

PARISH CALENDAR November2025

Date and Event			Officiating	Sidesmen/ women	Altar Flowers	Church Cleaners
2nd Nov	All Saints' Day	11.15am Matins & Baptism	Rev.d Anne Hardacre	Mr A. Her- ron	Hon. Mrs. R. Assheton & Mrs C. Naylor	Hon. Mrs. R. Assheton & Mrs C. Naylor
Wednesday 5th November, from 5pm - Downham Village Hall Bonfire Night & Fireworks						
9th Nov	Remembrance Day	10.45am Remembrance Sunday	Rev.d Chris Hegg	Mr B. Lew- is	Mrs A. Wallace	Mrs R. Harling
16th	2nd before Advent	11.15am Holy Communion	Rev.d Anne Hardacre	Mrs A. Wallace		Mr P. & Mrs M. Mercer
23rd Nov	1st before Ad- vent	11.15am Matins	Rev.d Chris Hegg	Mrs K. Herron	Mrs M. Mercer	Mrs A. Chad- wick & Mrs S. Travis
30th Nov	Advent I	Holy Communion	TBC	Mrs A. Hoyle		Mr I. & Mrs L. Walton

**Licensing Service for Revd Paul Sherwood at St. Mary's Church, Clitheroe
(including Holy Communion and refreshments afterwards)**

Assistant Curate: Reverend Chris Hegg MA - Tel: 07539 503226 -revchrishegg@outlook.com

YOUR CHURCH WARDENS

The Hon Ralph Assheton (Parish Safeguarding Officer) 07817 634392

Mrs Anya Wallace - 07757117147

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Mr Neil Wallace 07969225609

Hon. Secretary Mrs Clare Ashworth—445112

Village Hall Bookings email info@downhamvillagehall.org.uk

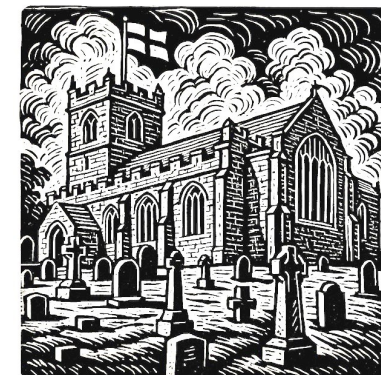
PARISH OF ST. LEONARD

DOWNHAM & TWISTON

Newsletter

New email: Downham@mail.com

Website: www.downhamvillage.org.uk



November 2025

A Prayer of Remembrance and Peace

O Lord our God,
whose mercy is everlasting,
we give thee humble thanks for the men of this Parish and of this land
who laid down their lives in the cause of justice and peace.
Grant, we beseech thee, to their souls eternal rest,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
Comfort, O Lord, the hearts of those who mourn:
parents, children, wives, and all whose lives were parted by war.
Remember in thy mercy the silent grief of generations,
and the burdens borne in quiet courage by the wounded
in body, mind, or spirit.
Establish, we pray thee, for peace in our world,
and turn the hearts of all people to thy will.
Raise up among us peacemakers and those who seek
the good of their neighbour,
that the sacrifice of the fallen be not in vain.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,
world without end.
Amen.

*Almighty and everlasting God,
who hast set thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to reign in glory over all the earth;
Grant that the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for truth and freedom may not be forgotten,
but that through thy grace all nations may be brought into the peace of his kingdom;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Some prominent Saint's Days for November:

1st November – All Saints' Day

A principal feast celebrating all the saints, known and unknown, who have lived faithfully.

2nd November – All Souls' Day

A day of prayer and remembrance for all the faithful departed.

17th November – Saint Hilda of Whitby

An English abbess and influential leader of the early Church in Northumbria, central to the Synod of Whitby (AD 664). Venerated in both traditions as a symbol of wisdom and learning.

22th November – Saint Cecilia

Early Christian martyr and patron saint of music. Often associated with church choirs and sacred music.

30th November – Saint Andrew the Apostle

A major feast day honouring St Andrew, the brother of Peter and patron saint of Scotland.

Notable Dates in History for November:

5th November – Guy Fawkes Night / Bonfire Night (1605)

Marks the failed 'Gunpowder Plot', in which Guy Fawkes and co-conspirators attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Was this England's "9-11" moment?

10th November 1718 – Death of William Penn

While Penn is best known as the founder of Pennsylvania, his family came from Preston. His legacy connects British colonial efforts with Quaker ideals of tolerance and governance.

11th November – Armistice Day / Remembrance Day (1918)

Marks the end of fighting in the Great War.

11th November - 1965

Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence. This auspicious day was partly chosen because of the bond of loyalty and sacrifice of the self-governing colony in the First and Second World Wars, together with post-war Imperial conflicts and Emergencies.

23rd November 1654 – Burning of the Quaker Meeting House in Lancaster

A key moment in the persecution of Lancashire Quakers, part of wider tensions under Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate. The Port of Lancaster later became a centre for early Quaker migration to America.

28th November 1838 – Chartist Petition to Parliament

Many local textile towns were strongholds of the Chartist movement, demanding universal male suffrage, secret ballots, and fairer political representation. This marked the British ability for reform rather than bloody revolution seen in less fortunate 19th Century states

In November, the Forest of Bowland whispers with winds through golden beech and silent pine. Mist clings to valley folds, and curlews call across bronze moorland. Bracing walks reveal quiet beauty—crisp air, low sun, and peace among ancient tracks. Here, autumn lingers, and solitude welcomes all who wander thoughtfully.



**Forest of
Bowland
National
Landscape**

FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORSTON

The River Ribble Trust have been carrying out some experimental flood alleviation work on Worston Brook. Although not in the Parish it can be viewed on the left hand side of the foot-path between Downham and Worston, once you have passed Worsaw End Farm.

Works have included the installation of some "leaky dams" and bunds. The former are planks fixed a few inches above the normal water level. In heavy rain, when the stream rises, the boards act as a partial dam and water overflows on to the surrounding land. Once there the bunds hold some of it back, so that it has a chance to soak into the soil, rather than rush onwards towards Worston and more damagingly to Clitheroe.

RCA

'Edgerow 'Arry

In the quiet days of November, Lancashire's hedgerows take on a subtler beauty: no longer loud with blossom or birdsong, yet rich with quiet life and seasonal memory. The last crimson haws cling to thorny branches, while spindle berries glow like coral lanterns against billowing grey skies. Beneath their tangled shelter, wrens and robins flit, finding food and refuge as the days draw in. The leaves of hazel and dog rose, now bronzed and crisping, rustle in the low breeze, whispering of the year's end.

These living boundaries, shaped by centuries of hands, cradle the lanes and fields with a sense of place, history, and quiet resilience. If you're lucky, you might glimpse a foraging badger at dusk, or see fungi pushing through the leaf mould in the shadow of old roots. In every twisted twig, November's hedgerow holds a story: half-wild, half-tamed, and wholly ours to enjoy.

We shall remember them

*They marched from mills and quiet lanes,
To fields where silence ever reigns.
From Pendle's heights they took their stand,
The Pals who left this northern land.
Through mud and fire their courage shone,
Those who did not return are not alone.
Their names in marble, pale and still,
Are whispered yet on moor and hill.
At home, the hearths were softly glowing,
While steadfast hearts kept candles showing.
And those who loved, yet loved in vain,
Bore silent years of tender pain.
Their memory blooms where poppies lie;
Our Lancashire sons, beneath God's sky.*



The Heavens above Downham in November...



Prominent Stars and Constellations

Look south and southeast in early evening: the constellation Orion (the Hunter) rises, with its three star “belt”.

Also look for the bright star Capella in the northern sky and the yellow orange star Aldebaran in Taurus, which will help orient you.

Planets

Venus: Visible in the morning sky, low in the east before sunrise. It will still be bright, but gradually getting closer to the Sun.

Jupiter: Also in the pre dawn hours, higher than Venus, making it relatively easier to spot.

Saturn: Best seen after sunset in early evening, in the southeast portion of the sky.

Mercury: Becomes visible very low in the pre sunrise horizon toward the end of November (from about the 28th but will be challenging).

Uranus: Hits favourable viewing at its opposition on 21st November, meaning it’s at its brightest and best placed for binoculars or a telescope.

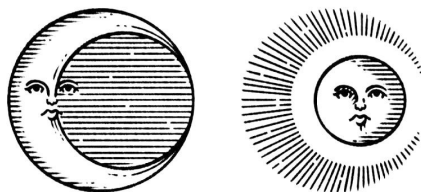
Phases of the Moon for November:

Full Moon: **5th November**

Third Quarter (Last Quarter): **12th November**

New Moon: **20th November**

First Quarter: **28th November**



November's Full Moon is also known as the '**Frost Moon**' (reflecting the deepening cold) and the '**Mourning Moon**' (in some Wiccan and Pagan traditions) marking a time of reflection and release before winter's stillness.

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

Red bin every week and...

6th	November	Blue
13th	November	Green and paper
20th	November	Blue
27th	November	Green and paper

CAR CRIME

Beware! Thieves made off in the middle of the night with an expensive BMW, belonging to a pub guest, from opposite the telephone box. As there was no broken glass, it is assumed that they “cloned” the key.

Those with expensive cars need to follow the manufacturer’s advice as to how to properly secure your keys!

Such things as key pouches and metal boxes to thwart radio waves may be the answer.

NEWS FOR November 2025

ST LEONARD’S DAY

As has been our custom for a number of years, we mark St Leonard’s Day (which is really on November 6th) by having a tidy up of the Church and Church yard. In particular take a few moments to tidy the graves of our War dead. We start at 10am and finish at 12, but feel free to drop in (if only for a few minutes) at any time.

It will help if you bring along your own gloves etc.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Please remember that our service of Remembrance begins at 10.50 (not our customary 11.15, so that we can join the Nation in the 11.00 two minutes of silence).

PAUL’S LICENCING

The Rev Paul Sherwood will be licensed to become our Vicar on Wednesday 26th November at 7.30pm at St Mary’s Clitheroe. Everyone is very welcome to attend the service which will be led by The Bishop of Blackburn.

APPLE DAY

Our first Apple Day (or second if you count the BBC Born and Bred version in 2004) was a great success. Whilst the sun did not shine, it was dry throughout with a steady stream of visitors coming to have their apples juiced or identified and to enjoy some apple based drinks and suitably flavoured sausages.

NOTICE BOARD REPAIR

A generous and skilled member of the congregation has beautifully repaired our Church notice boards. Next time you are looking at the notices, take a moment to admire the craftsmanship and care for a small part of our fabric.

TREE SURGERY

Once again the chainsaws are out to make safe dead, dying and dangerous trees around the Estate. The Ash trees seem to succumb to Ash Dieback disease quicker than we can fell them. So sad. Bigly sad (as a certain world leader might say).

Those driving to Rimington will also be able to notice the hedge laying that has been going on. It always looks drastic, but given twelve months will look fantastic!

“BORN AND BRED”

For those of you with time on your hands in the afternoons, the terrestrial channel “Great TV” is apparently showing reruns of the series. For those newer to the community, the BBC series was filmed on location in and around Downham between 2001 and 2004. See which of your neighbours you can spot as extras.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR

Readers will probably have noticed the erratic arrival of their copy of the Newsletter. This is not the fault of the Editor or contributors. The current distributor needs sacking! A volunteer to take over the task would be wonderful. The job includes collection the printed copies from Ingham and Yorke, folding them, putting them in bundles for the delivery volunteers and dropping them off with said volunteers. Of course a fresh pair of eyes may come up with a better solution altogether! Contact the Editor or Church Wardens (details on newsletter cover). RCA

STANDARD LAYING UP

On a miserably wet autumn day the Church and village were given a huge splash of pomp and colour by the arrival a contingent from The Life Guards. They were here to “lay up” the recently replaced Standard of the Regiment. Lieutenant General Sir Edward Smyth-Osbourne KCVO, CBE, as The Colonel of the Regiment, handed the Standard over to Rev Chris Hegg for safe keeping in St Leonard’s. State Trumpeters blared fantastic fanfares, gleaming soldiers stomped down the aisle, so that for a moment we felt as if we were in Westminster Abbey!

Downham (rather than some Cathedral) was chosen by the Regiment due to the links between it and the extended Assheton family. A short precis of that link was given by Ralph Assheton and is printed in full below:

“Father, you will be pleased to hear that I am following your advice to be brief when speaking! The Asshetons have lived a relatively un militaristic life for the past 300 years, with most generations serving relatively quietly in the Lancashire Militia. In earlier times they were more combative. For example: Thomas fought at the battle of Nevil’s Cross in 1346; Ralph fought with Richard Duke of Gloucester at Hutton Field in 1482; Richard Assheton took his archers to Flodden in 1513, (they are immortalised in a contemporary stained glass window in Middleton Parish Church on the NE side of present day Manchester. Purportedly the oldest war memorial in the country).

In the Civil War one of the Ralphs (there were several alive at the time) was the General in command of Parliamentary forces in Lancashire. His cousin John died from his wounds at the battle of Edgehill

There was then a lull in regular military service and latterly (with the way that births and wars fell), none of our branch of the family served in The Great War and only one distant cousin fought in the Second as a DFC earning fighter pilot.

Our family connection to The Life Guards therefore starts relatively recently, immediately after WW2, when my Father’s first cousin David Yorke did his National Service with them between 1946 and 47,(including a stint in Palestine). Presumably through his recommendation (though perhaps also because his ration time uniform fitted), my Father joined in late 1947 to serve his National Service. And rose to the dizzying height of Technical Adjutant to the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry (or whatever its name was at the time). His brother Nick then followed for his National Service and having served mainly as a Trooper, was a 2Lt at the Queen’s Coronation.

Thirty years later my first cousin Tom followed his Father into the Regiment, serving between 1982 and 1989. He enjoyed the fun of Brigade Squad, Sandhurst, Detmold, Combermere, Belize, Cyprus and finally reaching Captain as the Adjutant to the Eton College Corps. Next followed Charlie Yorke (David’s son), who served on a Short Service Limited Commission in 1984. This pre University stint was spent mainly in Windsor, but included a UN tour in Cyprus. We end with me, who joined on a Short Service Volunteer Commission in 1990 at the ripe old age of 28. My full three weeks on the TA Sandhurst course were deemed adequate for me to deploy from Sennelager in Germany to the First Gulf War in early 1991 and to end my two years Regular service with a short tour in Belfast. I left feeling inspired enough to stick with the Territorial Army for almost 20 years, rising to command my Yeomanry Regiment.

All the family members I have mentioned thoroughly enjoyed their time with the Regiment and are proud of the time they served. It is a huge honour to have the Regimental Standard laid up in this small parish church, a mark perhaps of the true family spirit of The Life Guards. We shall care for the Standard for decades to come.”

The sermon preached by Revd Major Tom Sanders (Chaplain to the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment) is also printed below, as an eloquent explanation of the significance of the Standard to the Regiment:

“There are two categories of thing in the world. There are things which are ‘sacred, sanctified, consecrated’ and there are things which are ‘ordinary, everyday, normal’. For all of human history we have, as living creatures of a created order, drawn a line around things, spaces and indeed humans who we have felt necessary to set apart, to set apart to embody a higher purpose and calling representative of the whole. Most of us here will understand this easily, because although we may not think about it very often, we are surrounded by these distinctions all the time. Every village, every town and city in this land has a church, often ancient in foundation like this one, and it is a consecrated space (it is space which is set apart for a higher purpose, to read, make, learn and inwardly digest the word of God through the scriptures, and to receive the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion as ordained in the Bible.) To cross the threshold into a church like this is to take a step in the direction of heaven, it is a space which is different in nature and purpose and it takes us to a different place and way of feeling. On the doorway into St. Cathedral it is written words from Genesis 28.17 ‘this is none other than the house of God, the gate of heaven’. That’s about as far as you can get before paying the astronomical £25 pound entrance fee. But there we are.

The standard or colour of any regiment is a sacred thing, it takes us across the threshold to another place. Standards are consecrated items, dedicated to a regiment by the monarch, but they are consecrated by the Chaplain General. They are made special by the monarch, but they are made holy by the church. And there is a reason for this. Because the standard of any regiment is there to absorb into its fabric the battles fought and won, the blood, tears and sweat of those who have fought under it and for it. It is a visual record of lives dedicated to service, from the highest ranking officer, to the newest trooper. To lay-up a standard is to lay to rest a chapter of regimental history. It is in effect a burial service, when we entrust to God through the church what has been done in defence and support of this land, under our God and King. The standard is layed-up and left to fade through the passage of time, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. That is that we are doing today. We are not here to preserve, but to entrust to commend to God in sacred memory that which has been achieved. And to that end, the Standard is here. It is not placed in a museum to be looked at or preserved, but it is hung in a church, a sacred thing hung to rest in a sacred and holy place. And as we do it is right that we give thanks for all that has been and we pray for all that will be.

Our scripture from Joshua reminds us that virtue of our remembering. Anamnesis. It’s a word which means an act of remembering which makes real and present the past. It’s normally used around the words of Jesus to take and eat in remembrance of him at the Lord’s supper, but so too does anamnesis speak to us today. We lay up that which has been, but so too do we, through our presence and our ongoing journey, make present the past. As we talk of temporal standards, consecrated though they be, it is important to remember the fundamental standard, the fundamental banner under which we all should seek to rally – the standard and the call of Christ our Lord. We are told in the beatitudes, what it looks like to live according to God’s will, to fight the good fight, to make straight the crooked path, to work for justice and peace and to walk humbly with God, loving our neighbour as ourselves.

It would be remis of me as an Anglican Padre, not to say that to abandon God’s values at the heart of our national life and our army is to abandon the purpose of nation itself. For what binds us together, what gives our sense of decency, love, hope, courage, kindness is this faith; you don’t have to share belief in it to be shaped by its values. In this land there is a sacred bond, an alliance between throne and altar which brings together the sacred and the ordinary, the temporal and the eternal. The fabric of this standard is part of that woven national history and as over time, stitch by stitch it will come undone, may we know that which is symbolises never truly fades away, but is held aloft in the many mansions into which one day we may all go, where all the battles of this life have been proclaimed a victory through Him for first loved us. Amen.”