

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



FEBRUARY 2018

Front Cover - Bible Text NRSV Image -Ed.

see - www.penworthamurc.org.uk - for full colour

MINISTER'S LETTER

Such sweet sorrow

For the last 2-3 months you have all known that I will be leaving, and I can now confirm as to where. On Sunday 7th January I led the morning service at Grays URC in Essex, we shared in refreshments and then spent an hour or so in conversation. They then gathered formally as church meeting that evening and issued a unanimous call for me to serve as their minister, which I accepted.

During February half-term we will be moving into temporary accommodation in Grays while their manse is vacated and decorated. I will return, while Rita and Mark will remain as Mark starts a new school. My final services will be at Penwortham on Sunday 18th February and at Leyland on Sunday 25th February.

At the beginning of the following week the movers will arrive and place most of our worldly goods in storage until the manse is ready.

This is going to be a major change for me and my family, as we move to a new area. Mark will start at a new school, Rita a new job and London commute, and for me a new congregation and community to get to know, and the benefits and challenges of working half-time. Amidst our excitement and anxiety, I am all too aware that you may be feeling the same way, but probably in reverse proportions!

A minister leaving can generate a wide variety of emotions, and potentially contradictory ones. Sometimes those emotions may be relief, shock, or a sense of grief. And for different reasons and situations, some folk may feel all three. But a fact of church life is that ministers do leave. We are called to accompany congregations for a time. That time may be years or decades, but it is never a lifetime.

I do regret that the sense of the unknown my leaving creates is heightened by the Synod's Mission Partnership idea, but I trust your elders, and those of Leyland and Fulwood, can cajole the process towards the declaring of a vacancy in the not too distant future.

It has been a privilege to accompany you all these last eight years, and thank you for your support, encouragement and engagement.

With every blessing, Rev'd David R. Coaker

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY



A FAREWELL BUFFET

A Buffet at which we will say our farewells to

Rev'd David, Rita and Mark

will be held after the morning service on

Sunday 4th February 2018

Please add your name to the list in the Foyer.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - CHURCH ENVELOPE SCHEME



I am currently in the process of ordering the weekly donation envelopes for the next financial year which begins in April.

If you give to the church this way you can Gift Aid your donation, which means if you are a tax payer we can claim 25p for every £1 you donate over the year.

If you would like more information please speak to me. Thank You
(Gill Turner)

UNICEF MITE SCHEME



MITES



In the period 29 Oct 17 to 31 Dec 17 your Mites (5 penny & other coins) donations reached a total of £50.10p. Over the year of 2017 your total "mites" giving reached £351.10p – well done!! Collection Boxes are on the stage at the back as you come in.

The money raised buys sugar and salts rehydration sachets (now 8p each) to give to very young children of Third World countries to help prevent dehydration when ill or undernourished. *Keep them coming.*

(Ed.)

PURC EVENTS - FEBRUARY

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets for Tea/Coffee & Chat
every 2 weeks at 1 pm
in the Church Hall.
Meet Thurs : 1 ; 15 February
Next Meet : 1 ; 15 ; 29 Mar
(Pat D)

MEN'S GROUP

Meets: Monday 5th February
2.00pm in the Guild Room
Led by : Alan Edward
"Vocal Ensemble(s)"
Next Meeting : 5th March
(Nigel L)

CRAFT GROUP

Meets: Tuesday 2.00pm
13th February
in the Guild Room.
Next Meeting :
13th March
(Barbara D)

WOMEN'S GROUP

MEETS: Wed. 14th February
in the Church
Led by: Gillian Ashurst
Subject : "South Africa"
Next Meeting: Wed 7th March
(Brenda K)



Pancake Lunch

**Tuesday 13th
February
12.30pm - 1.30pm**



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: No Meeting Feb; March 10th; April 14th

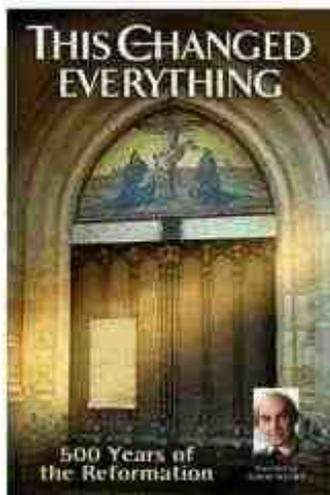


This Changed Everything

A chance to watch the 3-part series together, and reflect on the story it tells.

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.00pm

Penwortham United Reformed Church, Liverpool Road



10th Jan **Meet Martin Luther**, the law student turned monk whose bold personality controversial ideas sparked a revolution that rocked the corrupt medieval Church and changed the face of the world. In nearby Switzerland, a priest named Huldrych Zwingli was sparking his own spiritual and social revolution. These two reformers shared much in common but their differences would lead to a legacy of discord.

24th Jan **The Protestant Reformation spread quickly** across Europe. But in England, the staunchly Catholic Henry VIII effectively suppressed the movement. That is, until his own personal and political affairs led to a split with Rome and an opening for Protestant ideas. Meanwhile, Protestantism continued to splinter as radical reformers championed their own ideas.

7th Feb **The series concludes** with a look at recent events in church history including the modern Ecumenical Movement and Vatican II. Experts discuss the legacy of the Reformation and ask whether Christianity can ever be reunified.

A lone monk's actions 500 years ago continue to have a great impact. In this visually rich, three-part documentary series hosted by actor David Suchet, leading church historians share fascinating insights and pose vital questions about unity, truth, and the future of the Christian church.

Among the experts featured in this series are Bishop Robert Barron, Dr. Frank James, Dr. Fr. Thomas Baima, John Armstrong, Dr. Michael Horton, Dr. Jacqueline Rose, Mark Galli, Dr. Joel Harrington, Shane Claiborne, Dr. Karin Maag, Dr. Scott Kisker, and many others.



Outline of time together:

Welcome and refreshments

Watch episode (1 hour)

Brief closing discussion

Rev'd David

AN INVITATION TO REV'D DAVID'S INDUCTION IN APRIL



The United Reformed Church
Eastern Synod
You are warmly invited to share
in the service of
Induction of **Rev'd David Coaker**
to **Grays United Reformed Church**
2.00pm, Saturday 14th April, 2018

Service conducted by : Rev'd Paul Whittle,
Moderator, Eastern Synod

R.S.V.P by Friday 6th April

(please include any dietary requirements)

Mrs Elaine Barcz elainebarcz@gmail.com 01375 400903

Grays United Reformed Church,
Bradleigh Avenue, Grays RM17 5XD

URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - STORIES FOR CHANGE (SfC)

EXTRACT FROM SfC 139

BANGLADESH - It just kept raining

After three months villagers are slowly returning to a village in Satkhira district south west Bangladesh, following floods in which three people died. During that time, many families have been camping out on embankments beside the busy road.

The village is reached from the main road by an uneven and slippery brick path. Carts, pulled by the male villagers, carry goods along the path which looks out over vast areas of water. The shrimp farm ponds, taking valuable crop lands, are getting back to business with the night watchman's huts occupied. Those still paddy fields have yet to be replanted. People wash their shoes and plates in the flood water as there is no access to clean water from the village pump. Luckily the school was on higher ground and seemed to have come through with only minor damage. A rickety bamboo bridge leads to the main part of the village.

Jowser Ali Sarder's home used to be at the end of the village but that is still completely under water. He used to work as a daily labourer but at present he is busy building a new home for himself and his wife. His two grown up children live away from this area now. He has not been able to take anything from his old home yet, but hopes he will find some things that are salvageable.

"It just kept on raining," he said. With the waters rising to between 2-3 feet he received emergency rations from Shushilan, which were a life saver. The months on the embankment have not been kind to Jowser, with very little food he is painfully thin. As the weeks progress, Sushilan, new to the area, will organise the villagers into a forum and help them with ways to minimise the effects of disasters as they have done in other areas. A little help goes a long way.



WHAT'S ON - FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

FEBRUARY 2018

Thursday	1st	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	3rd	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Rev'd David Coaker
Sunday	4th	12.00noon	Farewell Buffet for Rev'd David, Rita & Mark	Main Hall
Monday	5th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	7th	7.30pm	The Reformation "This Changed Everything/Pt 3"	Side Rooms
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Family Worship & Church Anniversary	Ernest Wrenall
Tuesday	13th	12.30pm	Pancake Lunch	
Tuesday	13th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	14th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Church
Thursday	15th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd David Coaker
			Rev'd David's last service at Penwortham.	
Wednesday	21st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Parade Service and Family Worship	Brian Woodburn

MARCH 2018

Thursday	1st	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	3rd	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Worship with Holy Communion	Val Atkinson
Monday	5th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	7th	2.30pm	Women's Group	
Saturday	10th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Family Worship	Rene Kendall
Tuesday	13th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Thursday	15th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Family Worship & Parade Service	Worship Group 1
Wednesday	21st	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Family Worship	Elizabeth Fletcher
Thursday	29th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall

All Services have a Junior Church and Crèche

(Beverley S/Brenda K)

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offering

24 th	Dec	£630.00
31 st	Dec	£587.00
7 th	Jan	£513.00
14 th	Jan	£550.00
21 st	Jan	£580.00

Key Charities 2017-18

(Gill T)

The Space Centre and Cedar House each received £250.00 from the Carol Service and Christmas Day collections.

Flowers

(Robert B./Cath A.)

4th Feb Stewart Taylor
 11th Feb Marjorie Smith
 18th Feb Mary Lambert
 25th Feb Ken Rickard
 4th Mar Barbara Dawson
 11th Mar Elizabeth Duncan
 18th Mar Margaret & Alan Edward
 25th Mar Women's Group

Sunday Coffee

(Robert B.)

4th Feb Rita Taylor , Nancy Fox
 11th Feb Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
 18th Feb Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
 25th Feb Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock
 4th Mar Anne Hall, Gemma Strange,
 11th Mar Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
 18th Mar Rita Taylor, Nancy Fox
 25th Mar Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird

**Closing date for the March "Contact" is
 Sunday 18th February**

**Issue date for the February "Contact" is
 Sunday 25th February**



Russian Orthodox Girls School, Bethany



The Russian Orthodox School in Bethany was established in 1937 by two nuns, called Mary and Martha, from Scotland. They were on their way to India and whilst in the Holy land decided to stay and convert to Russian Orthodoxy. An empty property started them thinking about the needs of the people. So, they, a Catholic Nun and a Muslim lady started a medical facility as both were medical trained. This facility then became a school and orphanage, growing in numbers each year. Eventually Mary went to the church in Jerusalem but Martha stayed in Bethany. In the 1970s, it was registered as a private Christian school taking both Christian and Muslim children. At present, there is one Christian child at the school. In the orphanage, they have children from four to twenty years. Often the children come from broken homes, are traumatised or abused. Next year there will be a 12th grade class and a scientific block is being built.

Young boys also board here but must travel to Jerusalem for schooling through the checkpoints. This used to happen daily but did not work so they now stay on the Jerusalem side of the wall during the week and come home at weekends and holidays.

Life can be very difficult. Each year they must apply for a licence. One year they nearly did not get one as they were in dispute with the authorities about how many hours they are teaching the Koran.

Interestingly, they had just received second place in a competition about the Koran so felt they were doing a good job. The authorities have tried to refuse teachers or don't like the holidays taken by the children. It is a difficult relationship with the authorities.

But in the school, there is a good atmosphere. There was a time the local area kept changing allegiance from Hamas to Fatah and the school was caught in the crossfire. In the morning, they had to check which flag was flying outside the school. "I'm living on a volcano. We need to stick to values and daily life." said present day Sister Martha from Germany. The school is one of the best in the area. The school do not advertise places as the priests see those in need and bring them to them.

PRAYER TOPICS NOT OFTEN IN THE NEWS

Japan Christian Heritage Establishments: Christian Heritage Establishments: A number of Japanese schools and universities were founded by Christians and still operate with a nominal Christian ethos. Although few staff at such institutions have been committed Christian believers in recent times, it often transpires that adult Japanese who become believers attended a Christian-heritage establishment in their youth. Exposure to biblical narratives can prepare young people to understand the gospel more readily when they later encounter it and also leave them less resistant to the idea of choosing to follow Christ. Pray that more Christians would aspire to positions on the teaching staff and management of Christian-heritage establishments and enhance the opportunity they present for sowing the seed of the gospel in the hearts of young people.

(Japan Christian Link)

(Latin Link)

Indonesia - Care and Share: A partner radio station in Indonesia has a counselling programme called Care & Share. Listeners love the programme so much that they formed a monthly group. They say, "It's not enough just to let people talk about problems - we have to have help." Each month they gather together for Bible study and from there they go and volunteer in the local community. A presenter at the station was preparing for his wedding day but had no family in the area. Knowing this, the listener group decided to take care of the arrangements. They provided all the food, did all the work and took care of the cost! Pray that the love of Jesus will shine through this station. (Reach Beyond)

Nepal A Fresh Vision to Develop Mission: There is a strong sense of unity between the churches in Pokhara. They have worked together on community projects and provided relief to people affected by disasters and emergencies, such as the 2015 earthquakes. Now they have a fresh vision to develop their mission, reaching out to others, both within Nepal and beyond. Nepali mission personnel will be recruited to reach out to other communities and to support small churches. Please pray for skilled Nepali professionals, such as teachers and agriculturalists, to work as missionaries in remote areas. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of Nepalis who will hear the gospel for the very first time. (Int. Nepal Fellowship)

(above with permission www.globalconnections.org.uk)



The January meeting updated on money raised in the latter part of 2017. Through events such as concerts, donations given mostly during the Christmas period including through Advent calendars.

Some concern was expressed that fund raising and donations for the DCR project (community project in Congo) had not raised as much as was desirable to reach the goal of £5,000 by the end of March. Over £2,000 has been raised so far and efforts will continue to boost this total as the aim is to secure match funding.

Fairtrade - look out for future events including a film evening at the Continental, "Dirty Gold War" on Feb 27th ; a linked photo exhibition at Lune St. Methodist from March 5-10th; Fairtrade Fortnight in Feb/March and a schools competition.

Christian Aid Week (May 13-19th) - this year the focus will be on internally displaced persons, particularly in Haiti. In 2010 a catastrophic earthquake displaced about 1.5 million people. C.Aid feels that these people are often forgotten whilst refugees have a higher profile. There are currently about 65 million internally displaced persons worldwide compared to 25 million refugees. More information and the usual appeal for indispensable volunteers to come!

Future events please listen for Notices and check for posters as there are several events planned locally for February including concert band, quiz evening and recycling morning.

Thank you for your continued support for Christian Aid.

(Barbara E & Cath A.)

POETRY

REFUGEES

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston

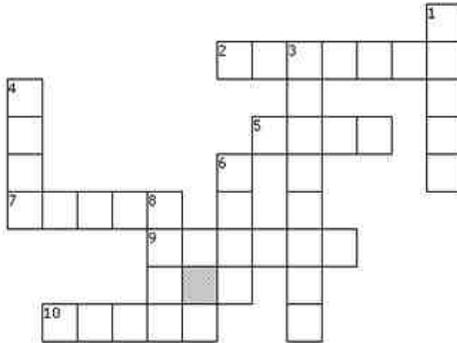
With the authors permission - <https://brianbilston.com/>

Thanks to Gwen Thomas & Birkdale URC for highlighting this.

CROSSWORD

The Lord Is My Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Psalm 23: 1



ACROSS

2. An area with grass or other vegetation for sheep or cattle to graze on
5. To be frightened of something
7. A building or dwelling place for a family
9. An area of low land between mountains or hills
10. An article of furniture upon which we eat our meals

DOWN

1. To show kindness, compassion, and forgiveness
3. One who herds, guards, and tends sheep
4. The route along which something travels
6. To go or travel on foot
8. The quality of being morally bad or wrong; wicked

Words Used : path, pasture, evil, house, mercy valley, fear, table, fear, walk, shepherd

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CARTOONS

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08-25-2011

CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

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12-29-2011

MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING LAST YEAR

HUMOUR

A preacher went to see a member of the community and invited him to come to Church on Sunday morning. The man was a producer of fine peach brandy and told the preacher he would love to attend his Church **IF** the Pastor would drink some of his brandy and admit doing so in front of the congregation. The preacher agreed and drank up.

Sunday morning came and the man came to Church. The preacher recognized him from the pulpit and said: "I see Mr. Brewer is here with us this morning. I want to thank him publicly for his hospitality this week and especially for the peaches he gave me and the spirit in which they were given."

Author Unknown

THINK ABOUT IT

1. If God is your co-pilot - swap seats.
2. A family altar can alter a family.
3. Give God what's right, not what's left.
4. You don't have to attend every argument you're invited to - remember Sunday 21 Jan - Parade Service topic.
5. Don't put people down, unless its on your prayer list.

*The steadfast Love
of the Lord never
ceases.*

