PARISH CALENDAR March 2025

Date and Event			Officiating	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flow-ers	Church Cleaners
6th April	Lent V	11.15am Holy Communion	Revd. Anne Hardacre	Mr B. Lewis	TBA	Hon . Mrs. R. Assheton & Mrs C. Naylor
13th April	Palm Sunday	11.15am Matins	Hon. R. C. Assheton	Miss A Cross	TBA	Mrs R. Harling
20th April	Easter Day	11.15am Holy Commun-ion	Revd. Stephen Large	Mrs B Lewis	TBA	Mr P. & Mrs M. Mercer
27th April	Easter II	11.15am Matins	Revd. Chris Hegg	Mr A. Herron	TBA	Mrs A. Chadwick & Mrs S. Travis
May 2025						
4th May	Easter III	11.15am Holy Commun-ion	Revd. Anne Hardacre	Mrs A. Wallace	TBA	Mr I. & Mrs L. Walton
11th May	Easter IV	11.15am Matins	Revd. Chris Hegg	Mrs K. Herron	TBA	Mrs A. Wallace

YOUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton (Parish Safeguarding Officer) 07817 634392

Mrs Philippa McFall - 441484 Mr Ian Walton—07979 598 057

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr Neil Wallace 441196

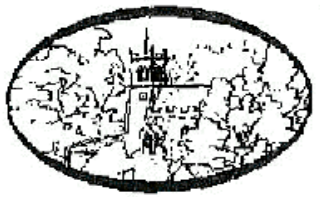
Hon. Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112

Village Hall Bookings email info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk

PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

Newsletter



New email: Downham@mail.com
Website: www.downhamvillage.org.uk

April 2025

O Almighty God,
who through thy Son Jesus Christ didst triumph over the grave,
and by his glorious Resurrection hast brought life and immortality to light:
We beseech thee to bless this rural flock in the fair foothills of Pendle,
where the joyous tidings of Easter resound amidst thy wakening creation.
As the earth in springtime stirreth with new life—lambs upon the moorland,
blossoms upon the hawthorn, and waters singing in the brooks—
so grant that our hearts may rise with Christ, renewed in hope and love.
Thou who hast set thy steadfast hill to watch o'er Lancashire's green dales,
look mercifully upon this parish, its folk, and all their labours this glad season.
Let the light of thy countenance shine upon our fields and homes,
that we, beholding the beauty of thy works in this springtide fair,
may evermore praise thee for the redemption wrought at Easter.
Strengthen us, O Lord, to walk in the way of thy risen Son,
and bring us at the last to the eternal spring of thy heavenly kingdom;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee
and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

O God, who by the rising of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ hast broken the chains of death,
and in this Eastertide dost gladden the earth with the promise of eternal life:
Vouchsafe, we pray thee, to bless thy servants dwelling beneath Pendle's ancient hill,
where the tender shoots of spring proclaim thy mercy and the lark's song thy praise.
Grant us grace to rejoice in this season of resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some prominent Saint's Days for April:

April 4 – St Isidore of Seville (c. 560–636)
A scholar, bishop of Seville, and one of the most learned men of his time,
Isidore was instrumental in preserving classical knowledge during the early medieval period and is often credited with writing *Etymologiae*, an early encyclopaedia.
Known as the "last scholar of the ancient world."
Unofficially considered a patron saint of the internet and computer users.

April 21 – St Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109)
Italian-born Benedictine monk, theologian, and Archbishop of Canterbury.
Famous for his *ontological argument* for the existence of God and his writings on atonement theology (*Cur Deus Homo*).
A key figure in the development of scholastic theology.

April 23 – St George (d. c. 303)
A Roman soldier and Christian martyr.
Tradition holds that he was martyred for refusing to renounce his Christian faith during the Diocletianic Persecution. The popular legend of him slaying a dragon symbolises the triumph of good over evil.
Patron saint of England, as well as soldiers and scouts.

April 25 – St Mark the Evangelist (1st century)
Traditionally identified as the author of the *Gospel of Mark*.
Companion of St Paul and St Peter; his gospel is considered the earliest written account of Jesus' life.
Founder of the Church in Alexandria, where he is honoured as its first bishop.

REMEMBER: <u>BRITISH SUMMER TIME</u>
(means your oven, video and clock radio that have been an hour out since last October are the right time again!)

Forest Bathing Evening
Friday 25/04/2025 (6:30pm to 8:30pm)
Join Stacey McKenna-Seed, from Rewilding Outdoor Therapy, for a magical evening of forest bathing.
The Japanese practise of Shinrin-yoku is the simple method of being calm and quiet amongst trees, observing nature whilst engaging the senses.
And, as it may be a little chilly in April, we'll be able to warm up around the fire pit, thanks to the Forestry England team.
This event is for participants of 18 years old and over.

RSPB Moorland Safari
Friday 25/04/2025 (9:30am to 2:00pm)
Join the RSPB for a walk along one of the Forest of Bowland's most stunning valleys. Take this opportunity to learn more about the international importance of the area and its rare upland habitats, and discover some of the incredible wildlife that makes their home here in the spring and summer.
We will be looking out for rare upland birds including hen harrier, ring ouzel, and merlin. We also hope to spot other moorland specialities such as stonechat, meadow pipit, curlew, and have the chance of seeing green hairstreak butterflies.
The distance of the walk is approximately 4 kilometres along a rough track. Please come equipped for changeable upland conditions: warm and waterproof clothing and footwear, food and water, and maybe even sun block. Please bring binoculars (and a telescope would be useful if you have one).
Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. (Minimum child age 10 years.)
Uneven ground, with some moderate slopes. Approximately 2.5 miles.
£10 (RSPB members £8) + booking fee.
Booking essential. Please visit: RSPB Events
For more information, please email **bowlandsafari@rspb.org.uk**

How St George Became England's Patron Saint

St George, a Roman soldier martyred around AD 303 for refusing to renounce Christianity, became England's patron saint not through birthright, but through legend and symbolism. Though he never set foot in England, his story—especially the iconic tale of slaying a dragon—captured the medieval imagination. Crusaders returning from the Holy Land brought tales of his bravery, and by the 14th century, King Edward III adopted George as the patron of the Order of the Garter, England's highest order of chivalry.

His feast day, **April 23rd**, gained national prominence in the late Middle Ages, symbolising courage, honour, and Christian valour. Coincidentally, **William Shakespeare**, England's most celebrated playwright, was born (and later died) on this very day in 1564. It's fitting: Shakespeare has **King Henry V** rouse his troops with the famous cry, *"God for Harry, England and Saint George!"* — immortalising the saint in English cultural identity.

Though St George's Day is not a public holiday in England, the red cross on the national flag ensures that this ancient martyr—half-legend, half-symbol—remains an enduring icon of English pride and spirit.

The heavens above Downham in April ...

Prominent stars:

- **Arcturus** (Boötes) – Reddish-orange, very bright, rises in the east.
- **Spica** (Virgo) – Blue-white star, found by following the arc of the Big Dipper's handle.
- **Regulus** (Leo) – Bright star at the "heart" of the lion.
- **Vega** (Lyra) – Begins to rise in the northeast late in the evening.

Planets

- **Jupiter** – Very bright and visible in the west after sunset.
- **Saturn** – Begins to rise before dawn in the east-southeast.
- **Mars** – Low in the early morning sky toward the east; visible just before sunrise.
- **Venus** – A brilliant "morning star" visible before dawn (eastern horizon).
- **Mercury** – May be visible just after sunset low in the west early in the month.

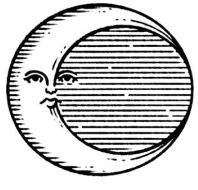
Lyrid Meteor Shower

- **Peak**: Night of **April 21–22**
- **Rate**: Around 10–20 meteors per hour
- **Conditions**: A **waning gibbous Moon** might make dim meteors harder to see after mid-night, but the brightest Lyrids can still be visible.

MOON phases in April

First Quarter: Saturday, April 5th, at 03:14 BST.
Full Moon: *"Pink Moon"* Sunday, April 13th,
Third Quarter: Monday, April 21st, at 02:35 BST.
New Moon: Sunday, April 27th, at 20:31 BST.

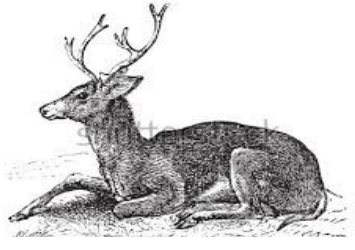
The **Pink Moon** in April doesn't refer to the Moon's colour but is a traditional name derived from pink wildflowers called phlox that bloom in early Spring.



Bin - Collection - *which Thursday?...*

Red bin every week and...

3rd April	**Green and paper**
10th April	**Blue**
17th April	**Green and paper**
24th April	**Blue**



Planning News

3/2025/8356 Application for full consent
Development Description: Erection of 53 metre turf and modular concrete unit to convert Pendle hill into a mountain (extension to 610 metres or 2001 imperial feet). Ancillary development of surrounding "mountain zone" (MZ) for A1 Retail, A2 Visitor centre, A3 Cafe (restricted hours) and A5 Hot food takeaway.
Applicant: Neu-Pendleberg Aprilscherz GmbH
Grid Reference: 80465 41412
Officer: Ms Avril Bernee (she/her)
All representations must be <u>in writing</u> by 12 noon Tuesday 1/4/25.

"Victory" Treacle pudding: (*for Easter or those not fully observing Lent*)

100 g (3.5 oz) self-raising flour
75 g (2.5 oz) mashed potato (unsalted and cooled)
2 oz grated carrot
2 oz suet
2 oz golden syrup
2 oz sugar (avoid the saccharine promoted during the War !)
1 egg (is *'un oeuf'* as they say in Occupied France)
1–2 tbsp milk (to adjust consistency)
Pinch of salt

For the syrup layer:
2–3 tbsp golden syrup or treacle (with a tot of Royal Navy Rum)

Prepare the Pudding Basin:
Grease a 2-pint pudding basin. Spoon the golden syrup or treacle into the bottom of the basin.
Mix the Dry Ingredients:
In a bowl, sift the self-raising flour with a pinch of salt. Stir in the sugar.
Combine the Wet Ingredients:
Add the mashed potato, grated carrot, suet, and egg to the dry mixture. Mix well to combine. Add milk gradually until the batter is soft but not runny.
Assemble the Pudding:
Spoon the mixture over the golden syrup in the pudding basin, levelling the top.
Cover the Basin:
Cover the basin with a piece of baking paper and foil, pleated in the middle to allow the pudding to rise. Secure it with string.
Steam the Pudding:
Place the basin in a large saucepan. Add boiling water to reach half-way up the sides of the basin. Cover the saucepan with a lid and steam the pudding for about 1.5 to 2 hours, topping up the water as needed.
Serve:
Carefully turn the pudding out onto a plate. Serve warm with custard or a drizzle of additional golden syrup.

Why Use Mashed Potato and Carrot?
Mashed Potato: Adds moisture and a soft texture, reducing the need for fat and flour.

NEWS FOR April 2025

Dog messes

A gentle reminder to dog owners to always clean up after their four legged friends. This is especially the case in the village where children play. In the broader countryside it is as important not to leave poo filled plastic bags lying around as they look horrid and take years to disappear. Better to flick the unbagged debris in to the verge than to leave it bagged in the wild.

Archdeacon's Visitation

There has been a flurry of activity within the PCC as we prepared for the Archdeacon's Visitation. This is a periodic inspection of all our procedures and paperwork and has revealed that our governance arrangements were not fully compliant with current best practice. We have reiterated or introduced a number of policies and tightened up on some routines, so that we are now an even safer and more transparent organisation.

Safeguarding

There have been no reported safeguarding issues in the parish in the last month. The PCC have now largely completed their required training and put in place the policies and protocols required by the Diocese.

Grave stones

A recent inspection of the Churchyard grave stones revealed that three were unsafe. In line with the Diocese recommendations, the crosses on the three in question have been lowered to the ground, marked with warning tape and had a note attached to each asking the families concerned to get in touch with the Warden. If any readers know of the whereabouts of living relatives please let the family know that there is an issue, or let the Warden know how to contact them. The graves are those for Procter (died 1900), Shepherd (died 1917) and Gamble (died 1944).

Warning signs

New signs have been erected on the path on the north side of Church to warn of the possible danger of slipping or tripping.

Policies

The following policies and documents have recently been adopted and/or updated:
Health and Safety, Fire risk assessment, Safeguarding, Reserves and Investments, GDPR, Code of Conduct and the list of Church activities. Should anyone wish to look at them, please contact the Secretary. RCA

Garden Club

Members of the Garden Club had a lovely day out last month at Gresgarth Hall Gardens near Lancaster. We were blessed with glorious sunshine and the gardens were beautiful, particularly the hellebores. The pond was a hit with younger visitors with its abundance of frogs! It was wonderful to spend time with parish friends and neighbours to enjoy the first signs of Spring in such a delightful setting.
Our next event will be a Summer walk in June - details to follow. HA

Coffee Club

Hi to all our present Coffee Club members and potential newcomers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month, the next one, being the 23rd of April, from 10.30 am. BBL

May 1st—Morris Dancing

To celebrate May Day in traditional form, Malkin Morris dancers will be performing a May Pole dance on Hare Green (by the Ice Cream Shop) at around 5.45am. Early risers are very welcome to come and observe the fun. RCA

'Edgerow 'Arry

As the dreary grip of winter finally releases its chokehold, our local hedgerows are staging a comeback and are exploding into life like nature's own fireworks display. It's as if someone flicked a switch, and suddenly, our countryside has gone from monochrome to a gentle riot of colour and buzzing activity. You can almost hear the plants muttering, "Right, that's enough of that nonsense—time to get cracking."
Then there's the weather. The mercury's creeping up, and the great British public are peeling off their winter layers faster than a pit crew changes tyres. Out come the shorts, the flip-flops, and the tragically optimistic barbecues—because nothing says Easter like charring sausages in a drizzle.
Easter is both a poignant and joyous time in our Christian calendar and there is also the nod to our pagan roots - eggs, bunnies, chocolate galore. So, as hedgerows bloom and the sun teases us with the promise of warmth, embrace the chaos: Eat chocolate, enjoy our traditions, welcome the risen sun, and lighter evenings.

Keep an eye out for...

Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa) – White blossom appears **before leaves**; a key early nectar source.
Lesser Celandine (Ficaria verna) – Glossy, heart-shaped leaves and bright yellow star-like flowers.
Dog Violet (Viola riviniana) – Small purple flowers, thrives in shady hedge bases.
Primrose (Primula vulgaris) – Pale yellow flowers, often found near old hedgebanks.
Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) – Leaves begin to open in early April; white flowers follow in May ("May blossom").
Red Dead-nettle (Lamium purpureum) – Small purplish flowers, loved by bees.

Downham Magazine—April 1889

THE Downham Hand-Bell Ringers, who have made such excellent use of the long winter evenings (since Christmas) and have made great progress in the art of ringing, will discontinue their practice during the summer months. They will hold their last meeting this season, at which the accounts of the society and other business will be arranged, on Wednesday, 10th April. The first meeting of the session 1889-1890 will be on Old Michaelmas Day.

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RUMOURS are afloat that after Easter we shall be able to while away pleasantly the long summer evenings in watching in a croft not far distant from the village the playful gambols, not of the lambs, but of the fair Downham damsels. We have in fact the very best authority for announcing that early in May will be held the inaugural meeting of the Downham Ladies' Lawn Tennis Club. We congratulate them on their energy and wish the Club every possible success.

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