

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



**MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
&  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**These meetings will be held on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

*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 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023.
3. Election of the Church Wardens

**2. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. (Available at the meeting)
3. To receive the Annual Report 2023 of the Parish Church (attached on the following pages)
4. To receive the Audited Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2023 (to be presented at the meeting)
5. Ratification of Two Deanery Synod Representatives (Term of 3 years 2023, 2026, 2029, 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 2023**

**Priest in Charge:** The Revd Dr Judith Clark  
**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 2023 for three years)**

Mrs Philippa McFall  
Mrs Anja Wallace

**Elected**

Mrs A Chadwick	Mr A Herron
Mr B Lewis (Hon Treasurer)	Mrs B. Lewis
Mr Paul Mercer	Mr P. Naylor (Hon Sec)
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 2022/23**

Membership at the 2023 meeting - 39 Members

There were four members added and two deceased.

Membership at the 2024 meeting - 41 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, 2037, 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 2023 the PCC met four times including the annual meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. 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.

The PCC suffered two losses due to the sad deaths of Mr T McLean, who had been the Hon Sec for many years and Mts K Walmsley, the Choir mistress. They are both missed greatly and are a big loss to the PCC and wider community.

Main business items of the Council in the year 2023 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 Reverend Doctor Judith Clark**

As this APCM covers Church life and business between 1st January 2023 and 31st December 2023, I cannot talk into it very much, given that my installation and induction wasn't until 19th November 2023. Still what a six weeks! I moved house, area and started a new job just before Advent. Not a good time to be trying to locate light switches and unpack boxes! However, it was wonderful to be able to meet so many people and make so many connections during my first few weeks, and to celebrate with everyone as we prepared for Christmas. I especially enjoyed singing 'Carols at the Assheton Arms' and am still grateful that they let us sing inside on that particular evening! It was also wonderful to join in with the village for the Carol service and the Nativity/Christingle service. As many of you know, it was a Christmas of mixed emotions for me, as my aunt died suddenly and unexpectedly on Christmas Day. I would like to personally thank all those who have supported me in my grief since then.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their warm and kind welcome since I arrived in post. My thanks also go to all those (especially The Rev'd Anne Hardacre) who ensured the continuation of services and ministry throughout the vacancy. I would like to particularly acknowledge Chris Hegg for going above and beyond and leading services such as Remembrance as well as regular Sunday morning services.

Here's to 2024!

# The Music

**Choir Mistress - Mrs Anne Chadwick**

As we all know I am here to attempt to fill the huge gap in the choir and PCC left by our dear friend Kirsty who we so sadly and suddenly lost towards the end of last year, so please forgive me if I fall short, for this year at least.

Since I took over in November, James has added quite a few more hymns to the robot, so much so that we have had to purchase an extra SD Card for him to fill. My aim is to get a large selection of hymns, some we may not have sung for a while, although, if I know them the congregation should know them! After a quick chat with our new boss, Judith, I also hope to be able to bring back sung Canticles and Psalms to the services, with James' help.

I would like to welcome Cathy to the choir on behalf of us all, she has been thrown in at the deep end, having already been here to help us sing at a couple of funerals and a wedding, so far, with 3 more weddings booked in. We all enjoyed carol singing inside the Assheton Arms this year, due to the inclement weather, the money we raised was split between Kirsteen's two chosen charities, Pets as Therapy and Little Princess Trust. In the future I would hope that singing on the Green can be brought back, weather permitting. If anyone has any ideas or thoughts for us as a choir, I am always happy to take them on board and discuss.

My thanks as well to Ian, and Alan, who ran the robot for the first few months, before I took full responsibility for the running of the choir side of things. As always, we would welcome anyone who wants to join the choir, there's no pressure to be here every week and I promise not to expect solo performances!

## **From the Parish Registers – 2023**

**Holy Matrimony –2**

**Holy Baptism – 2**

**Christian Funeral - 6**

## **The Fabric of the Church Building**

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

2023 has been a relatively in-active one on the fabric front. The statutory Quinquennial Report was produced and thankfully revealed no immediate major dramas (though work is required to bring our electrical earthing up to the latest standards).

Thanks once again to all those who help keep the Church and Church yard in such good and accessible shape. These include our door un-locker and locker who diligently fulfilled their tasks come rain and shine (mainly the former!). Our clock winder and assistant clambered up the tower twice weekly. Our cleaners and flower arrangers all kept the building beautiful throughout the year. Thanks to those who organise the heating oil, Communion wine, laundry etc. and all the other little jobs that have to be undertaken behind the scenes.

Once again, the sheep grazed the Church yard off and on through the summer, greatly reducing the time and petrol that would otherwise been required to mow everywhere. Minor repairs were carried out to the Church path, as well as some repointing around the steps. Access to the Assheton Chapel was improved with the upgraded handrails. The Church notice board was updated.

## **Sidesmen and Women for the year 2023**

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

Mr Tom McLean (Deceased)  
Mrs Eileen Parker (Stood Down)  
Mrs Anya Wallace  
Mrs Kate Herron

# The Whalley Deanery Synod

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

Deanery Synod reps have attended the following three meetings:

The first meeting was held on 3rd July in St. Bartholomew's Church, Chipping; beginning with a eucharist with Bishop Philip North, and after he shared his vision with us, the officers were elected and the agenda was set for the year.

The second meeting held on 10th October 2023 in St. John's Old School, Hurst Green focused on 'Children and young People' and ideas were shared on how to reach the next generation.

The following meeting on 18th January 2024 was focused on 'Joy' and so we were treated to a social event which entailed dinner with games at the beautiful and historic Whalley Abbey. This was paid for by an allowance given by the Blackburn Diocese.

At the next meeting on 16th April, St. James's Church in Clitheroe at 7.00pm. This is an open event, and the parish may wish to invite others. This is a talk by the Anna Chaplaincy, and it is expected to be popular. This will promote and strengthen the ideas of the synod further by enabling strong parish communication, strong leadership and smart vocation. To complete the trilogy, 'Justice', is intended to be the focus at a future meeting, date to be confirmed.

## The Finances of the Parish Church

**Hon Treasurer Mr Brian Lewis**

2023 was the year we had no vicar until mid-November, but with the support of Anne Hardacre, Chris Hegg, and even our Wardens (and who can forget the scintillating talks given by Hon. R. C. Assheton on St. Leonard's fenestrative assets), the Church managed to maintain Matins and Holy Communion services throughout the year.

With fewer weddings, but more funerals (with sincere thanks to Andy Froud and Catherine Hale-Heighway for ensuring these services were able to take place prior to Judith's appointment) our fees from such services were down from 2022, as were our regular weekly collections and, indeed, giving from monthly and annual contributors.

No tax refund claim was submitted in 2023, but this has been remedied in 2024.

The Parish Share we calculated as being due (in the absence of a vicar for most of the year) was paid in full last year, but the Diocese is not entirely in agreement with our calculation. A lengthy meeting in December between the Warden appointed by the PCC to represent its interests in this matter, and various officers of the Diocese, was inconclusive, and there has been no substantive contact from the Diocese since.

Overall, Church activities show a loss of a little over £5,000 for the year, compared with a loss of approaching £ 6,500 in 2022. 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**

Ringling has returned to its pre-Covid glory days. We now have a good team of competent ringers, and we are constantly seeking to push the boundaries of our capabilities. We have slowly moved from ringing Call Changes to some simple Methods (for the lay person, this is moving from when you are told which position you are to ring in, to having to work it out yourself!) and we are making slow but steady progress. We now feel less embarrassed when ringing for special occasions.

Continuing the good news, we have a number of new ringers who have joined the team over the last year, and all seem very keen to move from novice to fully fledged ringers. The only challenge is the size of the bell tower to accommodate us all, but as we are unlikely to be able to build an extension, we will need to find other ways to get everyone in and to have a go. We continue to hold post training reviews in the Club House.

## **Parish Newsletter**

With the sad loss of Tom McLean, who had held the position of Editor for many years, the production of the newsletter suffered a small hiatus. However, after only missing a couple of editions, Jacqui Shepperd stepped in to assume the role of editor and publication has been resumed.

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.