

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



*The grass withers, the flower fades; but the
Word of our God will stand Forever.
NRSV Isaiah 40:8*

OCTOBER 2016

Please Take a Copy of this Magazine
www.penworthamurc.org.uk

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Illusion or Reality

What would you rather hear, the truth of a situation or a positive spin? An explanation of the complexities, or a catchy sound bite that affirms your preconceptions?

I guess depending on the subject your choice might vary? If it personally affects you the detail may help you deal with it, or the illusion may help you cope. I much prefer the reality, to face it, struggle with it, and hopefully discover a practical way forward.

One of the unfortunate ideas the Church has encouraged was to focus our attention on what happens next. People were told to not worry about their circumstances because their reward would come. Poverty now, would be riches in heaven. Current ailments become eternal wholeness. Present distress is transformed into heavenly joy. I trust in God that whatever is on the other side of this life is truly divine, but I also firmly believe that our truest humanity is expressed when this life reflects heaven. When the attributes of God's Kingdom, justice, peace and love, are experienced now as a foretaste of heaven. When God's Kingdom is 'on earth, as it is in Heaven'. Life is complex, messy, beautiful, joyous, heart-breaking, disappointing and affirming experience; and God is within it all.

Those who are invested in the status quo will always seek to quieten those that raise questions or advocate change by pushing solutions into the distance, or presenting an illusion of progress rather than dealing with the reality. This happens within congregations, organisations and nations. There are always the priests with the burden and privileges of office and the prophets railing against short-sighted and insufficient decisions. This is the place in which Jesus stood, and it runs throughout the faith stories of the Bible and Church history.

As a congregation, and as a denomination, we need to listen to the voices of the prophets, affirm the priests (whilst at times questioning their motives) and always place before ourselves the challenge of living out, discerning and celebrating God's Kingdom. This has always been the calling of the Church, and is urgently needed in our present circumstances.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker



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

Penwortham
United Reformed Church



By the authority of the General Synod of the Church of England

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.

PURC EVENTS AND INFORMATION - OCTOBER 2016

MEN'S GROUP

Meets:
2.00pm Monday
3rd October
In the Guild Room
Topic: "Looking back, etc."
Led by Basil Hurst
Next meeting: 7th November
(Nigel L)

WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets:
2.30pm Wednesday
5th October
in the Guild Room
Topic: Being a Magistrate
Led by :Brenda Kendall
Next Meeting : 2nd November
(Brenda K)

CRAFT GROUP

Meets:
2.00pm Tuesday
11th October
in the Guild Room.
Craft : Glass Painting

Next Meeting : 8th November
(Barbara D)

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets fortnightly on

Thursdays

in the Church Hall

For details speak to :

Pat Duckworth



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.

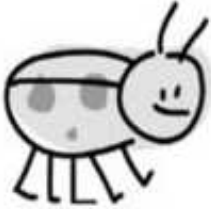
PURCMessychurch@hotmail.com - 01772 462229

<http://penworthamurc.org.uk>

Coming Dates are:

October 8th
November 12th
December 10th





SATURDAY 15th October

2.30pm - 4.30pm

Family social event -

beetle drive and quiz

Light refreshments & raffle

£1.50 (children free)

(Maureen W)



TABLE TOP SALE

at PURC

Saturday 29th October

10.30am - 1.00pm

Tables cost £5.00

Please speak to Nancy or Maureen
if you would like to book a table



The Penwortham Autumn Show Committee would like to say 'Thank you' to everyone who came along and supported the show on Saturday 24th September - from the stall holders to the volunteers, exhibitors to the judges - you were all amazing and we couldn't do it without you! The Committee would especially like to thank Penwortham United Reformed Church for letting us take over their building, Booths for their sponsorship of the BBQ, and South Ribble Borough Council through Penwortham Neighbourhood Forum - their support with running the day is invaluable.

(Maureen W)

PURC INFORMATION - OCTOBER 2016



INTERNATIONAL AID - SHOE BOXES

We are all familiar with the excellent work done by International Aid and other charities in providing “shoe box” gifts to those in need particularly, but not exclusively, at Christmas time. Don't forget that shoe boxes are now available for collection, either from the “stage” or by speaking to Nancy. Thank you all in anticipation. *(Nancy F)*

CENTRAL LANCASHIRE GROUP PASTORATE CHURCHES



Fulwood URC



Leyland URC



Kirkham URC



Penwortham URC

See in colour
on the PURC
website

CHRISTIAN AID EVENTS AND REPORT



QUIZ IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID

at Fulwood URC, October 7th at 7.00pm

Teams of four and also including a Fairtrade Stall and light refreshments.

Donations to Christian Aid

Contact: Margery Pitcher 01772 202407 or
Barbara Edmondson or Cath Addison.



CONCERT IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID

Saturday 15th October at 7.30pm at
Longton Methodist Church featuring the
Company of Voices choir.

Refreshments are provided. Tickets are £5.00 from
Cath Greenlees on 613500.



CHRISTIAN AID REPORT

Cath and Barbara attended the Autumn meeting of the Preston and District Christian Aid committee and were pleased to hear the total raised during Christian Aid week was £31,399.81 - absolutely brilliant!

By gift aiding it added 7 per cent on the total country wide of 10 million - worth doing.

We have been asked if churches could have a small stall every week to support Fairtrade. What do people think? Would it be supported? Please speak to either of us with your views.

The Christmas appeal this year will be for Congolese displaced persons. Watch this space for further details.

Cath & Barbara



WHAT'S ON

October

Monday	3 rd	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
		7.00pm	CLG Joint Elders at Fulwood URC	
Wednesday	5 th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
		7.30pm	Study Group – 'Not a Tame Lion'	
Saturday	8 th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Shirley Farrier
Tuesday	11 th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Saturday	15 th	2.30pm	Social afternoon	
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Parade Service	Revd David Coaker
		2.00pm	CLG Joint Service at Fulwood URC	
Wednesday	19 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Nigel Lemon
Wednesday	26 th	7.30pm	Study Group – 'Not a Tame Lion'	
Sunday	30th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Paul Pells

November

Wednesday	2 nd	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	5 th	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Revd David Coaker
Monday	7 th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Tuesday	8 th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	9 th	7.30pm	Study Group – 'Not a Tame Lion'	
Saturday	12 th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Family Worship	George Grime
Wednesday	16 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd David Coaker
Wednesday	23 rd	7.30pm	Study Group – 'Not a Tame Lion'	
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Geoff Tolley
Wednesday	30 th	7.00pm	Study Group – film Prince Caspian	

All services have Junior Church and creche

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offertory

21 st	Aug	£419.50
28 th	Aug	£521.85
4 th	Sept	£611.32
11 th	Sept	£458.10
18 th	Sept	£534.80
25 th	Sept	£551.95

Flowers

9 th	Oct	Alan & Margaret Edward
16 th	Oct	Rita Taylor
23 rd	Oct	Barbara Johnson
30 th	Oct	Barbara Dawson
6 th	Nov	Vacant
13 th	Nov	Marjorie Smith
20 th	Nov	Alan & Beverley Strange

Sunday Coffee

9 th	Oct	Anne Hall, Beverley Strange, Gemma Strange
16 th	Oct	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
23 rd	Oct	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox
30 th	Oct	Vacant
6 th	Nov	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
13 th	Nov	Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
20 th	Nov	Anne Hall, Beverley Strange, Gemma Strange

Closing date for the **November** edition of Contact is **24th October**
The next edition will be available on **Sunday 30th October**



Mushrooming



The Amoro mushroom farm was formed three years ago by four young Palestinians who saw there were no local mushrooms in Palestinian markets but plenty of imported Israeli ones.

Although none had agricultural backgrounds, they researched mushroom-growing techniques and enrolled in classes in Europe to learn more.

They hope their business will make Palestinians less reliant on Israel. Their product has been well received because few families cook them because of the boycott of Israeli mushrooms.

Amoro has already taken around half of the market share from Israeli producers. With such success the owners decided to expand the business but this brought problems as they needed to find a piece of suitable land outside of Area C - the most fertile part of the West Bank, which is under complete Israeli control and at a price they could afford.

Jericho proved a sustainable choice, but they knew this would mean delays at Israeli checkpoints as produce made its way to and from the Jordan Valley. With the Palestinian borders also under Israeli control, the farm's founders pay hefty customs duties at Israel's Ashdod Port to bring in raw materials such as fungal spores.

Since Amoro was founded, Israeli producers have slashed their white button mushroom prices by 45 percent; a change that Amoro believes is intended to pressure the Palestinian mushroom farmers economically.

Despite the difficulties, home-grown mushrooms are fast becoming a popular alternative for Palestinian greengrocers and restaurants. The Amoro farmers believe their product is more marketable because it goes from harvest into the Palestinian market on the same day, whereas Israeli mushrooms make a longer journey via Israeli and Palestinian distributors.

An extract from URC Commitment to Life Moving Stories Sep 2016 – Ed.

TOILET TWINNING REVIEWED AT OUR HARVEST SERVICE



2.4 billion people don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo -that's more than a third of the people on the planet. Over 500,000 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation - that's over 1,400 children a day. Poor sanitation is one of the world's biggest killers: it hits women, children, old and sick people hardest.

At the September Parade Service we learned about 'Toilet twinning'. We learned that for just £60, you can twin your loo with a latrine halfway around the world, in a country of your choosing. For £240, you can twin with a school block, or toilets in a displacement camp. Your smallest room becomes the proud owner of a certificate, complete with a photo and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twinned loo on Google Maps.

Toilet Twinning funds the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund. Donations are used to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education. This vital combination works together to prevent the spread of disease. Children are healthier, and able to go to school and parents are well enough to work their land and grow enough food to feed their family. With better health, and more ability to earn a living, men and women discover the potential that lies within them to bring transformation.

Providing people with clean water and basic sanitation is one of the most cost-effective ways to release people from poverty: for every £1 spent on water and sanitation, £8 is returned through saved time, increased productivity and reduced health costs.

(Maureen W)

PRAYER



The 18-24 September was World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel and the URC, Commitment for Life, Mission section in its “Moving Stories” for September included this prayer from

Jane Sutch Pickard, for use in that week (*but which also may be used at any time*).

Prayer based on Ephesians 2:14

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. God, loving Parent of all humankind, you are our Peace. In Jesus Christ you embodied peace with justice – and you still do – peace at its most down-to-earth, peace, which can still prevail in the face of all the walls we build. We confess our helpless anger, confronted by concrete cutting across the daily lives of your children: limits imposed on travel, study, healthcare, work, worship, family connections, celebrations. We confess our complicity in maintaining barriers of ignorance, fear, privilege, prejudice, ‘us’ and ‘them’. Our world is crossed by razor wire that tears at flesh and draws blood. But you are our peace, with power to cut this wire for good, to break down all our walls. You are present now in the women of Machsom Watch standing at the checkpoint, where they can be seen, speaking out about what they see: God of Peace, we thank you. You are present when former combatants, with courage, stand together to denounce violence: God of Peace, we thank you. You are present in the patience of people under Occupation who stand their ground, embodying steadfastness: God of Peace, we thank you. You are present in Ecumenical Accompaniers, bearing witness. God of Peace, we thank you. Loving Parent of all humankind, help us to share with our sisters and brothers in Israel, Palestine and nearer home, your work of breaking down the walls of separation, your vital work of peace. Amen

Remember too the suffering that continues in Syria and across the Near and Middle East and Afghanistan as well as many other places and for which this prayer also contains appropriate reflection

SOME POEMS

BE WHAT YOU ARE

Do what you can being what you are,
Shine like a glow-worm if you cannot be a star.
Work like a pulley if you cannot be a crane;
Be a wheel-greaser if you cannot be a train.
Be the pliant oar if you cannot be a sailor,
Be the little needle if you cannot be a tailor.
Be the cleaning broom if you cannot be the sweeper,
Be the sharpened sickle if you cannot be the reaper

THE BOW IN THE SKY

The sun went out to shine one day;
Said he "I'll drive the rain away."
The raindrops laughed to see him try
To drive them back into the sky.
Each raindrop caught a sunbeam white
And split it into rays of light;
Red, yellow, blue, three rays in one,
And made a rainbow just for fun.

YOUR TAPESTRY OF YEARS

May there be a thread of sunshine
In your tapestry of years,
Like a little bit of magic
Weaving everything that cheers.
May it sparkle with your memories
And glisten with your dreams,
May its golden weaving, picture
Only dear and happy scenes.
Like a smile that never changes,
Like a heart that knows no tears,
May there be a thread of sunshine
In your tapestry of years.

(Authors Unknown – from a collection by O. Crowhurst 1909-1993)

ANAGRAMS

Can you work out who these Women of the Bible are:

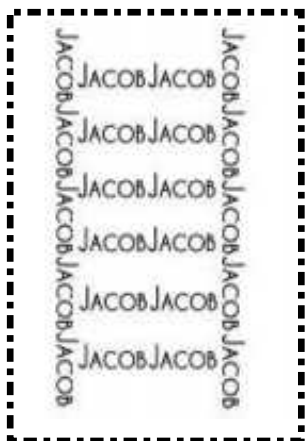
- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| A rash | Bite heals |
| Aargh! | At harm |
| Brake! Eh? | Cars do |
| Heal | Daily |
| A tram | Clips rail |
| Rim aim | Soil |
| Bad hero | Has a dash |
| Hide all | Rap a ship |
| Amino | Habitat |
| Sabbath, eh? | Hash tune |
| Threes | |

Answers
Not
In
Order
>

Elisabeth
Sarah
Martha
Hagar
Dorcas
Rebekah
Lydia
Leah
Priscilla
Tamar
Lois
Miriam
Hadassah
Deborah
Sapphira
Delliah
Tabitha
Naomi
Nehushta
Bathsheba
Esther

From Bible Puzzles.com

BIBLE RELATED - SAY WHAT YOU SEE PUZZLES



Clue : Genesis 28



Clue : Exodus 20

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

From Bible Puzzles.com

HUMOUR IN CHURCH

FIRST SOME NOTICES *(contributed by Derek&Pat Poulton)*

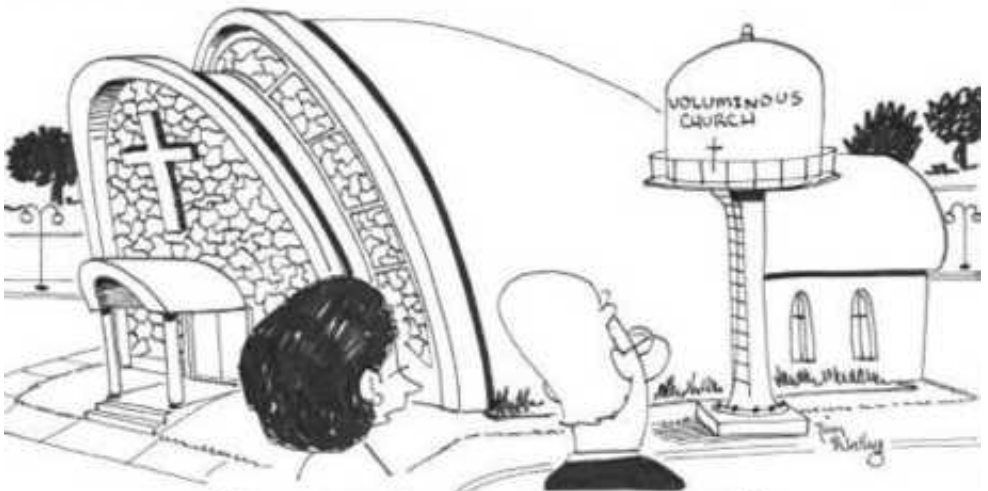
- 1 The Fasting & Prayer conference includes a meal.
- 2 The sermon topic this morning is : 'Jesus Walks on the Water'.
The sermon topic this evening is : 'Searching for Jesus.'
- 3 For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

SECONDLY - CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE

(from the internet-unattributed from various sources)

- 4 Noah built an ark and then the animals came into it in pears.
- 5 Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- 6 Pharoah's army was drowned in the desert. After that, Moses climbed Mount Cyanide to receive the Ten Commandments.
- 7 The first commandment was Eve telling Adam to eat the apple.
- 8 The men who followed Jesus were known as the 12 decibels.
- 9 The only two angel's names I know are Hark and Harold.

CARTOON



"AND THAT'S JUST FOR BAPTISMS!"

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Jesus healed the lame and made blind people see. Jesus did miracles to show that He really is God, that His teachings are true and that He can forgive us of our sins.

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