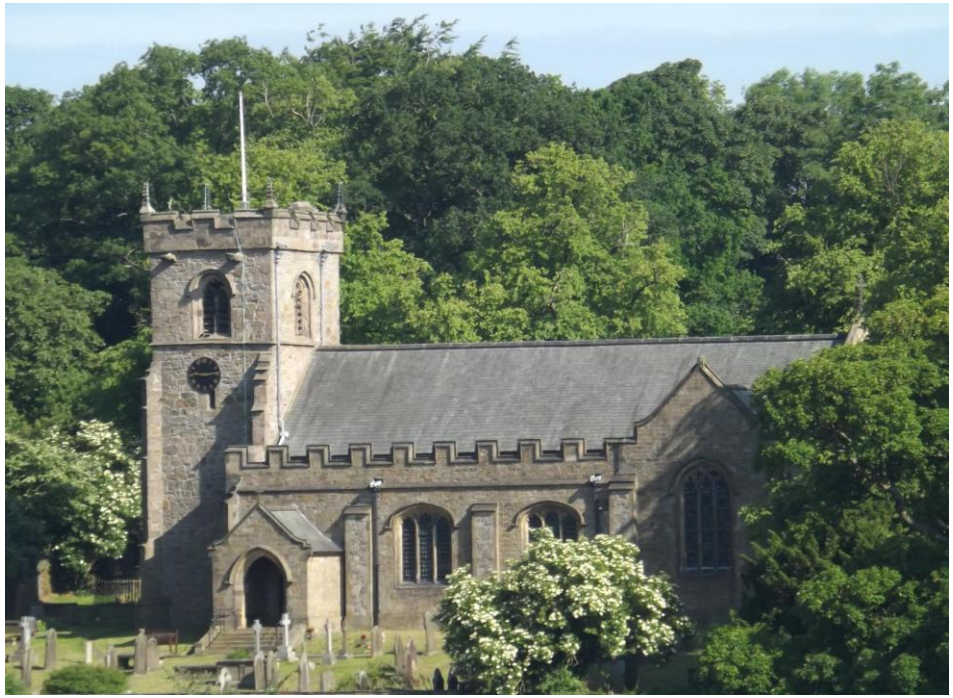


PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LEONARD
DOWNHAM & TWISTON

WEDDING INFORMATION (2026)

This pamphlet is designed to help and inform those hoping to marry at St. Leonard's Downham with some practical matters, it is not intended to replace discussions with Reverend Sherwood, which you should aim to do as soon as possible, after you decide on St Leonard's for your service. If you have any questions on what is within this pamphlet, please do speak to the Vicar or Wedding Co-ordinator.

CAPACITY

The church can seat 100 people in padded seats, and another 25 in rush chairs. In exception, it may be possible to hire more chairs from the Village Hall.

ACCESS

Although the Church is open for much of the day, early or late access for your florist for example should be arranged with the Wedding Coordinator, Mrs. Christine Naylor 07595 844 277.
We have narrow wheelchair access through the Tower door

ORDER of SERVICE

It is your responsibility to have these printed after your discussions with the Vicar.

MUSIC

Please discuss your musical wishes with the Vicar. We have an excellent organist and a small but tuneful choir. To arrange your music choices, contact the organist James Robinson at lone2000@hotmail.co.uk 07807 386 750, and our choir mistress Anne Chadwick at ibutterfly29@hotmail.com

If you would like your own organist, choir or musicians please speak to the Vicar. There are limited plug sockets to play back your own music, and no internet connection for streaming music.

Bell ringers can usually be arranged for our 5 bells. Contact Ralph Assheton at rca.thelidgett@btinternet.com

We have a hearing loop but no sound amplification system.

COSTS (2026)

Marriage Service & Publication of Banns (Mandatory)	£625
Verger (Mandatory)	£80
Heating (Optional, but strongly recommended for all but mid-summer weddings)	£tbc
Organist (Optional)	£130
The organist will charge an additional £100 if the ceremony is being sound or video recorded.	
Choir (Optional)	£75
Bells (Optional	£200

All charges will be invoiced in advance of the ceremony once you have decided which options you require. There will be additional costs if one or both of you do not live in our Parish and the Wedding Co-ordinator can advise on this.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

The law requires your Banns be read during a regular Church service in the three months preceding your marriage ceremony, normally on three consecutive Sundays, in the Church in which you intend to be married. It is really important that if you don't live in our parish, that you also arrange for your Banns to be read at both your "home" Parish Churches, and for the vicars there to provide a Certificate confirming your Banns have been read in accordance with the law, and that Certificate or Certificates to be sent to here, prior to your wedding. Your home parish church(es) will charge a fee for reading your Banns and providing the Certificate(s). No wedding can take place without the Certificates.

COLLECTION

The collections taken at the end of the service helps to defray the running costs of the Church and to maintain it for the years to come. A "Tap and go" machine is available at the back of the Church.

CONFFETTI

To keep litter to a minimum we require that only real flower petals are used, as these bio-degrade, and that throwing be confined to the Churchyard.

FLOWERS

Apart from Advent and Lent when there are none, there are usually fresh Altar Flowers at St Leonard's. These are, typically, relatively simple arrangements of seasonal flowers and foliage. We are happy for you or your florist to decorate the church with arrangements and colours of your choice. We just need to know in advance, so please tell the Vicar or Wedding Co-ordinator. The flowers are usually left to decorate the church for the week, but feel free to take them away with you.

Should your florist or anyone else require access to the Church to set up for your ceremony, outside of the Church's normal opening times, please contact the Wedding Co-ordinator.

CAR PARKING

This can often cause problems as the Church has no car park. We have a busy pub opposite and a beautiful village that can be a magnet for visitors during good weather. In addition to cars, the road is used by buses, agricultural and commercial vehicles, so inconsiderate parking can cause gridlock or damage.

Wedding planners might consider hiring the Village Hall for the reception (thus securing their large car park) or organising coach/mini bus transport for guests.

There is a free public car park at the bottom of the village, which should be used once passengers have been dropped off at the Church.

It would be helpful if all guests arriving by car were appraised of the parking situation.

INSURANCE

The church is covered by Public Liability Insurance.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Some couples occasionally have unusual special requests to add to their wedding service. If you do think you might wish for something out of the ordinary, please discuss these with the Vicar or Wedding Coordinator as soon as possible to confirm they are acceptable within the church.

TOILETS

The church has no toilets, but they are available for use in the Assheton Arms opposite.

LATE ARRIVALS

Whilst it might be a generally accepted that the "Bride is always late" this needs to be tempered by consideration for those supporting the service, including the Vicar, Verger, Organist, Choir and Bellringers, as well as the congregation. In general, we would not expect the service to continue if the start is delayed in excess of 20 minutes, except in exceptional circumstances.

MOBILE PHONES

There is very limited mobile phone coverage in Downham, so do not rely on getting a signal for last minute calls.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS AT

ST LEONARD'S CONTACT

Vicar
Reverend Paul Sherwood
07534 796838
VicarOfClitheroe@Yahoo.com

Wedding Co-ordinator
Christine Naylor
07595 844277
chrissy_naylor@hotmail.co.uk

St Leonard's is on the web www.downhamvillage.org.uk



DVH

DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL

LOVELY VENUE FOR WEDDING RECEPTIONS

SEATS 100, FULLY EQUIPPPED KITCHEN, TABLES, CHAIRS GLASS AND CROCKERY, LARGE CAR PARK
LEVEL ACCESS
BEAUTIFUL SETTING

www.downhamvillage.org.uk





