

**PARISH CHURCH
OF ST. LEONARD
DOWNHAM & TWISTON**



MEETING OF PARISHIONER_
&
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
These meetings will be held on Sunday, 26th April 2020
And voting will be held online

All Parishioners are eligible to attend and will be most welcome

**1. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
(THE VESTRY MEETING)**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of Meeting held on 28th April 2019
3. Election of the Church Wardens

**2. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th April 2019. (Available at the meeting)
3. To receive the Annual Report 2019 of the Parish Church (attached on the following pages)
4. To receive the Audited Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2019 (to be presented at the meeting)
5. Election of Two Deanery Synod Representatives (Term of 3 years 2017, 2020, 2023 etc).
6. Election of the Members of the Parochial Church Council
7. Election of the Sides men and women
8. Chairman's Remarks
9. Any other business

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR 2019**



Priest in Charge: The Revd Andy Froud
Hon Secretary and address for correspondence
Mr P M Naylor, Chestnut Cottage, Downham, Clitheroe BB7 4BT

Membership of the PCC – 2019

Ex Officio

The Lord Clitheroe – **Patron**

The Church Wardens

The Hon Ralph Assheton, Mrs Philippa McFall, Mr I Walton

**The Deanery Synod Representatives
(elected at the annual meeting 2017 for three years)**

Mrs Philippa McFall

Elected

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| The Lady Clitheroe | Mr Paul Mercer (co-opted mid-year) |
| Mr A Heron | Mr P. Naylor (Hon Secretary) |
| Mr B Lewis (Hon Treasurer) | Mrs M. Roskell |
| Mrs B. Lewis | Mrs K. Walmsley |
| Mr. T. McLean | Mrs A. Wallace |

The P.C.C. consults together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish. The functions of Council are to:

- Promote to the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical
- Consider matters of concern to the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest
- Make known and put into effect the provisions of the Diocesan or Deanery synod
- Give advice to the synods
- Raise matters with the synod
- Take responsibility for the financial affairs of the Church
- Take care of the Church fabric and the Church Yard

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LEONARD

WE, the Parishioners of Downham and Twiston, aim to serve God in the furtherance of His Kingdom on Earth through effective pastoral ministry

We attempt to achieve this in our contribution to the quality of life in the Parish by:

- Fostering an atmosphere of warm welcome in church
- Use of the liturgy, our material and human resources in a way which enables the whole community, including children, to worship Him
- Showing pastoral care in our neighbourhood
- Sponsorship of, and personal interest in, village activities
- Showing practical concern for mission and need outside our own Parish
- Having an ever-open and well-kept Church building

The Electoral Roll of St Leonard's Church 2019/20

Membership at the end of 2019 - 40 Members

There were four permanent removals from the Roll in year
who all moved away

Mr C Baron
Mr J Burge
Miss L Gibbon
Miss R Mayhan

Membership at the end of 2019/20 - 36 Members

Electors are those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church meeting where elections take place for Church Wardens, Parish Representatives for the Deanery Synod and the Parochial Church Council.

A new roll is prepared every six years. Renewals are now due in 2025, 2031, etc.

In the years between renewals, revisions are prepared for presentation in the annual report of the Parish Church.

The Business of the P.C.C.

Mr Philip Naylor Hon Secretary

The PCC met three times in the year 2019.

Nine members were elected at the annual meeting; four members sit ex-officio (with one vacancy - The second Deanery Synod representative) making twelve members in total.

Since the Annual Meeting, two further members have stepped forward for nomination

Attendance at PCC meetings in 2019 averaged eight members.

Main business items of the Council in the year 2019 were:

1. Arrangements for services, including:
 - 1.1. Continuation of special family services, including Mothering Sunday and Christingle.
 - 1.2 Arrangements for other special services, including the Assheton Sermon, given by Canon Cilla Hawkes, an Assheton Cousin.
2. Membership of the Wider Church through:
 - 2.1. Representation at the Whalley Deanery Synod
 - 2.2. Joint worship with Christ Church,
 - 2.3 Sharing in a team ministry with Chatburn Christ Church and Clitheroe St Mary Magdalene
 - 2.4. Mission 2026
3. Maintenance and Improvement of the Fabric of the Church Building.
 - 3.1 Working through the recommendations of the Quinquennial Report
 - 3.2 Completing a technical inspection of the Bell Tower and Bells
 - 3.3 Undertaking electrical Testing
 - 3.4 Cleaning Rota
 - 3.5 St Leonard's tide Clean Up
4. Stewardship of the Finances of the church including:
 - 4.1. Fundraising including a concert as part of Ribble Valley Music Festival, an Organ Recital and Singing on the Green, all held in June.
 - 4.2 The disbursement of our Charitable monies.
 - 4.3 Scrutiny of accounts
4. Supporting the Ribble Valley Food Bank, The Children's Society and a Shoe box Appeal for Children's Christmas Presents.

Our Worship

The Revd Andy Froud, Priest in Charge

As part of the United Benefice of Clitheroe, Chatburn, Downham and Low Moor, St Leonard's continues to maintain a strong tradition of worship rooted in the Book of Common Prayer.

On June 9th (Whitsuntide) we celebrated our Hymn Sing on the Green with Clitheroe Town Band: it was great to enjoy a lovely Sunday afternoon with so many people. Christmas and Easter have both seen good congregations, once again a scratch team of actors of all ages and sizes performed the Nativity as part of our Christingle Service the last Sunday before Christmas.

We are truly blessed with a wonderful, dedicated choir at Downham and for our team of gifted organists. The "robot" continues to perform sterling service on occasions where there is no organist available.

The numbers of those worshipping regularly at St Leonard's continues roughly the same in contrast with the decline in other parts of the church, a testament to the faithful service and warm welcome of our regular congregation. The closure of all churches in the UK provides a huge challenge to us here and we continue to pray with all Christians for our nation

Yours in Christ

The Music

Choir Mistress - Mrs Kirsteen Walmsley

This report must begin by thanking Kath, Di and Anne. Every week come whatever the British weather throws at them they come to support your music in your church. Their unquestioning loyalty may often go unnoticed, but I would like to reassure them that St Leonard's church is a better place for the difference they make to every service they attend.

Downham's choir has attended every Sunday service in the past 12 months, whether that be Matins, Holy Communion, Carol Services, Hymn Singing on the Green or the annual Christingle Service. They have had the pleasure of joining with families old and new at baptisms, weddings and funerals and Christmas would not be the same without the rousing carols at the Assheton Arms.

Our choir is also very thankful to our pool of organists; James, Eileen and Anne – thank you for keeping us going and being so adaptable, often at short notice, you really are all superstars. Long may there be music in St Leonard's!

Sidesmen and Women for the year 2019

Mrs Barbara Lewis
Mr Brian Lewis
Mrs Philippa McFall
Mr Ian Walton
Mr Alan Heron

Mr Tom Mc Lean
Mrs Eileen Parker
Mrs Anya Wallace
Mrs Kate Heron

From the Parish Registers – 2019

Holy Matrimony – 7+1

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|---------------------------|---|
| 14th June | Samuel Fleuriel and Jessica Hurst both of Penwortham (Blessing) |
| 15 th June | William Ogden and Catherine Russell both of Barley |
| 28 th June | Matthew Tootle and Amy Appleton both of Billington |
| 20 th July | Christopher Baron and Louise Gibson both of Bolton |
| 3 rd August | David Burdett and Anna Marchbank both of Leamington Spa |
| 17 th August | Rebecca Mahan and Joseph Burge of Stockport |
| 7 th September | Nichola Harbord and Ashley Rutherford, both of Chatburn |
| 7 th September | Bethany Gill and Anthony Beard, of Burnley |

Holy Baptism – 3

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 5 th May | Rose Amelia Jeffries |
| 14th July | Benjamin son of James and Renata Hardman |
| 13th October | Emily daughter of Adam and Melanie Riding |

Christian Funeral – 3

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 nd February | Jean Whitsey of Downham |
| 8 th March | Bob Swarbrick of Downham |
| 8 th July | Betty Mercer of Downham |

The Fabric of the Church Building

The Hon. Ralph Assheton, Church Warden

One of the Church notice boards has been re-covered in cork, which has made notice pinning much easier.

A larger than normal team of volunteers did much work to tidy up the Church yard on St Leonard's Day. The Lime trees had their annual haircut, whilst wall ivy and rampant roses had serious surgery.

A long-standing problem with the electrical earthing of the Church was remedied and a problem of loose pointing above the altar was rectified.

We continue to be blessed by having so many volunteers to help with all the chores that surround the care of our ancient building, its environs and its ability to be enjoyed by so many visitors. Thank you to all those who lock and unlock the door and gate daily, wind the clock, mow the grass, clean the interior, arrange the flowers, change the altar frontal, check the boiler oil, keep the boiler going and generally demonstrate that the building is loved.

The Whalley Deanery Synod

Parish Representatives: Mrs Philippa McFall. 1 Vacancy

The Deanery Synod Representative Philippa McFall has attended one meeting of the Deanery Synod

The opening meeting was held on Thursday November 21st at St. Leonard's Church, Langho

A presentation was given on Dementia Friends and friendly Church.

The speaker was Sue Bibby, who is the Ribble Valley Councillor and Dementia Champion and champion for older people

The Finances of the Parish Church

Hon Treasurer Mr Brian Lewis

The independently checked accounts of the PCC for 2019 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, which will take place on Sunday 26th April 2020.

Although we failed to claim the CY 2018 Gift Aid tax refund in 2019, income increased due to an increase in funerals, and a couple of successful music events. Expenses stayed pretty steady overall, so the deficit made was much reduced at £ 532. Investment income of 7.6K easily plugged the gap.

Over the life of the Banner Project, the PCC ended up paying out approximately £700 more money than it had received, Tom McLean is seeking some final lottery funding to cover this overdrawn balance.

A Tower Fund has been created. In 2019 subs amounted to £ 332 and that part of the bell fee charged to wedding parties not defrayed on Ringers Fees amounted to £ 665. Deduct from this the £ 403 deposit paid to John Taylor & Co. to fix our Clappers, this leaves a balance in the fund to carry forward to 2020 of £ 593.56. There were other Tower expenses, but I felt they were more in the nature of fabric expenses.

Finally, we receive around £ 100 pw from the Church being open for business and earn around £ 500 from each wedding (there were 9 in 2019) so we're looking potentially at a 9K reduction in our income in 2020 with no substantial reduction in overhead.

Ringling Report

The Hon. Ralph Assheton -Tower Captain

Ringling has continued steadily during the year, with the team really on the cusp of tackling “methods”. Periodic problems with two of the bells led to a formal inspection by Taylor’s Foundry from Loughborough. This identified that the wooden bell frames were looser than they should be. It is thought that the bolts may not have been tightened since the last time Taylors were here to install a new bell in 1948, or perhaps even the previous installation in the 1880s! It has been recommended that the clappers be taken out and “re-ground” to make them more spherical. This is planned for early 2020.

Paul Mercer has skilfully crafted a wooden “book end” which helps to keep one of the ropes from snagging on a protruding nut

Ribble Valley Music Festival Concert – 16th June

The Nelson Arion Choir, together with Soprano Samantha both gave well-received performances raising funds for the Church

Organ Recital by David Tattersall

A wonderful and varied Organ Recital was held on the afternoon of 22nd June which brought in donations for the church fund of exactly £650.

Parish Newsletter

THE Newsletter is published by the PCC monthly, is delivered to every house in the Parish and some copies are sent further afield to friends with a continuing interest in what goes on around here.

The PCC is grateful that the Newsletter is sponsored by individual members, companies and Village Groups. It continues to advertise and report on events and items of interest as well as promoting the Mission of the Parish Church of St Leonard.