

Earth to earth - toner to toner

The passing of a good and faithful servant... the church photocopier!

It is with a mixture of sadness and gratitude that we announce the passing of a long-serving member of our church community: our photocopier, which last week went to sing with the choir celestial.

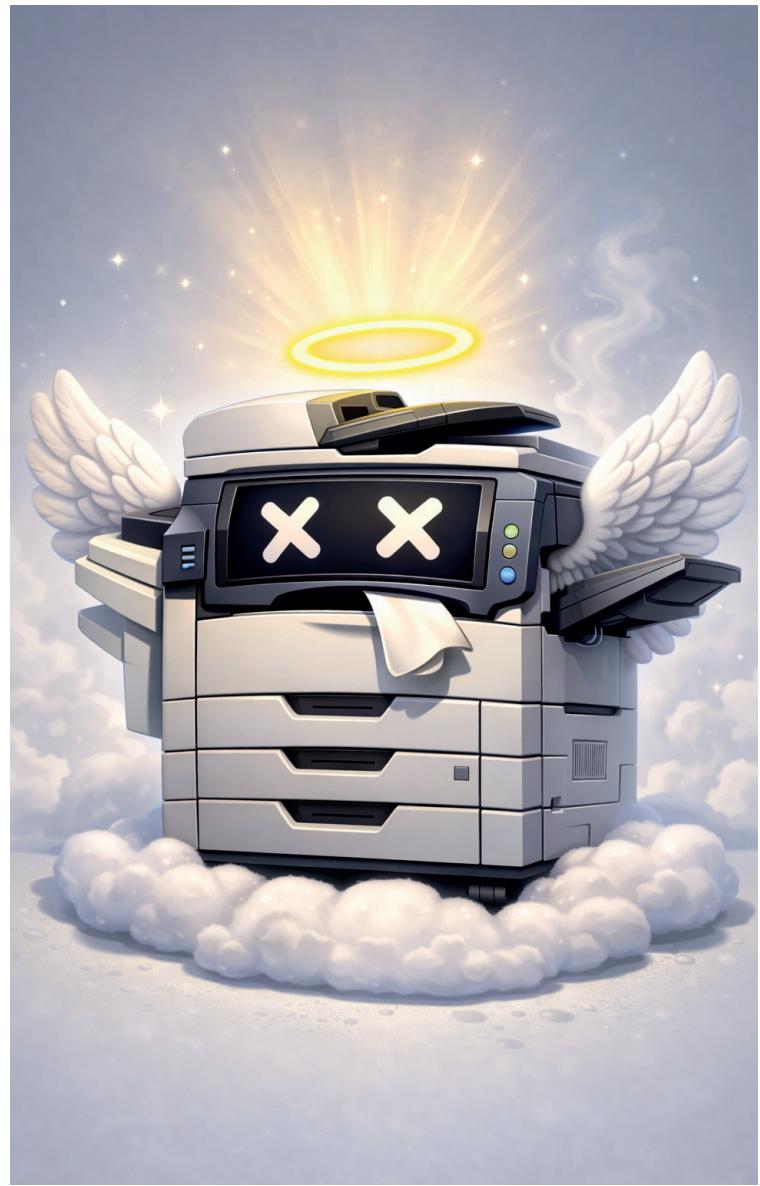
For over ten faithful years it laboured quietly (well, mostly quietly) in the background, producing service sheets, rotas, newsletters, posters, and all manner of parish paperwork. It served diligently, jammed only occasionally, and rarely complained — though it did develop a few mysterious noises in its later years. Sadly, the time finally came when it could no longer be revived. The manufacturer no longer makes the spare part it needed, and so, with appropriate solemnity, we have had to let it go.

To replace it will cost just over £2,394 including VAT. As many of you know, we bought the previous copier outright and paid per copy along with a service charge, which proved a good and reliable arrangement for us over the years.

The good news is that a very generous member of our congregation has already offered £1,000 towards the replacement, for which we are a bit overwhelmed and extremely thankful. That gift has brought the goal much closer and is a wonderful encouragement.

If anyone else would like to contribute toward the new machine, we would be very grateful. Both the church reserve and current accounts are currently rather depleted, and a functioning photocopier is one of those un-glamorous but essential pieces of church life that keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes.

In the meantime, we give thanks for the faithful service of our dear departed copier and look forward, in hope and prayer, to the arrival of its successor.



Helping prepare the ground — you're invited!

Thank you to everyone who has already rolled up their sleeves to help prepare the strip of garden in the side car park, ready for planting our pollinator-friendly plants. There's been plenty of weeding, clearing and composting to do, and it's been wonderful to see such willing hands getting stuck in. Special thanks go to

Philip for organising the sessions and keeping the project moving.

We'd love others to join in if you're able. Weather permitting, the next opportunities to help are on Friday 13th from 1.30–3.30 and Saturday 20th from 9.30–11.30.

No expertise is needed — just a willingness to help, sturdy shoes, and

perhaps a pair of gardening gloves. Whether you can stay for the whole session or just drop in for a short while, every bit of help makes a real difference.

It's a lovely way to spend time together, care for our shared space, and prepare the ground — quite literally — for something beautiful to grow.

Lent - a season to pause and grow

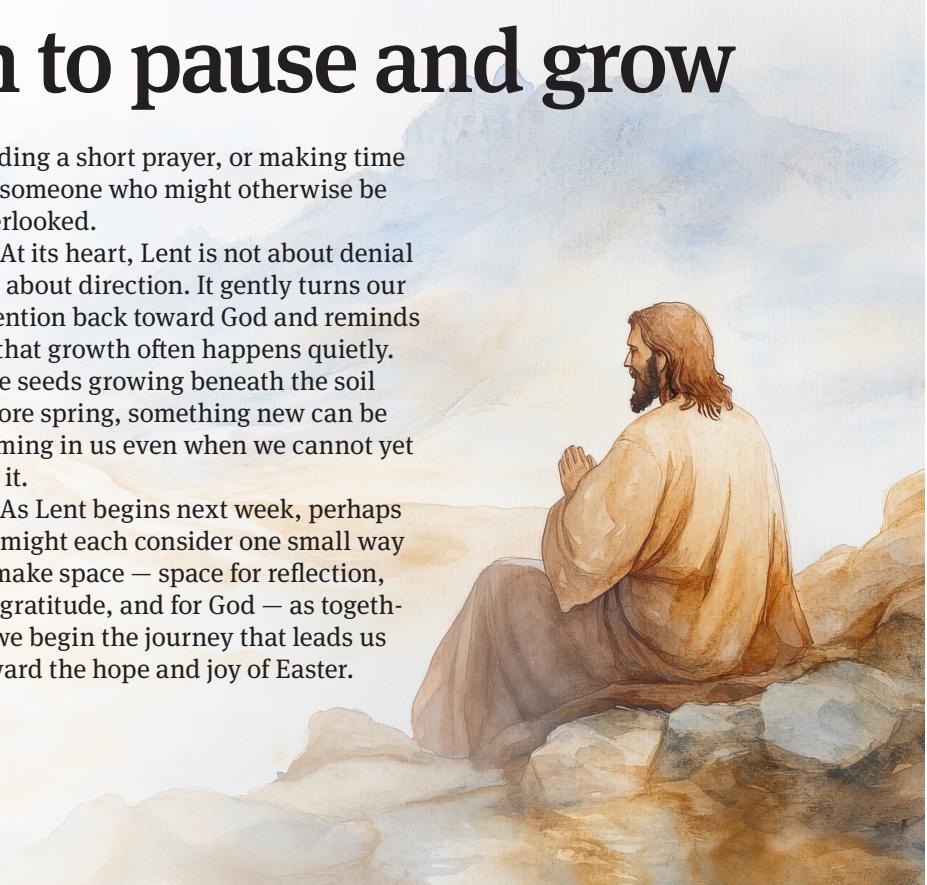
Next week marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days leading up to Easter. It's a quieter season in the Church's year, echoing the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry — a time of reflection, prayer, and preparation. While some seasons arrive with excitement and celebration, Lent invites us to slow down, take stock, and notice what is happening within us as well as around us.

Traditionally, Lent has been associated with giving something up. Many people still choose to do this, not because the thing itself is bad, but because it helps create space — space to think, to pray, and to focus on what truly matters. Others choose instead to take something up: a daily act of kindness, a moment of stillness,

reading a short prayer, or making time for someone who might otherwise be overlooked.

At its heart, Lent is not about denial but about direction. It gently turns our attention back toward God and reminds us that growth often happens quietly. Like seeds growing beneath the soil before spring, something new can be forming in us even when we cannot yet see it.

As Lent begins next week, perhaps we might each consider one small way to make space — space for reflection, for gratitude, and for God — as together we begin the journey that leads us toward the hope and joy of Easter.



UKRAINE APPEAL

Contributions of clothing from St. Leonard's parishioners haven't gone unnoticed by volunteer helpers at the International Aid base in Tarleton.

They say A BIG THANK YOU to you all. Our thanks also to Brian and Jean who regularly take a carload of bags which you have donated. Please keep up the good work. As always leave clothing in bags under the table in the church porch. There are magazines about the work of International Aid in the porch.

*International
Aid Trust*

The Leading your Church into Growth Prayer

God of Mission

Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

"Leading your Church into Growth concentrates on the tried and tested - putting parish and people, evangelism and service front and centre. This is extraordinary help for ordinary churches."

- Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell



Leading your Church
into Growth



What's on at St. Leonard's

Some of our regular weekly events

Love2 Learn

Mondays from 10am

Interactive and engaging phonics education for preschool children. Contact: lovet2learn.org.uk

Boosh After School Club.

Weekdays Monday to Wednesday.

Contact Fiona on 07890 502966

Preston Society

(Birdwatching and Natural History)

Mondays at 7.30pm in church.

For more information and current programme of talks and trips please go to www.prestonsociety.co.uk

Contact: prestonwildlife@gmail.com or 07565 497065

Yoga with Linda.

Mondays at 6.15pm

Contact: Linda on 07963 111239

Magic Moments

Memory singing group.

Tuesdays at 10.30am.

Contact Skylarks on 07538 580296

Skylarks Community Choir.

Mondays from 11am to 12noon.

Contact Skylarks on 07538 580296

Some of our monthly events - just turn up!

Talking Tables and Chatting Chairs Cafe.

Usually 1st Tuesday at 1.30pm until 3.30pm

Rainbows and Brownies.

Tuesdays at 5pm and 6.15pm.

Contact Wendy (Rainbows) on 07846 490876 or Sinead (Brownies) on 07855 865513

L.E.Y.M.E.R.S

(Lancashire Early Years Music Educators)

Wednesdays at 9.30am

Music Sessions for Early years in a session of fun and engaging music making. Contact: www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/89924 or just turn up, but place not guaranteed

Rawstorne Singers.

Wednesdays at 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Contact: rawstornesingers@gmail.com

St. Leonard's Church Choir.

Thursdays at 6.45pm.

Contact: saintleonardspenwortham@gmail.com

Ling Shui Tai Chi Club.

Thursdays at 7pm.

Contact Mark at info@taichipreston.co.uk

St. Leonard's Gilbert & Sullivan Group.

Fridays at 7.30pm.

Rehearsals for next show

"Iolanthe".

Contact: stleonardsgsg@gmail.com

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE

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



FOOD BANK

At Penwortham Community Centre,
Kingsfold Drive PR1 9EQ
Fridays 9.30am to 12 noon.

Donations of Food are welcome.
Please leave them at the back of church, thank you.

Penwortham Foodbank would welcome enquiries from potential new volunteers. We are particularly keen to hear from car owners with mid-week availability who might be willing to use their vehicles (and their muscles) to assist with some of the vital regular stock collections from local stores.

Initial enquiries via email please to penworthamfoodbank@gmail.com

CHURCH DIARY

Ash Wednesday marks a quiet start to Lent

Easter is early this year, which means that next week, only two weeks after Epiphany, we mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. It is perhaps one of the simplest and most meaningful moments in the Church's year — not loud or dramatic, but honest, reflective, and quietly hopeful.

On Ash Wednesday, many Christians receive the sign of the cross traced in ash on their foreheads, with the words:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

These are not intended to sound gloomy or severe. Rather, they are truthful words that acknowledge something fundamental about human life: that it is fragile, precious, and dependent on God's grace.

The ashes themselves are traditionally made from the palm crosses of the previous year's Palm Sunday, a gentle reminder that in God's hands even what seems finished can become the beginning of something new.

Ash Wednesday stands at the threshold of Lent. It marks a moment to pause, to reflect, and to begin again — a quiet starting point for a season that leads, step by step, toward the hope of the resurrection at Easter.

Friday 12 February

8am Morning Prayers for growth and renewal

Sunday 15 February

Sun next before Lent

8.30am Said Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion

Tuesday 17 Feb

Shrove Tuesday.

Wednesday 18 Feb

10am. Holy Communion with Distribution of Ashes.
7pm. Holy Communion with Distribution of Ashes.

Friday 20 February

8am Morning Prayers for growth and renewal

Sunday 22 February

Lent 1

8.30am Said Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion

Tuesday 24 Feb

7pm. PCC Meeting.

Wednesday 25 Feb

10am. Holy Communion.

Friday 27 February

8am Morning Prayers for growth and renewal

Sunday 1 March

Lent 2

8.30am Said Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion

St. Leonard's NEWS

www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk



Sidespersons, Readers and Coffee Rota

Sun 15 Feb - Sun next before Lent

Exodus 24.12-end / Matthew 17.1-9

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

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

Ash Wednesday 18 Feb

Isaiah 58.1-12 / John 8.1-11

7.00pm Philip Walsh. Reader: TBC
Prayers: Set prayers.

Sun 22 Feb - Lent 1

Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7 / Matthew 4.1-11

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

10.00am Barbara Palmer. Reader: Ann Butterworth Prayers: Set prayers Coffee: Barbara and Christine.

Sun 1 March - Lent 2

Genesis 12.1-4a / John 3.1-17

8.30am Susan and Philip Range.
Reader: Peter Milner.

10.00am Laraine Southwell and Jenny Stanton. Reader: Laraine Southwell
Prayers: Angela Milner Coffee: Laraine and Ann.

Sun 8 March - Lent 3

Exodus 17.1-7 / John 4.5-42

8.30am Peter and Angela Milner.
Reader: Philip Walsh.

10.00am Brian Bamber. Reader: Brian Bamber Prayers: Rev Simon Coffee: Brian and Melvyn.

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

Vicar:

Rev. Simon King (01772 956698)
revsimonking@gmail.com

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Vacant

PCC Secretary:

Ian Dawson (0771 1053722)

PCC Treasurer:

Susan Walsh (01772 745409)

Pastoral Assistant:

Jenny Stanton (01772 748701)

Choir Leader/Organist:

Annette Walker (07841 911621)

Leo's (Sunday School)

Please see Jenny Stanton or

Jeanette Smith

Safeguarding Officer:

Church Hall Enquiries:

Social Media:

Eco Champion:

Church Flowers:

Electoral Roll Officer:

Gift Aid Officer:

St. Leonard's News

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