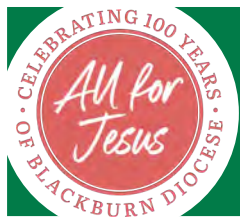


Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her. RUTH 2:16



St. Leonard's
NEWS
www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk

Sunday 28 June 2026

Trinity 4

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



Living in generosity and grace

Throughout the month of July, St Leonard's will be taking a short break from the usual lectionary readings as we begin a four-week teaching series on stewardship entitled "Giving in Grace." Using the Book of Ruth as our guide, we will explore what it means to live generously in response to God's generosity towards us.

Our sermon series will follow Ruth's remarkable journey from loss and uncertainty to provision, redemption and hope.

The ministry and mission of St Leonard's simply would not be possible without those who give faithfully and sacrificially week after week, month after month. We are deeply grateful for their support.

For many people, the word "stewardship" immediately raises the subject of money. While finances are certainly part of stewardship, they are only part of a much bigger picture. Stewardship is about recognising that everything we have—our time, talents, resources, rela-

tionships and opportunities—is ultimately a gift from God, entrusted to us for a season.

Nevertheless, it would be dishonest to avoid talking about money altogether. It has been around eight years since St Leonard's last undertook a [CONTINUED OVER]

- Sun 5th July – Trinity 5
Generous Loving
Ruth 1:1-22 | Matt 13:44-46
- Sun 12th July – Trinity 6
Generous Provision
Ruth 2:1-20 | Luke 12:13-21
- Sun 19th July – Trinity 7
Generous Choices
Ruth 3:1-18 | Luke 18:18-23
- Sun 26th July – Trinity 8
Generous Hope
Ruth 4:1-17 | Luke 12:27-34

Why the Book of Ruth?

As we prepare for our July teaching series on generosity, some people may be wondering why we have chosen to spend four weeks exploring the Book of Ruth. To the best of my knowledge, St Leon-

ard's has never undertaken a sermon series on Ruth before, which is perhaps surprising given that it is one of the most beautiful and uplifting stories in the whole Bible.

At first glance, Ruth appears

to be a simple family story. It begins with tragedy. Naomi loses her husband and both her sons and finds herself returning home to Bethlehem grieving, vulnerable and uncertain about the future. Accompanying her is Ruth, her Moabite daughter-in-law, who

leaves behind her own people, her homeland and everything familiar in order to remain alongside Naomi.

Yet as the story unfolds, we discover that Ruth is much more than a tale of loss and recovery. It is a story woven [CONTINUED OVER]



Living in generosity and grace *(continued)*

focused stewardship campaign, and one of the things that has emerged through our recent conversations with the Diocese is that our level of regular giving is currently around half of what would be required to sustain our present level of ministry and church provision over the longer term.

That may sound concerning, but it is important to say two things.

Firstly, we are already blessed by the generosity of many people within our church family. The ministry and mission of St Leonard's simply would not be possible without those who give faithfully and sacrificially week after week, month after month. We are deeply grateful for their

support.

Secondly, this series is not about pressure, guilt or targets. It is about discipleship. It is about asking how we respond to God's generosity towards us and how we can each play our part in supporting the worship, ministry, pastoral care and community outreach that make St Leonard's such a vital presence in Penwortham.

Over the coming weeks we will be reflecting together on generosity, gratitude and trust. We hope you will join us as we explore what it means to be joyful, generous stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. As Jesus reminds us, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Why the Book of Ruth? *(continued)*

together by extraordinary acts of generosity. Ruth generously gives up her own security in order to care for Naomi. Naomi, despite her grief, seeks a future for Ruth rather than focusing solely on her own needs.

Boaz opens his fields to the poor, welcomes the stranger, and acts with kindness and integrity towards both women. Again and again, characters choose generosity over self-interest, faithfulness over convenience and courage over fear. What makes the story particularly relevant for us is that none of the characters are wealthy, powerful or influential. They are ordinary people facing ordinary challenges. Yet through their choices, God is at work bringing blessing, provision and hope.

By the end of the story, what began in famine ends

in abundance. What began in sorrow ends in joy. What began with loss ends with the birth of new life and the promise of a future.

The Book of Ruth is a reminder that generosity is about much more than money. It is about how we treat one another. It is about kindness, hospitality, loyalty, trust and the willingness to place our lives in God's hands.

As we explore Ruth together throughout July, we will be asking what it means to live generously in response to God's generosity towards us. Along the way, we will discover a story that is both deeply human and profoundly hopeful—a story in which God's grace is quietly at work through the faithfulness of ordinary people. We hope you will join us as we journey through this remarkable book together.

It is about kindness, hospitality, loyalty, trust and the willingness to place our lives in God's hands.

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

How can we bless our community in a practical and prayerful way?

This Sunday - come and join our parish prayer walk and litter pick

Walk starts at 1pm

This Sunday 28th June, at 1.00pm, we are inviting as many people as possible to join us for a Parish Prayer and Pick Walk. As we walk around our parish, we will pray for the people, places and organisations that make up our community, while also helping to care for our neighbourhood by collecting litter along the way.

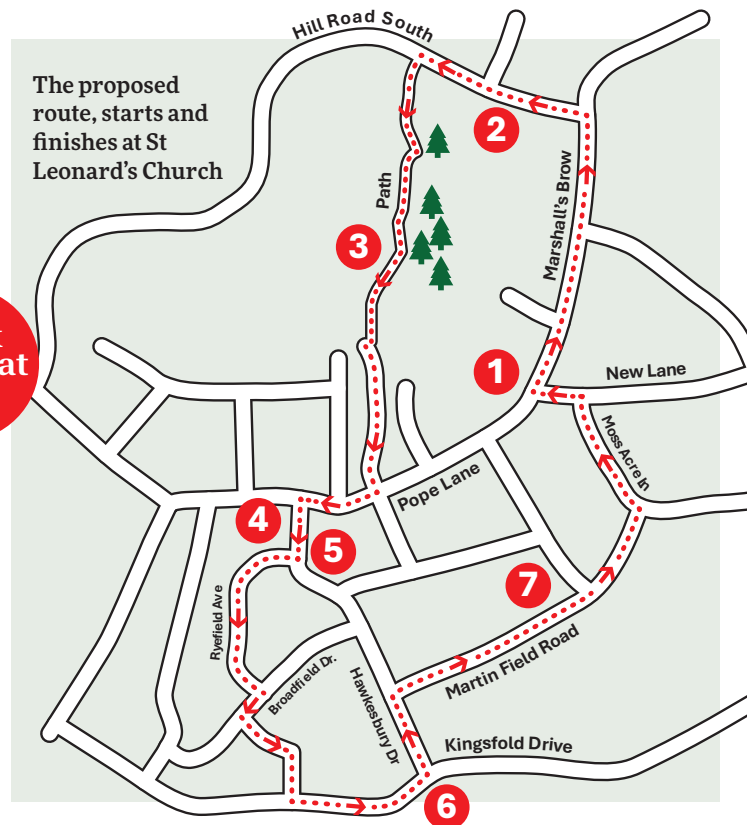
There will be planned prayer stops at a number of key locations, including Middleforth School, Penwortham Library and Penwortham Grange, as we give thanks for the work that takes place there and pray for all who use and serve those facilities. There will also be opportunities for impromptu pauses along the route whenever we feel drawn to pray for a particular place or

need.

The walk will be approximately 1.7 miles in length, following pavements and designated pathways, making it accessible for most people. Whether you are a seasoned walker or simply enjoy a gentle stroll, we'd love you to join us.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see our parish through fresh eyes, to pray for our community, and to demonstrate our care for the place we call home.

The walk will conclude back at St Leonard's, where coffee, tea and (hopefully!) cakes will be waiting for us. So, grab a litter picker if you have one, put on some comfortable shoes, and come and join us as we seek to bless Penwortham both in prayer and in action.



Planned stops

1. Start off at Church – *pray for Gods blessing*
2. Middleforth School & Scout Hut – *pray for schools and children*
3. Path next to brook – *thank God for creation*
4. Library & Shops – *pray for those who live in our parish*
5. Methodist Church – *pray for all Penwortham churches*
6. Penwortham Community Centre – *pray for our civic leaders and those who work in our community*
7. Penwortham Grange + Lodge ~ Care Home – *pray for the sick, the elderly and the lonely*
8. Head back to Church | *Prayer of thanks etc and Coffee*

An ethical guide to shopping

Many of us try to make responsible choices in our daily lives, whether that means reducing waste, supporting local businesses, caring for the environment, or considering how and where the products we buy are made. Yet with so many brands, companies and competing claims, it can sometimes be difficult to know where to begin.

One resource that may be of interest is the Ethical Shopping

Guide produced by Ethical Consumer, a non-profit co-operative that supports the ethical consumer movement. Their website provides independent information and ratings on a wide range of products and services, helping consumers make informed choices based on environmental, social and ethical considerations.

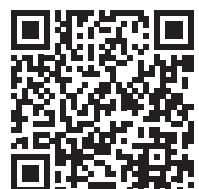
The guides cover more than 100 different categories, ranging from broadband providers and

financial services to clothing, household goods, food, holidays and much more. Each guide includes product ratings, recommended "Best Buy" options and information about the ethical performance of companies, enabling people to compare products and avoid those that may not align with their values.

As Christians, we recognise that stewardship extends beyond the walls of the church and into the everyday decisions we

make. While none of us can get everything right all of the time, resources such as these can help us think more carefully about the impact our purchasing decisions have on people, communities and the environment.

If you would like to explore the guides for yourself, simply scan this QR Code.



Final flower trip sign up reminder

A few weeks ago we mentioned the possibility of organising a parish trip to the Flower Show at Blackburn Cathedral, which takes place from Friday 21st August to Monday 24th August.

There has already been some encouraging interest, and several people have suggested that we make a full day of it by including a stop for lunch along the way. Before we can make any firm arrangements, however, we need to get a clearer idea of numbers.

Unfortunately, because last

weekend was Gala Weekend, there was no usual 10.00am service at St Leonard's and therefore less opportunity for people to see and sign the list. We don't want anyone to miss out simply because they weren't at church that morning!

The sign-up sheet will therefore remain at the back of church for a little longer. Adding your name is not a binding commitment, but it will help us determine whether there is sufficient interest to make the trip viable

and what transport arrangements might be required.

Whether you're a keen gardener, a lover of beautiful floral displays, or simply fancy a day out with friends from church, we'd love to hear from you.

Please add your name to the list if you think you may be interested. Once we have a better idea of numbers, we can begin to explore transport options, lunch arrangements and costs.

Let's see if we can make this a blooming good parish outing!

Sidespersons, readers and coffee rota

Sun 28 June - Trinity 4

Genesis 22.1-14/Matt 10.40 - end

8.30 — Peter and Angela Milner.

Reader: Andrea Waine.

10.00 — Barbara Palmer

Reader: Andrea Waine Prayers:

Diane Raynor Coffee: Linda and

Alistair

Sun 5 July - Trinity 5

Generous Loving. Ruth 1.1-22/

Matt 13.44 - 46

8.30 — Franklin Bello and Peter

Milner. Reader: Philip Walsh.

10.00 — Brian Bamber Reader:

Ann Butterworth Prayers:

Angela Milner Coffee: Barbara

and Christine

Sun 12 July - Trinity 6

Generous Provision. Ruth 2.1-20 –

Luke 12.13 – 21

8.30 — Irene Farrimond and

Elizabeth Bunyan. Reader: Rev.

Simon.

10.00 — Joyce Helm Reader:

Philip Walsh Prayers: Set

Prayers Coffee: Laraine and Ann

Sun 19 July - Trinity 7

Generous Choices. Ruth 3.1-18 – Luke

18.18 – 23

8.30 — Phil and Susan Range.

Reader: Susan Range

10.00 — Linda and Alistair

Woollard Reader: Melvyn

Gardner Prayers: Angela Milner

Coffee: Brian and Melvyn

Monday 29 June

10:00 Pre-School Phonics
Classes

15:30 BOOSH after school
club

18:15 Yoga

Tuesday 30 June

09:30 Magic Moments
Memory Choir

15:30 BOOSH Club After
School Club

17:00 Brownies &
Rainbows

Wednesday 1 July

09:00 Early Years Music
Sessions

10:00 Weds Morning
Communion

CHURCH AND HALL DIARY

13:00 Skylarks Community
Choir

15:30 BOOSH after school
club

19:15 Rawstorne Singers

Thursday 2 July

18:15 Ling Shi Tai Chi Club

18:45 Choir Practice

Friday 3 July

08:00 Friday morning
prayers

19:30 Gilbert & Sullivan
Group

Sunday 5 July

08:30 Said Communion

10:00 Holy Communion
(Sung)

Monday 6 July

Diocesan Conference

09:15 Skylarks Community
Choir

10:00 Pre-School Phonics
Classes

15:30 BOOSH after school
club

18:15 Yoga

Tuesday 7 July

09:30 Magic Moments
Memory Choir

13:30 Talking Tables &
Chatting Chairs

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

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