of their character
portrayals, clever original music and a great production crew, second to none, ensured that
you enjoyed our production..as much as we did!"

Our National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) Regional Representative Paul
Mason commented: "The audience was given a great night out. This was pure entertain-
ment well done and much appreciated. Thank you, "Stage Two Downham."

Our reviewer, Pippa Munro Hebden, said: "A Bunch Of Amateurs" played by a bunch of
amateurs? Not exactly because Stage Two Downham present a very professional and
entertaining version of...Hislop and Newman's comedy with a Shakespearean twist. The
production was deservedly sold out...a sign of the well deserved popularity of this great
local group."

The Pre-Theatre Meal Deal at 'The Assheton Arms' proved hugely popular, with a quarter
of our audience booking. We thank all the staff and look forward to continuing this
cooperation.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with or contributed in any way to this production in-
cluding all the local businesses who displayed our publicity and all the individuals who rec-
ommended the play by word of mouth or social media.

If you came to the play, thank you for your support. If you couldn't get along or this one
was not for you then we hope to see you at our Spring production. Dates and further de-
tails will follow as soon as possible in the New Year

Best wishes for the festive season from all of us at Stage Two Downham.

AO

Burns Night 2020



Following the success of our inaugural Burns Night,
tickets are now being released for Burns Night 2020 -
Saturday 25th January from 7.30pm. Another fun
night is promised, including guest piper, Burns'
Supper and traditional ceremony, a 'wee dram' and a
Ceilidh - all for just £10 a ticket.

All profits and donations will go to the
ABF - The Soldiers' Charity.

Dietary options can be catered for on request,
BYO drinks. Places are very limited, so early booking
is strongly advised. For more information and to buy
tickets, please contact Helen Addy on 441015

LOCAL HERITAGE PROJECTS RECEIVE GRANTS

THE PENDLE HILL FUND has recently supported five different projects in its second year of activity within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area – and is now preparing for the next application window in spring 2020.

The projects, which will all be starting over the next few months, include: traditional boundary training for Young Farmers; a heritage project in Rimington; pond restoration at Spring Wood; benches and information boards along the newly opened stretch of Martholme Greenway; restoration of traditional black and white finger signposts and a residential activity trip for young people living in Pendle or Burnley.

We have also seen great success as year 1 projects which received grant support from the Fund are now coming to an end. These have included encouraging more people to sing as part of the Pendle Hill song Fellowship run by the East Lancs Clarion Choir; a landscape arts project for refugees living locally and a series of heritage based trips led by Pennine Lancashire Community Farm. Locals and visitors alike can also now learn more about local nature within Roughlee through a new interpretation board, and about local history in Higham.

The Pendle Hill Fund, which is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, will reopen on Monday 6th April 2020 for applications of between £2000 and £10000 for projects focused on landscape, heritage and community engagement within the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership area. More information can be found on our website www.pendlehillproject.com.

The Pendle Hill Fund Small Grants Scheme will be launching in January 2020. Available for projects looking for funding support of up to £500.

For more information about past projects or future ideas please email pendlehill.lp@lanacashire.gov.uk or call 01200 420 420.

RIMINGTON POET'S CD

The Rimington Oral Heritage project was launched at a lively concert held in the Memorial Institute on Friday 29 November 2019.

The project was inspired by a Lancashire night held in 2018 when Christine Thistlethwaite, a dialect poet, who until recently lived in Rimington, and 'Trouble at Mill' a Houghton folk group, both performed. At the end Lesley Marklew, from Rimington, and Graham Dixon the guitarist from Trouble at Mill, were surprised and dismayed to discover that no recordings of Christine performing her work existed.

Anxious not to lose a part of Rimington's important oral heritage described in the lines of Christine's dialect and narrative poetry, over the winter they were inspired to make a CD of Christine performing a collection of her poems entitled 'In a Manner of Speykin', along with villagers' memories of Rimington and Middop's heritage, inspired Lesley to apply for a Pendle Hill Fund grant, supported by Rimington Memorial Institute, to develop the Rimington Oral Heritage project, of which this concert was the start.

On Friday evening's 'Dialect Night' Christine held everyone's attention with a recital of more poems delivered in her inimitable fashion, much to the delight and amusement of the audience. 'Trouble at Mill' with Graham Dixon on guitar, accompanied by Bernadette Dixon's lovely lilting voice, charmed the sixty strong audience.

The evening's performance finished with an emotional performance of 'Bleggin' Tahme', one of Christine's poems that Graham and Bernadette had set to their own beautiful tune.

This project received funding from the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership's Pendle Hill Fund, a community grants scheme which aims to support small scale landscape and heritage activity developed in the PHLP area. The Pendle Hill Fund and wider Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership is supported by the Heritage Lottery



The Children's Society

Whalley Deanery
Fund Raising Committee



The Children's Society

Candlelight Supper

St Mary's Centre
Church Street Clitheroe
Clitheroe BB7 2DG

Sunday 9th February, 2020 at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

Entertainment by
CLITHEROE GRAND CHOIR
FULL DETAILS NEXT MONTH

OBSERVER

MY breath mists the creaking plastic aircraft window as we bank steadily lower over the dark, frosted suburbs of Manchester. Sparkling below, streets of diamond-white headlights, ruby tail lights, emerald traffic signals, the occasional flash of sapphire; we are a gem dealers critical eye gliding over the bejewelled surface of a vast Faberge creation.

I return from a fortnight of cobalt Catalan skies, standing on matchstick edges hundreds of metres above a turbulent grey river, fingertips straining for friction; climbing adventures come in many forms but the reliability of a Spanish winter is an annual draw, tired muscles hauling heavy bags home now, worthwhile.

Sweeping slowly into the village later, Alan's pigeons swirl, rising and falling over Top Row in unison under darkening afternoon skies. Often, as today, my home-coming is postponed by a quiet visit to the steps of the church porch, the view a gift to hopefully soften the pain of a funeral or start the celebrations for happy new couples. The freshly baptised could surely have no greater beginning. Remembering my wedding, the waves of sweeping rain across Pendle, glanced at nervously through the tall windows by coiffured bridesmaids, gave way to shimmering sunshine as we tumbled headlong into village life. Festive evenings of carol song and merriment followed, red faces of all ages gathering in wonder in the Assh' to hear a familiar-looking Santa play the piano, brightly wrapped presents for each amazed child.

This evocation, recalling of feeling or image, is to me the opposite of today's social media obsession, recording every image to convey success and perfection - the truly moving moments are only captured in our heads as memories, unwitnessed and untranslatable to others.

On this still, bitter winter's day the damp stone roofs slope like our forearms in prayer, the chimneys our clasped hands, smoke drifting to the heavens our silent wishes. Inside the ancient houses, families gather for Christmas and to welcome the beginning of another year.

The Danish believe their word 'hygge' does not translate to English; those of us smiling at grandchildren, laughing with parents or simply lost in the warm dance of an open fire know otherwise. This feeling of returning home to Downham and to family, to helpful neighbours and to the endless fields and secret woods, translates the meaning wordlessly.

THE PARISH CHURCH

ASSHETON SERMON

IN HIS WILL Sir Ralph Assheton of Downham, who died on 30th January, 1680, gave £4 a year towards:



“gratifying two able ministers, other than the present Incumbents, of Whalley and Downham, onely for the better occasioning of a fuller congregation of people being willing, for the most parte, to heare strangers rather than their owne (though perhaps better), each of them to preach a sermon upon two several days, at Downham on the day of the month it shall please God to call me from this transitory life, upon one of these texts, Job 19: 25-27 or Colossians 2: 3-4.”

The Downham Texts are: Job “I know that my redeemer liveth” and Colossians: “When Christ who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory”.

The Sunday nearest the date of Sir Ralph’s death, this year, the 340th, is 26th January. The preacher is Revd Christopher Wood vicar of Waddington and West Bradford The sermon will be preached at the 11.00 am service.

BELLS

Church bells are traditionally not rung during Advent or Lent. This year it is planned to carry out some refurbishment work during February, so there will be silence then too. A recent inspection of the bells by Taylor’s Foundry identified that the “clappers” (the hammerlike pieces of metal that hang within each bell and make all the noise when they strike the rim of the bell) need regrinding to improve the sound. This will involve removing them, transporting them to Loughborough to be worked on, before returning and reattaching them.
RCA

HISTORY GROUP

THE next meeting of the group will take place on Tuesday 7th January, 2020 at the Village Hall, at 7.30 pm. when Shirley Penman makes a return visit when she will give a presentation on the Clitheroe Mayoral regali JP

ARMY MANOEUVRES

Around 30 Reservist soldiers from the Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry spent a weekend at the end of November practising their basic outdoor skills. This included camping in the cold and the rain; and navigating on foot without the use of their mobile phones (yes, even soldiers use route planning apps!). Sadly they could see nothing from the cloud wreathed summit of Pendle, but will return in the summer for a second attempt.

TREES

Twenty volunteers from the Ribble Rivers Trust undertook some brookside tree planting immediately upstream of the Village to mark National Tree Week. The native broadleaves should play their small part in improving the environment for decades to come.

BRIDLEWAY

Despite Planning Consent being given on 3 October, it has taken until early December to get permission to use materials that match others in the area; therefore work will not commence in earnest until mid January. Some of the minor tree surgery and wall repair work has already begun, so (weather permitting) the route should be substantially complete by the end of February
RCA

GARDEN CLUB



THE CLUB year ended as ever with the Christmas Party held on Thursday, 5th December when members sat down to a delicious, traditional meal at the village hall.

Gifts were handed out by Father Christmas and his helpers and members Di and Anne led the carol singing which rounded off a great evening .

Remembering a charitable initiative that make a contribution to society has been a feature of these events for a number of years and £100 was raised for NW Air Ambulance

Thanks were expressed by Chairman Carole to the and helpers The Gardening Club hibernates for a couple of months now and will reassemble for an AGM and opening meeting on Thursday, 5th March next year..

SENSATIONAL 60S DISCO

Saturday 7 March 2020
Downham Village Hall
Let’s Twist Again!

Tickets already selling (£12).
If you want to book now please ring Sue
07966 699 326
or 01200 440912.

THE NEXT WI Meeting will be on Thursday, 16th January at the Village Hall



COFFEE CLUB



THE room looked festive and the tables bright and inviting as we gathered for our annual Christmas bash.

Over 30 members and friends enjoyed pie and peas whilst listening to Jonathan’s excellent choice of Christmas music. Carole very kindly provided delicious cakes and mince pies and Frances preformed her usual magic with the beautiful table decorations. Everyone joined in the Christmas spirit and helped make it a real party atmosphere. Many thanks too for the help given with tidying up afterwards.

Carole, Brian and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to our first 2020 meeting on Thursday January 9th at 10am, new members very welcome.,
BL

p.s.
Thank you to RBVC for their generous grant of £180 to help pay for the Christmas lunch event. JA