

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Weekly Newsletter
for St. Leonard's Church
Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA



It's a first for St. Leonard's

We are delighted to announce that St Leonard's are the winners of the Group Entry category in this year's Penwortham in Bloom Scarecrow Festival!

At the awards ceremony on Wednesday evening, Cllr Will Adams, the Mayor of Penwortham, presented Revd Janet with the trophy — a well-deserved recognition of all the imagination, teamwork, and hard work that went into our wonderful Noah's Ark display.

Congratulations to Rev Janet and the whole team who dreamed, built,

stitched, painted, and positioned our winning entry. It's been a true community effort — and a reason for the entire church family to feel proud.

And it may not be the end of the voyage just yet! If all goes to plan (and if we can find a way to navigate safely down Pope Lane!), Father Tom at All Saints, New Longton, has expressed in-



terest in welcoming our Ark for the next stage of her cruise.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way — from gathering materials to crafting animals, serving refreshments, or cheering us on. Well done, crew — you've proved St Leonard's to be shipshape and given us all something to smile about!

More good news!

Congratulations to John and Susan Atkinson, who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 18th October.

They were married here at St Leonard's fifty years ago by Revd Tom Taylor, and write that they feel deeply blessed to have shared so many years of memories — through both joyful and difficult times — together.

As they mark this wonderful milestone with family, we give thanks with them for their enduring love and faithfulness, and pray for many more happy years ahead.





A spectacular finale for the Preston Arts Festival

On Sunday evening, St Leonard's was filled to capacity as 250 people gathered to enjoy a fantastic concert of film music performed by the Preston Symphony Orchestra.

The concert marked the finale of the Preston Arts Festival 2025 and was the orchestra's third performance at St Leonard's in just twelve months – a sign of the strong and growing partnership between the church and the city's flourishing arts community.

The 50-piece orchestra, founded as recently as January 2024, impressed the audience with a vibrant programme of music from the movies, filling the church with energy, colour, and cinematic drama.

It was a wonderful evening of talent and community spirit, and a fitting conclusion to the Arts Festival celebrations.

We look forward to welcoming the Preston Symphony Orchestra back again before long!



St. Leonard's

PATRONAL LUNCH

to be held in the main hall on
Sunday 2 November at 12:30pm.

The cost is £15 per person.

ALL WELCOME

For more details email
revsimonking@gmail.com or
to book your place please sign
up on the sheet at the back of
church



Messy Church – Harvest and Eco Fun!

On Saturday 4th October, despite the blustery arrival of Storm Amy, a determined and enthusiastic group gathered in the church hall for our latest Messy Church session.

The theme was Harvest and Eco, and together 13 children and 17 adults took part in a range of creative activities celebrating God's wonderful creation and the gifts of the harvest.

Among the crafts was the making of our very own Harvest Loaf, which will be proudly displayed at this

weekend's Harvest Festival. There were also eco-themed crafts helping us think about caring for the world God has given us.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who worked so hard to plan, set up, and lead the activities, and to all those families who braved the weather to join in the fun.

It was a joyful morning filled with creativity, community, and gratitude – a reminder that even stormy days can be full of light and laughter!

CHURCH DIARY

Friday 10 October

8am Morning prayer in church for growth and renewal.

Saturday 11 October

9 - 3pm PCC Away Day at Whalley Abbey. St Leonard's, past, present and future

Sunday 12 October - Harvest Celebration

8.30am Said Eucharist
10am All Age Service of Celebrations for Harvest and Baptism Welcome.

Wednesday 15 October

10am Holy Communion

Friday 17 October

8am Morning prayer in church for growth and renewal.

Sunday 19 October - Trinity 18

8.30am Said Eucharist
10am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 22 October

10am Holy Communion

Friday 24 October

8am Morning prayer in church for growth and renewal.

SOFA – Sharing Our Faith Around at Middleforth!

A lively group of around 14 children at Middleforth Primary School are now meeting regularly each week for an afternoon faith club – and it's fast becoming a highlight of the school week!

The club was previously known as The 3C's, but after some creative discussion (and a lot of laughter), the children voted for a new name: SOFA, which stands for Share Our Faith Around. It's a perfect choice – warm, welcoming, and full of meaning.

The children have been busy preparing for the school's Harvest Worship in church on Wednesday 16th October at 9:15am, where they will help lead the service.

Headteacher Mrs Pilkington and Rev Simon, who lead the sessions together, describe the group as "enthusiastic, bright, and an absolute blessing." Their energy, questions, and ideas bring real joy and faith-

**Middleforth
Primary School**

SOFA

filled curiosity to every meeting.

Well done to everyone involved in SOFA – for your creativity, your growing faith, and for reminding us all that sharing God's love can start with a simple invitation to "come and sit together."

Are you interested in helping St Leonards to improve our environmental awareness?

We currently are looking to set up a small team to explore how we can extend our eco work at St Leonards (and beyond) in celebration of God's creation.

No experience is necessary, but if you are interested in gardening, growing, sustainability or simply nature in general, then it's likely you'll have ideas to share and we want to hear them.

Did you also know that Saint Leonard's is one of only a small number of churches in our Diocese to have received a bronze award for our environmental efforts? Wouldn't it be great to achieve silver?

If you're interested in getting involved then please contact Ian Dawson on iandawson@live.co.uk.



ST LEONARD'S FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 2 Nov at 12 noon

"Patronal Lunch" (Hall)

Sunday 16 Nov at 2pm

Concert by St. Leonard's Gilbert & Sullivan Group (Church)

Saturday 22 Nov at 1pm

"Christmas Fair" — A Purrfect Friend Group

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 Nov

"Christmas Tree Festival" (Church & Halls)

Saturday 6 Dec 10am

"Arts and Crafts Fair" Ian Hamilton (Halls)

APOLOGIES — PLEASE NOTE

Dec 7th — Preston Opera presents "Opera Classics from the Small and Silver Screen" has sadly been cancelled.

Sidespersons, Readers and Coffee Rota

Sunday 12 September - Harvest Festival, All Age Service.

Please note, the readings for this service have changed from the rota they are now Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and John 6:25-35 with only the second reading used for the 10am service.

8.30am Irene Farrimond and Elizabeth Bunyan. *Reader:* Andrea Waine

10.00am Brian Bamber. *Reader:* Ann Butterworth. *Prayers:* Set prayers. *Coffee:* Barbara and Christine.

Sunday 19 October - Trinity 18

8.30am Franklin Bello and Angela Milner. *Reader:* Philip Range.

10.00am Andrea Cartwright and Joyce Helm. *Reader:* Philip Walsh. *Prayers:* Rev Janet *Coffee:* Laraine and Ann.

Sunday 26 October - Trinity 19

8.30am Peter and Angela Milner. *Reader:* Susan Range.

10.00am Linda and Alistair Woollard. *Reader:* Melvyn Gardner. *Prayers:* Rev Simon *Coffee:* Brian and Melvyn.

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

Vicar: Rev. Simon King (01772 956698) revsimonking@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: Rev. Janet Taylor (01772 615421) curatejanet@gmail.com
Churchwardens: Philip Walsh (01772 745409) Vacant
PCC Secretary: Ian Dawson (0771 1053722)
PCC Treasurer: Susan Walsh (01772 745409)
Pastoral Assistant: Jenny Stanton (01772 748701)
Organist: David Cookson (07721 677831)
Leo's (Sunday School) Please see Jenny Stanton or Jeanette Smith

Safeguarding Officer: **Vacant**
Church Hall Enquiries: Philip Walsh (01772 745409)
Social Media: Ruth Gardner (07984 858437)
Eco Champion: Ian Dawson (0771 1053722)
Acting Choir Leader: Diane Maslaczky (07747 004628)
Church Flowers: Margaret Dixon (01772 748763)
Electoral Roll Officer: Angela Milner - am.milner@btinternet.com
Gift Aid Officer: Peter Milner - ajk.milner@btinternet.com
St. Leonard's News Rev. Simon King (01772 956698) revsimonking@gmail.com

If you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share in this newsletter, please email them to revsimonking@gmail.com