

## Parish Callendar

JULY			Event	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
1st	Monday	7.30 pm	History Group	Village Hall	Stephen Chaunce Industrial Revolution	
4th		7.00 pm	Garden Club Visit Lower Dutton Farm	Christ Church Chatburn		
7th	Trinity III	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs E. Parker	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
10th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr Brian Lewis		
11th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
13th/ 14th	Saturday & Sunday	2.00 pm / 4.00pm	Downham Hall Gardens open	In aid of the Prince's Trust and Downham Village Hall		
14th	Trinity IV	11.00am	Matins Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mrs K Herron		Mr & Mrs P Eldridge
15th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Methodist Church		
18th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	Curling, Strawberries and Cream Teas	
21st	Trinity V	11.00am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs A. Wallace	Mrs P McFall	Mrs P McFall Mrs M Roskell
25th	Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs B Lewis		
28th	Trinity VI	11.00am	Matins	Mr I Walton		Lady Clitheroe Mrs A Wallace
29th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Christ Church Chatburn		
August						
3rd	Saturday	2.15 pm	Garden Club	Show	Place exhibits 10am to 12n	
4th	Trinity VI	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T. McLean	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mrs D Braithwaite Mrs J Shepherd

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS VERY GRATEFUL TO THOSE BUSINESSES,  
ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT SPONSOR THE NEWSLETTER.  
IN JULY THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY THE FAMILY OF THE LATE BETTY MERCER

### CHURCH CLEANERS

St Leonard's has, for many years, depended upon a Rota of Volunteers to keep the building clean and beautiful. Kath Brown has worked on the Rota since it's inception and was joined a few years ago by Harry. We are grateful and wish them a happy retirement from this job. The Rota is now joined by Paul and Marie Mercer to whom we give a warm and grateful welcome, don't see your name yet? Your turn will come.....soon.

**OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE** – Rev'd 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 and Bookings Secretary** Mr Shaun Roney—441667  
**Hon. Secretary** Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

## DOWNHAM & TWISTON

# newsletter

2019 Issue 7 July

www.downhamvillage.org.uk



### From The Rev'd Andy Froud

Dear Friends

IN Disneyland's New Orleans Square near the exit to the Pirates of the Caribbean ride, is an unmarked grey-green door. There is only a number, "33" to give a clue that this is the entrance to probably the world's most exclusive club, founded by Walt Disney himself.

To get buzzed in on the intercom system you must be a Club 33 member - or the guest of one. Joining costs a cool 25,000 dollars, with an annual membership fee of 10,000 but even if you have that sort of money the number of members is limited to 500 and it can take years to pass through the waiting list. I can't imagine anything further from a church, which surely must be the least exclusive club in the world. In your local church you will meet young and old, rich and poor, people of all races and backgrounds. And for those who are not members, many of us believe, as William Temple, the first Bishop of Blackburn, said "the church is the only society which exists for the benefit of those who are not it's members." Perhaps surprisingly, you will also meet good and bad people in any church, which some view as a reason for giving the place a swerve (either because they regard themselves as too bad or too good). Being a good person is not a membership qualification.

Membership is not free. There is a high cost to membership but amazingly you will discover that it has been paid for you. Walt Disney never got to enjoy Club 33 - he died 4 months before it opened.

Through his spirit Jesus is with us in his church wherever and whenever we meet together to share the abundant life he promised - and you won't need to be buzzed in.

Yours in Christ,

Merciful God,  
 you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding:  
 pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ST LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES		
	May	2019
COMMUNICANTS	36	162
COLLECTIONS		
SERVICES	568	1993
VISITORS	80	198
DONATIONS	442	2157
HOUSE BOXES	-	7
SPECIAL	776	1779
TOTALS	1856	6134

### IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS:

Helen Addy, Kath Brown, Olive Awbery and others who are unwell.  
 Also, the family of the late Betty Mercer,

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### HOLY BAPTISM

5th May 2019: ROSE AMELIA JEFFRIES

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

14TH JUNE 2019: SAMUEL FLEURIEL & JESSICA HURST

15TH JUNE 2019: WILLIAM OGDEN & CATHERINE RUSSELL  
 (BOTH OF BARLEY)

28th June 2019; AMY APPLETON & WILLIAM TOOTLE  
 (BOTH OF BILLINGTON)

### DAY OF DANCE AND RUSHBEARING

Morris dancing teams, including locally based Malkin Morris, will dance in Barley and Roughlee on the morning of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July before taking part in Newchurch St. Mary's rushbearing ceremony in the afternoon – followed by more dancing into the evening.

Accompanied by musicians, the Roughlee Ruffians, Malkin Morris specialise in traditional North West processional morris and clog stepping. The team have been awarded National Lottery funding to research and perform local dances and tunes from Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Ribble Valley.

For the Pendleside event the team are due to be joined by sides from Cumbria, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester – plus a debut performance by the young team from St. Mary's school.

The fun starts in Barley at around 10am!

More information is available from Gin Crewe (of Malkin Morris) on 07887 844025.

### Ribble Valley Music Festival

Saturday July 13th. 2.00pm—5.00pm

“Backyard Burners” BLUEGRASS MUSIC and BBQ

Chatburn Methodist Church

Advanced purchase of tickets advised.

Price £10. Contact 01254 384893

### JENNY PALMER - OUR LOCAL POET

The Pendle Heritage Centre, Colne Road, Barrowford is the venue for a book signing by local author Jenny Palmer.

Signed copies of "Pendle Poems" will be available to view and buy at the Heritage Centre between 12pm and 3pm on Friday July 12th.

### Gardens Open 13th and 14th July

In aid of Downham Village Hall and The Prince's Trust

Can you volunteer an hour or so?

We are appealing for some help with teas and staffing some stalls.

If you can spare an hour on either day or both days please let Olivia know and she will create a rota to cover both days

Arrangements are in hand for a book stall which Philippa is going to organise.

Books, CDs, DVDs are being collected now and to save double handing please deliver donations to Downham Hall. OA

## RIBBLE VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2020

The May Bank Holiday next year has now been moved from Monday to Friday 8th May to commemorate 75 years exactly since the end of WWII in Europe and this will enable celebrations to continue during the weekend including street parties and other get-togethers on Saturday and a specially composed Tribute to the Millions read out at Church Services throughout the UK on Sunday.

Friday 8th May is the main commemoration in the UK and around the world when the last post will be sounded at the Four Peaks of the UK followed by bagpipes at locations around the world at 3.00 pm; the time 75 years ago that Churchill announced war was over, and then thousands of pubs throughout the UK will be asking their customers to raise a glass to the Nations Toast to the Heroes of WWII " *To those who gave so much. We thank you*".

### Bowland AONB Archaeology visit

Following on from his *Prehistory of Bowland* lecture at Chipping Village Hall in April, Rick Peterson has invited the AONB to visit UCLan's excavations when the students return to Whitewell, in the Hodder Valley, this summer.

The proposed date for the site tour is the morning of **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July** (exact timings to be confirmed.) As places will be limited, please could I ask you to let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us, as bookings will need to be on a first come, first served basis.

Sandra Silk, Bowland AONB office, 01200 448000 [www.forestofbowland.com](http://www.forestofbowland.com) SS



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY  
Whalley Deanery  
Fund Raising Committee

## PUDDING FEST

In aid of the society

AS PART OF THE CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL  
The St Mary's Centre Church Street Clitheroe

**10<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

Open to customers 12.00 to 4.00 pm

Come in rest your feet

Eat or take away selection of goodies

Tea coffee and drinks available

Helpers from 11.00 am please

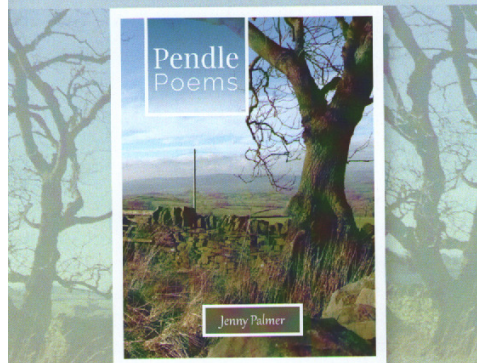
**Please Deliver gifts of puddings and cakes to the  
centre from Friday afternoon to opening time**

**Further information**

Your Children's Society Committee representative

## Book Signing

@ the Pendle Heritage Centre  
Friday 12th July, 12 noon - 3pm



Jenny Palmer will be signing  
copies of her new poetry book  
available for £6

## THE HIGH SHERIFF'S SHIELD HANGING CEREMONY



Lancaster Castle's gothic Shire Hall was the setting for one of Lancashire's unique annual ceremonial events, dating back several hundred years.

The shield hanging ceremony involved the High Sheriff of Lancashire, the Honourable Ralph Christopher Assheton, placing his family shield in the Shire Hall alongside more than 650 other shields, including those of former High Sheriffs of Lancashire and English monarchs dating back to Richard the Lionheart (1157-1199).

Before the ceremony, there was a service in the Priory Church attended by the Bishop of Blackburn, the Archdeacon of Lancaster, the Vicar of Lancaster and the Chaplain to the High Sheriff. Those attending the hanging of the shield then made their way to the Castle's Shire Hall, where the Under Sheriff read the High Sheriff's Patent before the family shield is hung.

AF

## DOWNHAM PARISH MEETING 2019

A packed downstairs room of the Assheton Arms hosted this year's Parish meeting. The main topics of discussion involved the problems of vehicle speeding and road safety. There was a unanimous vote in support of the Estate's planning application (3/2018/0754) to create a concessionary bridleway close to the busy Chatburn Rd into the village. The meeting considered the proposal a welcome opportunity to help keep local walkers, wheel-chair users and horse riders safe.

Near the end of the evening, the Chairman presented the retiring clerk to the Parish meeting, Mrs Di Braithwaite, a splendid arrangement of flowers, together with the thanks and best wishes of all attending for her many years in the pos.t.

JA

## DOWNHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Congratulations to Downham Preschool who have just had their OFSTED inspection and have been graded Outstanding. This makes it three "Outstanding" grades in a row. Well done!

Children at preschool have been enjoying playing in the new fairy garden which we have made from an old cable reel it has been a real hit with all the children. Cliff the joiner gave some lengths of wood which the children have used to make obstacle courses, robots and used to block to entry to the den.

There has also been a visit by Dave the rescued baby deer, who only has 3 legs and is living with the horses out on a farm at Bolton-by-Bowland. As you can imagine he was a big hit with all the children and staff alike, along with Molly the Photographer and some of the visitors to the village who were walking past.

JA/SC

## THANK YOU TOM

AT June's Parochial Church Council meeting, the newly appointed Parochial Church Council secretary, Philip Naylor thanked Tom Mclean for his many years of service. Apparently a quick witted PCC member was able to calculate that Philip would have to be in post until 2063 in order to beat Tom's record.



**In memoriam - Betty Mercer**  
**29th November 1922 – 22nd June 2019**

BETTY was born in Fir Tree House in the village on 29 November 1922 and is the last member of the Martin family to live in the village where at least one has lived continually since 1917. She was next to the youngest of eight children. Her father Henry, was the vergar of the church for most of his life in Downham.

On her third birthday Betty started school in Downham and until her more recent years could relate tales with detail from an incredible memory. One story she told of her early school days was following her elder brother Wilf, always a dare-devil, along the top of the school wall during a playtime. (It's quite a drop down to the road below!). The teacher, a Miss Farrah, later to become Mrs Parkes caught the pair in the act. Wilf received a couple of strokes of the cane across his backside and Betty was told to hold her hand out. Each time the cane came down Betty pulled her hand back. The frustrated teacher scalded her and angrily asked why she had undertaken such a foolish venture to which she replied, "because her brother had told her to." Miss Farrah scoffed, "and if your brother told you to put your hand in the fire, would you?" Betty thought that this was a trick question and answered yes! The teacher crossly told her to get out of her sight so she escaped punishment!

She remembers her childhood with blissfully happy memories. A motor car in the village was a rarity and electricity didn't arrive in Downham until she was 11 years old. Whilst they often had to do without, there was always laughter in the house and enough food on the table. She spoke very tenderly of her mother and held her in high esteem, always talking about her affectionately.

She had endless tales. Monica Assheton was warmly spoken of. She ran the brownies and guides and piled excited girls into her car to take to take them swimming or on excursions. She remembers playing by the village bridge one evening with her friend Grace Driver. Miss Monica approached in her car and asked the pair if they'd like to come with her to watch a biplane taking off and landing from a field somewhere near Clitheroe golf club. After asking their parents' permission, the pair eagerly climbed into the dickey seat of the car but were disappointed that they went via Worston and nobody saw them!!

Fast forward a little to 1939. There was now only her mother, father her youngest sister Barbara and Betty living in Fir Tree House. It was too big for the diminished family so they moved to number 2 Top Row.

Betty was working in a small mill in Grindleton learning the art of making felt hats. The day that the outbreak of the war was announced, the business closed. Betty found work at Chatburn Mill (somewhere she said that she would never work) and was in the mill with her sister Barbara when the village was bombed.

Betty and Barbara would often cycle home for lunch. A searchlight unit was stationed in the field immediately over the bypass bridge in Chatburn. The unit had a dog aptly named Fritz and Fritz would snap at their heels as they peddled by. Betty shouted angrily to one of the soldiers who was stood at the gate to control the dog. This particular soldier was later to become her husband and they were married in Downham church in 1944.



**Songs reflecting Pendle's radical heritage and inspirational countryside**

**All are welcome to ...**

**Come and Learn**

- Free singing sessions – in the beautiful Pendle countryside
- Transport provided to Pendle villages
- Learn by ear – no experience required & some songs you know
- Three learning sessions taking place from 10 til 12 noon at village halls on: 27 July (Barley) and on 10 and 17 August (Downham)

**Or Come and Listen**

Join us for a tea party to hear some of the songs we have been learning. Venue: Downham Village Hall on Sat 17 August at 3.00 p.m.



**For information:**

**Tel: 07777 686648**

**Email: [janet.swan@naturalvoice.net](mailto:janet.swan@naturalvoice.net)**

## DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL



### DOWNHAM HALL OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th July 2 pm – 4 pm

- Bands and Ukulele Orchestra
- Morris and Clog Dancers
  - Teas
  - Ice Creams
  - WI Cake Stall
  - Prosecco Stall
- Classic Car Display
- The famous 'Human Fruit Machine'
  - Tombola
- Children's Activities

Entry just £5.00 and children under 12 admitted free

in aid of Downham Village Hall and The Prince's Trust

Betty had been a gymnast and like her great granddaughter was a gifted dancer. She danced to entertain the troops stationed in Low Moor Mill during the war.

Eric Mercer was from Swinton near Manchester. He had joined the TA before the outbreak of war and was amongst the first to be called up. He served in the Royal Artillery on searchlights and Bofar guns and after the war ended, he was posted to the buffer zone between Italy and Yugoslavia and eventually demobbed in 1946. Turning down the offer of a commission into the Intelligence Corps, he moved back to Manchester to work in his father's clothing manufacturing business. Betty was very excited to be moving to a city with shops, cinemas and the like but after only a week was homesick and would yearn to return to Downham for the next 14 years.

She started training to be a nurse but less than a year into her training her mother in law was diagnosed with a brain tumour and Betty went to nurse her whilst bringing up a young family. She did return to nursing as an auxiliary at Clitheroe hospital – a job she thoroughly enjoyed.

To Betty's delight, in the summer of 1962, the couple with their three children moved to Clitheroe. Sadly, Eric died in 1978 aged 57 but she always reflected that they had more happiness in their thirty odd years together than some people get in a lifetime.

In 1980, the chance of a cottage in Downham came up and she was delighted to return to her roots, living not a 100 yards from where she was born. Her elder sister lived in the village and her younger sister in Chatburn. On summer days, she would sit in the garden on a bench that was once her father's and was incredulous to the fact that anybody would ever want to go away on holiday! She was blissfully content and would remain so for the rest of her days.

She was never one for fuss or show. Material things held no interest to her. She measured her wealth in happiness. She was eternally grateful for her friends and blessed with visits from Lord and Lady Clitheroe, Ralph, Tom McLean, Lynda Whitsey, Norman and Sheila, Edie, Diane and Molly to name but a few. Betty had the most incredible neighbours who always kept an eye out for her and little tasks were done for her without a to-do. Whilst she still had her health, she would walk up to the early communion at church.

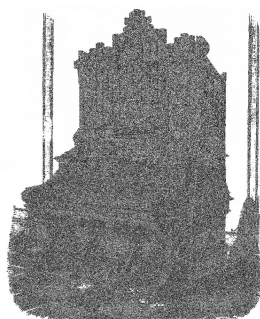
She delighted seeing her grand and great grandchildren and sometimes managed to sleep all five grandchildren and herself in her one bedroomed cottage. In her later years, with a failing heart, she had heart attacks almost for fun and was nearly on first name terms with the ambulance crews! For most of 2019, she was in and out of hospital and during her last period in March and April, she lost her mobility. Despite all our efforts she could no longer manage at home. She moved into Beech Grove in Clitheroe and was there for just over eight weeks.

I believe that if she had the chance to change anything in her life, apart from her 14 years in Salford, she would not have changed a jot and we are all thankful for her life and the world is a poorer place without her.



## St LEONARD'S ORGAN RECITAL

The annual (well, you never know!) Organ Recital and Garden Party on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> June was a glorious affair, with over 50 guests from Lancashire and Cheshire (plus a couple of slightly confused Americans who just happened to be in the vicinity) enjoying a varied musical offering from David Tattersall of Lancaster, who selected pieces from Walton, Bach and many other European and American composers to entertain us. Having previously being warned he wouldn't be allowed to leave the Church without doing so, he also gave us a very moving rendition of our own "Rimington", by Francis Duckworth.



There followed appropriate refreshments in the Kitchen Garden of the Hall, with canapes prepared by the new head chef of the Assheton Arms and which were very well received – thank you to the Seafood Pub Company for sponsoring much of their cost. Members of the PCC and hand-chosen bell ringers assisted in the many roles that were required to be filled in the run up to the day and the event itself, but the main (non musical) star was of course the weather which made everyone's journey (despite the unannounced closure of the A59) worth the effort. A shade under £ 600 was raised. IW

## GARDEN CLUB

Wellies and boots were the order of the day as about 18 intrepid walkers set off on their annual Chairman's walk. It had rained most of the day but it fined up about two hours before they set off. This month we went for something very different. We normally go through fields and forests but this time we went along the brook after looking at large flat tubs of what should be in the brook. Alas we couldn't find much which apparently tells us that the brook is not as healthy as it should be, however we had a great deal of fun trying to prove otherwise. Our many thanks must go to Ellie Brooks of the Ribble Rivers' Trust who led the expedition. All the members apparently had a wonderful time. It was followed by a superb supper at The Greendale and of course the raffle.



The next meeting is the outing to Lower Dutton Farm at Ribchester **Meet at the bridge to depart at 7-00pm.** Anyone requiring maps can get them from Carole beforehand or at the bridge CA

## OPEN GARDENS 13th & 14th July

If anyone has items for the tombola stall, any donations would be gratefully received at Downham Hall. Any offers of volunteering to help on either, or both, afternoons of Open Gardens is also very welcome. Please contact Olivia on 441210

## COFFEE CLUB

Despite a wet and windy morning, a brave band of regulars made it to Coffee Club. The room was warm and together with hot drinks and a variety of cakes, it made for a very jolly meeting. Thank you as usual to our regular bakers and to Frances for her lovely table decorations. On that note, can anyone, including myself, who's received flowers recently, please return the pots before the next meeting, thank you.



Our next meeting is on Thursday July 11th, hope to see you there.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Betty, who died on Saturday, June 22nd. She was Downham's oldest resident, a founder Coffee Club member and a lovely lady. She will be greatly missed by everyone and on your behalf, I would like to send our sincere sympathy and love to all the family. BL



## DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting at the Village Hall will be at **7.30 pm on Monday 1st July** when Stephen Caunce will talk about 'Why the Pennines play an important role in the industrial revolution.' Stephen has worked at Leeds University, the Open University and Uclan and has been involved in Community History Projects. JP

The June meeting of Downham WI was as 'off the wall' as expected, with the exuberant speaker Heather Wilson (see picture below) and her presentation entitled 'Mad Hatter and Maharajas – Maker of mad and beautiful things'. Her flamboyant style and wacky fascinators made us all laugh. However, most of her talk was about the wonderful personalised paintings that she creates, drawing from very specific information (such as hobbies, favourite food etc) that her clients give her when requesting one of these one-off pieces to celebrate a special birthday, anniversary or event. We were so enthralled by these that we barely had time to touch on the beautiful embroidered garments that she has collected on her travels to India. Perhaps we shall plan a visit to Hebden Bridge and see more of Heather and her work.



Our competition this month was 'favourite head gear' and Susan undoubtedly won, with the biggest, brightest sombrero ever! KB

