

St. Leonard's NEWS

www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk

Sunday 29 March 2026

Palm Sunday

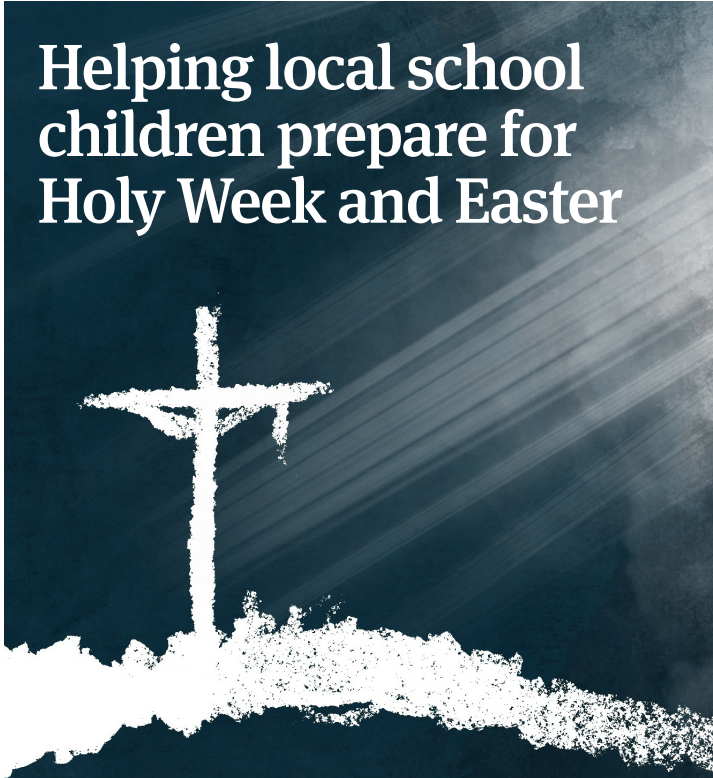
The Weekly Newsletter for St. Leonard's Church

Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA



It has been a real joy over the past couple of weeks to welcome so many children from our local schools into St Leonard's as we prepare for Holy Week. There is something deeply encouraging about seeing the church filled with young voices, thoughtful questions, and a genuine curiosity about faith.

Helping local school children prepare for Holy Week and Easter



Our time together began on the morning of Tuesday 17th March, when Year 5 from Broadoak School joined us. We had set up six interactive stations around the church, each one telling a different part of the Easter story—from the excitement of Palm Sunday, through the intimacy of Maundy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday, and finally to the hope and joy of Easter Sunday and the Resurrection.

At each station, the children added a small craft item to a wooden cross, gradually building up a visual reminder of the journey through Holy Week. By the end of the visit, each child took home their cross—a simple but powerful way of remembering the story they had explored together. What stood out most was their engagement: thoughtful questions, honest reflections, and a real openness to the story of Jesus.

We followed a similar pattern on

Thursday 19th March, when another Year 5 class—this time from Middleforth Primary School—came to visit. Once again, the children entered fully into the experience. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and it was a pleasure to share both the story and the space with them. Afterwards, their teacher, Mrs Murphy, commented on how excited the children had been—not only to visit the church, but also to be so warmly welcomed (biscuits and juice may have helped!).

Then, this week, we had the privilege of welcoming almost the entire school from Middleforth for a special act of Easter worship. Together, we explored one of the central paradoxes of the Christian faith: how the cross—once a Roman symbol of death—has become, through Jesus, a sign of hope, love,

and new life.

The service was wonderfully co-led by members of the school's after-school faith club, SOFA. They did a brilliant job guiding us through the events of Holy Week with clarity and confidence, helping everyone present to connect the story of Easter with its deeper meaning.

Thank you to all those who made these events possible. Moments like these remind us why these connections with our schools matter so much. They are not just visits; they are opportunities—for encounter, for conversation, and for planting seeds of faith. It has been a privilege to share this time with the children, and we look forward to welcoming them again soon.

As we move into Holy Week, we carry with us the energy, questions, and wonder of those young visitors—reminders, perhaps, of how we might all approach the Easter story anew.

THIS SUNDAY

Lostock Hall Memorial Band

Spring CONCERT

MARCH
SUNDAY | 29 | 2PM
2026

St Leonards Church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham

Featuring our Senior and Training Bands

£8 PER ADULT, ACCOMPANIED
CHILDREN GO FREE

Volunteers required for tea and coffee, donations for Raffle appreciated. Proceeds for St. Leonard's and the Band.

Leading our church into growth

A second report from session one

Following on from last week's focus on prayer, this second report from *Leading Your Church into Growth – Local* turns our attention to leadership and vision.

At its simplest, vision begins with a question: where do we want to be as a church in five years' time?

That might sound straightforward, but even the first answers we give begin to shape a picture of the future. And once we start to picture that future, something shifts—we become more aware of possibilities, more alert to opportunities, and more intentional about the steps we take.

One of the challenges raised during the evening was how easily PCCs can find themselves stuck in problem-solving mode. There are always important matters to attend to—buildings, safeguarding, finances, health and safety—and none of these can be ignored. But if that is all we ever talk

about, there is little space left to ask bigger, more hopeful questions about where God might be leading us.

When our focus is constantly on what is difficult or demanding, it can become overwhelming. Over time, that kind of thinking can shape the culture of a church, making it harder to notice the good things that are already happening, or the opportunities for growth that are right in front of us.

During the session, Bishop Joe asked a simple but searching question: do we think St Leonard's has a positive or a negative culture?

It's not a question about pretending everything is fine, but about noticing what we emphasise, what we celebrate, and what we expect from the future.

Encouraging a more positive culture certainly involves making more space for prayer—as we reflected last week—but it also means being inten-

tional about creating time to think proactively about the future. It means lifting our eyes from the immediate and asking what God might be calling us into next.

And this isn't just the responsibility of the PCC. Vision is not something decided in a room and handed down; it is something that grows as a whole church begins to share in the conversation.

Bishop Joe then offered a challenging insight. He suggested that, in many cases, everyone who already has a natural preference for our particular style of worship is probably already coming to our church. If that is true, it raises an important question: if our vision includes growth, how will that happen unless we are willing to talk seriously about change?

Growth may not come simply from doing more of what we already do, but from being open to new ways of welcoming, worshipping, and connecting—especially with those who might not yet feel that church is for them. That is not about abandoning who we are, but about asking how we might become more accessible, more hospitable, and more intentional in sharing the good news with others.

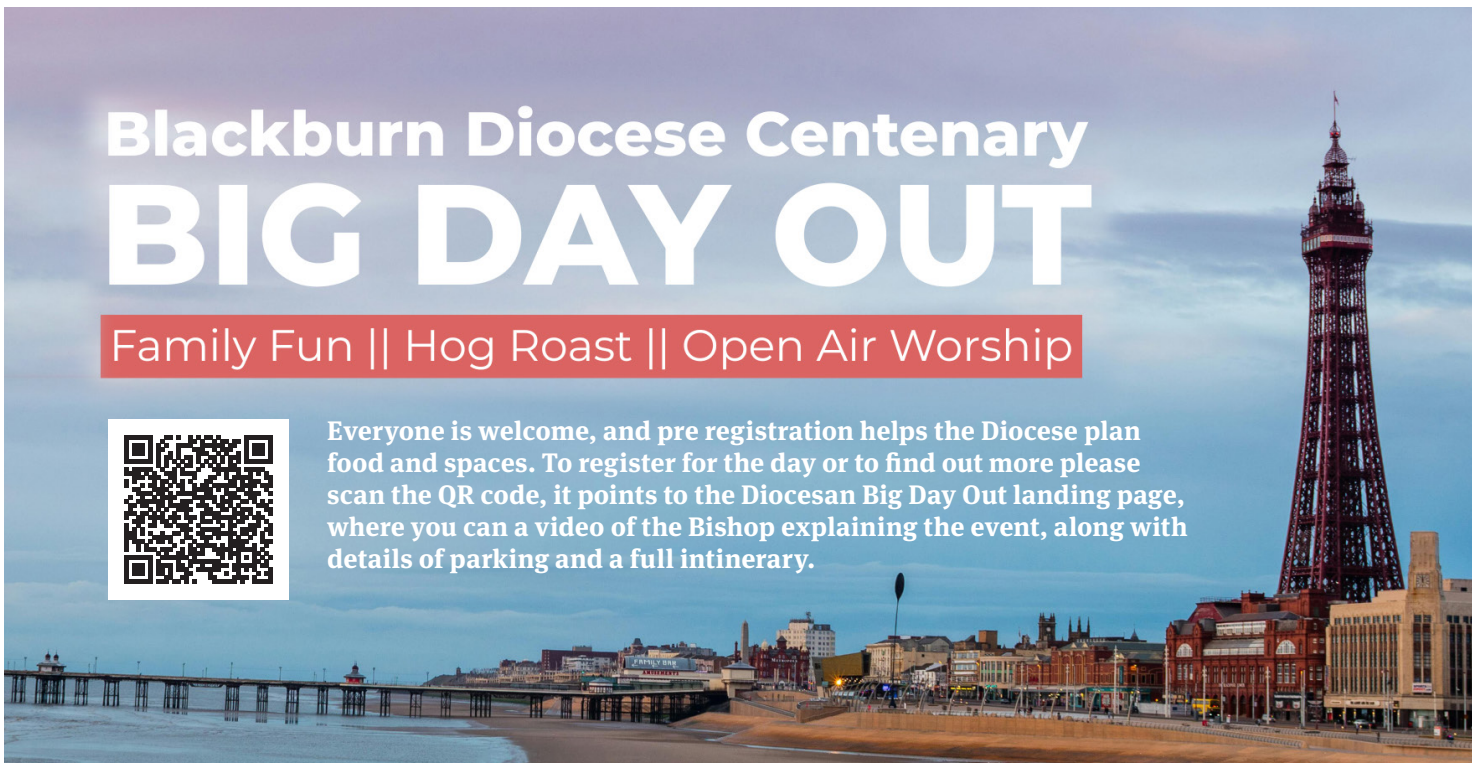
“Without change, there is no growth—and without growth, we risk becoming exactly the kind of church that only ever reaches the people already here”.

Blackburn Diocese Centenary **BIG DAY OUT**

Family Fun || Hog Roast || Open Air Worship



Everyone is welcome, and pre registration helps the Diocese plan food and spaces. To register for the day or to find out more please scan the QR code, it points to the Diocesan Big Day Out landing page, where you can a video of the Bishop explaining the event, along with details of parking and a full itinerary.



A big thank you to Rod Love for writing this poem, which encourages us to take part in the Easter Day dawn service at Middleforth Park. Sadly, Rod and Ellen won't be able to join us this year, but they send their love and best wishes to their St Leonard's family. I'm sure we all send that same love and blessing right back to them.

The Light of Christ

Church services all differ, the way they are carried out But to witness Christ's teachings, is what its all about. Each vicar to his ministration, each leaves his mark Come along, with our vicar, be a witness at the park.

Vicars are not here to judge us, unlike the magistrate But to guide us in Christ's teaching, Love and not to hate. To be there when we are in trouble, to listen when we talk Come along, with our vicar, on the pre-dawn walk

So come join Simon and friends, God willing I'll be there For a simple open-air service, in the belief we all share. Observe, the darkness of the night, see the first golden ray Light of Christ, to light the world, the dawn of Easter Day

Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday

8.30am Said Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion
with Archdeacon Jane

Monday 30 March

7.00pm Evening Prayer
(Compline). A short time of
prayer on the Monday of Holy
Week

Tuesday 31 March

7.00pm Evening Prayer
(Compline). A short time of
prayer on Tuesday of Holy Week

**A full list of Easter Services can
be found on the back page**



**PENWORTHAM
FARMERS
MARKET**

St Teresa's Car Park, Queensway,
Penwortham, PR1 0DS

Sat 4th April 9am to 1pm

*The Market sells local produce which
includes Eggs, Cheese, Meats, Vegetables,
Fresh Fish, Jams, Plants, Cakes, Pies,
Veggie Curries, Soaps, Fudge plus a
variety of craft stalls. Stalls are both inside
and outside the Scout Hut, with tea and
coffee served inside with breakfast barmes
and cakes available from the stalls.*

Sidespersons, Readers and Coffee Rota

Sun 29 March - Palm Sunday

Psalm 118.19-24 | Matthew 21.1-11
8.30am Susan and Phil Range.
Reader: Philip Walsh.

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

Thurs 2 April - Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14 | John 13.1-17, 31b-35
7.00pm Linda and Alistair Woollard.
Reader: Philip Walsh Prayers: Set
Prayers.

Friday 3 April - Good Friday

Isaiah 52.13-end of 53 | John 18.1 end of 19
11.00am Brian Bamber. Reader: TBC
Prayers: Set Prayers.

Sun 4 April - Easter Sunday

Acts 10.34-43 | Matthew 28.1-10
8.30am Angela and Peter Milner.
Reader: Philip Walsh.

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

Sun 12 April - Easter 2

Acts 2.14a, 22-32 | John 20.19-end
8.30am Franklin Bello and Phil
Range. Reader: Andrea Waine.

10.00am Joyce Helm and Andrea
Cartwright. Reader: TBC Prayers: Rev
Simon Coffee: Barbara and Christine.

Sun 19 April - Easter 3

Acts 2.14a, 36-41 | Luke 24. 13-25
8.30am Irene Farrimond and
Elizabeth Bunyan. Reader: Angela
Milner.

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)

Choir Leader/Organist: Annette Walker (07841 911621)

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)

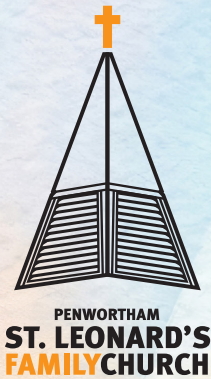
Eco Champion: Ian Dawson (0771 1053722)

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



*We would love you to
join us at one or all of our*

**EVENTS AND SERVICES
DURING
HOLY WEEK
AND**

Easter

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

**at St. Leonard's
Family Church**

MON 30 MARCH

7PM **Evening Prayer** (Compline)

TUES 31 APRIL

7PM **Evening Prayer** (Compline)

WEDS 1 APRIL

10AM **Holy Communion**

7PM **Service of Tenebrae**
*a quiet service of reflection
and shadows.*

THURS 2 APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY

11AM **Chrim Eucharist**
at Blackburn Cathedral

7PM **Passover Communion**
*in the small hall followed by the
stripping of the altar and watch.*

9PM **Evening Prayer** (Compline)

FRI 3 APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY

10AM **Good Friday walk of witness**
*starting and finishing at
St Leonard's Church approx 1.2 miles*

11AM **Ecumenical Good Friday Service**
at St Leonard's Church

2PM **An hour at the foot of the cross**
Service in church

SUN 5 APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY

6AM **Meet at church for Dawn Service**
on Middleforth Green as the sun rises.

8:30AM **Said Communion and Celebration
of the Resurrection**

10AM **Sung Communion and Celebration
of the Resurrection**

