

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



**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
&  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
These meetings will be held on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

*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 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020
3. Election of the Church Wardens

**2. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April 2020. (Available at the meeting)
3. To receive the Annual Report 2020 of the Parish Church (attached on the following pages)
4. To receive the Audited Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2020 (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 2020**



**Priest in Charge:** The Revd Andy Froud  
**Hon Secretary and address for correspondence**  
Mr P M Naylor, Black Moss Barn, Blacko, BB9 6LE

**Membership of the PCC – 2020**

**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 Parochial Church Council**

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 - 36 Members

There was one permanent removal from the Roll in the year  
who passed away

Membership at the end of 2020 - 35 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

Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic the PCC met only once in the year 2020 and that meeting was held virtually using email and telephone communications. During the period the role of Hon Sec was transferred on a rolling basis.

Ten 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.

The Newsletter continues to promote the mission and activities of the Church and also provides information about the Village Hall and other local events, adding to the variety of content. The newsletter is delivered free of charge, by volunteer distributors, to almost every home in the parish, a few by post.

With regret the fundraising concert, which was beginning to be a regular, annual event, had to be cancelled in both 2020 and 2021. Tentative arrangements have been agreed with the Lancaster Singers to transfer this concert to June 2022.

Main business items of the Council in the year 2020 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 Reverend Mark Williams, Rector of the Bowland Benefice.
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. Scrutiny of accounts
5. Supporting the Ribble Valley Food Bank and The Children's Society.

## Our Worship

**The Revd Andy Froud, Priest in Charge**

This has been a turbulent twelve months for our nation: last year on March 23rd we began our first national lockdown in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. For the first time since 1208 (coincidentally also March 23rd) church doors in England were locked. Here at St Leonard's we have continued to worship, when circumstances, government rules and health advice have allowed.

Our choir continues to provide a wonderful lead to the worship of the church, even though congregational singing is not allowed.

A special thanks to our Wardens for their extra work during this time in ensuring that we meet the often changing Covid 19 regulations. It is very much appreciated by us all.

And lastly but by no means least a thank you to the faithful who continue to worship here regularly in joyful anticipation of heaven.

Yours in Christ

Andy

## The Music

**Choir Mistress - Mrs Kirsteen Walmsley**

It would be inappropriate to not begin this year's report by remembering Kath Brown. Kath has been a faithful, quiet and unassuming choir member for longer than any of us care to remember. The back row will seem very empty without her.

What an unusual 12 months we have had! Church open, church closed, no singing allowed, choir only allowed. Thank you so much, particularly to Di, for keeping coming week in, week out, even the small amount of music that has been allowed in the past 12 months has given a brief moment of normality to proceedings. Thank you also to Anne for joining with us for the few occasions of special services, celebrations and funerals during the past year.

It has been a most unusual 12 months, hopefully one that none of us will ever have to repeat! Let's hope the future brings a little more normality and a lot more singing!

### **Sidesmen and Women for the year 2020**

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 – 2020

### Holy Matrimony – 1

15<sup>th</sup> August      Nicholas Culshaw and Rowena Kirk both of Rimington

### Holy Baptism – 1

15<sup>th</sup> March      Francis Jack Coates

### Christian Funeral – 2

7<sup>th</sup> July      Carole Ashworth of Downham

12<sup>th</sup> October      Nina Healy

## The Fabric of the Church Building

**The Hon. Ralph Assheton, Church Warden**

Although 2020 was for most people and organisations “the year where time stood still” due to Covid lockdowns and restrictions, a surprising amount was achieved at St Leonard’s.

A parishioner generously repainted the Vestry and constructed an exact replica of the Church gate with Downham Oak.

Sadly, the path behind Church was badly damaged by the theft of many of the flag stones. Repair work has been put on hold to save cash whilst the building has been closed.

The experiment of using sheep to graze the Church yard worked well, saving both volunteer mowing time, fuel (and thus carbon emissions) and any damage to grave stones. It is planned to ask the sheep to return this year.

The St Leonard’s day clean-up was more muted than normal, with volunteers coming at different times to undertake exterior work to keep the Lime tree suckers and ivy under control.

Di Braithwaite and Molly Roskell gracefully retired from their Church locking and unlocking duties after many many years of diligent service. Their time and reliability are gratefully acknowledged. The role is currently carried out by the Wardens, but if anyone fancies helping them they would be very welcome.

In a difficult year we remain blessed to have so many people prepared to help keep the building running, whether it be clock winding, oil monitoring, cleaning or distributing the Newsletter.

## **The Whalley Deanery Synod**

**Parish Representatives: Mrs Philippa McFall. Mrs Anja Wallace**

The Deanery Synod Representative Philippa McFall has not attended any meetings of the Deanery Synod, which were suspended due to Covid-19 pandemic.

## **The Finances of the Parish Church**

**Hon Treasurer Mr Brian Lewis**

**T**he accounts of the PCC for 2020 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, which will take place on Sunday 9th May 2021. The accounts have not yet been independently checked.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions that came about as a consequence, the Church only held half the regular weekly Sunday services than in a normal year. Similarly, there was but one wedding in the August, and a couple of small funeral services. There was no musical event or other fundraisers.

Despite this, when the Church was open for Sunday service, attendance was generally higher than normal and collections were increased. Thus, and with the continued support of our regular monthly and annual donors, total collections were down on previous years, but only by 25%, I think this reinforces the value of encouraging monthly giving via standing orders.

Net fee income from weddings was down by nearly 90% or £ 4,000, income we really missed.

Of our expenses, the Parish Share we pay increased, but all other expenses reduced or stayed broadly similar.

Overall, Church activities show a loss of nearly £ 7,000 for the year. Were it not for our investment income and the reserves we have worked hard to build up over many years, we would not have been able to meet our financial obligations in full.

Our investment income was sufficient to cover this deficit, and our Reserves have not suffered as a consequence.

## **Ringling Report**

**The Hon. Ralph Assheton -Tower Captain**

Sadly, Covid restrictions halted all ringing this year, less the tolling of the tenor to mark the various funerals, and a "duet" to mark Christmas morning.

Fortunately, all five of the bell clappers were overhauled by Taylors Foundry in Leicester, with a couple of the bell ringers skilfully removing and re-installing them. (Sadly, there has been no opportunity to try them out). We look forward to trying ringing later in 2021.

## **Parish Newsletter**

The Newsletter is published by the PCC monthly and 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.