

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



"Your sun will no longer set ; your moon will no longer wane. The Lord will be an everlasting light for you, and your days of mourning will be ended." *Isaiah. 60:20*



NOVEMBER 2016

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www.penworthamurc.org.uk

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Serving Kingdom and/or Church?

Is our faith inward or outward looking, or both? Is what we do on a Sunday morning solely for our benefit, to equip us for service in the week or to draw others into relationship? Does our congregation of the URC exist because it always has done, or because it is an essential part of the Church of Christ? Why are we here?

On occasion, it is healthy to step back from our everyday realities and reflect upon what our true purpose is. To go back to basics, reflect upon the foundational goals and reasons for our being, and to then imagine you were starting from scratch and come up with a plan. Then to take that plan and compare it to reality. Sometimes the imagined plan and reality will tally, but sometimes they will be miles apart from each other.

The Church exists to live out Jesus' Kingdom of God message; to live, promote and celebrate, the divine attributes of justice, peace, mercy and love. To be a community that lives out these ideals by supporting and challenging each other, and witnessing to those around us. As William Temple, the former Archbishop of Canterbury (1896-1902) put it: "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." That is why we exist – but does what we do amplify or lessen the message?

The Church has always been one generation from extinction or renewal. Our demise or regeneration has always been just around the corner. This is the reality that we share with those first disciples, and all the generations since.

The URC was born in ecumenical fervour; major obstacles were overcome in its creation and in congregations of the different traditions who joined together in single buildings. The challenges we have faced as a denomination and as congregations have always been massive. Where we are now is no different. But maybe the bigger difference is in our demographics which, as the numbers that find the Church relevant in each generation decline, the folk we do attract tend to be older?

Whatever our age, we all have a valuable contribution to make to the life of faith that we share. But we cannot deny that we rely upon

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

our younger folk more and more to keep the show on the road. And as the number of people willing and able to serve as elders and on rotas reduce, more and more is borne by those that do.

Facing up to this reality, and to our responsibility for the pastoral care of those that serve us, is why it is essential that we discuss, pray, reflect and make decisions that will place us on firmer ground moving forwards.

As the URC within North Western Synod there is the ongoing Future Patterns of Ministry conversations, which may contribute to us doing this, but the priority has to be for us to work out how the Kingdom of God will be best served within our community, by, and with, us. Our links with the wider URC will play a part in this, but a solution that we discern together will always be more preferable, effective and truer to who we are, and who we seek to be.

On a personal note, last year, due to the workload of serving as Pastoral Convenor and the pressures of pastorate and family life, I only agreed to an additional year's term, which ends in March 2017, to seek to resolve this situation. My seeking to resolve this has raised questions about the strengths and gifts of my ministry, and I will no longer be Pastoral Convenor after next March. (I will be supporting the wider URC by serving as Derek Estill's chaplain as he undertakes his role as Moderator of General Assembly in 2018.)

Also, in the mists of time when I was an engineer I undertook personality profiling, and one of the outcomes of that was the suggestion that I am a radical conservative. In other words, my approach is that if it isn't broken I'll leave it alone, but if it is broken I'll happily start from scratch to come up with a way forward.

In the coming months, the pressures on my time and focus will lessen, and my prayer is that together we will be able to explore where the future is drawing us.

Over the next few weeks we will be moving towards our annual celebration of Christ's arrival. We will sing, read, pray and reflect upon 'God with us'. The life of God shining within the life of humanity. The birth of an infant began our journey, and it is a journey we continue as we seek to live the life of Christ today.

With every blessing. Rev'd David R. Coaker



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

Penwortham
United Reformed Church



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 - NOVEMBER 2016

WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets:

**2.30pm Wednesday
2nd November
in the Guild Room**

Led by : Rev'd Nigel Lemon

Next Meeting : 7th December

(Brenda K)

MEN'S GROUP

Meets:

**2.00pm Monday
7th November
in the Guild Room**

Topic: "Places"

Led by Hugh Dawkins

Next meeting: 5th December

(Nigel L)

CRAFT GROUP

Meets:

**2.00pm Tuesday
8th November
in the Guild Room.**

Craft : Christmas Cards

Next Meeting : 13th December

(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:

November 12th

December 10th



REMEMBRANCE - NOVEMBER 2016



Penwortham will hold a formal Remembrance Sunday parade on Sunday 13th November arriving at the War Memorial from Marshal's Brow at 10.45 am and then onwards to the Royal British Legion, Middleforth Branch on Leyland Road. The Penwortham URC 10.30am service will also include an act of Remembrance.

We look back and remember the fallen. Some long ago, others just yesterday. Lives sacrificed in conflict in the longing for and in the hope of peace. Their sacrifice and their longing for peace are both symbolised by the red poppy. Let us live our lives as if peace within ourselves and in our community, our country and with those of other lands is of such a high priority that conflict becomes redundant. *Anon.*

Gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

(A quotation by the author Melodie Beattie – from Cath Addison)



Poppy Poppy



Poppy poppy what do you say?
Wear me on Remembrance Day.

Poppy poppy what do you tell?
Many soldiers in battle fell.

Poppy poppy what should we
know?

That peace on earth should
grow, grow, grow.



PURC INFORMATION - NOVEMBER 2016



INTERNATIONAL AID - SHOE BOXES

Since the Shoe Boxes have become available for our gifts to folk overseas who otherwise might not receive a Christmas gift, the response has been very heartening. So far over 150 boxes have already been filled by you all and taken to International Aid at Much Hoole for onward transportation and distribution. Thank you so much and let us continue in this in the lead up to Christmas.

(Nancy F)



At the **October Coffee Morning** it was decided to donate the proceeds of the coffee morning to **Macmillan Cancer Support** and the total realised amounted to £50.00.

Thanks to all those who attended who made this gift to such a worthy cause possible. *(Hugh D)*

(Thanks also to Hugh and his team for continuing to provide this social activity each month - Ed.)



MITES



During September/October your Mites (5 penny coins) donations reached 1036 totalling £51.80 - 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)

APOLLO CUBS & CANCER RESEARCH UK

A big well done to Apollo Cubs who raised over £300 for cancer research at their 'Bacon Butty & Brew' morning on 22 October 2016 and many thanks to everyone who supported the event. *(Maureen)*

WHAT'S ON

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	
			Worship Group & Rev'd. Nigel Lemon	
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
			Remembrance Sunday	
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'	

December

Saturday	3 rd	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Christingle with Holy Communion	
			10.30am – 11.00am Holy Communion	
			11.00am – 11.30am Christingle making	
			11.30am – 12 noon Christingle Service	
		4.00pm	Churches Together Advent Service at St Teresa's Church	
		6.30pm	Study Group – Meditative Service	
Monday	5 th	2.00pm	Men's Group	
Wednesday	7 th	2.30pm	Women's Group	
		7.30pm	Study Group – 'Not a Tame Lion'	
Saturday	10 th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Toy Service	5th Pen Scouts
Tuesday	13 th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Thursday	15 th	6.30pm	'Lancashire Sings Christmas' at Penwortham Golf Club	
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Family Worship with Junior Church Nativity-Rev'd David Coaker	
		6.30pm	Carol Service	
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship	Revd David Coaker

All services have Junior Church and crèche (Maureen&Ed.)

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offertory

2 nd	Oct	£638.10
9 th	Oct	£616.35
16 th	Oct	£403.89
23 rd	Oct	£692.40

Flowers

6 th	Nov	Cath Addison
13 th	Nov	Marjorie Smith
20 th	Nov	Alan & Beverley Strange
27 th	Nov	Alan & Margery Owen
4 th	Dec	Milne & Doris McCutcheon
11 th	Dec	Robert Bulloch
18 th	Dec	Maureen Whitlock
25 th	Dec	Christmas Day

Sunday Coffee

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
27 th	Nov	Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock
4 th	Dec	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
11 th	Dec	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox
18 th	Dec	Vacant
25 th	Dec	Christmas Day

Closing date for the **December** edition of Contact is **20th November**
The next edition will be available on **Sunday 27th November**
(Maureen)

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday 4th December

A mix of formal and informal
worship to begin our
preparations for Christmas



10.30-11.00am
Communion Service



11.00-11.30am
Refreshments and Christingle making

11.30-12noon
Christingle lighting and short service

You are welcome to come for all or
part of our time together

Penwortham
United Reformed Church



Serving, celebrating, and living the way of Christ together

There will be a
retiring collection in
support of the
Children's Society

OTHER ADVANCED NOTICES - DECEMBER 2016



ADVENT SERVICE

The Churches Together in Penwortham Advent Service will be held at **St. Theresa's**, Queensway Penwortham on **4th December at 4.00pm.**

LANCASHIRE SINGS CHRISTMAS

Penwortham Golf Club is again one of the Penwortham venues hosting participation in Lancashire sings Christmas. The Churches in Penwortham will be joining Radio Lancashire to sing Christmas Carols. There will be mulled wine and a quiz with prizes. This is always a lovely evening. Please try and support this event.

Thursday 15th December 2016 at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.

(Anne H)

QUOTATION

Our eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back . *Anon*

Courtesy Bury URC - contributed by Joyce Martin

CONTACT MAGAZINE NOTICE

Thank you to all our regular and occasional contributors to "Contact" without whom this magazine would not be possible. If your contribution has not been included, please remind the Editor. Don't forget that if you have access to the Internet a **colour** copy of "Contact" can be viewed on the PURC website at:

<http://penworthamurc.org.uk>

Please be aware that due to copyright restrictions it is not always possible to include submissions if there is doubt as to whether copyright may be infringed. If you believe copyright may have inadvertently been infringed or appropriate credit not given by publication in this non-commercial church newsletter then please e-mail the editor at: purcmagweb@talktalk.net.

5 TIPS



Age UK's 5 tips to boost your mood

Boosting your mood and helping yourself feel more positive is a great thing to do, no matter how old you are and how tough life seems. It may be that something as simple as singing along to a favourite piece of music or watching an episode of a classic comedy does the trick.

Here are some other ideas.....

1. Smile - when you smile it triggers mood-boosting hormones in the brain. So even if you don't feel happy, put a smile on your face and you may soon start to feel more positive.
2. Keep busy - it doesn't matter whether you tidy up the garden, wash the dishes or go for a walk - any activity that helps to break up your routine and gives you a sense of achievement will do the trick.
3. Talk to someone - it doesn't matter whether you meet up face to face, talk on the phone, chat online or use Skype, connecting with other people helps to bring you out of yourself.
4. Help others - research shows that helping other people will help to lift your mood. So do a favour for a friend, donate to charity or volunteer.
5. Live in the moment - if you're feeling low, try to regulate your breathing and pay attention to what you can see, hear and feel at the present moment. This will help you to feel calm and bring you back into emotional balance.

(Article taken from Age UK's website: www.ageuk.org.uk)

(Maureen)

PRAY AND PONDER

A prayer for Syria

Dear Lord, you have promised your blessing on peacemakers and on those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

For those who mourn, we pray that they might find comfort in the peace that only you can bring

For those who are working in Aleppo to treat the injured, and report and document the suffering, we pray for safety

For the many displaced, we pray for healing of trauma and hope for the future

For the children of Syria, we pray that they may know that war is not inevitable

For those who have rejected a call to fight, we pray for their work in supporting reconciliation

We pray for political leaders in Syria and across the wider international community that they may seek to construct bridges across divides and take risks in the cause of peace. In the coming weeks and months may a new path be revealed for the country, so that those who have lost hope might begin again to rebuild.

We pray these prayers in the midst of tremendous suffering but in the knowledge of your presence with us and in the capacity for hearts to be changed by your love,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (*Steve Hucklesby, September 2016*)

I, Daniel Blake

is Ken Loach's latest film released in cinemas nationwide tomorrow, Friday 21 October. It tells an all-too-common story of people facing poverty and an inflexible benefit system with its often arbitrary and severe sanctions. Church members in the North East are protesting against sanctions by chaining themselves to churches, demonstrating outside a Jobcentre Plus and creating graffiti walls. If you would like to know the facts behind the film, why not revisit our 2015 publication [Rethink Sanctions](http://dmtrk.net/1MV9-4JUDH-NG3YEX-2BVAZM-1/c.aspx) at <http://dmtrk.net/1MV9-4JUDH-NG3YEX-2BVAZM-1/c.aspx>

(Both of the above are taken from PRAXIS – the public issues newsletter of The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church, The United Reformed Church and The Church of Scotland- Ed.)

HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Bible is a remarkable document. Within this letter there are 26 books of the Bible hidden with one **example shown**. Can you find them all? Have a go at it using a pen or pencil to highlight the ones you find.

The Bible was written by God, using many authors from all sorts of backgrounds, having many different jobs. God tells us the story of his nation Israel and His son, Jesus Christ, making sure it has been preserved for us through the ages for us to read today.

The Bible outlines the right way to lead our lives, as well as containing many historical accounts. Moses led Israel through the Red Sea, at the battle of Jericho trumpeters marched round the walls for seven days, Judea saw great wars and captivity, Abishag gained David as a husband, the Pharisees would act superior to everyone else, perhaps almsgiving for example, but Jesus kept giving them a most stern rebuke. Jesus also performed many miracles, after receiving the Holy Spirit upon his baptismal achievement, with his first miracle being turning the water into wine for the groom at the wedding, maybe it was a nice Spanish Rioja? Mesopotamia was an important region in Biblical history, with Ur and Babylon in that area, as was Sudan I elsewhere read.

When studying the Bible it is helpful to look out for any Bible echo. Search for them whenever you read as you will see some fascinating things, particularly when reading the letters to the various churches, or **ecclesias**. **Testing** what you hear against the Bible is also very important to show if it is true, for example if someone suggests Jesus was born in Suez rather than Bethlehem, you would use the Bible to check its accuracy. The same applies if you think Paul ate locusts, David played a banjo eloquently for Saul, Barnabas went on missionary work to Dijon, a horse carried Jesus into Jerusalem or Lazarus died of swine flu, keep going back to the Bible as you can learn a lot from answers to your questions. There is no need to put being academic ahead of everything else though as Jesus said it is most important to love one another, in a humble spirit. Jesus gave his life for us and when we are in a spiritual rut, his love will give us the comfort we need.

Sincerely, the Rev. E. Lation, FindingGod.co.uk

From Bible Puzzles.com - for the complete solution ask the Ed.

A HOLIDAY IN HEAVEN?

Devon or Heaven

My son and his wife had booked to go on holiday to Devon taking their 3 young children. My 3 year old grandson kept referring to Devon as Heaven. His Mummy tried to explain to him that the place was called Devon and not Heaven and that Heaven was the place where his granddad had gone to after he died.

A few days later he went to church and was stood patiently waiting for the Priest to come. When he arrived he asked - "Father Peter is there a swimming pool in Heaven" (meaning of course Devon). The Priest answered that he wasn't sure but he supposed there might be. He then asked the Priest if Heaven was the place where his granddad was sitting on a cloud drinking beer.

The Priest was so amused by this that he told the congregation that he had just been asked a couple of profound questions by a 3 year old, and relayed the story to them at the start of the service. My grandson then turned to his mummy and said "I just said that".

(Contributed by Jean Henley)

CARTOON



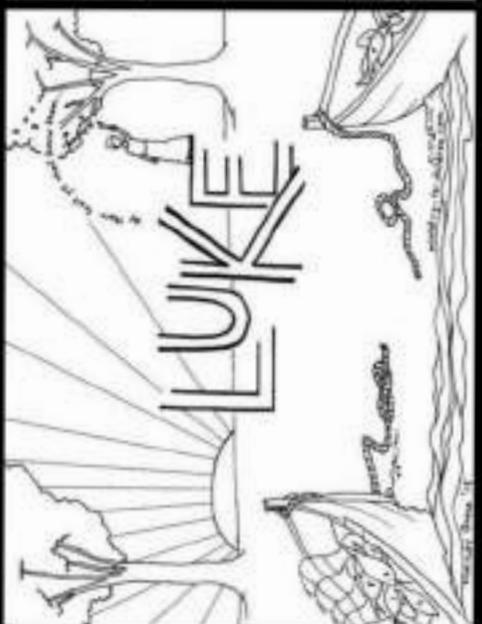
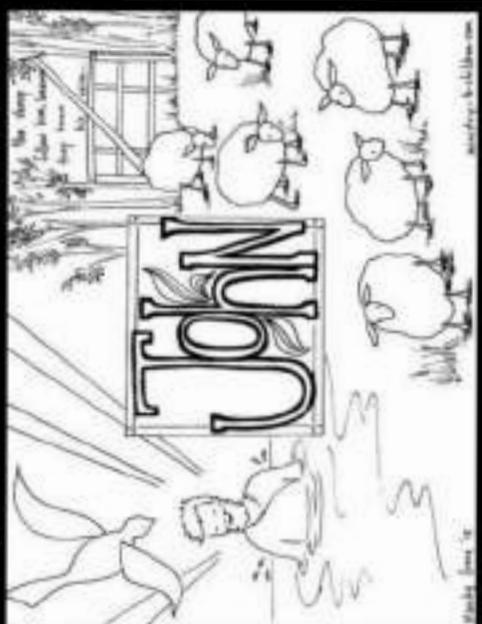
The Way to Heaven



Admission to Heaven

(Courtesy Joan Eastwood - via Facebook)

COLOURING PAGE



Pictures by Mandy Grace 2015 ministry to children.com With permission