

Clergy & Pastoral Lay Members

Known Curates at Middleforth when part of St. Mary, Penwortham

1895	Rev. William Henry Norris
1902	Rev. C.G. Johnson
1903	Rev. W. R. Livingstone
1952-1957	Rev. Ralph Nelson
1957-1959	Rev. H. Alan Reid

Priests-in-Charge of the Conventional District of St. Leonard, Penwortham

Licensed & Installed

1959	Rev. H. Alan Reid
1963	Rev. David J. Howson
1965	Rev. John Leslie Sutcliffe
1971	Rev. Thomas Taylor

Vicars of the Benefice of the Parish of St. Leonard, Penwortham

(Patron: The Bishop of Blackburn)

Collated & Inducted

1972	Rev. Thomas Taylor
1979	Rev. David Roland North
1988	Rev. Roger Townley
1992	Rev. John Strange Walker Young
1995	Rev. Timothy David Wilby
2001	Rev. Julian Nicholas Mansfield

Assistant Curates since 1984

1984-1987	Rev. David Murdoch
1996-1998	Rev. Clive Lord
2005-2009	Rev. John Scott (NSM)
2009-present	Rev. Sharon June Baines (NSM)

Licensed Readers

1960-1981	Mr. Kenneth Peter John King
1971-present	Mrs. Audrey King
2005-2010	Mrs. Lynne Smith
2009-present	Mr. Paul Spencer
2011-present	Mr. David Walker

Pastoral Assistants

1981-1986	Mrs. Jennifer Morrell
1985-1988	Mrs. Maureen Haughey
2000-present	Mrs. Jennie Stanton
2006-2009	Mrs. Doris Higginson

www.stleonardspenwortham.org

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St Leonard's Parish Church Penwortham A Short History 1861 - 2011



Compiled by Philip Walsh

Time line in St. Leonard's History

Thursday 13 September 1860 Land known as the "Potato Field" acquired for a chapel school from John T.W. Aspinall of Standen Hall near Clitheroe. The Vicar of St. Mary's Penwortham, Rev. W.E. Rawstorne agreed to purchase the land at the agricultural land valuation price of £41.14s. 4½d.

Wednesday 4 December 1861 First Services in Middleforth Chapel School. Divine Service at 11am - Official opening by the Archdeacon of Manchester. Evening Service at 7pm - Sermon preached by the Incumbent, Rev. William Edward Rawstorne. The chapel school was designed by Edward G. Paley of Lancaster and built by Cooper and Tullis of Preston. Old bricks from Penwortham Malt-kiln were used on the inside walls to keep costs down. Cost of building: £732. 11s.2d. Divine services were held every Sunday evening and Wednesday evening with communion six times a year. Parishioners were expected to communicate at least three times a year of which Easter should be one. Sunday School was held for "little children" from 10am to 12 noon and from 3pm to 4.30pm.

1878 Chapel School extended. New chapel replaces existing room. Built by John Walmsley of Preston. Cost: £942. 1s. 3d.

October 1901 Foundations laid and iron sections erected for new church.

Saturday 7 December 1901 Iron Church (at the bottom of Marshall's Brow) opened and dedicated to St. Leonard by Rt. Rev. Edwyn Hoskyns, Bishop of Burnley.

1941 Management Committee formed to enable St. Leonard's to manage its own internal and domestic affairs without referring to St. Mary's P.C.C. for ordinary running expenses.

September 1959 The curate in charge, Rev. H. Alan Reid moves into new Parish House - 2 Giller Drive; purchased for £2,150.

Thursday 29 October 1959 Conventional District of St. Leonard, Penwortham established. Rev. Alan Reid becomes first Priest in Charge.

Monday 25 January 1960 First Annual Vestry meeting - Mr. Beardsworth and Mr. Patten were appointed as Church Wardens.



New church hall nearing completion 1997 (top).

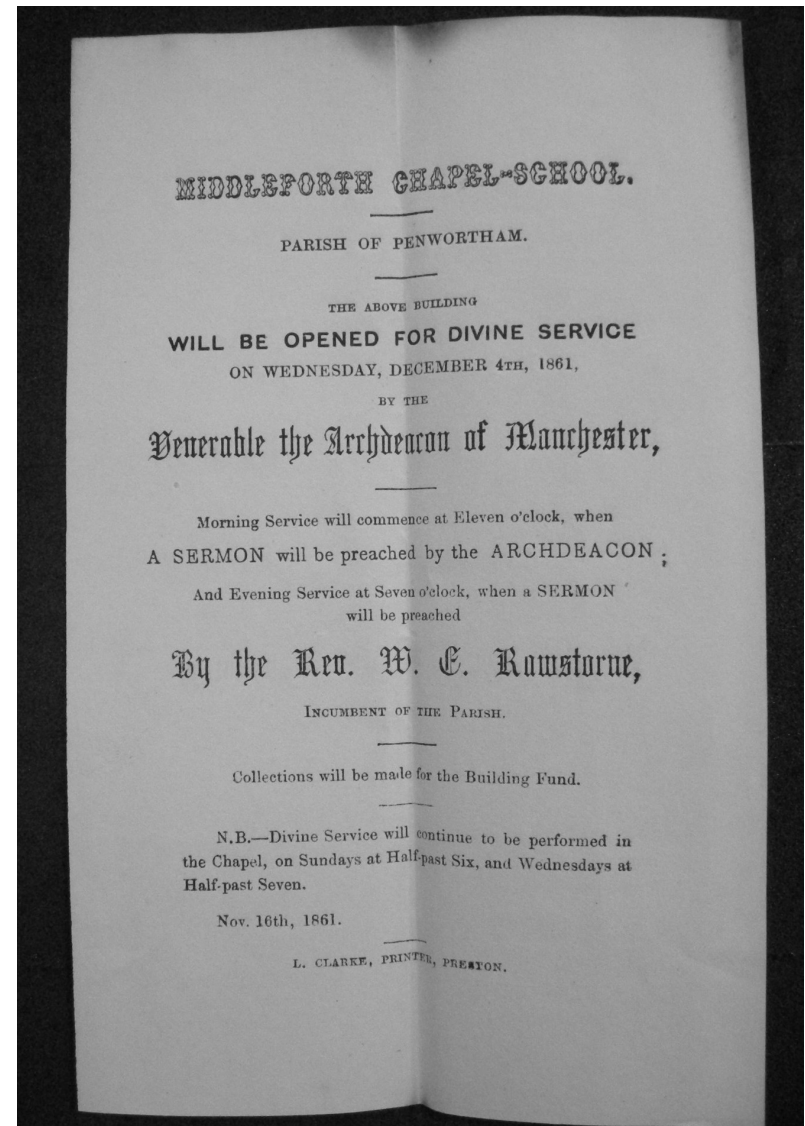
New hall dedication ceremony 11 April 1997 (centre).

Laying the foundation stone of the new hall 14 July 1996 (below).



Mary and also from the parish of St. Paul, Farrington.(Created by an Order in Council on 1 March 1972).

- Tuesday 27 June 1972** Rev. Tom Taylor collated and inducted as first vicar of St. Leonard, Penwortham.
- Monday 29 January 1973** Fire at St. Leonard's. Two boys were charged with Arson. Damage caused to sacristy and sanctuary. Total cost of repair and replacement of items amounted to £6,905.40.
- Thursday 12 July 1973** Church rededication by Rt. Rev. Richard Watson, Bishop of Burnley following fire damage. New Altar dedicated.
- February 1974** New vicarage completed. Built by John Harrison & Son of Penwortham. Architect: Charles E. Pearson (Lillie & Kirkham). Cost: £14,765.
- Monday 1 September 1975** The new building for Middleforth C of E Controlled School opened on Hill Road South.
- December 1975** Church extension completed (Porch, kitchen, hall, toilets & boiler room).
- Saturday 4 October 1980** Church consecrated by Rt. Rev. Robert Martineau, Bishop of Blackburn.
- Saturday 30 June 1984** St. Leonard's first curate of new parish - Rev. David Murdoch was ordained Deacon in Blackburn Cathedral. (Ordained Priest on Sunday 30 June 1985 in Blackburn Cathedral.)
- Sunday 14 July 1996** New Church Hall. Foundation Stone laid by Rt. Rev. Martyn Jarrett, Bishop of Burnley. Builder: Stan Fowler, Bretherton. Architect: Francis B. Roberts, Walton-le-Dale. Cost £250,000.
- January 1997** New organ console and organ platform installed. Font re-located in new baptistry under platform
- Friday 11 April 1997** Festival Eucharist and Dedication of the new Church Hall by Rt. Rev. Alan Chesters, Bishop of Blackburn.
- Tuesday 9 November 1999** Mrs. Audrey King (Lay Reader) invested with an MBE at Buckingham Palace for services to the community in Penwortham.
- Saturday 27 June 2009** Rev. Sharon Baines (St. Leonard's first female curate) was ordained Deacon in Blackburn Cathedral by Rt. Rev. Nicholas Reade, Bishop of Blackburn. (Ordained Priest on Saturday 26 June 2010 by Rt. Rev. Geoff Pearson, Bishop of Lancaster.)



One of the oldest documents in the archive, the notice of opening of the chapel-school in 1861 (above).



The chapel-school (left). Demolishing the 1861 chapel-school in 1975 (right).



First Annual General Meeting when Diocesan and Rural Decanal Representatives were appointed together with 16 P.C.C. members.

January 1961 First St. Leonard's magazine was published. Known as the "The Way", it had a circulation of 600 copies.

August 1962 Planning permission granted for new church on 1 acre of land at top of Marshall's Brow owned by Miss Whittam purchased for new church for the sum of £3,000. Plots of land were "sold" to members of the congregation to raise the necessary funds.

Sunday 7 July 1968 First joint procession of witness - St. Leonard's and St. Mary Magdalene's R.C.

Sunday 21 September 1969 Foundation Stone of new church laid by Canon Robert Gwilym Rawstorne (Vicar of Thornbury 1943 – 76) and son of Atherton Gwilym Rawstorne, the first and only Bishop of Whalley from 1909 to 1936. The Bishop of Burnley was in attendance.

Sunday 4 October 1970 The final services (Harvest Festival) at the old church were held. Communion was celebrated at 8am and 9.30am with a total of 113 communicants. There was a Family Gift Service at 2.30pm and Evensong at 6.30pm. The preacher at Evensong was Rev. G. Hawes, Rector of Hesketh with Beconsall.

Monday 5 October 1970 & week Furnishings moved to the new church. Amongst these were: the Eagle Reading desk, the wooden processional cross, silver cross and candlesticks, communion vessels, two clergy chairs and the altar which was extended, also pews which when substituted by chairs a few years later, were sold off to parishioners.

Saturday 10 October 1970 St. Leonard's new church on Marshall's Brow is dedicated by Rt. Rev. Charles Claxton, Bishop of Blackburn. Builder: John Mayor of Leyland. Architect: Charles E Pearson (Lillie & Kirkham). Cost of Building: £24,287 (excluding Architect's fees.) New Pulpit donated by Mr H Spencer of Penwortham Hall. Organ bought for £200 from St. Saviour's, Preston (which was due to be demolished).

November 1971 St. Leonard's House (2 Giller Drive) sold for £4583.

Saturday 1 April 1972 The new benefice of the Parish of St. Leonard, Penwortham is established; taken out of the ancient parish of St.



The church choir (1983) (right).



Laying the foundation-stone of the new church 21 September 1969 (left and below) .



A parade service (1983) (below).



*On the front page :
Middleforth Chapel 1861 with
later extensions,
St. Leonard's old Iron Church
c.1901,
St. Leonard's Church 2011.*