

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



**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
&
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**
These meetings will be held on Sunday, 23rd April 2023

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 24th April 2022.
3. Election of the Church Wardens

2. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2022. (Available at the meeting)
3. To receive the Annual Report 2022 of the Parish Church (attached on the following pages)
4. To receive the Audited Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2022 (to be presented at the meeting)
5. Election of Two Deanery Synod Representatives (Term of 3 years 2020, 2023, 2026, 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 2022**

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 – 2022

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 2020 for three years)**

Mrs Philippa McFall
Mrs Anja Wallace

Elected

Mr A Herron	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
Mr Paul Mercer	

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 2021/22

Membership at the end of 2022 - 36 Members

There were four members added and one deceased.

Membership at the end of 2023 - 39 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

During 2022 the PCC met four times including the annual meeting on 24th April 2022. Outside the formal meetings, contact was maintained using email and telephone communications.

Nine members were elected at the annual meeting; four members sit ex-officio making thirteen 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.

A Choral Concert was held on 11th Jun 2022 as a fundraising event. The church also played host to the community celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of the late HM The Queen on 5th June 2022, when bad weather forced a change of plans to find an indoor venue as the Village Hall was being refurbished. It proved to be a great location for such a special event.

Main business items of the Council in the year 2022 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 Timothy Lipscomb.
2. Membership of the Wider Church through:
 - 2.1. Representation at the Whalley Deanery Synod (Virtually)
 - 2.2. Joint worship within the United Benefice,
 - 2.3 Sharing in a team ministry with Chatburn Christ Church and Clitheroe St Mary Magdalene
 - 2.4. Mission 2026
 - 2.5 Ensuring the safeguarding of all worshipers, including vulnerable adults and children.
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 Hon. Ralph Assheton, Church Warden

With the withdrawal of Covid restrictions, worship has gradually returned to a nearly pre-pandemic state. Holy Communion and Matins, following the Book of Common Prayer, alternate each Sunday (with occasional switches to allow for principal festivals and special services such as Christingle and Mothering Sunday).

The PCC discussed and agreed that services should be slightly shorter than formally, so Psalms and canticles are currently said rather than sung. One, rather than two Bible readings are also the norm. It was agreed to reintroduce the “common cup” at Communion.

We welcomed Chris Hegg as a trainee Lay Reader and are very grateful to Anne Hardacre for her assistance throughout the year. We are also indebted to our PCC Officers, “Verger” (Philippa), all our PCC members, our Sidesmen and women, together with everyone who helps to keep the ship on an even keel.

The year ended sadly with the departure of Rev Andy Froud, who moves to pastures new and will be sadly missed.

The Music

Choir Mistress - Mrs Kirsteen Walmsley

Downham Choir has continued to support all the weekly services in church using the Ancient & Modern Hymn Book as well as some baptisms, weddings and funerals over the past 12 months.

It was a pleasure to join with fellow parishioners and visitors for carol singing at the Assheton Arms in December as well as to be part of the larger congregation at Andy's final service at St Mary's before his move over the hill earlier this year.

We continue to follow an abridged version of both Morning prayer and Holy Communion with just 3 hymns from the 'robot' – sadly we no longer have a 'resident organist' although the robot is proving a great investment.

2023 sees fewer weddings booked in for the church than last year, hopefully Hymns on the Green will continue and no doubt there will be celebrations to support the coronation of the new King.

If anyone is interested in joining the choir – you will be more than welcome at any time, please just ask – there is no entry test our attendance requirement, just a willingness to have a go!

Sidesmen and Women for the year 2022

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

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

From the Parish Registers – 2022

Holy Matrimony – 7

14 th May	Elliot THORNBUR and Joanna FOSTER
4 th June	Jack PICKUP and Hannah DUERDEN
7 th July	James WHITEOAK and Debra SCHOFIELD
14 th August	Thomas LONG and Claire WILKINSON
20 th August	James TOOTLE and Alice GOODFELLOW
17 th September	Kurt CHADWICK and Emma OFFER
17 th November	Neil KALL and Rachel AINSWORTH

Holy Baptism – 1

27 th March	Eve May MORRIS
14 th April	Alice Lily SCOTT
26 th June	Flora NAYLOR-FRIZZELL
26 th June	Albie CORR

The Fabric of the Church Building

The Hon. Ralph Assheton, Church Warden

Repairs were carried out to the flagstone path at the front of the church. Work to repair the rear path was put on hold until possible requirements for an earthing cable to run between tower and vestry was clarified.

In the belfry there was concern that the bearings on No4 might be failing, so investigations have started.

Sheep continued to periodically graze the Churchyard, in place of a mower. This was generally welcomed (especially by the former mowers!), but one occasional visitor and previous complainer wrote to the Bishop. He was content with our actions.

Marjorie and Philippa continued their assiduous daily front door and gate locking and unlocking duties.

The Quinquennial inspection was carried out (Report awaited), as was the Electrical test.

Much of the repointing work itemised in the previous Quinquennial was carried out.

Many thanks to those who assist with fabric matters, from the cleaners to the clock winding team, from the fuel monitor to the flower monitor and everyone in between.

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 as they had not received any recent calling notices, but plan to re-engage as soon as possible.

The Finances of the Parish Church

Hon Treasurer Mr Brian Lewis

Claiming / receiving two years of Gift Aid tax refunds generated additional income (when compared to 2021) of £ 7,900, and with the eight weddings celebrated in the year generating an additional £ 2,600, our total income increased by £ 9,400.

Expenses - other than repairs - increased only modestly (the increase in Parish Quota accounting for pretty much all the increase) but the inclusion this year of a Building Sinking Fund (a means of providing for known, anticipated and potential short and long-term building related expenses) provision did mean that the Deficit on Church Activities increased from £1,700 to £ 6,400. This loss was met by our Investment Income, so our Church Reserves remain healthy, and actually increased marginally to £ 49,000.

With disappointingly few weddings slated for 2023 (2022 was an exceptional year - playing "catch-up" after COVID) and the desire to continue putting money aside for long term repair and refurbishment costs, a further deficit of several thousand pounds is currently anticipated for 2023.

Ringling Report

The Hon. Ralph Assheton -Tower Captain

Ringling has not yet returned to its pre-Covid glory days. One or two ringers have moved away, whilst infirmities have hampered another couple. Perhaps the fact that our "Club Room" (The Ash) remained closed has affected attendance...That said we have reached the cusp of "method" ringing, which is a major leap forward in our musicality.

The only fly in the ointment has been the increasing vibrations in No 4 bell, which is under investigation.

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.