

CONTACT

INTRODUCES AND WELCOMES
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



He leads me
beside still
waters

He restores
my soul.
From Psalm 23

May 2017

Cover Photo - Glenwhan Gardens - Ed.

www.penworthamurc.org.uk

LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Pray, Reflect, and Vote!

Over the next couple of months, we will have the opportunity to write an X at least a couple of times! For some this seems excessive. We've had a referendum last year, a general election the year before, and now we have local and a general within a month of each other. To find time in a day to pop along to a polling station, or get around to filling in a postal ballot, is so much hassle ... Please do not miss the sarcasm!

There isn't too much asked of us as subjects/citizens of the UK. Keep the peace, pay our taxes, and every now and again express our political opinion. So, vote. Make sure you're registered, remind family members, and turn up. That is my main ask of you. I would also encourage you to give some thought about who you vote for, and how the policies of the various parties reflect your faith. But most importantly, vote.

We have already heard the various political tribes tell us what the general election is going to be about, and we may find out when it's over. The divisions within our nation, between the nations that make it up and between individuals, have not yet healed; and I can only but pray and hope that one outcome will be a clarity about our future direction. For all of its faults we understand how a general election works and what the result means. Hopefully it will draw a line under the confusion and conflict of the last 18 months and all sides will have a greater sense of clarity and consensus.

So, on the 4th May and 8th June, vote. Read the leaflets, watch the news, and if you're really keen read the manifestos and ponder tactical voting – but above all, vote.

What I would also ask of you is to pray. Pray about your intentions, but also pray for our brothers and sisters who are putting themselves forward in these elections. People are putting their lives up for public scrutiny, and this is a very exposed place to put ourselves. It places great pressure on them and their families, and they are deserving of our prayers.

May these next two months be a positive and constructive period.

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

PURC EVENTS - MAY 2017

WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets: Wednesday 2.30pm
3rd May

Led by : Phil Hopkin

Topic: "Show me the way
to go home"

Next Meeting : 7th June

(Brenda K)

MEN'S GROUP

Meets: Monday 2.00pm
8th May

Led by: Nigel Lemon
and "Five Minutes Each"

Next Meeting: 5th June

(Nigel L)

CRAFT GROUP

Meets: Tuesday 2.00pm
9th May

in the Guild Room.

Next Meeting :

13th June

(Barbara D)

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets Fortnightly
in the Church Hall

1.00pm to 2.00pm

For further details and Trips
programme speak to :

Pat Duckworth

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 visit in turn. The prayer stations will each focus on the passages that speak about the priesthood of all believers and our shared endeavour 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.

Penwortham United Reformed Church
Spring Fair

Saturday May 27th from 11.30am

**Come along and enjoy a fun time with
family and friends**



**There will be all sorts of surprises in store with stalls including:
Books ; Plants for home and garden ; Tombola;
Bric-a-brac and of course Cakes!**

**Donations from the proceeds will go to two charities which
are currently being determined.**

**Please speak to Rita and Nancy if you can offer help with this worthwhile
community, church and charitable event and
Please Come Along**



From christian quotes. info

PENWORTHAM URC INFORMATION - MAY 2017



MISSIONARY BOXES

If you have a Missionary Box, please bring it in as soon as possible so that the half yearly count can be completed. Many thanks, *Gill T*



MITES



During the period 20 Feb17 to 23 Apr 17 your Mites (5 penny coins) donations reached 1145 totalling £57.25 - well done!! Collection Boxes are on the stage at the back as you come in.
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 sum was forwarded to the ***UNICEF UK, Mites Scheme Co-ordinator, Keith Garner, on 24 Apr 17.***

Keep them coming. (Ed. for Joyce M)

PENWORTHAM EVENTS - MAY 2017

We are again playing host to Penwortham Live on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th May 2017. Wristbands, which allow you entrance to all 18 venues in and around Penwortham, cost £5 and are available from Maureen Whitlock.



More details in the entrance hall



Conversation Welcome

Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Exploring the future of the UK after the EU

1
7th June

What sort of society do we want for future generations?

2
28th June

How should we treat others?

3
12th July

How should we use our resources?

4
26th July

How should we make decisions?

It's good to talk, but talking about things we disagree over can be difficult. Such conversations can be important at any time but the extraordinary political events of 2016 have made the need more pressing.

The EU Referendum campaign was, at times, bitter and divisive. People on both sides felt misrepresented and misunderstood. The result has left some mourning the loss of an important identity, while others are delighted by the opportunities that lie ahead. Many of us are uncertain about what the future holds.

The "Conversation Welcome" resource is designed to bring people, with their many different thoughts, hopes and concerns, together and help churches explore the important underlying questions about the sort of society we wish to live in and wish to leave to future generations. Over the last year we have seen an awful lot of debate, perhaps this time a bit of conversation would be welcome?

Preparatory material is available at the back of the worship space.

Penwortham
United Reformed Church



Working with faith and hope for a better world together

CHURCH ANNUAL OUTING 2017 - JUNE 2017



The date for the annual outing has been set as

Saturday 24th June 2017.



At present the plan is for us to visit Port Sunlight on the Wirrall, and then travel on to Chester where we would spend the rest of the day. We thought that as it had been quite some years since we have been to Chester, that a return might be welcome as it has always been a popular destination. These proposals may be subject to change, but this is what is being planned.

We shall of course attempt to keep the cost to around £25/26.00 per head, as in previous years.

Further announcements will follow, together with the usual list and menu choices on the Foyer Noticeboard in due course.

We look forward to seeing you on the day, but should you need any additional information or assistance at this stage, please do speak to either of us.

Many thanks, Jenny & Robert

**THOUGH YOU HAVE
CHANGED
A THOUSAND TIMES,
HE HAS NOT CHANGED
ONCE.**



CHARLES
SPURGEON

Christian Quotes 1998

WHAT'S ON

May

Wednesday	3 rd	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	6 th	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Revd David Coaker
Church Meeting following worship; then Prayer Stations				
Monday	8 th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Tuesday	9 th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	10 th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
Saturday	13 th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Geoff Tolley
Friday/Saturday		19 th /20 th		'Penwortham Live'
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Parade Service	Revd David Coaker
Saturday	27 th	from 11.30	Spring Fair	
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Family Worship	PURC Worship Group

June

Saturday	3 rd	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Revd David Coaker
Monday	5 th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	7 th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
		7.30pm	Study Group – Conversation Welcome	
Saturday	10 th		Penwortham Gala	
Sunday	11th	11.00am	Penwortham Gala Service	
Tuesday	13 th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Paul Pells
Saturday	24 th		Church Trip	
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Family Worship	Revd Nigel Lemon
Wednesday	28 th	7.30pm	Study Group – Conversation Welcome	

All services have Junior Church and crèche (Maureen)

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offertory

2 nd	April	£565.22
9 th	April	£784.00
16 th	April	£580.00
23 rd	April	£543.21

Flowers

7 th	May	Martin & Kirsty Mills
14 th	May	Pat & Derek Poulton
21 st	May	Maureen Whitlock
28 th	May	Alan & Gill Turner
4 th	June	Tom & Jean Frew
11 th	June	Gala
18 th	June	Val Tiffin
25 th	June	Val Nicholls

Sunday Coffee

7 th	May	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox
14 th	May	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
21 st	May	Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
28 th	May	Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock
4 th	June	Anne Hall, Beverley Strange, Gemma Strange
11 th	June	Penwortham Gala
18 th	June	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
25 th	June	Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox

Closing date for the **June** edition of Contact is **Sunday 21st May**
The next edition will be available on **Sunday 28th May**

(Maureen)

CHRISTIAN AID UPDATE 2017

Barbara and Cath attended the April CAid meeting where feedback was given on the many money raising events that had taken place, many locally. These included Fairtrade wine tasting, sponsored walk/cycle, quiz evening, recycling event and homemade quilt raffle.

All these events had raised money for charities, including CAid. Thank you on behalf of the organisers if you were able to support any of these events.

Thank you too to those who attended the recent craft fair at PURC and who bought refreshments from our team. £60 was raised which included an amount donated by Barbara whose husband, Peter, had kindly made cakes which their daughter sold at work. Very enterprising!

Future local events include a concert, coffee morning, lunch and Open Gardens so do keep looking out for information.

The Community Partnership DRC project has so far raised £1370. This appeal is ongoing. So too is the CAid tax campaign and climate change " Prudence the Pig" events.

With CAid week fast contribute if they do not already do so through the door-to-door approaching at the time of the meeting the suggestion was made that worshippers take a few CAid envelopes and ask family, friends or neighboursto collection. It is getting increasingly difficult to cover the number of streets we would like due to the lack of collectors, so this seemed a good idea!

We are grateful to those who do support CAid by collecting (and giving of course!) and thank thse who have already committed to the delivery/collection of envelopes.

Let's hope the sun shines that week! Barbara E and Cath A

Christian Aid Week begins Sunday May 14th .



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 60th ANNIVERSARY- 2017



We've been there for refugees since 1945. We won't turn our backs now. British churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, we launched Christian Aid Week to help fund this ongoing work.

Since Christian Aid Week began 60 years ago, volunteers from churches have collected house-to-house. Together they delivered more than seven million envelopes last year, each one sending a message about Jesus' love and justice.

Every envelope delivered is also a chance to start a conversation, to introduce the local church. It's an act of witness, proclaiming Jesus' good news to the poor. It's a sign of his kingdom, visible to the whole community.



And it's a clear demonstration that Christians won't stand by while our neighbours are suffering.

(Text from Christian Aid website - <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>)





URC Daily Devotions

Every morning URC Daily Devotions offer a short Bible reading, reflection, and prayer to help shine Christ's light in our daily lives.

These are written by a team of over 100 writers of different places and perspectives from around the URC.

You can receive Daily Devotion by email by signing up at devotions.urc.org.uk

MISSION PRAYER TOPICS NOT OFTEN IN THE NEWS

Turkmenistan-Protection in Persecution: Yusif was not religious. He was also deaf. He had been given a Bible but had difficulty understanding it. Then he learned about another deaf man called Mehman who was a Christian. Yusif had known Mehman before he became a Christian and knew what his life had been like, stealing and using drugs. Yusif saw Mehman's changed life and after the gospel was explained to him, Yusif also became a follower of Jesus and joined a church. Despite the persecution that might arise these Christians' attitude to persecution is a challenge to those of us from the west. They don't ask for God's protection from persecution but for His protection in it... "We believe in the God who protects us, loves us and cares about us." ([People International](#))

Central Asia-Fellowship Fuels Faith: This message was posted on a radio partner's chatroom in an undisclosed Central Asian country: "I have one question. I came to Christ. I study many things via this radio. But one person recommended me to visit Church. I do not know where I should go. Does anybody have any idea? Is it important to visit a Church?" These replies were posted: "I think you should talk with that person who you came to Christ through. I think he can recommend you the closest home group which you can visit. You definitely should meet with other sisters and brothers." Pray for those who are finding Christ through radio broadcasts in Central Asia, that they will find fellowship to help them grow in their faith. ([Reach Beyond](#))

Myanmar - A Practical Prayer - 5,000 Blankets.: Two assistant pastors have been charged with unlawful association with an armed ethnic group, accused of serving as "informers and spreading false news on behalf of the armed insurgents". These pastors face between three and five years in prison. Meanwhile, an urgent prayer request from a contact at refugee camps in the same region: "Night Temperature -4°C, elderly sick women trying to get warm under the sun. Mothers with new babies are sleeping on the ground... food, shelter, warm cloth in urgent need." Please, join us in prayer for God's provision of 5,000 blankets for these people living in desperate conditions, largely ignored by the media. ([AsiaLink](#))

LEXOPHILE'S PLAY ON WORDS

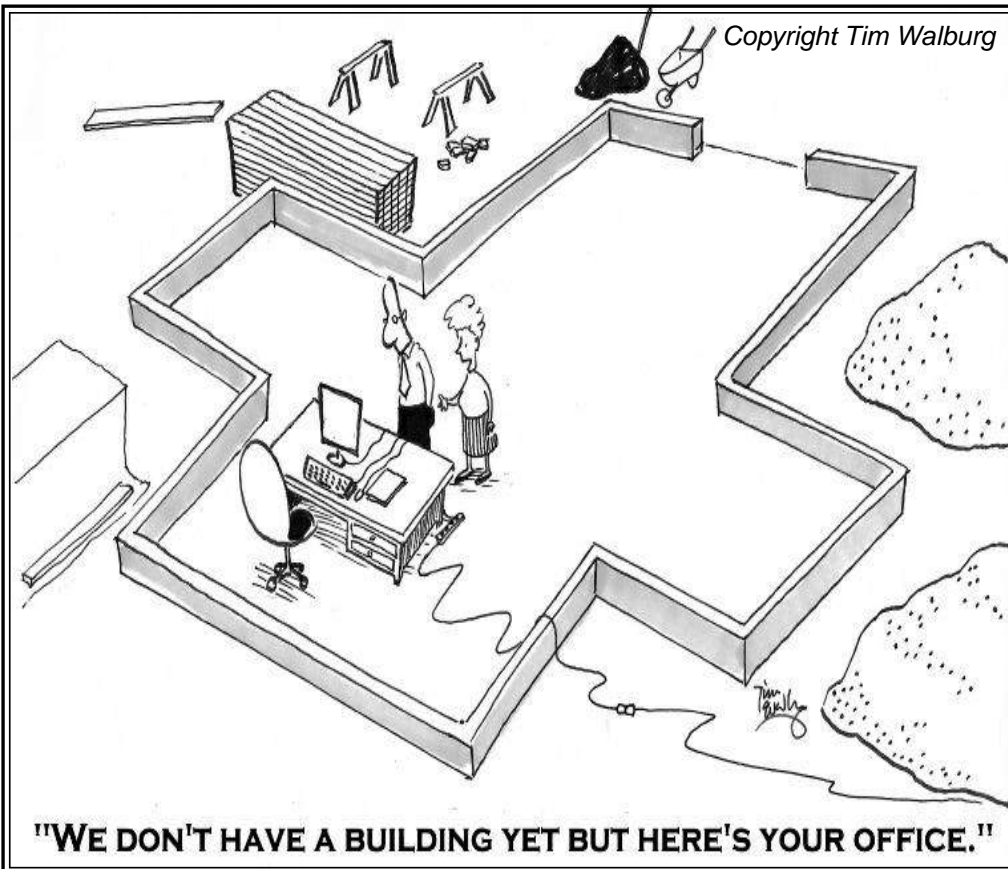
I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me. Cath A

CARTOON FUN



WORDSEARCH



Word to Find	corn	herbs	oil
barley	cucumbers	honey	pomegranates
bread	fish	lamb	rue
butter	fruit	milk	vinegar
cheese	garlic	parchedcorn	wheat

Foods of the bible – Bill Brinkworth – with permssion

HUMOUR

A minister was walking to church one morning when he passed one of his members digging in his garden. "Can't you hear the bells calling you to church?" asked the minister.

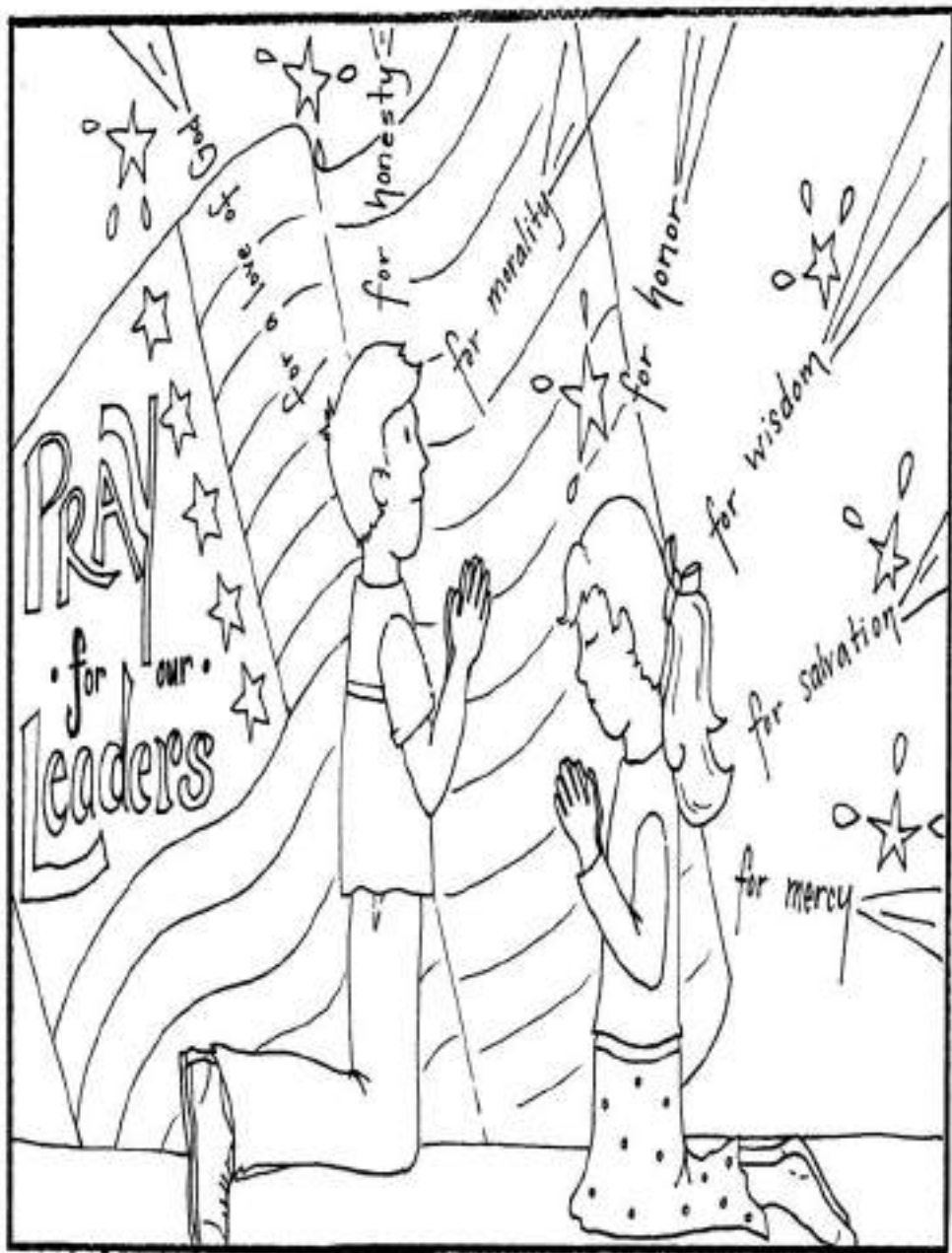
"Eh, what's that?" said the member.

"Can't you hear those bells calling you to church?"

"I'm afraid you'll have to speak a little louder!" said the member.

"CAN'T YOU HEAR THOSE BELLS CALLING YOU TO CHURCH?!" shouted the minister.

"I'm sorry," said the member, "I can't hear you because of those BELLS!"



Mandy Grace '10

ministry-to-children.com