

PARISH CALENDAR 2019

MAY			Event	Sidemen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd	Thursday	7.30 pm	Garden Club	Village Hall	<i>Phil Dunnett—Herbs</i>	
5th	Easter I	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs E. Parker	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Mr & Mrs B. Lewis
6th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Christ Church Chatburn		
8th	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs B. Lewis		
9th	Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Club	Village Hall		
12th	Easter II	11.00 am	Matins Rev'd Anne Hardacre	Mr K Herron	Mrs K Walmsley	Mrs J. Whitsey Ms Z Ward
13th	Monday	7.00 pm	History Group		<i>Barns of the Downham Estate RCA</i>	
16th	Thursday	7.30 pm	WI	Village Hall	<i>Members' Night</i>	
17th 18th 19th	Friday to Sunday	From 5pm Fri	Folk Weekend	Village Hall	<i>In aid of CMV Action and Downham Village Hall</i>	
19th	Easter III	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs P McFall		Hon Mrs R Assheton Mrs C Naylor
20th	Monday	7.30 pm	Archdeacon's Visitation	St John's Accrington	<i>PCC members are welcome to support the Wardens</i>	
20th	Monday	7.30 pm	Joyful Noise	Chatburn Methodist Church		
22nd	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mr T McLean.		
24th	Friday	7.00 pm	WI Quiz	Village Hall		
26th	Easter IV	11.00 am	Matins	Mr I Walton		Mrs P McFall Mrs M. Roskell

June

2nd	Easter V	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev'd Andy Froud	Mrs A Wallace	Lord & Lady Clitheroe	Lady Clitheroe Mrs A Wallace
-----	----------	----------	------------------------------------	---------------	--------------------------	---------------------------------

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

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 5 May

www.downhamvillage.org.uk



From The Rev'd Catherine Hale-Heighway

Dear Friends

Ascension

HARDLY a month goes by in the Christian Calendar when there isn't a festival to celebrate. At the end of May we have Ascension Day – a day that when I was at school, warranted a day's holiday, after we had been to church of course, but today it seems somehow to be the poor relation in terms of festivals. Falling between Eastertide and Pentecost it's become a little overlooked.

The idea of Jesus being taken up into a cloud may seem a little unusual, something we may find difficult to understand and its certainly a difficult concept to portray. But when we remember that in those days people believed that the earth was flat it does begin to make a bit more sense. The concept of an ascension was not one that posed difficulties for early Christians. It was part of the tradition that God's most important prophets were lifted up from the Earth rather than perish in the earth with death and burial. Elijah for example, was taken up to heaven

If you ever visit the Chapel of the Ascension at the shrine of Walsingham the ceiling has a sculpted cloud with two feet sticking out which can seem a little odd to say the least, but it does reveal to us some fundamental truths about the nature of the Ascension. We can't see what lies on the other side of the cloud, but we do know that Jesus has gone back to the Father – he's literally taken back to God. Ascension Day sees the fulfilment and completion of the work of Jesus here on earth and with all that His life achieved for our salvation. Jesus is King and will send his spirit to be with us until He comes again.

In the meantime, there is much for us to do here on earth. Christian Aid week inspires us to be here to be called to believe in life before death, to do what we can whilst we here on earth. This year's appeal is focussing on childbirth in Sierra Leone to help expectant mothers in one of the most dangerous places in the world to give birth. Money raised will support the training of midwives, the purchase of essential equipment and improving medical facilities. Help us to make a difference and show that we believe in life before death and in life after birth.

With every blessing

Catherine

Almighty God, King of Kings,
 you kingdom stretches from shore to shore.
 Bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth the Duke of Lancaster with you peace and
 endow your servant Ralph with your righteousness and justice.
 Bless this county of Lancashire, that the mountains may bring forth peace,
 the children of the poor be defended
 and your blessing rest on us all, like rain on a mown field.
 And may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us
 till angels descend with songs again
 and earth repeat the loud "Amen"

Ps 72

ST LEONARD FACTS AND FIGURES		
	March	2019
COMMUNICANTS	43	126
COLLECTIONS		
SERVICES	375	1,065
VISITORS	23	65
DONATIONS	410	1,064
HOUSE BOXES	3	3
SPECIAL	598	623
TOTALS	1,409	2,820

IN OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS:

Helen Addy, Kath Brown, Betty Mercer, Olive Awbery and others who are
 unwell.

John, Paul and Marie and the family of Patricia Mercer

DOWNHAM & TWISTON HISTORY GROUP

THE next meeting of the History Group will take place on the evening of
 Monday, 13th May when members will be treated to a talk on the Barns of
 the Downham Estate by Ralph Assheton. Ralph will also give us a
 conducted tour of the best example at Downham Hall returning to the
 Village Hall for the usual tea and biscuits. Meet at 7.30 pm in the back
 yard at Downham Hall. Parking is permitted in the area near the garages.

SPECTATOR

YOU may have seen a strange sight manoeuvring around the village recently....it's Jon
 on his new power chair but don't get too close as carol nearly lost a foot already as he
 went up a bit too close and fast to show her his latest gadget!

The idea is a lightweight chair that will go in the car and which will encourage him to
 leave his beloved armchair and get out into the world with people again. He's already
 been to the ice cream shop 3times, had a trip to boundary mill and even gone up to the
 Thursday coffee morning. So far so good.

We have had a variety of "gadgets" this past few years with various degrees of suc-
 cess...or not! The first scooter was a small one that was ok on the flat but useless on
 hills and I was dead embarrassed passing the Assheton Arms at one mile an hour when
 some workmen shouted, "do you want a push love?"

The next scooter was the Road King, a big monster that used to get us up to see mum
 at the top of the village. Lady Clitheroe once caught me going around the corner on
 three wheels! At first, Jon was a bit cocky with it and as I yelled at him to slow down or
 he would end up in the hedges, he fell over into the hedges! A very kind man who was
 passing helped Jon up and dragged up the scooter from the gravelly path. Bang goes
 the second hand value I thought!

We then bought a mini scooter from someone in Blackpool whose dad had bought it to
 take on cruises, but he only went on one. I'm not surprised as you risked life and limb
 when putting it up or down. Luckily Jon put his foot through the plastic footwell fairly
 early on so the only casualty, apart from Jerry's arm which he nearly lost when putting it
 down, was the scooter!

We then tried a power chair which ended up in our bedroom as a chair to put my wash-
 ing on, a bit like the treadmill we have in there, but don't get me started on that!
 So, this latest gadget seems to be the best thing we have bought ...so far so good ..and
 the best thing about this one is that Jon is paying for the ice creams. As he never left the
 house, he never spent his money so this is coming as a shock! I whip his wallet right out
 of his hands and shout "yay, the ice creams are on Jon..."

DOWNHAM WI



QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 24th May 2019
 Downham Village Hall
 7.00pm

£8 (includes Pie and Peas)
Ring 07757 117147
for tickets

Ribble Valley Music Festival

May Programme

Haley Sisters
COUNTRY, FOLK & BLUES

7.30 pm Saturday 18th May
 Chatburn Methodist Church

info@ribblevalleymusic.co.uk

TREES

THE last of the Larch trees have been felled (though more may follow later in the year if the disease has spread). The final felling in Stoney Bank Wood on Pendle Road left the ancient roadside Beech trees suddenly bereft of shelter from westerly gales. To avoid the disaster of the huge trees being blown across the road, those nearest to it have been pollarded.

Although there is sadly little prospect of them flourishing, they are much safer and will in due time provide feeding grounds for Woodpeckers, Tree Creepers, Nuthatches and the like. Once cavities develop they will become homes for bats, insects and hopefully even Owls.

RCA

A BIT OF LANCASHIRE HERITAGE



LANCASHIRE has a new High Sherriff today. The Honourable Ralph Christopher Assheton TD DL was installed at a ceremony in County Hall, Preston on Friday, 5th April 2019. A mix of family, friends, neighbours and colleagues assembled in the baroque council chamber for the start. At 3.00 pm precisely a platform party, led by the under sheriff, filed in to occupy the thirteen seats on the platform, dais, stage or, more accurately a bit of a ledge really. It was quite narrow and something of a squeeze for the to-ing and fro-ing that had to go on. The Hon Ralph, wearing court dress looking for all the world like a quizzical Duke of Wellington in his bicorne hat, was eighth in the line up and next to the presiding Lord Lieutenant of the County, Lord Shuttleworth KG resplendent in uniform his Garter sash shining blue across his chest, with sword. Last in the procession were two police cadets, one for the out going sheriff and one to represent the group of six who will serve the new sheriff during his year.

The Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Mrs Anne Cheetham welcomed every one and, surprisingly, said people were welcome to take photographs and pointed out the fire exits and toilets, whilst denying having ever been an air steward.. She and all the ladies wore hats looking as though they might be longing to get to Aintree. The vice Chancellor of the County Palatine and the Resident Judge for Lancashire were present. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and deputy Prime Minister the Rt Hon David Liddington MP tendered his apologies, he had to stay near Westminster where there was a strong likelihood of votes to be taken on some temporarily forgotten, issue. The Norry and Ulster King of Arms was present, he had recently been working on the new High Sheriff's Coat of Arms.. Sadly missed because of heavy colds were Lord and Lady Clitheroe..

The Under Sheriff expertly led the proceedings and explained the ceremonial and history. First the outgoing Sheriff was discharged by writ of assistance and thanked for his service by the Lord Lieutenant. The Hon Ralph made his declaration solemnly agreeing to carry out duties to the best of his ability. After the Lord Lieutenant presented a Patent with Seal the incoming Sheriff made an acceptance speech including pride of service to his Monarch and to the community. He is particularly keen in working with the judiciary, the police and rescue services.

Events were witnessed by two Queen's Commissioners whose role it was to see that the Sheriff made his declaration in proper form. All documents involved were signed with due deference and fountain pens, and the signatures witnessed by the Presiding Magistrate, on this memorable occasion Col. (Retd.) Philip Naylor OBE JP. Sitting at the end of the platform row the Sheriff's Chaplain, the Revd Andy Froud, watched and ended the proceedings with a beautifully crafted Blessing created from the words of our hymn "Rimington"angels descending with songs again....The ceremonial was over in under the hour and guests enjoyed an afternoon tea. Lancashire has a new High Sheriff today.

PATRICIA MERCER (nee HEALEY) 1954—2019

Patricia Mercer (nee Healey) was born in Oldham on 28th October 1954. Trish, as she was always known, was one of 7 children, daughter of Joe and Mary Healey. Joe was a policeman who transferred to Whalley when Trish was 2 yrs old. Until her marriage Trish lived in Whalley, attending St Augustine's school.

Trish met John Mercer in 1974 when she went on a camping trip with her twin Marie and John's brother Paul. Before marriage Trish worked as a dental receptionist/nurse at Whalley while John studied for the Merchant Navy in Edinburgh. They were married in Downham Church in the hot summer of 1976 and moved to Chatburn, where they lived until 2009 when they moved to Lincolnshire.

In the first two years of her marriage Trish travelled the world with John visiting Brazil, America, Africa, Middle East and most Mediterranean countries. On return, Trish worked as a hotel receptionist and at Steeles Solicitors as a receptionist, retiring through ill health at the end of 1996.

Trish was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1981, and although the onset of the disease was slow, she became wheelchair bound in the late nineties. She also suffered from Trigeminal Neuralgia, a rare and extremely painful illness.

She will be remembered with love by all who knew her for her patience, her dignity in coping with MS, her cheerfulness, sense of fun, consideration for and care of others, and at times a wicked sense of humour.



AT THE AGM of the Village Hall on Tuesday, 2nd April the Annual report of the Committee for 2018 was received. (copy enclosed). The financial statement of the Village Hall for 2018 was introduced by the Treasurer, Mr B Lewis and unanimously adopted with thanks to the Hon Treasurer and Independent Examiner of the Accounts.

A general thankyou was extended to all who had given time voluntarily to help with the maintenance of the fabric, or assistance with events.

The election of the Committee took place and two new members, Mr RA Assheton and Mr D Frizzell, were welcomed. Committee membership is now as follows:

Shaun Roney, Chairman,

Clare Ashworth, Hon Secretary.

Brian Lewis, Hon Treasurer.

Jason Addy,
Ralph A Assheton,
Frances Eldridge,
Linda Ennis
Sue Hinder
Brian Lewis,
Philip Naylor,

Olivia Assheton,
Kim Croydon (Stage 2 Downham),
Peter Eldridge,
Dan Frizzell
Barbara Lewis,
Tom McLean,
Dianne Poole,

Neil Wallace

At the Committee meeting which followed the AGM main discussion item were the continuing maintenance programme and the events programme.

Fabric New windows are in the process of manufacture. improving the curtains in the Green Room and stage new carpet tiles new chairs refurbishment of the downstairs toilet, Data Privacy, insurance

Events in the planning include Open Gardens, CMV Folk Weekend, Village Bonfire.

FESTIVAL BOWLAND

MAY is the busiest time in the Festival Bowland programme so there are plenty of events to choose from this month. Pop up to Stocks Reservoir on the 4th May for the East Lancs Ornithologists Spring Bird Watch open day or, for a wild-life encounter on a smaller scale, Butterfly Conservation will be leading a guided walk in the Trough of Bowland looking for Green hairstreak butterflies and Emperor moths – also on Sunday 4th. The RSPB will be out on the moors above Slaidburn looking for upland birds on Saturday 11th and there'll be a Trumper taster day (for lovers of the countryside who aren't as mobile as they once were) in Gisburn Forest on Tuesday 28th. The Pendle Hill project will be running free, half-term family nature events in Whalley and Nelson Thursday 30th.

Slightly further afield, both Bleasdale Tower (near Chipping) and Clearbeck House (near Bentham) will be opening their gardens later on in the month. And, if you're visiting Bentham, why not call in to Maiden Bridge Art Centre for their summer exhibition?

Information and booking details for all Festival Bowland events are available at www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events or in the latest Discover Bowland guide available from Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre

FOLK WEEKEND

IN AID of CMV Action from Friday to Sunday 17th, 18th and 19th May the Festival has a variety of ticket options and a massive cast of artists..

See us on Facebook and Downham Village website says organiser Linda TICKCET SALES are accelerating we are looking forward to a fantastic weekend..

LOCAL ELECTIONS

TEN English councils are piloting a proof of identity scheme on 2nd May this year. Two of the councils, East Staffordshire and Ribble Valley, have pulled out of the trial.

East Staffordshire was concerned it would not have enough time to tell the electorate about the forms of ID needed, while Ribble Valley believed it was too much work on top of a boundary review.

So, turn up to Downham Village Hall to vote between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm on 2nd May.

The Garden Club has moved to The Assheton Arms for its April, 7.30 pm meeting.

**DOWNHAM HISTORY GROUP
Downham Banner**

ON Friday 15th March the Banner Steering Group hosted a party at Clitheroe Castle when the Warden handed over the banner to the head of collections of the Museum Service of Lancashire the work of the banner group (at last) being (almost) complete.

Much of the story is being placed in the Downham Village website and to everyone who supported the venture the Steering Group sends its thanks, not least to the Lottery Fund. There is also a nice little souvenir booklet that tells a shortened version of the story please ask a steering group member if you would like a copy. A small number of information banners, will be seen around the area soon and they point the way to Clitheroe Castle Museum where the item may be seen in its conserved state.



COFFEE CLUB

WE welcomed some new faces on Thursday. Jayne Feibel who recently moved into Fir Trees with husband Ian, brought her two lovely Grand daughters. They enjoyed home made cakes and ended up helping our industrious Vicar ,Andy, to make palms for Palm Sunday. It was a good turnout although, In the words of Carole, I skived off half way through! Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way your help is very much appreciated. We meet again on May 9th, look forward to seeing you all . BL



GARDEN CLUB

WHAT a wonderful evening we had when Andy Rowett came from Lancashire Wildlife Trust to speak to the garden club about Wildlife Gardening. Andy told us a little about the work of the Trust and then went on to show us the animals we can help by careful planting of certain flowers and shrubs. He also showed us the many hedgehog homes and nesting boxes etc. that are available to help them. He got quite a few laughs when he asked us not to make our gardens too tidy as the animals like a bit of a mess.

A very interesting evening was rounded off with supper and a raffle.

Please note that the next meeting (HERBS) will be at the Assheton Arms at 7 30pm on Thursday, 2nd May, CA



OUR April meeting was highly entertaining, interesting and all about soap – ‘Tiger Muffin’ Soap, a talk and demonstration given by Matthew Lepp aka ‘Muffin’. This turned out to be a fascinating talk touching on chemistry, history, linguistics, and horticulture whilst simultaneously demonstrating how to make different kinds of soap.– starting with a bar of bluebell soap, to a lavender bath bomb and finally jasmine shower shell. Matthew’s products are literally all handmade proving that he must have an almost superhuman arm to do all that whisking. We all thoroughly enjoyed browsing his enormous collection of lovely handmade bath products. Barbara and Judith – the birthday girls- treated us to a sumptuous tea.

Next month is Members’ Night when we will be voting on the WI resolution and also craft our very own resolution to submit to the WI ready for 2020. This takes place on Thursday 16th May at 7.30 in the Village Hall and as ever, new members and visitors are always welcome.

AW