



St. Leonard's
NEWS

www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk

Sunday 31 May 2026

Trinity Sunday

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

Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA



The Parish Giving Scheme

a simpler way to support ministry and mission at St Leonard's

At its meeting on Tuesday evening, the PCC agreed that St Leonard's will join the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), and we are currently in the process of getting everything set up.

Many churches across the Church of England now use PGS as a simple, secure and efficient way for people to give regularly to their local church.

Once our parish page is live, members of the congregation who wish to do so will be able to set up regular giving safely and easily by Direct Debit — either online, by phone or by post.

So, what are the advantages?

For those who give regularly, the Parish Giving Scheme offers a straightforward and reliable way to support the church



without needing to remember cash, envelopes or bank transfers. Gifts continue automatically even if you are away on holiday or unable to get to church for a while.

One particularly helpful feature is

the option to increase giving automatically each year in line with inflation. This is entirely optional, but many people appreciate it as a simple way of ensuring that their giving keeps pace with rising costs without needing to think about it every year.

For the church, the benefits are significant too. Regular giving helps us to budget more confidently and plan for the future. Gift Aid is also reclaimed centrally by PGS and paid directly to the parish, reducing administration and paperwork for our volunteers.

Importantly, every penny given through PGS still comes directly to St Leonard's.

The scheme is owned by the Church of England and is already used successfully by thousands of parishes across the country.

There is absolutely no expectation that anyone must use PGS — existing methods of giving will continue exactly as before — but we hope it will provide another convenient option for those who would find it helpful.

We will share further details, including how to sign up, once our parish page is ready. If you would like to know more in the meantime, please do talk to Rev Simon.



Joyful, generous stewards



A conversation about planned giving and stewardship

During July, we are going to take a short break from our usual lectionary readings in order to spend a few weeks reflecting together on the theme of stewardship.

For some, the moment a church starts talking about money, alarm bells begin to ring. It can feel awkward, uncomfortable or intensely personal. The truth is that clergy often feel exactly the same way about raising the subject!

And yet, throughout the Gospels, Jesus speaks so often about money, generosity, possessions and priorities – not because he wanted something from people, but because he understood that what we do with what we have says something important about what we value and where our hearts truly lie.

Stewardship is about far more than paying bills or balancing budgets. It is really about recognising that everything we have – our time, gifts, abilities, resources and finances – ultimately comes from God, and asking how we might use those things faithfully, generously and joyfully.

It is also about gratitude. St Leonard's does not simply exist because of "the Church of England" somewhere else. It exists because generation after generation of ordinary people have prayed, volunteered, served, cleaned, baked, visited, sung, maintained, organised and given sacrificially so that worship and witness could continue in this place. We are all deeply blessed by that inheritance.

At the same time, we also recognise that we have a responsibility to think carefully and honestly about the future. As a church we want to continue serving our parish well, strength-

ening our ministry with children and schools, maintaining our buildings responsibly, supporting community life and creating a church that will still be here for future generations.

As part of that wider conversation, the PCC has agreed that this year we will run our first Stewardship Campaign in around eight years. This is not about pressure or guilt, and nobody will be asked publicly what they give. Rather, it is an opportunity for all of us to reflect prayerfully on what it means to support the life and mission of St Leonard's in the world as it is today.

Over the coming weeks we will share more information about the church's finances, our hopes for the future and some practical ways in which people can support the ongoing life of the parish – including through the new Parish Giving Scheme.

Please do pray for the church, for the PCC, and for all those who carry responsibility for the life of St Leonard's. And perhaps, above all, pray that we would continue to grow not only in numbers, but also in generosity, faith, courage and love.



PENWORTHAM FARMERS MARKET

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

**Join us this Saturday, 6th June,
9am to 1pm for a friendly community
market packed with local produce,
handmade goods and small
independent businesses.**

Fresh fruit and vegetables~ Local meat and fish ~ Homemade cakes and sweet treats ~ Crafts, gifts and artisan products ~ Tea, coffee and bacon butties available in our social area.

Whether you're shopping for fresh food, looking for unique gifts, or simply fancy a great morning out, Penwortham Farmers Market offers a warm welcome for everyone.

**St Teresa's RC Church
34 Queensway Scout Hut and Car Park
Penwortham, PR1 0DS**



Talking Tables – and – Chatting Chairs

from 1.30pm
on Tuesday 2 June



Always first Tuesday
of the month.



Farewell and best wishes to Rev. Chris and Jacqui

Last Sunday, St. Mary's, our neighbouring parish said goodbye to their Vicar, Rev. Chris Nelson, and his wife Jacqui, following Chris's retirement after 25 years of faithful service to the parish and wider community.

The occasion was marked with a special morning service attended by the Mayor of Penwortham Town Council, followed later in the day by a retirement celebration and buffet hosted by the church.

During the afternoon, St Leonard's presented Chris with a "Heaven Scent" rose as a small token of our gratitude and appreciation for his many years of dedicated ministry and service to the town.

Twenty-five years of ministry represents an extraordinary commitment, and throughout that time Chris has been a familiar and valued presence within the local church community and beyond. While retirement is undoubtedly well deserved, we know he and Jacqui will both be greatly missed by parishioners and friends alike.

We send them our warmest thanks and prayers as they begin this new chapter of life together, and wish them every happiness and blessing in their retirement.

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

Penny Gala - help!

Reverend Janet is busy planning some fun and creative environmentally themed activities for the craft table at Penwortham Gala, and we are looking for a few recyclable items that might otherwise end up in the recycling bin.

With help from Janette and Michelle they are planning to make biodegradable plant pots from old newspapers and planting sunflower seeds ready for a special sunflower growing competition later in the year. We hope families and children will enjoy measuring and photographing their sunflowers as they grow over the summer!

We are also planning to make bug hotels to encourage wildlife and pollinators into our gardens and outdoor spaces. To help with these activities, we would be very grateful for donations of:

- **Old newspapers**
- **Empty plastic milk cartons**
- **Empty pop bottles**

If you are able to help, please bring items along to church over the couple of weeks. Thank you for helping us care for God's creation in practical, creative and fun ways.

Penwortham in Bloom



UPCOMING events

2026

 <p>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.</p>	 <p>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.</p>
<p>23 MAY</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>13 JUN</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>16 JUL</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>29 AUG</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>13 SEP</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>8 OCT</p> <p>Celebration Night Join us at St Teresa's Social Centre for our main presentation evening, celebrating entries from the Sunflower, Photography, and Scarecrow competitions.</p>
<p>31 OCT</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>8 NOV</p> <p>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.</p>

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.

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

9:15 Skylarks Community Choir

Tuesday 2 June

9.30am Magic Moments Memory
Choir
1.30pm Chatting Chairs and
Talking Tables

Wednesday 3 June

10am Holy Communion

Friday 5 June

8am Morning Prayer

Saturday 6 June

10am Messy Church
1pm Preston Orpheus - come and
sing

Sunday 7 June - Trinity 1

8:30am Holy Communion
10am Sung Holy Communion

Monday 8 June

9:15am Skylarks Community
Choir
7:30pm Primary Visitation, Holy
Trinity Hoghton

Sidespersons, Readers and Coffee Rota

Sun 31 May - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-end / Matt. 28.16-end
8.30am Peter Milner and Angela Milner.
Reader: Anglea 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 3

Genesis 21.8-21 / Matt 10.24-39
8.30am Phil and Susan Range. *Reader:*
Rev Janet.

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

Sun 28 June - Trinity 4

TBC
8.30am Peter and Angela Milner.
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

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