

But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11



## St. Leonard's **NEWS**

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

**Sunday 21 December 2025**

**Advent IV / Christmas**

**The Weekly Newsletter  
for St. Leonard's Church**

Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA



# Good news of great joy...

As we come to the end of the year, it feels right to pause and reflect on some of the moments that have shaped life at St Leonard's over the past twelve months — a year that has brought both change and much to give thanks for.

For Tracy and me, this year has been one of arrival and settling in. Since my induction in June, we have been made to feel incredibly welcome, and we are deeply grateful for the kindness, patience and generosity so many of you have shown as we have begun to get to know the parish, its rhythms, and its people. We are still learning names and stories, but it has been a real joy to start sharing life and faith with you.

continued over...







## Good news of great joy *continued*

This year also marked a significant moment of transition as St Leonard's said a fond farewell to Fr Nick and Christine, giving thanks for his ministry and leadership, and wishing them well in the next chapter of their journey. We are especially grateful to Rev Janet, who stepped in during the interregnum with calm wisdom, faithfulness and good humour, providing stability and care during a time of change.

Among the many highlights of the year has been the creativity and community spirit shown through projects

like the Noah's Ark and Christmas Tree Festival, which brought people together across generations and reminded us how imagination and teamwork can tell God's story in powerful ways. Our growing relationship with Middleforth School has also been a source of great encouragement, as we continue to welcome children and staff into church and share faith in ways that are lively, thoughtful and accessible.

Music has remained at the heart of our worship, and we recently marked a very special moment with David's final service as our organist. His dedication, talent and humour have enriched our worship for many years, and we give heartfelt thanks for all he has offered to the life of St Leonard's.

Through all of this, the year's articles and stories have reflected something deeper: a church that continues to love, serve and grow, even as circumstances change. They tell of



ordinary faith lived out in everyday ways — in worship, friendship, service and generosity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to those who serve the church so faithfully, often quietly and without recognition. In particular, I want to thank our churchwardens — George, who had to step down during the year, and





Philip, who continues to serve with commitment and good humour.

My thanks also go to Susan, our treasurer, and Ian, our PCC secretary and safeguarding officer, for their diligence and care. I am grateful to the whole PCC, especially for the time and thought given at our away day in October, and to our choir, whose dedication and music continue to enrich our worship week by week. I also want to thank everyone who gives their time, energy and gifts in so many different ways. The life of this church is sustained by your generosity, faithfulness and love.

As we approach Christmas, we are reminded again of the heart of our faith: God with us, born not into perfection, but into real life, bringing hope, joy and peace.

Tracy and I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to continuing the journey together in the



year ahead, with gratitude for all that has been, and hope for all that is yet to come.

A Christmas Story from Fr. John

## Jesus is watching you

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, 'Jesus knows you're here.'

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, 'Jesus is watching you.'

Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. 'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot.

'Yep', the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you? 'Moses,' replied the bird. 'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?' 'The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'

Come and make memories on this very special evening as we embrace the light of the season with the whole family.

**CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH**

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** In aid of The Children's Society

Wednesday 24th December  
St. Leonard's Church  
Penwortham  
at 4pm

Families and children of all ages welcome

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY  
CHRISTMAS AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH 2025

PENWORTHAM ST. LEONARD'S FAMILY CHURCH

Churches Together in Penwortham

**CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

PENWORTHAM FOODBANK AIMS TO ENSURE LOCAL RESIDENTS IN NEED HAVE FOOD ALL YEAR, BUT ESPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

**CAN YOU HELP?**

SELECTION PACKS

MINCE PIES & CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

TINNED HAM OR SALMON

TINNED VEGETABLES & SOUP

COFFEE

PLEASE ENSURE ALL DONATIONS ARE IN-DATE AND NON-PERISHABLE

DROP OFF POINT: PENWORTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE  
BEFORE THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

WE ALSO ACCEPT DONATIONS VIA BANK TRANSFER TO:  
**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENWORTHAM FOODBANK**  
SORT CODE: 30-96-85 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00415955

CONTACT: PENWORTHAMFBTREASURER@OUTLOOK.COM

REGISTERED CHARITY: 1200224

# Welcome to a joyful CHRISTMAS at St Leonard's Church

**Sun 21 Dec at 6pm  
CAROL SERVICE**

Time to sing those well-known and much loved Carols and readings to set the scene for the Christmas week.

**Tues 23 Dec at 4pm  
2 SLEEPS TO GO CRIB SERVICE**

St. Leonard's traditional Crib Service for the younger children. Join our Christmas characters in their journey to Bethlehem.

**Weds 24 Dec at 4pm  
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

A Christmas Eve treat for all the family as we light candles, sing Carols and get ready for the birth of the Light of the World. In aid of the Children's Society.

**Weds 24 Dec at 11.30pm  
MIDNIGHT SUNG HOLY COMMUNION**

A traditional sung Holy Communion and the first opportunity to welcome the new born King.

**Thurs 25 Dec at 9:15am  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
SUNG HOLY COMMUNION**

Come and share the joy of Christmas with us as we celebrate Christmas together as a family.

*and finally...*

Rod and Ellen Love wish all their friends at St Leonard's Church a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

## CHURCH DIARY

**Sunday 21 December**

**Advent 4**

8.30am Said Holy Communion  
10am Sung Holy Communion  
6.00pm Christmas Carol Service

**Tuesday 23 December**

4pm Two sleeps to go. Crib Service.

**Wednesday 24th December  
Christmas Eve**

4pm Christingle Service.  
11:30pm Midnight Sung Holy Communion

**Thursday 25 December  
Christmas Day**

9:15am Sung Holy Communion

**Please note that there is  
no 10am Weds morning  
Communion on Christmas Eve  
24th December.**

**Please also note that there  
will be no morning prayers  
on Boxing Day, Friday 26th  
December.**

**Sunday 28 December  
Christmas 1**

8.30am Said Holy Communion  
10am Sung Holy Communion

**Wednesday 31st December  
New Years Eve**

10am Holy Communion

St. Leonard's  
**NEWS**

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## Sidespersons, Readers and Coffee Rota

**Sunday 21 Dec - Advent 4**

8.30am Franklin Bello and Peter Milner. *Reader:* Angela Milner.

10.00am Barbara Palmer. *Reader:* Laraine Southwell. *Prayers:* Angela Milner *Coffee:* Laraine and Ann.

6.00pm Christmas Carol Service  
Brian Bamber. *Readers:* There are five lessons in the service, if you would like to read one, please let Rev Simon know.

**Tues 23 Dec - 2 sleeps to go  
Crib Service**

4.00pm Joyce Helm. *Reader:* TBC. Set *Prayers.*

**Weds 24 Dec - Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Christingle Brian Bamber, Angela Milner. *Reader:* TBC.

11.30pm Midnight Communion  
Laraine and Jenny. *Reader:* Brian Bamber. *Prayers:* Rev Janet

**Thurs 25 Dec - Christmas Day**

9:15am Sung Holy Communion Peter and Angela Milner. *Reader:* Ann Butterworth. *Prayers:* Rev Simon

## IMPORTANT NOTE

If you have any news, prayer requests or particular anniversaries you would like to share in this newsletter, please email them to

[revsimonking@gmail.com](mailto:revsimonking@gmail.com)

## ST LEONARD'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

Vicar: Rev. Simon King (01772 956698)  
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Assistant Priest: Rev. Janet Taylor (01772 615421)  
[curatejanet@gmail.com](mailto: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: Ian Dawson (0771 1053722)  
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)  
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