

St. Leonard's NEWS

www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk

Sunday 22 March 2026

Lent 5

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



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

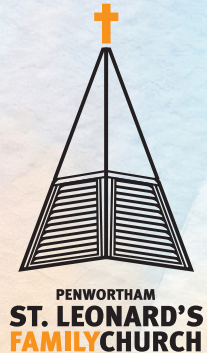
*We would love you to
join us at one or all of our*

EVENTS AND SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AND

Easter

ALL ARE
WELCOME

at St. Leonard's
Family Church



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**



Blackburn Diocese Centenary **BIG DAY OUT**

Family Fun || Hog Roast || Open Air Worship

Celebrating 100 years of
Blackburn Diocese with a
party in Blackpool.

Saturday 16 May
All welcome - free of charge



Lostock Hall Memorial Band

Spring CONCERT

SUNDAY | MARCH 29 | 2PM
2026

St Leonards Church, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham

*Featuring our Senior and
Training Bands*

£8 PER ADULT, ACCOMPANIED
CHILDREN GO FREE



Spring concert this Sunday!

There's a real musical treat in store this weekend as the Lostock Hall Memorial Band join us at St Leonard's for a Spring Concert on Sunday 29th March at 2.00pm.

We are delighted to welcome the band, who are currently celebrating a major success, having recently been crowned North West Areas Contest Second Section Champions 2026 at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Their Musical Director, Tommy Tynan, was also awarded Best Conductor.



The concert promises an enjoyable afternoon of music for all tastes, and is a wonderful opportunity to support both the band and the life of our church. Tickets are available from Philip Walsh or can be purchased on the door. We are also looking for raffle prizes, so if you are able to donate anything, it would be very much appreciated.

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

In the coming months, St Leonard's is set to continue into the next iteration of the Parish Renewal Scheme, (leading your church into growth - local). During that time, St Leonard's News will report on what has been covered in the sessions, helping our whole church community to understand and participate with this exciting programme.

Leading our church into growth a first report from session one

STEP ONE:

Understanding and influencing our culture and context: Prayer, leadership and vision.



On Tuesday evening, Rev Simon, Rev Janet, Susan Walsh and Ian Dawson attended the first session of *Leading Your Church into Growth - Local*, at Whalley Abbey. The purpose of these regional sessions is to further unpack and discuss the material that was first presented at the National Conference at Swanwick back in February.

The two hour slot was led by Bishop Joe and Sarah O'Donoghue, who is the Diocesan Renewal Officer, and in it our cohort - number 8, was encouraged to explore how leadership, vision, and particularly prayer must be foundational for undertaking a journey of church growth.

Bishop Joe opened with a reflection on Matthew 15:18; in which Jesus states that what we say reflects what we value, which, in turn, makes us clean or unclean. He proposed that so often we are incapable of hearing ourselves or noticing the culture that surrounds us, in the same way that a fish cannot see the water it swims in. He showed us the photo above, and asked what we thought the church pictured was discussing when they decided to paint the KEEP CLEAR sign in front of the church gates.

Bishop Joe's reflection was that, in this instance, the church council was so pre-occupied with its own comfort and convenience, it had failed to notice

how those words could impact new visitors. He then asked us what kind of conversations our own PCC's had.

The answers from the different parishes was unsurprisingly similar. We talk about buildings, fabric, safeguarding, finances, health and safety, all of which the Bishop thought important. His challenge, however, was how could our churches create more space in our meetings to pray, to discuss vision, growth and plan for mission. To prioritise proactive rather than reactive conversations. How is it, he asked, that with all our problems and questions, we spent so little talking to Jesus, the most important person in the room?

The heart of prayer, he assured us, was as simple as looking at Jesus and being lost in prayer. At our next PCC meeting could we, dare we, just open our Bibles and ask Jesus to be with us and guide us? We are after all in the business of faith.

Our church will only grow if that growth is founded on and supported by prayer. Yes that definitely should be modelled by the church leadership and the PCC, but every member of our worshipping community should be encouraged to join in. Because, when we get that right then we shouldn't be surprised if God answers us.



Penwortham spring clean Helping to keep Britain tidy!

The Great British Spring Clean (13–29 March) is the country's largest mass action environmental campaign, organised by Keep Britain Tidy, and this year our Eco Group is keen to take part.

We will be joining forces with the Penwortham Guardians of Nature for a litter pick on **Sunday 29 March, starting at 1.30pm**. We will meet at the Middleforth Play Park on Margaret Road, and anyone who would like to help is very welcome to come along and join in.

All the necessary equipment, bags and litter pickers will be provided, but strong boots and gloves are essential.

The aim of the afternoon is to help clear some fly-tipped rubbish in the area, so please be aware that this will not be a gentle stroll and is not suitable for children. However, we do hope to organise some more family-friendly litter picks in the future, so watch this space.

If you would like more information, please speak to Michelle Banks or contact the Eco Group via email at eco-stleo@outlook.com. It would be wonderful to have a good group of volunteers helping to care for our local environment and community.

Friday 20 March

8am Morning Prayers
for growth and renewal

Sunday 22 March Lent 5

8.30am Said Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion

Tuesday 24 March

7.00pm PCC Meeting in the
Small Hall

Wednesday 25 March

10am. Holy Communion.

Thursday 26 March

9.00am. Middleforth whole
school worship in Church.

Friday 27 March

8am Morning Prayers
for growth and renewal

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

Serving up a feast for Mothering Sunday Lunch

There was much to be joyful for last
Sunday afternoon as 32 fortunate
diners gathered in the large hall for
our Mothering Sunday Lunch.

Those present were treated to a
proper slap-up meal; enjoying a choice
of starters, followed by a delicious
main course of chicken wrapped in
bacon, roasted potatoes and mush-
room sauce. Then, just when every-
one thought they couldn't possibly
squeeze another morsel in, there was
a wonderful selection of beautiful
home-made desserts, as well as a
cheese board, after-dinner mints, tea
and coffee to round things off. Each
lady present was also given a small
bunch of flowers, which was a lovely
touch and very much appreciated.

As well as providing an enjoyable
afternoon together, the lunch also
raised £253 for the church coffers,
which is a fantastic achievement.
A huge thank you to Susan Walsh,
whose hard work in organising the
meal made the whole event possible,
and to everyone who helped in the
kitchen or with serving on the day.

Regrettably, two pounds heavier,
the Vicar forgot to take any photo-
graphs, apparently because he was
rather busy eating. So you will just
have to take our word for it that the
table settings looked wonderful and
everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable
afternoon!

Sidespersons, Readers and Coffee Rota

Sun 22 March - Lent 5

Ezekial 13.1-14 | John 11.1 - 45

8.30am Franklin Bello and Phil
Range. *Reader:* Andrea Waiane.

10.00am Lorraine and Jenny. *Reader:*
Larrane Southwell *Prayers:* Rev Janet
Coffee: Lorraine and Ann.

Sun 29 March - Palm Sunday

Psalms 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 Waiane.

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
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