

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



JUNE 2016

Cover Photo & compilation by Ed. "Glenwhan Gardens" Text NRSV.

www.penwortham.urc.org.uk

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Turning Up

In elections, in church meetings, the decisions are made by those who turn up. By placing our X on a piece of paper, or raising our hand, we express part of what it means to be in community.

Whether that community is being a citizen/subject of the United Kingdom, or being a member of the United Reformed Church. Part of the covenant we're born into, or invited to enter, is the sharing in decision-making.

As church meeting we discuss, pray and reflect together and seek to make decisions that best reflect will of God as we discern it. We share our experiences and knowledge, we consult experts and provide information, and together we strive to make Christ-like choices. We come together, as members, as elders, to explore what God is saying to us and how we should respond. And, as I firmly believe we are all created in the image of God, our decisions better reflect God's will when as many of us as possible come together.

As church our very being is a response to the call of God. We have our preferences and prejudices, but we seek to make decisions for the good of all, and crucially, for the good of others. As William Temple, the Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942 – 1944, stated: "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members".

My hope and my prayer is these same sentiments also inform the choices we make in the privacy of the voting booth. In elections the choices are more complex, more subjective and do not affect us quite as directly, but how we should approach them remains the same. We should do so prayerfully. We should strive to be informed. We should take up opportunities to talk and debate. And, most importantly, we need to turn up.

I admit the quality of our national debate about membership of the EU has taken a lot to be desired, but it is crucial that we engage with it, pray about it, and turn up.

Who knows where we will stand on 24th June, but we'll be on a firmer footing the more of us who take part.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker

PURC EVENTS AND INFORMATION - JUNE 2016

WOMEN'S GROUP

**Meets: Wednesday 1st June
in the Guild Room**

**Topic : Discussion about
Programme**

(Brenda K)

MEN'S GROUP

**Meets: Monday 6th June
for "Summer" lunch
For details speak to Nigel**

(Nigel L)

CRAFT GROUP

**Meets: Tuesday 14th June
in the Guild Room.**

Craft : Tea Bag Folding

(Barbara D)

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

**Meets fortnightly on
Thursdays
in the Church Hall**

(Pat D)



MITES



***During May your Mites (5 penny coins) donations
reached 685 totalling £34.25 ---- well done!!***

Do keep them coming.

As you are aware, the money raised buys sugar and salts rehydration sachets to give to very young children of Third World countries to help prevent dehydration when ill or undernourished.

***This saves lives.....So please keep saving your Mites
and bring them to church every Sunday***

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***Please see this months Charity pages for further information
from this charity***

(Joyce M)

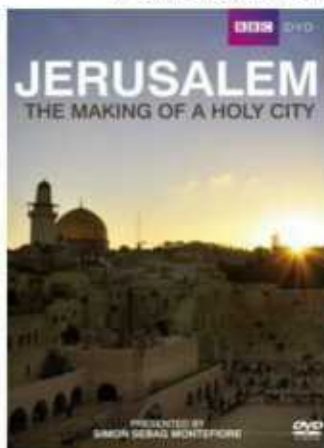
Jerusalem

The making of a Holy city

A chance to watch the 3-part BBC series together, and reflect on the story it tells.

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.00pm

Penwortham United Reformed Church, Liverpool Road



25th May

Wellspring of Holiness:

He begins a history of Jerusalem by exploring how it came into being and how it became so important to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

1st June

Invasion, Invasion, Invasion:

He continues by discovering the impact of Islam and the crusaders' attempt to win it back for Christianity.

22nd June

Judgement Day:

How Jerusalem became the object of rivalry between Christian nations, the focus of the longing of Jews and the site of one of the world's most intractable conflicts.

Historian and author, Simon Sebag Montefiore presents a fascinating series on Jerusalem: the place where God meets man, the shrine of three faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and the most fought over city in history.

Montefiore explains how Jerusalem – established by King David 3,000 years ago was fought for and shaped by Kings and Emperors and how the holiness of the city was intensified by myths and fables, borrowed and refined between religions.

He then explores how this peerlessly beautiful city rose from a crumbling ruin after the crusades to become a world centre of Islamic pilgrimage, the object of rivalry between Christian nations, a holy refuge for Jews from all over the world and, ultimately, the site of one of the world's most intractable conflicts.



Outline of time together:

Welcome and refreshments

Watch episode (1 hour)

Brief closing discussion



**Penwortham United Reformed Church
Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB**

Saturday, 2.30pm - 4.30pm

No meeting 11th June (Penwortham Gala) - next meeting 9th July for "Sports Day"

Messy Church is a fun family event aimed at 0-11 year olds

PURCMessychurch@hotmail.com, 01772 462229

<http://penwortham.urc.org.uk/>





Penwortham United Reformed Church **Summer Fair**



June 25th from 11.00am

Come along and enjoy a fun day out with family and friends with plenty of refreshments and lunches available to keep you going !!



There will be all sorts of surprises in store with stalls including:
Preserves and Fudge; Books ; Plants for home and garden ;
Framed Cigarette Cards and Walking Sticks



And that's not all !! There will also be :
Two Tombolas (one with a sweet scouting accent !?) ;
a Messy Church Crafty Corner and
a Butterflies Group Cake Stall



PURC ANNUAL CHURCH TRIP- JULY - ADVANCE NOTICE



THE ANNUAL CHURCH TRIP SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2016



On the closing date for items for this edition of Contact, we can confirm that our coach will leave church at 9:30 on the morning of Saturday 2nd July bound for the historic and picturesque Market Town of Appleby-in-Westmorland. After time there we plan to travel on to Keswick for the remainder of the afternoon.

Our evening meal will be enjoyed at a venue to be confirmed as we plan to travel through our proposed route on Wednesday 25th May to make suitable arrangements.

Details will be announced on Sunday 29th May and provided on the foyer notice board, together with the menu choices from which to make your selections.

As ever, we will try to keep the cost at around £25.00p per person and again, this too will be confirmed as above.

Please add your name to the list as soon as possible. We would be grateful of payment by Sunday 26th June, as generally we are required to pay for the meals in advance.

We hope for fine weather, but mainly that this trip will be as enjoyable as in past years and look forward to seeing you on the day.



Jenny & Robert



WHAT'S ON

June

Wednesday	1 st	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
		7.30pm	Study Group – BBC series - Jerusalem	
Saturday	4 th	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	5th	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Revd David Coaker
Monday	6 th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	11 th		Penwortham Gala (so no Messy Church)	
Sunday	12th	11.00am	Gala Service on Hurst Grange Park	
Tuesday	14 th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	15 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Family Worship	Worship Group
		7.30pm	Study Group – BBC series - Jerusalem	
Saturday	25 th	11.00am	Summer Fair	
Sunday	26th	10.30am	Family Worship	Michael Pickles

July

Friday	1 st	7.00pm	NW Synod deployment roadshow at Fulwood URC – all invited	
Saturday	2 nd	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Revd David Coaker
			Church meeting after morning worship	
Monday	4 th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	6 th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	9 th	2.30pm	Messy Church Sports Day	
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Nigel Lemon
Tuesday	12 th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Parade Service	Revd David Coaker
Saturday	23 rd		Butterflies Tea Party – details to follow	
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Family Worship	Elizabeth Fletcher
Thursday	28 th	7.00pm	Joint Elders Meeting	Fulwood URC
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Paul Pells

All services have Junior Church and crèche *(Maureen W)*

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offertory

1 st	May	£553.59
8 th	May	£504.36
15 th	May	£473.75
22 nd	May	£438.20

Flowers

5 th	June	Tom & Jean Frew
12 th	June	Penwortham Gala
19 th	June	Maureen Whitlock
26 th	June	Val Nicholls
3 rd	July	Hugh & Freda Dawkins
10 th	July	Basil & Hylda Hurst
17 th	July	Jean Henley
24 th	July	Rita Taylor
31 st	July	Betty Carruthers

Sunday Coffee

5 th	June	Marjorie Smith, Maureen Whitlock
12 th	June	Penwortham Gala
19 th	June	Joan Kidman, Nancy Fox, Celia McCartney
26 th	June	Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock
3 rd	July	Anne Hall, Beverley Strange, Gemma Strange
10 th	July	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
17 th	July	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox
24 th	July	Vacant
31 st	July	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird

Closing date for the **July** edition of Contact is **26th June**
The next edition will be available on **Sunday 3rd July**

PENWORTHAM GALA - 11,12 JUNE 2016

A two day event including a procession, charity stalls, fairground, burgers and popcorn and all day entertainment including an evening concert featuring top bands from all over the world, all ably supported by excellent local talent, and Sunday activities too which will include an open air church service, brass bands and a "Queen's Birthday" picnic. The Gala attracts approximately 10,000 visitors over the two days.

Tel: 01772 750533 for more information

Saturday 11th June 2016 – approx. 12.00noon - 10.00 pm

Sunday 12th June 2016 – approx. 11.00 am - 4.00 pm

All events are free entry to members of the public

Location : Hurst Grange Park, Penwortham, Lancs PR1 9EQ

See also the link to Penwortham Town Council on the PURC

Website

The **Churches Together in Penwortham – Gala Sunday Service**, will be held at 11.00am – please bring your folding chairs. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us, if not we will hold the service at **St. Leonard's Parish Church**, Marshalls Brow, Penwortham, PR1 9JA. Anne Hall will get a phone call on the day if the service is moved - if you are in doubt give her a call after 9.00am. If anyone needs a lift, please see Anne Hall or Barbara Baird (*Barbara B*)

CAN YOU HELP ? SUMMER FAIR - 25 JUNE 2016

Catering : Help is needed with the catering, both on the day and to provide cakes and sandwiches. If you can help, there is a notice on the notice board where you can indicate in what areas you can assist.

Advance preparation : Volunteers are needed on the night of **Friday 24th June** to help set up for the Summer Fair. If you are able to do so please come along and lend a hand at **8.00pm**.

Thank you (*Anne H*)

OTHER NOTICES

Synod Roadshows – coming to a venue near you!

No-one can have failed to notice that the age profile and size of church congregations, including the URC, are changing. This raises a very important issue about the deployment of ministers, and a problem we need to face up to.

NW Synod are running a Roadshow around the Synod Areas (8 meetings in all) with the opportunity for every church to hear more about the deployment issue we have to deal with. They want to explore the various aspects of the situation and urge each church congregation to contribute to the way forward.

The ministers will have an opportunity to explore different aspects of deployment and ministry when they meet together in May.

For our area, the Roadshow will visit on Friday 1st July, at Poulton-le-Fylde URC from 2.00 – 4.00pm and at Fulwood URC from 7.00 – 9.00pm.

If anyone is interested in attending the Roadshow and needs a lift, please speak to your Elder or Maureen. *(Maureen W)*

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2016

Barbara and Cath would like to thank everyone who helped with Christian Aid week this year. Despite the falling number of collectors, we managed to cover the allocated streets. Our grand total for this year is a magnificentplusfrom the social afternoon, the table top sale and Penwortham Live.

A big, big thank you to all concerned.

(Barbara E and Cath A)

El Nino: What is it and what are the effects?

This natural phenomenon has occurred for a millennia and its effects are more visible and extreme than ever before, as demonstrated by the effects of climate change. When it comes to extreme weather conditions, children are usually disproportionately affected, because effects can remain long after the event. Structure and routine are easily disrupted for long enough to have a lasting result on children's lives, and affect key development areas such as their mental health and educational progress.

The sustainable goals that Unicef promotes are essential for the protection of this planet, in order to avoid extreme weather conditions becoming more frequent. The lack of access to water can force families to travel up to 10 hours to get water, which can be hot, salty and at times contaminated, with children and animals having to drink from the same sources.

The Children's Emergency Fund and the Mite Scheme enable Unicef to protect children facing danger brought about by El Nino

Health, Mite Scheme & El Nino

At this very moment there are almost 1 million children in eastern and southern Africa that need treatment from acute severe malnutrition due to two years of erratic rain and drought in the region, as a result of one of the most powerful El Nino events in 50 years. There are many climate sensitive diseases, such as malaria, cholera, dengue fever and diarrhoea, all are major killers of children in natural emergencies.

Diarrhoea can easily stem from contaminated flood water or from bad sources of water due to drought. This can cause dehydration and strengthens the need for the Mite Scheme's help. Since the funds raised by the Mite Scheme help to provide Oral Rehydration Therapy to children, it is important to watch the effects of El Nino and climate change. Disasters triggered by El Nino require Unicef to be organised and prepared to help curb the impact that could be caused by any type of disaster. The Mite Scheme could therefore be more essential than ever before.

(Extract taken from a UNICEF press release)

(Joyce M)

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

With a small donation and big faith, John Kirkby started Christians Against Poverty in 1996. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor.



In his hometown of Bradford, John set off on the incredible journey of CAP. His faith adventure led him to people crippled by debt; parents who couldn't feed their children, families facing eviction and desperate people living in fear and without hope. He used his expertise to negotiate with creditors, set up budgeting systems and offer a lifeline to those trapped in debt.

John knew that people all over the country were struggling in the same way and he began looking to replicate the work across the UK. With the vital ingredients of a church to partner with, a passionate person to be trained as a debt counsellor and the faith that God would provide, four new CAP centres were opened at the end of 1998.

Since then, CAP has rapidly grown its debt centre network and expanded its services to tackle the causes of debt and poverty too. As well as CAP Debt Help, they now help people step into employment through CAP Job Clubs, help people get control of their addictions through CAP Release Groups and a brand new service, CAP Life Skills, to equip people to live well on a low income. Their vision is to bring freedom and good news to the poor in every community through 1,000 CAP projects by 2021.

Personal debt causes the same problems all over the developed world so CAP has been invited to help other countries. In addition to CAP UK; CAP Australia, CAP New Zealand and CAP Canada now make up the international family.

Read more at : www.capuk.org

(Maureen W)

WORLD PRAYER POINTS

Unreached India: India receives only 6% of the world's full time Christian workers, including 8000 foreign missionaries (7 missionaries per million people) most of whom work with the Indian Christian population. By contrast Latin America (with less than half the population of India) receives over 100,000 foreign missionaries or 172 missionaries per million people – 25 times as many missionaries per person as in India. Africa receives over 90,000 missionaries or 90 missionaries per million people – 13 times as many! Only 10% of the languages of India have any Scriptures. Pray for a team to go to every Muslim people group in India. Pray for the Scriptures to be translated into every Indian language. (*Frontiers*)

Poverty in Bangladesh: The tiny country of Bangladesh is the home of Bengal tigers, beautiful beaches and a lush, green landscape. It is also a land of brutal poverty, corruption and wave after wave of unrelenting natural disasters. Once among the wealthiest areas of the Indian Subcontinent, Bangladesh is now one of the poorest. More than a third of its people live below the poverty line. Bangladesh has a young population, with more than half of its people under age 15. Pray for young people in Bangladesh to have their eyes opened to the truth of Jesus. Pray for Bangladeshis seeking asylum around the world to meet with believers in Jesus who would share Him with them. Pray for more workers to go out and work in the harvest fields of Bangladesh. (*Frontiers*)

Gospel transformation: The Church in Thailand is small - about 1% of people are evangelical Christians. However, during the last 5 years the Christian population has been growing faster than the population growth rate. Pray that the rate of gospel transformation will only increase in the years to come. (*WEC International*)

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PUZZLE

Samson and Delilah Wordsearch

M P E T I R A Z A N G
R H W R T X L S K N V
D I H A I R E I Q H T
E L P F N P D L O J G
N I I Y O Y G N U N H
O S L R S R E D U A W
B T L L M Y G K L O R
W I A M A E R I N G B
A N R C S Y L V J O H
J E S H M E K R R Y D
N S E G D U J M R W X

Bound
Delilah
Donkey
Hair
Honey
Jawbone
Judges
Lion
Nazarite
Philistines
Pillars
Ropes
Samson

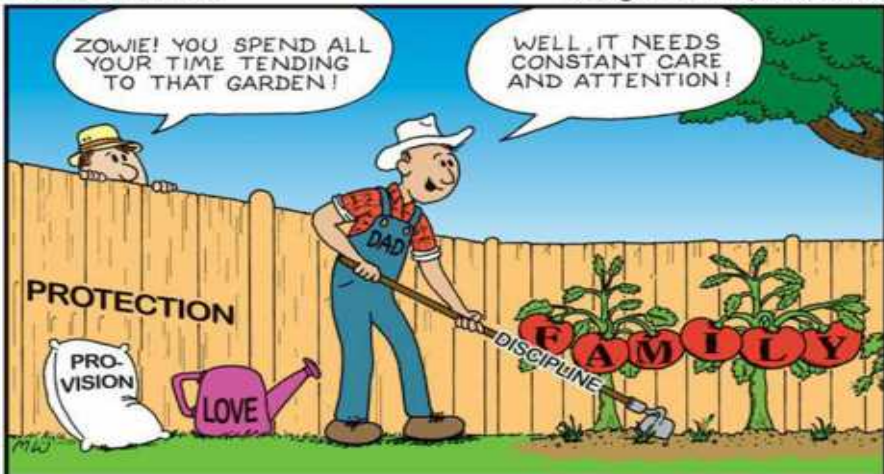
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CARTOON

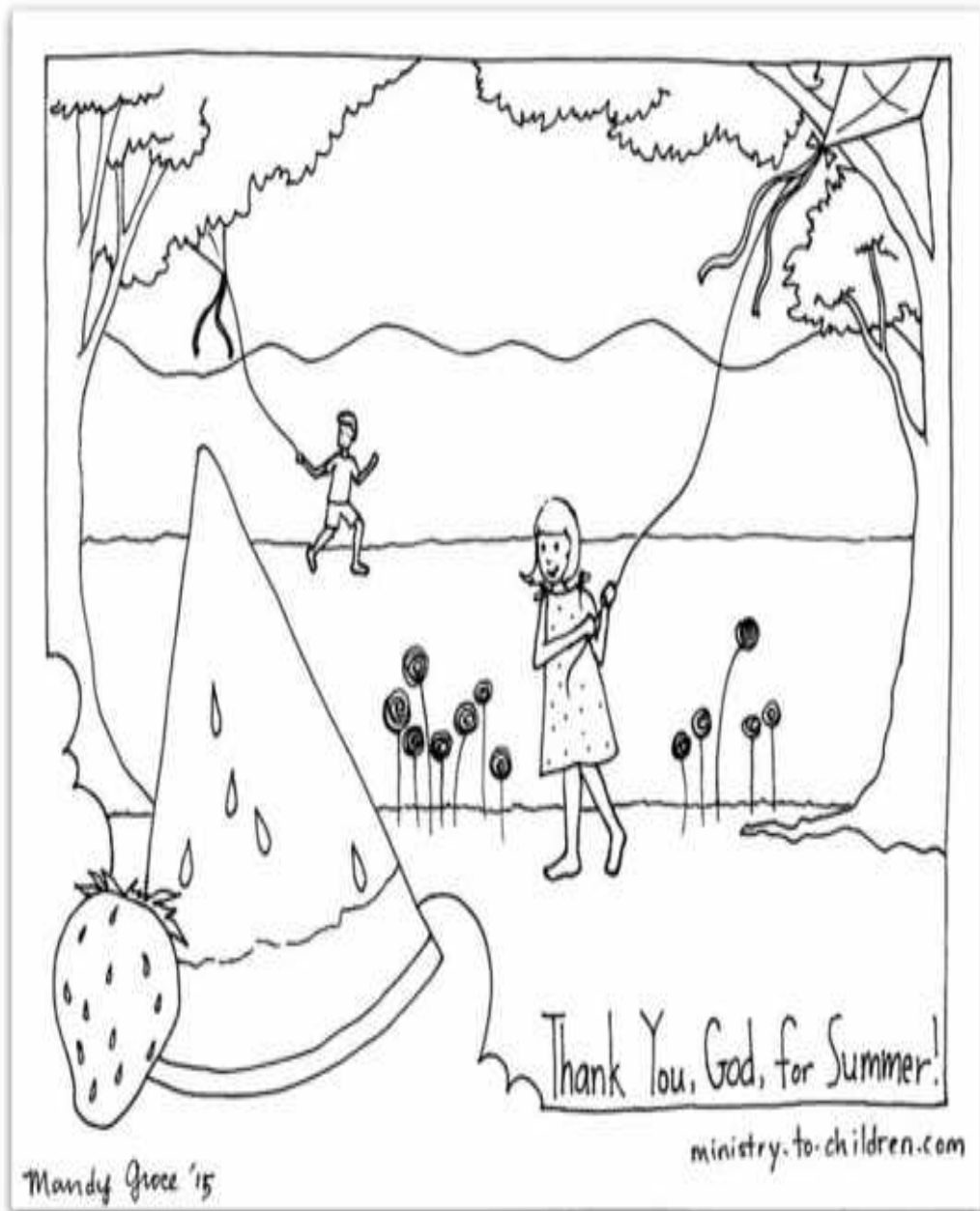
GARDENER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.
- GENESIS 2:15 NIV

COLOURING PAGE



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