

# CONTACT

introduces and welcomes  
**YOU**  
to

# PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

# JULY-AUGUST 2016

*Cover-the greyscale version of the new URC Logo issued in June*  
**Please Take a Copy of this Magazine**

[www.penworthamurc.org.uk](http://www.penworthamurc.org.uk)

### Waiting for the result

I've purposely decided to put fingers to keyboard sooner rather than later, and write this on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June rather than wait for the weekend. This moment is a liminal one of 'now and not yet', as votes are cast, boxes are filled, and we wait for them to be counted and the result known. Writing now lets me share my thoughts without them being influenced by the outcome, which will hopefully make them more objective if not timely.

Personally this whole process has felt like a shambles from start to finish. A manifesto pledge to quieten internal squabbles, a rushed attempt at renegotiation, and then six weeks of polar opposites shouting at each other. I had hoped that given the example of the engaged, deliberative and participative process our brothers and sisters in Scotland achieved, we could have aspired higher.

Numbers have been thrown around, people seeking a better, or safer life have been dehumanised, and the incredibly complicated economic, social, historical, and political questions have been left on the side-lines.

During Scotland's referendum the question was raised throughout society. Around dinner tables, bus stops, pubs, and folk gathered in a whole host of places to listen to each other. Possibly it's because we're English, or probably because of the tone of the national debate, the majority of us have talked in hushed tones for fear of arguments and strained relationships.

If the quality of our debate was higher I could see myself accepting or celebrating the result, but at the moment I expect my response to be either anxiety or relief. I fear that this will not resolve the issues and that the shouting will just continue.

So how to respond? We can but pray and hold the situation before God. Voice our feelings with integrity and compassion, and listen to those with opposing views. Grapple with what the Bible and the example of Jesus can say to us, and trust that within it all God is acting urging us towards the true path.

Whatever the result we step forward in faith, striving after the good.

**With every blessing, *Rev'd David R. Coaker***

## PURC EVENTS AND INFORMATION - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016

### WOMEN'S GROUP

**Meets: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
Summer Meal  
For details speak to Brenda.**

**No meeting in August**

**Then meets:  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
(Brenda K)**

### CRAFT GROUP

**Meets: 2.00pm Tuesday  
11<sup>th</sup> July in the Guild Room.  
Craft : Cards**

**Meets: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August  
for an Outing.  
For details speak to  
Barbara Dawson  
(Barbara D)**

### MEN'S GROUP

**No meeting in  
July or August.**

**Next meeting:  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
(Nigel L)**

### THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

**Meets fortnightly on  
Thursdays  
in the Church Hall  
For details speak to  
Pat Duckworth  
(Pat D)**



### Charity Afternoon Tea

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016 from 2- 4pm**

Please come and join us for a lovely afternoon tea,  
to be served in the Church Hall.

***Everyone is welcome.***

Tickets £6.00 available from  
Pat Duckworth, Liz Duncan or Barbara Baird.

Proceeds to **Integrate** Preston and Chorley Limited, a local charity  
helping people with mental and physical disabilities in our community.

Charity No. 1002141 - <http://www.integratepreston.org.uk/>

# PURC EVENTS AND INFORMATION - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016

## SUMMER FAIR 2016



**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped to make our Summer Fair an enjoyable and successful event. From the plant stall outside, the tombola in the foyer and onwards to the hall and side rooms and outside on the front, each stallholder/customer/contributor plays a part in making the event an enjoyable and social time. Your dedication and hard work raised £550 to help support Marie Curie and F.O.M.O in their vital work.

from Anne Hall. Nancy Fox and Rita T.

(Ed's Note : A **big thank you** as well too to our three organisers for bringing together an event that was appreciated by all. Well done!!)



### MITES



***During June your Mites (5 penny coins) donations reached 582 totalling £29.10 -----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***

*(Joyce M)*



### NANCY'S NEWS

Since last reporting to you a total of **49 Baby Vests**

along with **20 Baby Hats** as well as **6 Blankets** and **6 filled shoe boxes** have been taken to **International Aid**.

The contributions from all involved are very much appreciated; not least by the ultimate recipients. Thank you.

*(Nancy F)*



## PURC EVENTS AND INFORMATION - JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2016



**MeSSy Church meets at**  
**Penwortham United Reformed Church**  
**Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB**

**Saturday 2.30pm - 4.30 pm**

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

PURCMessychurch@hotmail.com - 01772 462229

<http://penworthamurc.org.uk>

**Coming Dates are:**

**July 9<sup>th</sup> for "Sports Day"**

**August - No Meeting**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**



### OTHER NEWS

#### **International Aid Trust - Local Volunteers Needed**

Volunteer helpers are urgently needed to help the IAT team in their charity shop at 53 Liverpool Road, Penwortham. If you could spare a few hours call into the shop for an application form or call IAT on 01772 611 000

#### **Penwortham Gala 2016 - Scouts Float to Victory**

**5th Penwortham United Reformed Scout Group** entered the Gala procession on June 11th. We had a float with 70 plus Beavers and leaders with an "Under the Sea" theme with mermaids, octopi. Fish and even a blow up whale. In front of them we had over 100 cubs, scouts and Leaders walking in various costumes to do with the sea, mermaids, divers, pirates, octopi, etc. sadly they all got drowned but smiled the whole way through and were a credit to our scout group. In front of our walking group we had the band float "Abandon Ship - A Band on Ship" and this was decorated as a pirate ship complete with cannons and sails. Even though the drummers, glockenspeil players, cymbals and trumpets were thoroughly wet through they played bravely all the way round and although I am biased they sounded excellent. **Our band float won 1st prize for best float.** Really well done to everyone from the group who took part and everyone who trimmed the floats. Mike - Group Scout Leader AKA Blackbeard

## MINISTRY

**Penwortham**  
United Reformed Church



*Serving, celebrating, and living the way of Christ together*

Since returning as a serving Elder in April after a two year sabbatical, it has struck me that the situation concerning the deployment of ministers and the financial future of the URC has been brought firmly into the spotlight, and not for the first time.

One already knows that all denominations currently face such matters; it isn't just us with fewer clergy and reducing and ageing congregations. In response to this, our minister Rev David preached a most impressive and candid sermon during the service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016. I know that some people will not have been present that day and therefore I would commend the sermon to you. It can be found in full on our church website:

[penworthamurc.org.uk](http://penworthamurc.org.uk)

If you are unable to access the website I am sure copies can be made available on request. It was following the sermon that I felt moved to write the following comments.

The lack of Ministers will affect us all, just as we have over the past two years seen Rev David take on extra responsibilities at Kirkham and Fulwood, and now in Morecambe as well! These are in addition to other wider N.W. Synod duties. As more and more ministers within our synod retire during the next five years, and with new appointments currently frozen, I am sure we are forced to recognise and appreciate the rapid changes which will inevitably be forced upon us and the wider Church during the short to medium term. Some churches are already experiencing difficulties in having to adjust both their practice and outlook, together with a greater need to be self-sufficient in many areas of church life which have previously by tradition been headed or orchestrated by the clergy.

I believe that it is difficult for many of us, particularly our older members, to re-evaluate expectations of what a member of the clergy can and will undertake in terms of pastoral as well as spiritual and practical matters, and how the training of ministers has changed during the past 20 years, where changes of outlook and emphasis in the role of the minister have shifted.

## MINISTRY cont'd

With the situation highlighted on the previous page, our expectations need to be realistic, not wishful thinking. I believe we also need to take stock of our own position and be thankful for what we do have, not what we think we deserve. Even if we did have increasing numbers of clergy, would we have the resources to pay them? At present we do not. The elders are to attend a meeting at Fulwood URC hosted by the Moderator of N.W. Synod on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July about the future of ministry in our area and no doubt this subject will be raised again in the months to come.

We have recently seen the result of the Referendum and how this appears to have heralded a period of uncertainty for our country. Some people would call this a period of opportunity. So too our church; the URC appears to face equal uncertainty. But in both areas, life goes on as usual, if under a different set of circumstances – and so must we! However, in our church life particularly, we at least move forward in Faith. I believe that we at Penwortham have a very great deal, and in a true spirit of co-operation we can all give considered thought to what we may contribute to the life of our church and whether there are extra acts of service we may offer. We can very easily criticise and complain as much as we like - if we want to, but it is only by working together into what can only be a time of further substantial changes, that we can hope to survive. Regardless of our numbers, our ages and our abilities, as one body in Christ we can progress through change, face any adversity, and truly look forward to whatever the future may hold.



Thank you. Robert Bulloch

## WHAT'S ON

### July

Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Messy Church	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Revd Nigel Lemon</b>
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parade Service</b>	<b>Revd David Coaker</b>
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm	Butterflies Tea Party for 'Integrate'	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Elizabeth Fletcher</b>
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Joint Elders Meeting	Fulwood URC
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Revd Paul Pells</b>

### August

Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family worship with Holy Communion</b>	<b>Revd David Coaker</b>
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Alan Edward</b>
Week commencing 15 <sup>th</sup> – Seniors Days – details later				
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Revd David Coaker</b>
Church Work Day – details later				
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Ernest Wrennall</b>

### September

Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Holy Communion</b>	<b>Revd David Coaker</b>
Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
		7.00pm	Study Group – 'Not a Tame Lion'	
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Messy Church	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Ernest Wrennall</b>
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Study Group – 'Not a Tame Lion'	

All services have Junior Church and crèche

*(Maureen W)*

## OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

### Weekly Offertory

29 <sup>th</sup>	May	£475.70
5 <sup>th</sup>	June	£521.70
12 <sup>th</sup>	June	Gala
19 <sup>th</sup>	June	£606.31

### Flowers

10 <sup>th</sup>	July	Basil & Hylda Hurst
17 <sup>th</sup>	July	Jean Henley
24 <sup>th</sup>	July	Rita Taylor
31 <sup>st</sup>	July	Betty Carruthers
7 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Jenny & Peter Oliver
14 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Andrew Dawkins
21 <sup>st</sup>	Aug	Noel & Madge Bracewell
28 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Marjorie Smith
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	Bill & Celia McCartney

### Sunday Coffee

10 <sup>th</sup>	July	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
17 <sup>th</sup>	July	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox
24 <sup>th</sup>	July	Vacant
31 <sup>st</sup>	July	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
7 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
14 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Anne Hall, Beverley Strange, Gemma Strange
21 <sup>st</sup>	Aug	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
28 <sup>th</sup>	Aug	Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox

Closing date for the **September** edition of Contact is **21<sup>st</sup> August**  
The next edition will be available on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August**  
(Maureen W)

## What's the Point of Church Buildings?

*Clifford Patten considers the purpose of the physical premises we keep for the life of the Church. Clifford writes as an Elder and Architect, expressing personal views developed whilst working with local churches. He has served on Mission Council, buildings-related task groups, and is currently part of the URC Buildings Forum, which is seeking to develop the understanding of our relationship with the buildings we use in both local church and the wider church contexts. He is now a member of the Windermere Management Committee, following happy times working on both Carver Church and the Windermere Centre building.*

We know that the Church is the people, but our identity and our presence in the community is often expressed through our buildings. For a reflection upon this complex relationship with our buildings, it may be helpful to employ an 18<sup>th</sup> Century means of assessing buildings in terms of three significant factors, still just as relevant for us today:

**COMMODITY** refers to the usefulness of the accommodation.

Many of the buildings we occupy were shaped or influenced by previous generations, with a different understanding of church growing out of a very different cultural background. The big problem is that buildings have an inertia which sees them outlive the original intentions of the builders: 'We shape our buildings thereafter they shape us', even though we don't always see it ourselves.

**FIRMNESS** is really a measure of the robustness and performance of a building, and the test of economic viability of individual buildings, and our overall built inheritance is very much a concern at present. There is a difficult balance between resourcing our calling to further the kingdom of God and maintaining the buildings we use.

**DELIGHT** refers to the spirituality embedded in our buildings: the messages they send out and the way they speak to those who pass by, enter and worship within them; a thin place, a place where we can all encounter God in our own ways, where we can show Christian love through hospitality and compassion; where

the layout facilitates reaching out and touching the lives of the community who use the building.

So against this familiar background and the Windermere Centre's question, 'what is the point of church?', it seems reasonable to ask, what is the point of church buildings?

- What is the point of maintaining an historic or much-loved building and all of the associated memories and secular desire to preserve if it does not speak of and facilitate the way we are called to be the Church today – to enable the church family to speak of the Kingdom of God?
- What is the point of a church building which does not speak of welcome, relevance and hospitality?
- What is the point of an unoccupied church building which implies, by the closed door, that church is only for Sunday?
- What is the point of the inherited 'Hall and Church' separation, is it really a reflection of how we see church?
- Do we see lettings as a revenue stream to maintain 'our church family' or as an outreach opportunity?
- What is the point of a church building which is a drain on human and financial resources and where perhaps maintaining and passing on becomes the primary focus for the church family?
- Can we develop a more flexible approach to building 'ownership' so that buildings do not fix our location and the work we can undertake, and building failure, physical or economic does not necessarily determine the end of a cause?

The point is that church buildings which respond to current needs in terms of their Commodity, Firmness and Delight are an inspirational mission tool, but we do need to ask ourselves these and other 'what is the point?' questions, and pray that we have the courage to listen to the answers.

**Clifford Patten.**

*This article is one of the "Resources" offered to and for the use of URC churches by The Windermere Centre and suggested by Rev'd David for this month's Contact.*

*There is a link on our website to the Windermere Centre website where the full range of their resources – Prayers, Articles and more - is available to you.*



Three film nights, a meditative service and six discussion evenings.

**Penwortham**  
United Reformed Church



Being ordinary and holy in an ordinary world

**You are welcome to pick and choose!**



**Film night: Shadowlands**  
**7.00-9.30pm Wed 7th Sept**

The tragic, true story of British author C.S. Lewis' love affair with American poet Joy Davidman.



**Film night: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**  
**7.00-9.30pm Wed 14th Sept**

Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter, four siblings find themselves in the world of Narnia through a magical wardrobe while playing a game of 'hide-and-seek' at the country estate of a mysterious professor.

**Discussion evenings Wed, 7.30-9.00pm**

- |           |   |                                   |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 28th Sept | 1 | Living in the shadows             |
| 5th Oct   | 2 | Living with the beyond            |
| 26th Oct  | 3 | Living with the unexplained       |
| 9th Nov   | 4 | Living with what we've been given |
| 23rd Nov  | 5 | Living with absence               |

**Meditative Service Sun 4th Dec 6.30pm**

Reflective worship on the themes of death and resurrection using Lewis' words.



**Film night: Prince Caspian**  
**7.00-9.30pm Wed 30th Nov**

The story continues as Prince Caspian tries to defeat evil King Miraz and the four child heroes return to find that 1300 years have passed.

**Discussion evening Wed, 7.30-9.00pm**

- |         |   |                                |
|---------|---|--------------------------------|
| 7th Dec | 6 | Facing the disbelief of others |
|---------|---|--------------------------------|

**Copies of the book to accompany the discussions will be available at the back of church - £3 suggested donation in offertory.**

## WORLD PRAYER POINTS

**Refugee children:** Eight million children are estimated to be in urgent need of assistance inside Syria and neighbouring countries due to conflict. Viva is working alongside local Lebanese NGO, LSESD, and its networks of church partners in Syria and Lebanon, to develop child-focused programmes. Please pray for the development of child friendly spaces – safe places for children to come every day where they can play, learn and receive support – and for the growing number of informal education projects. In today's world of often unpredictable and long-lasting conflicts, churches are willing to be involved in caring for children and their families for the long-term. This is critically needed right now. Pray that leaders will be encouraged in tough circumstances and that refugee children would rediscover a joy, peace and hope. (*Viva*)

**Basque people to Jesus:** The Basque region stretches through northern Spain, across the Pyrenees and into France. They have a highly distinctive culture and language. Despite a tradition of Catholicism, Basques are often antagonistic towards the church. Pray for a Spirit-inspired breakthrough among the Basques, that Jesus might be encountered in a powerful new way. Pray that Basque worship songs written by local believers will draw Basque people to Jesus. (*WEC International*)

**Atewa Range Forest Reserve:** Five million people in southern Ghana depend on water from three great rivers which rise in Atewa Range Forest Reserve. Mining and illegal logging threaten the quality of the water needed for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes. These activities also impact the wildlife in this unique tropical forest. Pray for forest-fringe communities as they seek to find new ways of using their natural resources without over-exploitation. (*A Rocha UK*)

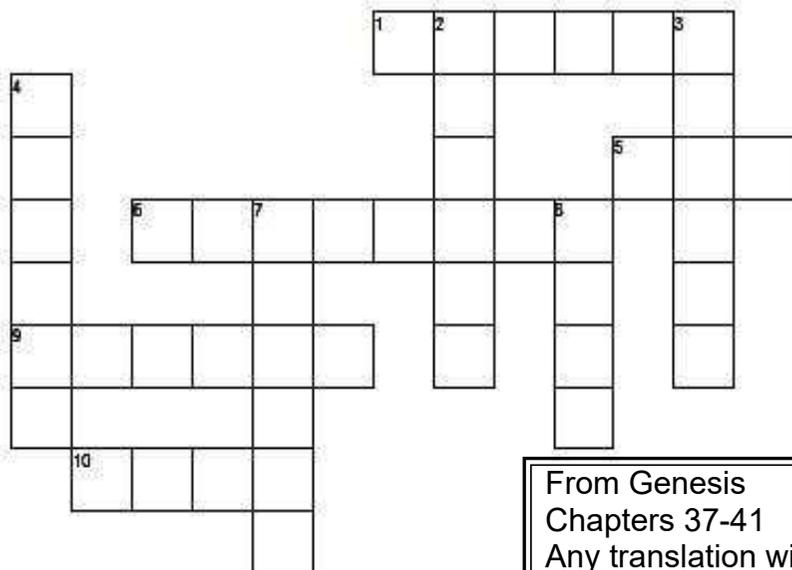
**Safe outlets:** It's not everyday that you hear a strong declaration of faith in Christ from someone raised in a Muslim majority country. But Hosni contacted the media team via WhatsApp with this urgent request for spiritual support: "I believe that Jesus is God... I need to know more about Jesus and the Bible." Pray that social media will continue to be a safe outlet for Muslims to seek Jesus. (*Arab World Ministry of Pioneers*)

(Used with permission –Global Connections-<http://www.globalconnections.org.uk>)

## CROSSWORD

# Joseph

Old Testament



www.churchhousepuzzles.com © 2011

From Genesis  
Chapters 37-41  
Any translation will  
provide the answers.  
*Printed with permission*

### ACROSS

- 1 God showed Joseph things through \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Joseph interpreted a dream for a baker and told him he would \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Joseph was thrown in prison by \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Joseph had \_\_\_\_\_ brothers
- 10 Joseph's father Jacob gave him a \_\_\_\_\_ of many colors.

### DOWN

- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin
- 3 Pharaoh dreamed there were 7 fat cows and 7 \_\_\_\_\_ cows
- 4 Joseph told the \_\_\_\_\_ that his dream meant Pharaoh would restore him to his job
- 7 Joseph's brothers sold him for \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of silver
- 8 Pharaoh gave Joseph his \_\_\_\_\_ to wear

## HUMOUR FROM THE INTERNET

In a moment of creative inspiration, the entrepreneur who owned the laundrette beside the church, commissioned this sign for his window:  
***“Where cleanliness really is next to Godliness!”***

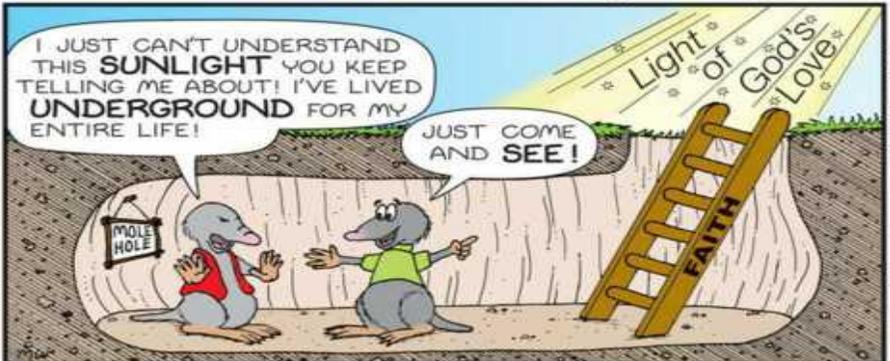
Young Tommy was walking home in the rain with his mother following Sunday worship. It finally stopped raining as they turned the corner, where to their delight appeared a double rainbow in the sky. Doesn't it look like an artist painted this rainbow?" his mother exclaimed. "I expect God painted this just for you!" "Yes," replied Tommy, "God did it, and he did it left handed." A little perplexed, his mother replied, "Why do you think God did this with his left hand?" "Well," said Tommy, in Sunday School we learned that Jesus sits on the right hand of God"

Two novice monks had not renounced their addiction to cigarettes, so the first one approached the Abbot: "May I smoke while I pray?" The Abbot said no. So that same novice was startled to see his friend smoking the next day and to learn that the Abbot had given permission. "You have to know how to phrase it," the friend said, "you asked if you could smoke while you pray. I asked if I could pray while I smoked."

## CARTOON

### MOLE HOLE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.  
— JOHN 1: 45–46 NIV

## COLOURING PAGE - PENWORTHAM GALA CAKE



Here is an opportunity to add your colour to the Penwortham Gala Cake that all the children helped to make during the Gala Ecumenical Service.

The cake illustrates our lives as Christians built upon the solid foundation of Jesus our rock and of lives in which a good relationship with God and our "neighbours" and useful service are made possible through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the saving grace of the King of kings.

*Picture Courtesy of  
Jenny Oliver*

*(see it in colour on the web site)*

