

St. Leonard's NEWS

www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk

Sunday 2 August 2026

Trinity 9

The Weekly Newsletter
for St. Leonard's Church

Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA



Above: Livingstone we presume?

GREEN FINGERS AND VERDANT HEARTS

A HUGE THANK YOU TO everyone who came to the Vicarage last Saturday to help clear the jungle!

Undeterred by the threat of rain, our hardy band of volunteers set about chopping, clipping and snipping the over-

grown foliage, which has been sprouting at a remarkable rate in this year's warm weather.

No tigers were discovered lurking in the undergrowth, and despite an extensive search, there were no pandas hiding among the bamboo. However,

several long-forgotten paths and flower beds were eventually liberated and returned to daylight.

After all that labour came some well-earned refreshment, before the rain finally arrived and stopped play for the afternoon.

In all seriousness, a massive thank you to everyone who so generously gave their time, energy and gardening expertise. Your hard work made an enormous difference and was very much appreciated.

It is said that green fingers are the outward sign of a verdant heart—and last Saturday provided plenty of evidence that this is true!



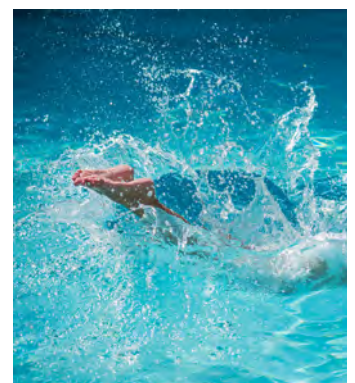
Taking the plunge deux!

THE VOTES ARE IN! At least four people and a grey whippet got back to me to say that I should take on the sponsored swim—and apparently that is all the encouragement this eager beaver needed.

So, on Saturday, I shall take a trip to the pool at Total Fitness on Strand Road for the first mile of this year's challenge. The aim is to swim "21 miles in 21 days", which is roughly the same distance as crossing the English Channel—as le seagull flies. That means completing a mile each day while praying that the enthusiasm, and my arms, will last the full three weeks!

A sponsor sheet will be available at the back of church for anyone who would like to support my aquatic antics and regular updates will be posted in this esteemed organ. If you would prefer to give online, please let me know and I will sort a QR Code out. Every contribution and word of encouragement will be gratefully received.

Thank you in advance for your support. Now there is nothing left to do but take a deep breath—and make a splash!



A MISSIONAL BEGINNING

THE STORY OF ST LEONARD'S begins with a piece of land known locally as the "Potato Field." On Thursday 13 September 1860, the land was acquired from John TW. Aspinall of Standen Hall, near Clitheroe. The Vicar of St Mary's, Penwortham, the Revd William Edward Rawstorne, agreed to purchase it at its agricultural valuation of £41, 14 shillings and 4½ pence.

The purpose was to build a chapel school for the people of Middleforth. That combination of chapel and school says something important about the character of St Leonard's from its very beginning. This was not simply a smaller version of the parish church. It was established to take the life of the Church beyond its existing walls and into a growing community. Worship, education and service were brought together in a place intended to meet people where



A very early picture of the "Iron Church" with Edwardian Children playing in the foreground

they lived.

Middleforth Chapel School was designed by Edward G. Paley of Lancaster and built by Cooper and Tullis of Preston. Economy and resourcefulness were part of the project: old bricks from Penwortham Malt-kiln were reused for the inside walls to keep costs down. The completed building cost £732, 11 shillings and 2 pence.

The first services were held on Wednesday 4 December 1861. The official opening took place at 11am, led by the Archdeacon of Manchester. A second service followed at 7pm, when the sermon was preached by the incumbent, the Revd William Edward Rawstorne.

From then on, divine service



Meeting outside the old "Iron Church"

was held every Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. Holy Communion was celebrated six times each year, and parishioners were expected to receive Communion at least three times annually, including at Easter.

The infrequency of Communion is striking when compared

with the more sacramental pattern of worship familiar at St Leonard's in recent years. It suggests that the original chapel school placed its principal emphasis upon accessible worship, preaching, teaching and mission within the local community. The Eucharist was important, but it



**Talking
Tables
and
Chatting
Chairs**

from 1.30pm on
Tuesday 4 August



Always first Tuesday
of the month.

THE IRON CHURCH



The old St. Leonard's was known as the "Iron Church", the "Tin Church" or the "Tin Tabernacle".

had not yet assumed the central and frequent place it would occupy in the church's later life.

The building was also a place of learning. Sunday School was held for "little children" from 10am until noon and again from 3pm until 4.30pm—a considerable commitment from children and teachers alike! From the outset, this was a church concerned with the life of local families and the nurture of future genera-

tions.

As Middleforth grew, so did the chapel school. In 1878 it was extended, with a new chapel replacing the original worship room. The work was carried out by John Walmsley of Preston at a cost of £942, 1 shilling and 3 pence.

A further development came in October 1901, when foundations were laid and iron sections erected for a new mission church

at the bottom of Marshall's Brow. The "Iron Church" was erected by Archdeacon Rawstorne in memory of his sister, Mary Rawstorne of Beechwood.

On Saturday 7 December 1901, it was opened and dedicated to St

Leonard by the Right Revd Edwyn Hoskyns, Bishop of Burnley. Middleforth Chapel School had now become Middleforth Mission Church, with a name and identity of its own.

The word "mission" is central to this history. St Leonard's was founded because the Church recognised a need to reach beyond established patterns and create a place of worship within the community. Its life has changed considerably since then, including the growth of a richer and more regular sacramental tradition. Yet its original calling has never entirely disappeared.

Over time, St Leonard's has also become a sanctuary for people who have not always found it easy to feel comfortable or accepted elsewhere. Perhaps that, too, belongs to its missional inheritance: a church willing to meet people where they are and make room for them.

Buildings, worship and traditions change, but the calling remains—to be present within the community, to welcome those who come and to help people discover that there is a place for them within the life and love of God.

Below: The old church site is cleared to make way for Churchbrook House





PENWORTHAM
FARMERS MARKET
SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Join us on **Saturday, 1st August, 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**



Sidespersons, readers and coffee rota

Sun 2 August - Trinity 9

Genesis 32.22-31 – Matt 14.13-21

8.30 – Franklin Bello and Phil Range. *Reader:* Andrea Waine
10.00 – Barbara Palmer
Reader: Ann Butterworth
Prayers: Diane Raynor *Coffee:* Barbara and Christine

Sun 9 August - Trinity 10

Genesis 37.1-4, 12-38 – Matt 14.22-33

8.30 – Irene Farrimond and Elizabeth Bunyan. *Reader:* Philip Walsh
10.00 – Laraine Southwell and Jenny Stanton *Reader:* Laraine Southwell *Prayers:* Set *Coffee:* Laraine and Ann

Sun 16 August - Trinity 11

Genesis 45.1-15 – Matt 15.21-28

8.30 – Susan and Phil Range. *Reader:* Rev Janet
10.00 – Brian Bamber *Reader:* Andrea Waine *Prayers:* Rev Janet *Coffee:* Brian and Melvyn

Sun 23 August - Trinity 12

Exodus 1.8-2.10 – Matt 16.13-20

8.30 – Franklin Bello and Peter Milner. *Reader:* Angela Milner
10.00 – Barbara Palmer
Reader: Ann Butterworth
Prayers: Rev Simon *Coffee:* Linda and Alistair

Sun 30 August - Trinity 13

Exodus 3.1-15 – Matt 16.21 – end

8.30 – Peter Milner. *Reader:* Andrea Waine
10.00 – Laraine Southwell and Jenny Stanton *Reader:* Ann Butterworth *Prayers:* Angela Milner *Coffee:* Barbara and Christine.

Sun 6 September - Trinity 14

Exodus 12.1-14 – Matt 18.15-20

8.30 – Franklin Bello and Peter Milner. *Reader:* Philip Walsh
10.00 – Brian Bamber *Reader:* Brian Bamber *Prayers:* Rev Simon *Coffee:* Laraine and Ann.

CHURCH AND HALL DIARY

Friday 31 July

08:00 Friday morning prayers
 13:00 Magic Moments Disco
 19:30 Gilbert & Sullivan Group

Sunday 2 August

08:30 Said Communion
 10:00 Sung Communion
 14:00 Afternoon tea

Monday 3 August

18:15 Yoga

Tuesday 4 August

13:30 Talking Tables & Chatting Chairs

Wednesday 5 August

10:00 Weds Morning Communion
 19:15 Rawstorne Singers

Thursday 6 August

18:15 Ling Shi Tai Chi Club
 18:45 Choir Practice

Friday 7 August

08:00 Friday morning prayers
 19:30 Gilbert & Sullivan Group

Sunday 9 August

08:30 Said Communion
 10:00 All Age Family Service and Baptism Welcome
 11:30 Baptism Tilly Jean Braithwaite

Monday 10 August

18:15 Yoga

Tuesday 11 August

19:45 Singing Group

BLOOM & PLAY
 TINY TOWN
STAY & PLAY SESSIONS

Come and explore our pop-up role play town, filled with beautiful wooden play equipment, ride-on toys and fancy dress. Designed for little ones to imagine, learn and play, children can step into their very own mini town featuring:

- CAFÉ
- SUPERMARKET
- ANIMAL RESCUE
- CONSTRUCTION ZONE
- EMERGENCY SERVICES

All centred around a community park complete with an ice cream van, picnic area, post box and cosy reading corner – a calm, welcoming space particularly suited to babies and younger explorers.

90-MINUTE SESSIONS		
Friday 24th July	10:00am & 12:15pm	St Peter's Church Hall, Chorley (PR6 0HP)
Friday 7th August	10:00am & 12:15pm	St Peter's Church Hall, Chorley (PR6 0HP)
Friday 14th August	10:00am & 12:15pm	St Leonard's Church Hall, Penwortham (PR1 9JA)
Saturday 29th August	10:00am & 12:15pm	St Peter's Church Hall, Chorley (PR6 0HP)

Under 1 year **£3.50** | Ages 1-6 years **£7.50**

Discounts available for multiple child bookings
 Complimentary refreshments included
DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-6 YEARS

SPACES ARE LIMITED - FIND BLOOM & PLAY TINY TOWN ON FACEBOOK TO BOOK!