

PARISH CALENDAR 2023						
MARCH			EVENT	SIDESMEN/ WOMEN	ALTAR FLOWERS	CHURCH CLEANERS
5th	Lent II	11.15 am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs B Lewis	NO	Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
12th	Lent III	11.15 am	Matins Chris Hegg	Mrs A Herron	FLOWERS	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
15th	Wednesday	6.00 pm	Village Hall Mangt Committee	Village Hall	Committee Meeting	
19th	Lent IV Mothering Sunday	11.15 am	Family Service Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs A Wallace	-	Mr & Mrs I Walton
22nd	Wednesday	10.30 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
26th	Lent V	11.15 am	Matins Chris Hegg	Mr T McLean	IN	Mrs J Shepherd Mrs A Wallace
		7.00 pm	Lasagne Supper	Community Church	In aid of the Children's Society	
APRIL						
2nd	Lent VI	11.15 am	Holy Communion Revd Anne Hardacre	Mrs P McFall	LENT	Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell
THE PARISH CHURCH OF St LEONARD IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SPONSOR THE PARISH NEWSLETTER						
OUR PRIEST IN CHARGE Vacancy						
OUR CHURCH WARDENS The Hon Ralph Assheton 07817 634392 = Mrs Philippa McFall 441484 = Mr Ian Walton 07979 598 057						
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"				CHURCH RESOURCES Regular worship is streamed by Canon Andy Froud on Youtube via St. Mary Magdalene website www.stmarysclitheroe.co.uk		

## PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

## DOWNHAM & TWISTON



# newsletter

2023 Issue 3 March

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

### From The Revd Anne Hardacre

Dear Friends

Do you remember anything from you old school reports? One of my first said 'Anne has a strong sense of justice'. Maybe that is why I get so cross about cars parking on the pavement so that prams and wheelchairs cannot get past and about people not clearing up after their dogs, especially near schools! From a later date I remember passing a notice board outside a church, as I travelled to school on the bus and one day, around this time of the year, reading 'All we have is Lent'.

If we think about this, it puts new light on the season of Lent and how we react to it. The reality is that all we have IS lent to us, even our life. Everything we have is given to us by God. Nothing is really our own. That means we are answerable to God for how we treat our lives, the World in which we live and all we have. If I borrow a book from a friend, I am careful with it and try to return it in the same state as when I borrowed it So we should be careful with what God gives us and offer it back to him. In practice, this means consulting him about how we use our lives , money and possessions and looking to Jesus as our example. Throughout his life and supremely on the cross, Jesus used what he had for the sake of others, whilst not being afraid to enjoy a party or take time to rest.

Lent gives us a particular opportunity to think about others and do something to help them and some of our church congregation are taking on particular projects. We may not have money to give, but we may have time or particular skills to help someone. Something as simple as a smile can lift someone's spirits. If we are a car driver, we can park considerately and if we are a dog owner, we can make sure we clear up the mess. The little things do matter.

One day we shall all have to give an account of how we have used what we have been given - or rather 'lent'. Noone knows when that day will be and for some people it comes suddenly and unexpectedly, as we know only too well following the terrible earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Disasters like this certainly give us opportunities to share what we have with those who have lost everything.

Yours, in Christ, Anne

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness,  
and grew closer to you in the desert:  
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer  
that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### DOWNHAM St. LEONARD FACTS & FIGURES

	JANUARY	2023
Communicants		
Collections	£	
Services	173	
Visitors	20	
Donations	222	
Special	1,034	
<b>Total</b>	1,449	

### HARRY BROWN 1937-2023

HARRY was born in Brierfield into a large family and lived in the same area until 1966, when he moved over the hill to Downham. He left school with a love of farming, which would stay with him all his working life. His first love though, was his wife Kath, who he married at St Luke's Church Brierfield in 1961 and they would spend 60 happy years together.

Ian came along first and 5 years later his brother Jason completed the family, but by then they'd moved over to Nelson.

Things changed in 1966, when Harry was offered a job as a herdsman on The Downham Estate, a big step in those days, but one that would change their lives forever. The family took to life on the estate, like the proverbial Downham Ducks to water. The boys went to school, made lifelong friends and all became a big part of village life. Harry's talents didn't stop at farming, he was an accomplished dry stone waller and also a gifted gardener, as his next door neighbours can testify! Another "hidden" talent, a little bird told me about, was Harry's performance in a "Barbershop Quartet" at a Village Hall concert, along with Geoff Braithwaite and two other local gentlemen, in what was a memorable evening.

In later life Harry and Kath became proud Grandparents, then Great Grandparents and they also enjoyed many exciting holidays abroad, including a luxury cruise to Australia..

40, The Chestnuts was Harry and Kath's fifth home in Downham and they loved their life here, but Harry's other big love was Burnley FC. He was a lifelong supporter of the "Clarets" and over the years persuaded many of his Downham friends to join him at Turf Moor.

According to Ian, he and Jason had a wonderful childhood, with the best Mum and Dad in the world. A fitting tribute to a very special couple, who made the big decision to take their young family to other side o'Pendle, to give them all a better future.

Harry will be laid to rest at Downham on Wednesday 1st March.

The cortege will leave from the bottom of the lane at 2.10 pm pausing at the bridge, before continuing to church for the service at 2.30 pm. All are welcome.

## Clitheroe Civic Society

THE CIVIC SOCIETY meets monthly on the first Monday of the month, except bank holidays, at 7.30 pm at the at The St Michael and St John Centre on Lowergate Clitheroe. Speakers cover a wide range of local history topics. Membership is open to all and visitors are welcome.

6th March	Nick Burton	On the trail of two Toms
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Tom Leonard—founder of the Co-operative Holidays Association and Tom Stephenson—creator of the Pennine Way.

A talk exploring the life and legacy of two East Lancashire countryside campaigners and how they shaped the 20th Century outdoor movement

3rd April	Dr Eleanor Fisher	The Diaries of Jane Garnett 1858—1900
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### NEW BDWLAND FARMER GRDUP



A NEW Bowland Farmer Group has been developed by the Forest of Bowland AONB and is now open for farmers to sign up.

The group aims to act as a contact group for farmers within the Forest of Bowland AONB during the agricultural transition, to offer support and connectivity and to promote new friendships and contacts across the area.

The group will run 'on-farm' events with key speakers attending, circulate quarterly e-newsletters and send regular email updates with potential funding opportunities, local training events and information on relevant farming news.

There is no charge for becoming a member and you can sign up by emailing [nichola.gill@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:nichola.gill@lancashire.gov.uk) or by phoning 01200 448 000.

New Discover Bowland guide, visit: <https://www.forestofbowland.com/>



### Village Hall Committee = Coronation Celebration 7th May

Suggested arrangements for the Coronation weekend fall in line with the national timetable. People are encouraged to hold their village events/street parties as part of the Big Lunch on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. So, following that advice, there will be no clash with the Fell Runners on the Saturday.

The Sunday (timings tbc) also includes a big live concert streaming from Windsor Castle which we could play on a big screen in the Hall. If we installed the screen for the whole weekend, the fell runners could be playing the coronation live for friends and family which would be nice as they've been very good friends of the Village Hall in the past about extra donations etc.

The Pendle Grill is now booked for Sunday and confirmed. If people are buying burgers and bringing own drinks/Jacob's join the event should run free of entry charge with just a bucket for donations and possibly a raffle

We will have to 'ticket' the event in some way and, as we're looking at maximum attendance of 100. The committee remains open to all suggestions at the moment. The next meeting of the Committee takes place on Wednesday 15th March at 6.00 pm at the Village Hall.



Ribble Valley Fund Raising Committee

## Lasagne Supper by Candlelight

At The Kings Centre Millthorne Avenue  
off Henthorne Road Clitheroe BB7 2LE  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
At 7.00 pm

soft drinks available, vegetarian option available  
and a selection of salads and delicious puddings  
Why not come along and enjoy the evening  
Support the Society by making a donation at the Supper

**Further information and tickets from**  
Your Children's Society Committee Member  
Phone: Tom 445471 Philippa 441484 Brian 441925

### IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

FRIENDS and neighbours who have been unwell or who are in hospital  
Lord Clitheroe, Diana Braithwaite, Ian Chadwick and Shaun Roney  
Ian, Jason and the family of Harry Brown

### 'Edgerow Arry

THE BREATH-TAKING VIEW, on a clear day, from the Roman road 'ridge' is a good place to put our lives into historical perspective. How many untold journeys have there been along here from York to Ribchester and beyond?

The fresh February wind inspired young 'Arrison with a question: *"When the Roman Legionaries left in A.D. 410 did the locals see this as the end of the Roman Empire and the start of the 'Dark Ages'?"*

Mark Twain once said, *'history doesn't repeat itself but it often rhymes'*. This came to mind when pondering how once mighty empires crumble. Was 410 a "Brexit" moment? The Romano British communities were thereafter freed from paying taxes to Rome whilst Aleric and other barbarians were vandalising the Eternal City. As the province of Britannia had been a net contributor to Rome then perhaps there was an immediate financial advantage? Business as usual. The thought of a toga-clad Jacob Rees-Mogg, relaxing on a couch, in the Last Days of Rome, came to mind.

The view across to Pendle from the ridge was spectacular. Then, I recalled the last-ever Vulcan bomber flight that happened to fly, at a few hundred feet, above Downham as it vectored from the Rolls Royce factory at Barrowford over to the old English Electric site at Salmesbury. A swan song for the last All-British supersonic bomber now parked up, metaphorically, next to Concorde as a testament to important parts of British engineering technology and engineering being lost or devolving.

There was a time when the view from the top of Pendle towards the smokestacks of Burnley must have looked like a vision of Tolkein's Mordor. A huge dose of monetarism in the 1980s reduced the air pollution of Northern towns but left a legacy of de-industrialisation. The gap was somewhat filled with the "service sector" and "funny-money wealth" of rising house prices and cheap credit and a consumer boom for products now made in China. Why get oil and dirt under our fingernails when we can have the "knowledge economy" instead?

As I walked from the ridge I wondered about the latest tech innovation to serve humanity - Artificial Intelligence in the form of Chat-GPT: a 'free' service that can paint art, create music and video, draft manuscripts and all manner of innovation, creativity, analysis and critical evaluation in seconds - and 'it' is learning exponentially.

Is the "knowledge economy" - our last remaining "industry" threatened? Have we already entered a new dark age, unawares? Or is this the new dawn of a golden age of opportunity? I wonder what someone pondering on the ridge in 2000 years' time will think?

## THE PARISH CHURCH

### The Assheton Sermons

WHILST DOWNHAM residents are probably aware of our Assheton Sermon, they may not know of its twin in Whalley. Sir Ralph died in 1680 and left instructions in his Will for a visiting minister to preach in Downham on either Job Chapter 19 Verses 25 – 27, or Colossian's Chapter 3 Verses 3-4. This to take place on the Sunday nearest to his death. A similar instruction for Whalley stipulated Samuel Chapter 23 Verse 5, or Habakkuk Chapter 3 Verses 17 and 18, this time on 5<sup>th</sup> February, which was the anniversary of his second marriage to Elizabeth Harrington.

This year Father Tim Lipscombe gave a wonderful sermon based on the Job text, while at Whalley Rev Adam Thomas used the Habakkuk one. Hopefully Sir Ralph would be happy to learn that his wishes are still being followed 343 years after his death. RCA

## Lent Study Groups

We shall use the Blackburn Diocese Lent studies entitled "That you may know the truth". Catherine has ordered and will collect materials for all four churches. They will be available from Ash Wednesday.

There will be two study groups, both of which are open to all four churches.

**Tuesday mornings** at 11 am at Christ Church Chatburn  
March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

**Thursday evenings** at 7pm at 1, Gills Croft, Clitheroe BB7 1LJ  
March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th

## Pub

AFTER ALMOST three years the pub has reopened its doors! Lord and Lady Clitheroe performed the formal opening ceremony by the traditional pulling of a cord to unveil the repainted sign above the door.

The Bowland Inns team marked the occasion by inviting all the village residents to join them with canapes on the evening before they opened for business in earnest. Everyone agreed that the minor tweaks to decoration had only enhanced the atmosphere.

Initial trading seems (to casual visual inspection) to have been good but not manic. It did however only take 24 hours before a misguided visitor had managed to back their BMW over the low wall near the Stock's Tree. Thank goodness they chose to try cross country driving at a point where the drop was only 12 inches! Seven days later there was a second bump near the telephone box (though this may not have been pub related.) Let us hope that traffic incidents in general calm down as the reopening has otherwise been almost universally welcomed.

## Rainfall

IT MAY INTEREST some to learn that the rainfall for 2022 was 44.9 inches. This is lower than the 151 year average for Downham, which is 45.32". There have been three drier years in the last decade, but the average for that period has been 48.65".

The reason why the rainfall is recorded as inches and 100ths of an inch is obscure. It has been recorded in the same way since the 1865, so presumably it was a Meteorological convention back then. Surprisingly a recently bought (plastic) rainfall measurer is marked with the same graduations, though with a mm scale as well!. RCA

## COFFEE CLUB



MEETING from now on the fourth or fifth Wednesday every month, from 10.30 am until 12.30. The Coffee Club made a very welcome return on 22nd February at the Village Hall.

Barbara has written:

Thank you to everyone who made our first post covid coffee club get together a success. I was concerned (not Brian) that it would take time to "get going" a gain especially as we've had to discontinue our book stall and bring and buy, but there were 15 of us and it was as if we hadn't had a break of three years, everyone was so relaxed.

It was a lovely surprise when Di turned up, looking really well and very trim. A few months of coffee club cake will put paid to that I'm sure!

Thank you to those who generously provided cake, it was really well appreciated, especially as my cooker went on the blink. In order to organise future catering, if I could call on you to contribute, if needed, that would be very kind and prevent a feast or famine. As I said in last month's newsletter, any cake is welcome, it doesn't need to be home made.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday March 22nd at 10.30, hope to see as many as possible  
Barbara and Brian x



People who were members of former Downham Village Hall groups such as the Garden Club, History Group and WI to mention a few have been engaged in informal conversations about getting some of them going again.

One suggestion which has been floated is a Downham Club dealing on a rotational basis with various interests such as gardening, other outdoor pursuits, local history, art and craft etc

Taken individually there is a barrow-load of organising, whereas this admin could be spread instead of falling repeatedly on very small groups (sometimes the same six people at each meeting).

The suggestion does not preclude some special interest groups developing and meeting more frequently over time. However, a grouping may meet varied needs (not least meeting together occasionally) more economically, not only in cash terms but also in time.

Just a thought.....