

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS · All for Jesus · OF BLACKBURN DIOCESE

St. Leonard's NEWS

www.stleonardspenwortham.org.uk

Sunday 15 November 2026

Safeguarding Sunday

The Weekly Newsletter for St. Leonard's Church

Marshall's Brow, Penwortham PR1 9JA

PENWORTHAM ST. LEONARD'S FAMILYCHURCH

Safeguarding Sunday
LOVE PROTECTS

This Sunday, 15th November, we will be marking Safeguarding Sunday, joining churches across the country in reflecting on this year's theme: Love Protects.

Let's be honest. When most of us hear the word safeguarding, we don't immediately think of it as a ministry. We might think of policies, training sessions, DBS checks, forms and procedures. Important things, certainly, but perhaps not the first things that spring to mind when we think about faith and discipleship. Yet safeguarding is far more than paperwork.

At its heart, safeguarding is simply about caring for people well. It is about making sure that children, young people and adults can be safe, valued and supported within our church community. It is about creating an environment where everyone can encounter God's love without fear.

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul tells us that love protects. Those two words remind us that safeguarding is not an obligation imposed from outside the Church. It is an expression of who we are called to be as followers of Jesus. .

A healthy church is not just a welcoming church; it is a safe church. When safeguarding is done well, it often goes unnoticed, but it creates the conditions in which people can belong, flourish and grow in faith.

As we celebrate Safeguarding Sunday, we would like to express our sincere thanks to our safeguarding team: Ian, Lucy and Tracy. Much of their work happens quietly behind the scenes, but their commitment, diligence and care have made a tremendous difference. Through their hard work, our Safeguarding Dashboard has now reached an impressive 98% completion, reflecting the priority our church places on the wellbeing of everyone in our community. Their work helps ensure that our church remains a place where people are not only welcomed but protected and cared for.

This Safeguarding Sunday, let's remember that safeguarding is not somebody else's responsibility. It belongs to all of us. Every act of kindness, every thoughtful conversation, every concern taken seriously is part of building a culture where love protects. And surely that is at the very heart of the Gospel.

This Sunday at 2.00pm

Just a reminder that this Sunday afternoon at 2pm, our very own St Leonard's Gilbert and Sullivan Group will be performing a special concert in church on the theme of "What a Wonderful World."



Sunday 15th November ~ Penwortham ~ 2pm, St Leonard's Church

Saturday 28th November ~ Preston ~ 7pm, Wycliffe Church

Ticket prices vary

Date for your diary: To celebrate the 50th anniversary of St Leonard's G&S group's first performance ~ Trial By Jury ~ Shrove Tuesday 9th February 2027



Christmas Tree Festival please can you help?

The countdown to our Christmas Tree Festival is well underway, and we are looking for volunteers and donations to help make this year's event a wonderful success.

As always, the festival is a fantastic opportunity to welcome visitors into our church, celebrate the Christmas season and raise valuable funds for our ministry and community work. However, events like this can only happen with the support of our church family. We would be grateful for help in any of the following ways:

- Volunteers to help over the festival weekend. Rotas for Saturday and Sunday are available at the back of church.
- Items for our Craft and Good-as-New Stall.
- Raffle prizes, which can be placed in the collection box at the back of church.
- Hamper donations, with a collection box also available at the back of church.
- Cakes and soup for refreshments. If you are able to contribute, please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Whether you can spare a few hours, donate an item, bake a cake or provide a raffle prize, every contribution makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. Together, we can ensure that this year's Christmas Tree Festival is a memorable event for all who attend. Sign up sheets are at the back of church. Thank you for your help.



St. Leonard's will remember them

Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to our Civic Remembrance Service last Sunday.

The service provided a fitting and dignified opportunity for our community to come together in remembrance, reflection and gratitude. We were blessed by the beautiful floral arrangements, the wonderful music and the many individuals who worked quietly behind the scenes to ensure that the occasion was both welcoming and meaningful.

We are grateful to our civic guests, uniformed organisations, local representatives and all who attended. Your presence helped make the service a powerful expression of our shared commitment to remembering those who have served our nation in times of conflict and peace.

Remembrance Sunday invites us to pause amidst the busyness of life and reflect on the courage, sacrifice and selflessness of so many men and women. As we stood together in silence, laid wreaths and offered our prayers, we honoured those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and remembered all whose lives have been affected by war and conflict.

Faith, questions and wonder at Middleforth Primary School



This week has been a joyful reminder of the importance of our ministry in schools and of the spiritual curiosity that children naturally bring to matters of faith.

On Tuesday, SOFA (Share Our Faith Around) returned for another term at Middleforth Primary School. Led by Rev Simon, the after-school group brings together children from Years 3 to 6 to explore the Christian faith in an open and welcoming environment. Our first session posed a deceptively simple question: Who is Jesus? What followed was a lively and thought-provoking discussion as the children shared their ideas, challenged one another and asked an astonishing variety of questions. Their enthusiasm and willingness to engage with big ideas was a delight to see.

The conversation continued on Wednesday when Rev Simon spent time with Year 6 pupils exploring the nature of God. Together we considered how we know what we know about God and what sources help to shape Christian belief. Once again, the children demonstrated remarkable curiosity and insight. Their questions ranged from the profound to the unexpected and provided a wonderful opportunity for thoughtful discussion. It is always encouraging to see young people wrestling seriously with matters of faith and belief.

The week concludes with a visit from Bishop Philip, who is taking a little time away from the Diocese's Centenary celebrations to join us at Middleforth. During his visit he will lead a Remembrance reflection with the school community and will also be filming material for God's Big Story, a Religious Education resource being developed for primary schools.

School ministry often begins with questions rather than answers, and this week has been full of them. In the curiosity of the children at Middleforth we are reminded that faith grows when people are given the confidence to wonder, to explore and to ask. We give thanks for the opportunities to share the Christian story within our schools and for the privilege of accompanying young people as they discover more about God.

Celebrating 100 years and looking to the future

This week also marks a momentous occasion in the life of the Church across Lancashire as the Diocese of Blackburn and Blackburn Cathedral celebrate their centenary. For one hundred years, generations of faithful Christians have worshipped, served and shared the good news of Jesus Christ in our towns, villages and communities. As we give thanks for all that has been, we also look forward with hope and expectation to all that God has yet to do among us.

The centenary celebrations will culminate in a special service at Blackburn Cathedral, led by Bishop Philip, bringing together representatives from parishes, schools and communities from across the county. The service will be an opportunity to celebrate a century of faith, worship and witness, and to give thanks for the countless clergy, lay leaders and church members whose dedication has helped shape the Diocese over the last hundred years.

Yet this anniversary is not simply about looking back. As the Diocese reaches this significant milestone, it is also preparing to embark on a new chapter. This weekend sees the launch of the Diocese's next vision, "Joyful Followers of Jesus", setting a renewed direction for the years ahead. Rooted in prayer and centred on discipleship, the vision seeks to encourage churches across Lancashire to deepen their faith, share the gospel and help others encounter the transforming love of Christ.

Parishes will have opportunities to explore and celebrate the vision locally, particularly around Christ the King Sunday, with resources, prayers and worship materials being made available to support churches of every size and tradition.

As we celebrate one hundred years of diocesan life, there is much for which to give thanks. We remember with gratitude those who went before us, whose faithfulness laid the foundations upon which we continue to build. At the same time, we look ahead with confidence, trusting that the God who has guided the Diocese through its first century will continue to lead and inspire His people in the years to come.

Gift Aid Forms reminder

A gentle reminder to anyone who has yet to complete a Gift Aid form: forms are available in the red folder at the back of church. Once completed, please place them in the tray.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

More Baptisms at St Leonard's

Our busy season of baptisms continues this Sunday, when Rev Simon and Janet have the privilege of baptising ten candidates, including both adults and children, in a special service following our main morning worship.

We are delighted to welcome Troy, Stuart, Donna, Miar, Darcey, Olivia, Lila-Mae, Thomas, Sofia and Blakeley as they take this important step in their journey of faith and are welcomed into the family of God

Baptism is a joyful occasion, marking both God's love for us and our response to that love.

It is a visible sign of belonging, faith and new life in Christ, and it is always a privilege for us as a church family to share in these special moments.

Please do keep all our candidates, together with their families and friends, in your prayers. May they know God's presence, blessing and guidance as they continue their faith journey with us at St. Leonard's.



Sidespersons, readers and coffee rota

Sun 15 Nov - Safeguarding Sunday
1 Corinthians 13.1-13: Matt 15.14-30

8.30 — Peter and Angela Milner. *Reader:* Peter Milner
10.00 — Barbara Palmer *Reader:* Brian Bamber *Prayers:* Rev Janet *Coffee:* Linda and Alistair

Sun 22 Nov - Christ the King
Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24: Matt 25.31-end

8.30 — Franklin Bello and Peter Milner. *Reader:* Rev Simon
10.00 — Joyce Helm *Reader:* TBC *Prayers:* Set Prayers *Coffee:* Barbara and Christine

Sun 29 November - Advent 1
Isaiah 64.1-9 Mark 13.24-end

8.30 — Irene Farrimond and Elizabeth Bunyan. *Reader:* Marian Woods
10:00 — Laraine Southwell and Jenny Stanton *Reader:* Melvyn Gardner *Prayers:* Rev Janet *Coffee:* Laraine and Ann

Sun 6 December - Advent 2
Isaiah 40.1-11 Mark 1.1-8

8.30 — Phil and Susan Range. *Reader:* Andrea Waine
10:00 — Sylvia Johnson *Reader:* Philip Walsh *Prayers:* Rev Simon *Coffee:* Brian and Melvyn

St Leonard's Scout Group need our help!

9th Penwortham (St Leonard's) Scout Group have been chosen to be part of the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund and they need our help. Are you a Co-op Member? If not, you can sign up here: https://www.coop.co.uk/membership

Once you're a member, you can choose 9th Penwortham (St Leonard's) Scout Group in one click on the Co-op App, under the wallet section.

9th Penwortham (St Leonard's) Scout Group is part of the Co-op Local Community Fund. Download the Co-op App, become a member and choose our cause, so we can receive a share of £3.5m. https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/102390

Once you have chosen our cause, please share with your friends, family and networks.

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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