

# CONTACT

INTRODUCES AND WELCOMES  
YOU  
to

## PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



# April 2017

Front/Rear Cover - clipartfest.com images

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

## LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

### Live the Resurrection!

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April is not just another Sunday. The 16<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday, and just as Christmas Day symbolises something we should celebrate every day, so does it. On the 25<sup>th</sup> December, we celebrate that Jesus was born and on Easter Day we celebrate, remember, and incarnate for ourselves the Resurrection.

We could immerse ourselves in the detail of the different Resurrection stories we have in the four Gospels and in Paul's letters. We could tie ourselves up in knots and be confused by their differences, or we could embrace the wonder of not truly knowing and celebrate the invitation to participate in it.

After Jesus' death, his followers and family were distraught. Their friend, brother, rabbi, the man they had declared messiah, was dead. Not a gentle or sudden death either, but a public execution after being judged guilty by both the religious and political authorities. A death reserved for the worst offenders, brutally crucified as a deterrent to others who might challenge the status quo. A mode of death common under Roman law, but not one sanctioned by Jewish law. A death that Deuteronomy 21:22-23 tells us leaves the victim 'under God's curse'.

This small group of believers are grieving, and piled upon that is the apparent condemnation of their master by both God and society. How could Jesus' story have ended like this? What had the teacher, healer, and performer of miracles, done to deserve this fate? If he'd died leading a revolt against the Romans his martyrdom could have inspired them to continue the fight, but how did what happened fit with their dream of a liberating messiah? Their spirits were as low as they could be. They were bewildered by what had happened. But ...

The Resurrection happened! They were transformed into a band of preachers, martyrs, missionaries and leaders who declared, lived and celebrated the Resurrection. They took this message and changed the world. In spite of all worldly appearances they were liberated, empowered and inspired by the Resurrection.

This is our inheritance and our calling, as we live the way of Jesus.

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

## SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS



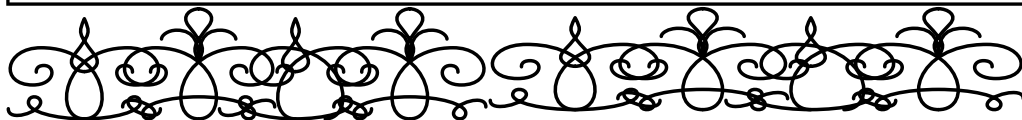
**Freda and Hugh Dawkins and Barbara Dawson** have decided to retire from the monthly Saturday coffee morning rota. They were part of the original team who started the coffee mornings over 20 years ago.

The coffee mornings are very popular and there's always a good number of people there including a few friends not directly involved with PURC, and the ladies from the 'Lacemakers' are frequent customers. Over the years, in addition to providing a good opportunity for a friendly chat, the group have donated funding for a variety of things including chairs, tables, carpets and money towards the overhead projector.

As we retire from active service we transfer over £900.00 to the church funds for further additions to benefit church life.

We thank you for your support....FHB.

*(A big **THANK YOU** to each of you from all who enjoy this social activity - Ed.)*



## TRADCRAFT - THE REAL EASTER EGGS

**The Real Easter Egg** - the first to tell the story of Easter - is available again from Traidcraft -good quality Fairtrade Easter Eggs. There are 3 different types of egg to purchase each with more chocolate inside and a booklet explaining the Easter story - the milk at £3.99, the dark at £5.50 and the special edition milk at £9.99.

Order from Traidcraft.[www.traidcraft.co.uk/the-real-easter-egg](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/the-real-easter-egg)  
Also available at the Christian Bookshop in Preston and in some supermarkets.

*Cath A*

## PURC EVENTS/INFORMATION - APRIL 2017

### MEN'S GROUP

Meets: Monday 2.00pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> April

Led by: Derek Poulton  
Topic: "A Picture Frame"  
Next Meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> May  
(Nigel L)

### WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets: Wednesday 2.30pm  
5<sup>th</sup> April

Led by : Sarah Gall  
Topic: "Managing Arthritis"  
Next Meeting : 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
(Brenda K)



**Messy Church meets monthly at**

**Penwortham United Reformed Church, Liverpool Road,  
Penwortham, PR1 0QB on a Saturday 2.30pm - 4.30 pm**

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

**PURCMessychurch@hotmail.com -01772462229 -<http://penworthamurc.org.uk>**

**Coming Dates are:**

8<sup>th</sup> April

13<sup>th</sup> May

(Beverley S)



### CRAFT GROUP

Meets: Tuesday 2.00pm  
11<sup>th</sup> April  
in the Guild Room.

Next Meeting :  
9<sup>th</sup> May  
(Barbara D)

### THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Fortnightly in the Church Hall  
1.00pm to 2.00pm -April 6<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>

For further details and  
Trips programme speak to :  
Pat Duckworth

(Pat D)

### NANCY'S NEWS

You have kindly donated **12 pairs of spectacles** for the opticians charitable scheme.

**6 Blankets** have been completed for International Aid along with **46 Baby jumpers.**

Thank you to all who by your donations of items and time make a difference to so many.

(Nancy F)





# Lent Conversations

Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm

## Returning Home: Christian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths

1

1<sup>st</sup> March  
Temptation

2

8<sup>th</sup> March  
Remembrance  
of God's name

3

22<sup>nd</sup> March  
Fasting

4

29<sup>th</sup> March  
Greed, Suffering  
and Attachment

5

5<sup>th</sup> April  
The Crucified  
Jew

The Churches Together in Britain and Ireland 2017 Lent resource explores how Christian faith has been deepened and enriched by encounters with people of different religions. This is not a resource that necessarily emphasises common ground or that is about dialogue but how Christian faith has burned brightly following an encounter with the religious other.

You will find familiar Lenten themes in this material but with, what we hope, is a different approach. The theologian John Cobb described his deep encounter with Buddhism in terms of a journey to another land and culture: the newness, sometimes strangeness of the other, can be an enriching experience. However, when we return to the familiar, home is viewed with different eyes and a deeper, perhaps more profound appreciation. This is why we have called this resource "Returning Home".

Christians who have lived alongside and worked with people of other faiths, often express their surprise and appreciation that their own faith has been enriched by these encounters. How is this the case? Sometimes a practice such as fasting by Muslims in Ramadan has led Christians to think again about the ancient Christian practice of fasting, or the understanding of a concept such as suffering in an Indic faith has prompted Christians to interrogate Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.

CTBI is grateful to the Methodist-United Reformed Church Inter Faith Reference Group for taking responsibility in producing this year's Lenten material and in particular Julian Bond, Rev'd Peter Colwell, Dr Elizabeth Harris and Rev'd Dr John Parry who are writers for specific weeks

*Rev'd David*

Penwortham  
United Reformed Church

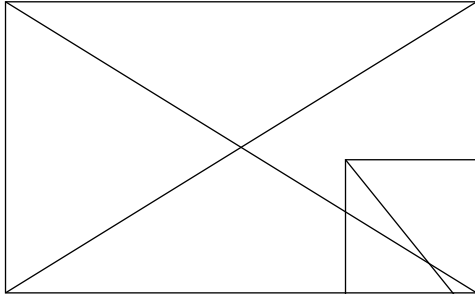


*Serving, celebrating, and living the way of Christ together.*

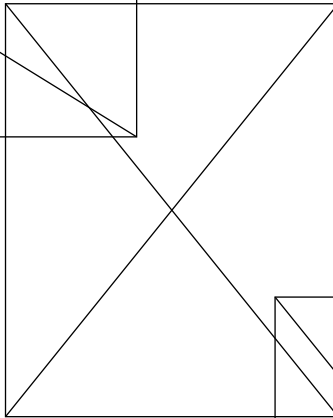
# PRESTON PASSION PLAY 2017

Good Friday, April 14th at 11.30am

*A free promenade event.  
Duration approx. 90 mins.*

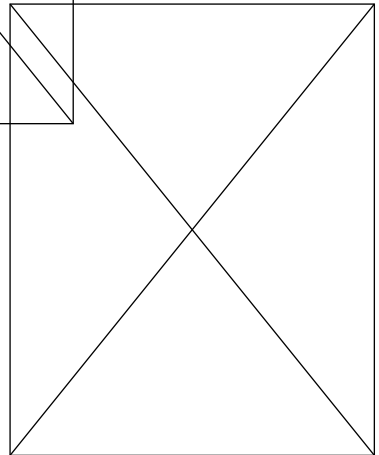


Start in  
**Winckley  
Square**



Finish on the  
**Flag Market**

*A Preston community  
theatre production with a  
new contemporary play*



**Music by Preston Concert Band**

## MORE PURC EVENTS - APRIL 2017

DIRECTED BY KEN LOACH AND WRITTEN BY PAUL LAVERY

# I, DANIEL BLAKE

★★★★★ "INTENSELY MOVING"  
"AN IMMEDIATE CLASSIC"  
"RICH IN INTEGRITY AND HEART... STON"  
"THE FILM FOR OUR TIMES."  
"A WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE AS D"  
"EVERYONE SHOULD SEE IT."  
★★★★★ "A MASTERPIECE"  
"OF SCALDING AND MOVING RELEV"  
"BRILLIANT, UNFLINCHING AND M"  
"ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AN"  
★★★★★ "ONE OF LOACH"  
"KEN LOACH IS BACK ON SONG"  
"HUMANITY"  
★★★★★ "A BALLAD FOR THE"  
"STANDOUT PERFORMANCES"



## Film Night

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

6.30 - 9.30pm

List for names on notice board for  
Hotpot Supper followed by the film:

## I, Daniel Blake

Daniel Blake, 59, who has worked as a joiner most of his life in the North East of England needs help from the State for the first time ever following an illness.

He crosses paths with a single mother Katie and her two young children, Daisy and Dylan. Katie's only chance to escape a one roomed homeless hostel in London is to accept a flat some 300 miles away.

Daniel and Katie find themselves in no-man's land caught on the barbed wire of welfare bureaucracy now played out against the rhetoric of 'striver and skiver' in modern day Britain.

Donations to cover costs  
would be appreciated.  
Rev'd David & Anne Hall

Penwortham  
United Reformed Church



## TABLE TOP SALE

at PURC

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am - 1.00pm

Tables cost £5.00



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

## WHAT'S ON

### April

Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship with Holy Communion</b>	
				<b>Revd David Coaker</b>
			Church AGM following morning worship	
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
		7.30pm	Study Group – Lent Conversations	
Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Messy Church	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Revd Nigel Lemon</b>
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Maundy Service at Leyland URC	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Easter Day Family Worship with Holy Communion</b>	<b>Revd David Coaker</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>George Grime</b>
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Table Top Sale	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Elizabeth Fletcher</b>

### May

Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
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>
			Prayer stations following worship	
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Messy Church	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Revd Geoff Tolley</b>
Friday/Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>		'Penwortham Live'	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parade Service</b>	<b>Revd David Coaker</b>
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	TBC	Summer Fair (?)	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Worship Group</b>

All services have Junior Church and crèche (Maureen)



## OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

### Weekly Offertory

26 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	£594.15
5 <sup>th</sup>	March	£477.00
12 <sup>th</sup>	March	£609.00
19 <sup>th</sup>	March	£471.86
26 <sup>th</sup>	March	£530.79

### Flowers

9 <sup>th</sup>	April	Stewart Taylor
16 <sup>th</sup>	April	Sarah Hart
23 <sup>rd</sup>	April	Barbara Baird
30 <sup>th</sup>	April	Alan & Beverley Strange
7 <sup>th</sup>	May	Martin & Kirsty Mills
14 <sup>th</sup>	May	Pat & Derek Poulton
21 <sup>st</sup>	May	Maureen Whitlock
28 <sup>th</sup>	May	Alan & Gill Turner

### Sunday Coffee

9 <sup>th</sup>	April	Anne Hall, Beverley Strange, Gemma Strange
16 <sup>th</sup>	April	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
23 <sup>rd</sup>	April	Vacant
30 <sup>th</sup>	April	Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock
7 <sup>th</sup>	May	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox
14 <sup>th</sup>	May	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
21 <sup>st</sup>	May	Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
28 <sup>th</sup>	May	Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock

Closing date for the **May** edition of Contact is **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
The next edition will be available on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

*(Maureen)*

# Prayer Stations

## Priesthood of all Believers

Join us as we explore and reflect using a series of prayer stations.  
Through seven Bible passages we will explore the theme of the Priesthood of all Believers and how everyone is called to participate in God's Mission; and has a ministry to support, proclaim and embrace the living the way of Jesus in, and beyond, the Church.

Leyland United Reformed Church, Hough Lane

Sun 9th April, 11.30am -1.00pm

Penwortham United Reformed Church, Liverpool Road

Sun 7th May, 11.30am -1.00pm



### Prayer Stations

A prayer station is a space created to aid reflection. Around the church hall there will be numbered spaces for you to sit in turn. The prayer stations will each focus on the passages that speak about the priesthood of all believers and our shared vocation in being Church. They will use different styles and ways of praying, and include different symbolic actions as you reflect and journey through the readings.

*Rev'd David*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14 - 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY - IMPORTANT NOTICE



We would like to appeal to Church members and friends on behalf of Christian Aid for your help.

Each year becomes more difficult to recruit collectors to go door-to-door with the Christian Aid envelopes.

None of us is getting any younger and we hope that we can recruit some younger members or friends to help our existing collectors.

If it is not something you would want to do on your own - ask a friend or family member to go with you. It is quicker if two of you do it and it is nice to chat on the way round and admire some of the gardens too!

Please consider this appeal carefully and look out for the listings on the notice board this month to add your name.

Thank you as always to those of you who help each year and we look forward to a week of nice weather whilst delivering and collecting the envelopes.

*Barbara and Cath*

## COMMITMENT FOR LIFE ARTICLE



### Bangladesh

The UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has produced a video of [Women Farmers of Bangladesh](#) looking at support across a variety of sectors including aquaculture, crop, and dairy farming. This story resonates with much of the work of Christian Aid partners.

Shipra Bagchi is the first of the women we meet in the video; she is a shrimp farmer from the village of Baniakhali in Bagerhat, a district of the Khulna division in southwestern Bangladesh. When she first started shrimp farming twenty years ago, Shipra had less than a tenth of a hectare of land (0.05 ha). She recalls how difficult it was to make ends meet in those days. "At that time, this whole area was inundated. Rice cultivation wasn't possible." She remembers that people used to survive by picking water lilies. And Shipra herself struggled with her new endeavour. "Earlier, I didn't know the good practices of shrimp farming."

Thanks to a project implemented by FAO and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, with support from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Shipra received training in key skills and techniques for improved and increased shrimp production: "How to enhance shrimp production, the benefit of the nursery and the use of PCR certified seeds, correct doses of lime, etc."

"If I hadn't received this training, I would not have come to this stage," she says, noting that her shrimp production has increased significantly. "It is more than double."

Today, Shipra has around 4 to 4.5 ha of land. "I bought land," she says. And that's not all. "After all these years I have managed to build houses, provide education for my children."

Shipra is eager to share the skills she has learned with others. "Now other people come to me, wanting to learn shrimp farming techniques," she says. "They seek advice from me on how to become successful. This has all become possible because I followed the instructions under the project." credit [Http://www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

*Extracted from the URC's Commitment for Life – Stories for Change*

## KEEP BRITAIN TIDY - LOVE MY BEACH



Millions of people enjoy beaches here in the North West – taking a dip in the sea, wandering along the beach, playing in the sand, walking the dog, getting some exercise and fresh air, meeting up with friends and, sometimes if they're lucky, basking in the sunshine!

LOVE my BEACH is part of Keep Britain Tidy's Beachcare programme and is a campaign with a huge challenge: to inspire and empower communities to take care of their local beach environment. Currently they're working in Cornwall, Devon and on the Fylde Coast, to raise water quality standards. But the issues they need to tackle can't be solved unless we all do our bit.

Along the Fylde coast there are eight regular beach volunteer groups working with Fylde Love my Beach and they do an amazing job of litter picking and surveying their favourite Fylde coast beach. But you don't have to live by the sea to make a difference – wherever you live and work, by adopting beach-friendly practices in your home, you can make a difference. If everyone makes small changes we can all have a big impact on the local coastal environment and in particular bathing water quality.

For example many people think it's okay to put disposable products such as wipes, cotton buds and sanitary items down the toilet but they can cause blockages and will pollute our waterways and seas and should be put in the bin. The simple rule is to only flush the 3 Ps: Pee, Poo and Paper! Nothing else should go down the loo, even if it says 'flushable' on the packaging.

Kitchen fats, oils and grease shouldn't be poured down the sink as they can cause sewer blockages which can overflow into rivers, lakes and seas. They should be disposed of in your waste bin. And road drains often lead straight into our rivers and seas so only things which you'd like to swim in should be poured down the drain!

I must admit to a particular personal interest in the Love my Beach campaign because my daughter Emma is the Love my Beach 'go-to' person for the Fylde coast. Emma thoroughly enjoys her job, part of which is to encourage local businesses and schools to get actively involved. She offers support to the volunteer groups and regularly joins their beach cleans. ... and she calls it work! (Maureen W)

## PRAYER TOPICS

**London and the UK.** Continue to pray for all those affected by the recent attack in London; for bereaved families; for those injured and recovering; those mentally affected by the incident; for those who were affected as visitors to these shores and for their families; for the emergency services and for all those who compassionately responded to the aftermath.

Pray for unity among the people of the UK and a demonstration of compassion and love for all, regardless of their background and circumstances. Pray for our leaders, for strength, wisdom and resolve in meeting the challenges that arise daily in sustaining peace and security. *Ed.*

**The Philippines - Prepared for Any Eventuality.:** Around 20 typhoons affect the Philippines each year and, following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan three years ago, Viva and a local partner PCMN have been running a rehabilitation programme to ensure vulnerable communities in Eastern Samar are well equipped when disaster strikes. During the second half of last year, the network held a series of events. A total of 3,255 children took part in camps organised by 11 organisations in three locations. The children learnt how to become better prepared to take care of themselves and others in the event of a typhoon, fire, flood or earthquake. Pray that when the next disaster strikes thousands of children and families will be better prepared and that more lives will be saved. *(Viva)*

**Austria - An Open Door for Arabs.:** Zell am See in Austria's Salzburg lake district has become a favourite holiday destination for many Arabs. OM Austria partners with a local church to reach these tourists. Thank God for the many divine appointments and scriptures taken back to closed countries. *(Operation Mobilisation)*

*(above 2 items with permission from globalconnections.org.uk - Ed.)*

## LEXOPHILE'S PLAY ON WORDS

**I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.**

**What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary. A thesaurus.**

**I dropped out of communism class because of terrible Marx.**

**I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.**

Cath A

**Some elements of this month's magazine are excluded due to software problems**

## HUMOUR

### THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Tommy was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Tommy was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

### DID NOAH FISH ?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark ?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."

*Pat & Derek P*

## CARTOON FUN

*Copyright Tim Walburg*



"HOW GOES THE CHURCH PLANT?"

"THEY'RE SPROUTING!"