




St. Leonard's
NEWS

www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk

Sunday 31 May 2026

Pentecost

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

Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA



Iolanthe, wings, wigs and wonderful music

A fantastic evening was enjoyed by all at the opening night of St Leonard's Gilbert and Sullivan Group's latest production, *Iolanthe*. From the very first notes to the final applause, the cast, directors, accompanist, chorus and production team treated the audience to a wonderfully entertaining performance full of humour, energy and musical brilliance.

Productions such as this do not happen by accident, and enormous credit must go to everyone involved for the many weeks – indeed months – of rehearsals, preparation and hard work that have gone into bringing the show to life. From learning lines and music to costumes, staging, lighting and all the countless details behind the scenes, it was clear just how much



dedication and commitment has been poured into this production.

A huge thank you must also go to all those who helped in so many other ways throughout the evening – serving refreshments during the interval, organising and running the raffle, welcoming guests and helping everything run so smoothly behind the scenes. Events like this are always a real team effort, and the support of so many volunteers is greatly appreciated.

If you have not yet seen *Iolanthe*, there is still time! The run continues in church on Friday evening at 7:30pm, with a special Saturday matinee performance at 2:30pm. If the opening night is anything to go by, audiences are in for a real musical treat!



Leading Your Church into Growth Local Session 2 at Whalley Abbey



and the reality that many people now have lots of acquaintances but far fewer deep friendships.

Of course, many of these themes resonated with our own experiences here in Penwortham. Understanding both who we are as a church and who it is we are trying to welcome will be an important part of developing a genuine culture of invitation and hospitality.

Inviting and welcoming our local community

On Tuesday 19th May, Ian Dawson, Susan Walsh, Rev Janet and Rev Simon attended the second local follow-up session for Leading Your Church into Growth at Whalley Abbey.

The theme for the evening was inviting and welcoming our community and the session was led by Rev Sarah, the Diocesan Renewal Lead, alongside Rev Canon Linda, Rector of Ribbleson. Together they encouraged us to think honestly and prayerfully about how welcoming our churches really are, and whether there are things we could do better to help new visitors feel comfortable and at ease as they cross the

threshold into church life.

Rev Sarah began by asking a striking question: Are our communities stronger or weaker than they were five years ago? With people attending from very different parishes and settings across Lancashire, the discussion that followed was wide-ranging and thought-provoking. Many of the conversations reflected concerns increasingly being recognised across society: loneliness, isolation and the decline of places where people naturally gather and form friendships. Among the issues raised were the widening gap between rich and poor, the marginalisation of the elderly and vulnerable,

Using the image of a spectrum between a “cold fridge” and a “warm radiator,” Rev Linda invited us to reflect on where our own churches might currently sit. Through a mixture of humour, honesty and practical examples, she shared stories of what can happen when churches get welcome right — and, more worryingly, when we do not.

We also reflected on Jesus’ parable of the Great Banquet from Luke 14.16–23, where the master urges his servants to keep going out and inviting people so that his house may be full. As part of this, we were introduced to a simple but powerful phrase to help encourage invitation:

“I’m going, it’s going to be good — would you like to come with me?”

It is a phrase we will probably be hearing much more often in the weeks and months ahead!

The evening also included an exercise called Mapping our Galilee. Just as Jesus knew his community well and discerned where he should go next, we were encouraged to think about the relationships and connections we already have where an invitation to church or faith might naturally be received warmly.

Finally, we were reminded that none of this can happen without prayer. We were challenged to think of five people whose lives we would especially like to see transformed by Jesus, to pray regularly for them, and to watch prayerfully for signs of God at work in their lives.

The evening gave us much to reflect on and encouraged us to continue thinking carefully about how St Leonard’s can be a place of warmth, welcome, friendship and invitation within our community.



**PENWORTHAM
FARMERS
MARKET**

St Teresa’s Car Park, Queensway,
Penwortham, PR1 0DS
Sat 6th June 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.



**Talking Tables
— and —
Chatting Chairs**

from 1.30pm
on Tuesday 2 June
◇
Always first Tuesday
of the month.



Penwortham in Bloom

UPCOMING events

2026



Garden Competition

Do you love your garden, a beautiful basket, or tub? Get involved, get creative, and be part of something special. Scan the QR code for all the information you need to enter.



Floral Focus Competition

Capture the beauty of Penwortham in our "Flowers, Foliage and Green Space" photo competition. Scan the QR code for all the information you need to enter.

23
MAY

Seedling Swap

Head to Hurst Grange Park for our friendly seedling swap. Share plants, pick up something new, and enjoy a relaxed coffee morning with fellow gardening enthusiasts.

13
JUN

Penwortham Gala Day

Visit our stall at the Penwortham Gala in Hurst Grange Park. Find out what we do, get involved, and learn how you can help brighten our local community.

16
JUL

Awards Night

Celebrate our garden competition winners at St Teresa's Social Centre. An evening dedicated to recognising the hard work, creativity, and pride within our community.

29
AUG

Scarecrow Workshop

Get creative and hands-on at our scarecrow workshop. Learn how to build your own character and prepare for a fun-filled week of festival displays.

13
SEP

Scarecrow Trail

The scarecrow festival begins! Explore Penwortham and see how many imaginative creations you can spot as the community comes to life with colour and character.

8
OCT

Celebration Night

Join us at St Teresa's Social Centre for our main presentation evening, celebrating entries from the Sunflower, Photography, and Scarecrow competitions.

31
OCT

Poppy Installation

In partnership with the Penwortham Guides, we create a beautiful poppy installation at the PIB boat display, honouring remembrance with a striking community tribute.

8
NOV

Remembrance Parade

Gather at St Leonard's Church for the annual remembrance parade. A moment for the community to come together, reflect, and pay their respects.

Stay Connected

Keep up to date with all our events, news, and ways to get involved by following Penwortham in Bloom on Facebook and Instagram.



Parishes in Bloom

As part of our Blackburn Diocese Centenary celebrations, Blackburn Cathedral will host a special flower exhibition from Friday 21st August until Monday 24th August 2026.

Churches from across the Diocese will bring parish life into the Cathedral in the form of stunning floral displays as this unique exhibition combines creativity with community.

This event is presented by The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral, an independent charity who raise funds to support projects that enhance the fabric and facilities of the Cathedral.

Our flower arranging team at St. Leonard's headed by Margaret Dixon will be displaying their floral artistry through the theme of this exhibition which is 'Celebrating the Uniqueness of Your Parish'.

This is where we need your help please. To purchase all the flowers required will cost money, possibly up to £200. There is a box at the back of church for your donations. Any surplus money will go towards our weekly displays in church. This is also a way of saying 'thank-you' to our flower arrangers for the work they do, week by week.

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



A new film featuring Chris Packham, leading climate and nature scientists, a former general and Jennifer Saunders - all being pretty frank about where things are heading and what can be done about it.

Penwortham
Thurs 28th May - 6-8pm
Thurs 11th June - 6-8pm

The Venue, Penwortham Arts Centre
Liverpool Road, PR1 9XE
Free Event
Bar and light refreshments available - bring cash

Any questions contact : hello@kayjohnsonmbe.com

International Aid Trust

Practical aid priorities

Since the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, St. Leonard's has been supporting International Aid. Thanks to people's generosity, the trust has been able to send 100 loads filled with 1,170 tonnes of vital aid, valued at over £23m, as well as more than 786 lifesaving vehicles, to help people affected by the war. Thank you to Jean and Brian who regularly take carloads to the warehouse in Tarleton.

The latest issue of their magazine "In Touch" gives a list of Practical Aid Priorities –

- **Food:** Pasta, rice, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned veg, flour, cooking oil, salt, biscuits (with 1 year's date).
- **Medical:** First aid kits, plasters, bandages, dressings, surgical gloves, paracetamol, over counter medicines.
- **Toiletries:** Soaps, shampoo, flannels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary towels, nappies, incontinence pads.
- **Clothing & Footwear:** of all kinds for all ages (good condition).
- **Camping Equipment:** sleeping bags, tents, camping stoves, torches, candles, generators, power packs.
- **Household items:** towels, bedding, cutlery, kettles, fridges, washing machines, tumble dryers.

Friday 22 May

8am Morning Prayer
7.30pm G&S Iolanthe Performance

Saturday 23 May

2.30pm G&S Iolanthe Performance

Sunday 24 May - Pentecost

8:30am Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion
2pm Reverend Chris Nelson's retirement reception at St Mary's Church

Monday 25 May

Spring Bank Holiday

Tuesday 26 May

7.00pm PCC Meeting

Wednesday 27 May

10am Holy Communion

Friday 29 May

8am Morning Prayer

Saturday 30 May

Afternoon – A Purrfect Friend Summer Fair

Sunday 31 May - Trinity Sunday

8:30am Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion
11:30 Baptism of James Dylan Bowman

Monday 1 June - Trinity Sunday

9:15 Skylarks Community Choir

Sidespersons, Readers and Coffee Rota

Sun 24 May - Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21 / John 20.19-23

8.30am Phil and Susan Range. *Reader:* Andrea Waine.

10.00am. Sylvia Johnson *Reader:* Philip Walsh *Prayers:* Rev Simon *Coffee:* Brian and Melvyn.

Sun 31 May - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end / Matt. 28.16-end

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

10.00am. Joyce Helm *Reader:* Rev Simon *Prayers:* Diane Raynor *Coffee:* Linda and Alistair.

Sun 7 June - Trinity 1

Genesis 12.1-9 / Matt 9.9-13 / 18-26

8.30am Franklin Bello and Phil Range. *Reader:* Philip Walsh.

10.00am. Linda and Alistair Woollard *Reader:* Ann Butterworth *Prayers:* Rev Simon *Coffee:* Barbara and Christine.

Sun 14 June - Trinity 2

Genesis 12.1-9 / Matt 9.9-13 / 18-26

8.30am Irene Farrimond and Elizabeth Bunyan. *Reader:* Rev Simon.

11.00am. Ecumenical Gala Service on Hurst Grange Park.

Sun 21 June - Trinity 4

Genesis 21.8-21 / Matt 10.40 - end

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

10.00am. Barbara Palmer *Reader:* Andrea Waine *Prayers:* Daine Raynor *Coffee:* Linda and Alistair

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

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

Musical Director: Annette Walker | 07841 911621

Children's Church: 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