

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



MAY 2018

Front Cover illustrations - www.clipartpanda.com & BMS.co.in

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

A Different Journey.....

Just over six years ago I was diagnosed with Parkinson's, a day that changed my life, but for all the right reasons, after the initial shock of finding out I had a condition that couldn't be cured, and with the help and support of an extremely loving family and close friends, my 'journey' began.....

It's taken me on a different route to the one we all think we'll take as we approach our retirement years, but it became a much more challenging one and therefore much more satisfying, that may sound strange but every 'normal' thing I can do and keep on doing gives me a reason to carry on each day.

I have 'bad' days but the good ones cancel them out and gives me the strength to keep moving forward.

One of the biggest steps I have taken on my 'journey' was when I decided to become joint Church Secretary with Beverley, a decision I don't regret (despite Dave leaving) and one, although it has now become a little more taxing, that still gives me the desire to keep our church the vibrant and happy place we know it can be.

My faith and love for our church family has helped me tremendously over the past six years, and you all give me the strength and courage to carry on, small and sometimes shuffling steps but still moving forward in the right direction.

And so my journey continues with a second grandchild due in August, (I can't wait) and my message to you all is, whatever life throws at you, take a deep breath, have faith and continue with your journey.

With love and blessings

Jenny (Joint Secretary)

PURC EVENTS - MAY 2018

WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets: 2.30pm Wed. 2nd May
in the Guild Room
Topic : "The Holy Land"
Speaker : Linda Barnes
Next Meeting: Wed 6th June
(Brenda K)

MEN'S GROUP

Meets : 2.00pm Thu. 3rd May
in the Guild Room
Topic:
"Rubbing shoulders with VIPs"
Next Meeting : 4th June
(Nigel L)

CRAFT GROUP

Meets: 2.00pm Wed. 8th May
in the Guild Room
Next Meeting : 10th Jun
(Barbara D)

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets for Tea/Coffee & Chat
every 2 weeks at 1 pm
in the Church Hall.
Meet Thurs : 10; 24 May
(Pat D)



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: May 12th; (Beverley S)

PENWORTHAM GALA - JUNE 2018

Penwortham Gala will this year take place on the 9th & 10th June in Hurst Grange Park with a parade and lots of interesting things to see and be a part of. **The Ecumenical Service (with hopefully good weather) will be at 11.00am on 10th June**, if inclement, another venue will be arranged. Please bring fold up chairs and for anybody needing a lift please see Anne Hall. (Anne H)

PURC ANNUAL CHURCH TRIP - JULY 2018



Don't forget to put the **Annual Church Trip** in your diary. It is to be scheduled for **Saturday 7 July 2018** - a great day out, not to mention a nice meal are anticipated.

HIGHEST SCOUTING AWARD

The Silver Wolf is the highest award made by The Scout Association "for services of the most exceptional character." It is an unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout. The award consists of a Silver Wolf suspended from a dark green and yellow neck ribbon.



At a special ceremony as part of the 5th Penwortham Scout Group's St Georges Day Parade & Service held at Penwortham United Reformed Church on 15th April, The Silver Wolf Award was presented to the Group Scout Leader Mike Sullivan and Section Leader Susan Sullivan (centre of photo - *courtesy Jenny O.*)

Over 250 children and parents attended the Service on the Sunday afternoon and it was relayed into the hall for those who could not get a seat in the Church.

The award was presented by two of West Lancashire Scouts' County Vice Presidents, Mrs Jean Frew (also the Group President) and Mr Brian Woodburn (both also pictured).

The exceptional contribution of Mike and Susan was recognised by all, not least the 5th Penwortham URC Scout Group which they have built into the largest scout group in the UK. A proud day for all concerned and for Penwortham United Reformed Church who host the Group for their weekly activities.

Luckily it stayed fine for the games and BBQ which followed the event. Congratulations Mike and Susan; (who also attended the National Scout Service & Parade at Windsor Castle on 22nd Apr).
(see in colour at : www.penworthamurc.org.uk) (Anne H & Ed.)



The lists for collectors during Christian Aid Week will be on display on the charities notice board from 29th April. Please tick to confirm or speak to Barbara or Cath if you wish to add your name as

a new volunteer.

We hope to have your help during this very important time for Christian Aid as this door to door collection adds about £6 million to help those not as fortunate as we are in this country.

Ask a friend to go with you or if your road is not covered take some envelopes to give to your neighbours even if you can't help us with our collection.

Thank you in advance to all who contribute to our efforts

Barbara and Cath

'If another hurricane comes, we'd just die'

Marcelin lost his home and livelihood when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in September 2016. 'I lost pigs, goats, everything in the house. I have nothing left,' he says.

He now lives in an old concrete shower block, a tiny space he shares with his teenage daughters. There are no windows or doors, and the only furniture is a single bed that the girls sleep on.

Marcelin has shown incredible resilience in the face of such hardships and is working hard to raise his children alone. Will you #StandTogether with your global neighbour Marcelin and give a donation to help build a disaster-proof home in Haiti?

Every day he gets up at dawn to work the land but he's struggling to support his family. The changing weather frequently destroys the food he grows and his family often go hungry.

He can no longer afford to send all his children to school and is unable to save any money for a new home.

So, this Christian Aid Week, will you build hope in Haiti?

We know how to make it happen – of the 700 houses we built after the 2010 earthquake, just one needed to be repaired after Hurricane Matthew. But we're relying on the kindness of people like you to be able to do more, and reach more of our global neighbours in their hour of need. From www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/

THE WHITE CHURCH

Fairhaven URC – The White Church

For years I've driven past this iconic building without knowing much about it – in fact I was quite taken aback some years ago when I found out it was a URC church, its architecture, (based on Byzantine principles I understand), is so remarkable and exceptional. The one odd thing I did know about the church was that Les Dawson, the comedian, was married there.



So the other Sunday, when our church was closed because of the electrical work, Jenny and I took the opportunity to visit The White Church. We arrived well in time for the 10.45am service and as soon as we went through the door people came to chat to us and gave us a lovely friendly welcome.

The service was led by Stuart Gay from Blackpool Salvation Army. Stuart has been instrumental in opening a school in Gambia which the Fairhaven URC congregation support, and Stuart gave an update on his recent visit. The service followed a similar pattern to ours and, as it happens, the hymns were some of Jenny's and my favourites. Fairhaven URC is in vacancy since Rev David Phillips left so they too rely on visiting preachers and their Worship Group.

The Fairhaven website explains that the church and hall were opened in the early 20th Century. The specification for the design was that it had to be a distinctive architectural feature in the district, which it certainly is. The interior of the church is more traditional than the exterior. But when you're inside the glory of the stained glass windows becomes more apparent. There is a booklet about the windows on the table in our foyer for anyone to borrow if they would like to.

The White Church is a Grade 2 listed building and is open to the public every year as part of the national Heritage Open Day scheme, usually in September. Very well worth a visit.

Maureen W

URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - STORIES FOR CHANGE



The
United
Reformed
Church

EXTRACT FROM STORIES FOR CHANGE 142

Central America - For the Common Good

Working with local community groups and church groups on advocacy and action is Christian Aid's partner UNES. The groups meet in a hall given to the community by an Italian priest who helped them understand that the church must work on behalf of the poor. Named after him, it continues to be a place where people can meet and serve others. His desire was to defend the poor and that is what they continue to do.

Together with UNES they are exploring the meaning of advocacy and action. Marches, fairs, simulation games and visits to areas of most concern have all been arranged to highlight environmental problems such as dumping and erosion. Participants have been encouraged to write letters to the Government and file complaints to the Mayor. However, despite all this action, they often do not make progress. They share ideas on how to help the community, especially as it is situated in an area vulnerable to earthquakes and flooding, made worse by overcrowding and deforestation.

Blanca Alicia Díaz describes herself as an environmentalist. When she saw how businesses were dumping rubbish illegally up the mountain directly above their homes, she decided she wanted to take action. She asked for help from UNES and arranged a cleanup walk to inform people of the dangers to them and to the environment. The group that was formed looked at the dump and then issued a complaint letter asking the Mayor to move it from the mountain as it was threatening their homes.

"If it slips it will threaten our homes and would bury us." she said. When asked about the Mayor's response, Blanca replied, "He did not do anything. He said that the land it was on was privately owned."

The group held a press conference and got support from the community health teams with some success. They also arranged for an article 'denouncing' the dump to be in the local newspaper. This made a few of the companies who were dumping there find alternatives.



WHAT'S ON - MAY/JUNE 2018

MAY 2018

Wednesday	2nd	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Thursday	3rd	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	5th	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	6th	10.30am	Family Worship	Worship Group 1
Tuesday	8th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Thursday	10th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	12th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	13th	10.30am	Family Worship & Parade Service	Jeff Brailsford
Wednesday	16th	7.30pm	Elders Meeting	Side Rooms
Sunday	20th	10.30am	Family Worship - Pentecost	To be advised
Thursday	24th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	27th	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd Geoff Tolley

JUNE 2018

Saturday	2nd	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Family Worship	To be advised
Monday	4th	12 noon	Men's Group	Lunch Venue TBC
Wednesday	5th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Side Rooms
Thursday	7th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	9th	2.30pm	(No Messy Church) Penwortham Gala	Hurst Grange Park
Sunday	10th	11.00am	Ecumenical Service-Penwortham Gala	Hurst Grange Park
Tuesday	12th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Family Worship (with Worship Gp 1)	Rev'd Frank Kendall
Thursday	21st	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Songs of Praise	To be advised

Holy Communion will be celebrated as informed by Church Notices

All services have a Junior Church & Crèche (Beverley S & Brenda K)

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offering

(Gill T)

1st	Apr	£657.00
8th	Apr	No Service
15th	Apr	£774.00
22nd	Apr	£581.00

Flowers

(Robert B./Cath A.)

6th May Alan & Beverley Strange
13th May Derek Woodburn
20th May Derek & Pat Poulton
27th May Maureen Whitlock
3rd Jun Alan & Gill Turner
10th Jun Penwortham Gala
17th Jun Jean Frew
24th Jun Val Tiffin

Sunday Coffee

(Robert B.)

6th May Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
13th May Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
20th May Anne Hall, Gemma Strange
27th May Margaret & Alan Edward, Maureen Whitlock
3rd Jun Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
10th Jun Penwortham Gala
17th Jun Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
24th Jun Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird

Closing date for the Jun "Contact" is Sunday 20th May
Issue date for the Jun "Contact" is Sunday 27th May

EXTRACT FROM MOVING STORIES 214

**Overview of Christian Aid's
Middle East Work**



In 2015/16 Christian Aid responded to the changing dynamics in the region with the development of a new strategy that considered how to address poverty at a regional level.

The new strategy recognises the importance of integrating vital humanitarian response work across the Middle East with longer term strategic development programmes. Their work now focuses on the issues common across the region, including displacement, livelihoods (particularly for young people) and the need to tackle violence and build peace. From this overarching strategy, the Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory (IOPT) Programme has evolved, building on the strong foundations of work already in place but also developing new projects to respond to the changing needs on the ground.

Their work over the coming years will be guided by the following four objectives:

Individuals and institutions have an improved knowledge of human rights and use this to challenge and overcome the barriers they face in securing the application of international standards, and to promote and defend these rights for the protection of all people

Individuals and communities have a greater understanding of the key drivers of violence and poverty, and use this to promote transparent, just and inclusive approaches that tackle violence and contribute to lasting peace and security for all
Individuals, communities and institutions are better prepared and have greater response capacity when faced with threats to their lives, land and livelihoods

Young men and women have greater economic opportunities and a more just and secure future

Through a portfolio of 17 partners, they implement projects across all four of the programme objectives.

PRAYER TOPICS NOT OFTEN IN THE NEWS

Nepal - Few Modern Wheelchairs: Very few modern wheelchairs are produced in Nepal – most have to be imported. Poverty, more than ten years of armed conflict, an increasing number of traffic accidents and the devastating earthquake in 2015, are just some of the factors that are resulting in a high number of people living with a disability in Nepal. Although the Nepalese Government has set up five centres to distribute assistive devices, the majority of people are being helped by charities. Consequently, the number of people who could be helped but being left out, is huge. Many will be hidden away at home or left to crawl on the ground. Please pray that more wheelchairs can be imported and that those people who need them most will be given one. *(International Nepal Fellowship)*

Vietnam - New religious laws threaten to limit the freedom of Christians in Vietnam. The Law on Belief and Religion, which came into force on 1st January 2018, has alarmed Christians because it insists religious groups must be registered and approved by the Government. They believe the law's vague wording could be exploited to limit church activities. Pray that Christians in Vietnam will know God's peace and presence. Despite some improvement in religious freedom in Vietnam in recent years, some believers continue to face intense pressure, especially those who speak out against corruption and rights abuses. Christian lawyer Nguyen Van Dai and Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton are still in custody in Hanoi, following their arrests in December 2015 and 2017 respectively, after they called for greater religious freedom. They have been barred from meeting their lawyers. *(Release International)*

Student Ministry: Give thanks for non-Christian students in a Central Asian country who are keen to study the Bible with their believing friends. Ask God to open their eyes to the God of love as they read the gospels and talk about the big questions of life. Also praise God for the expansion of IFES student ministry into a new city in this country - church leaders there are enthusiastic about supporting their students to be evangelists in their universities. *(IFES)*

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

***War in the Central African Republic has curtailed Bible mission.
by Ken Dachi***

Central African Republic (CAR), right in the middle of Africa, is a dangerous place. The war between Seleka and Anti-Balaka rebel groups has been running since 2012, but much of the conflict is political manoeuvring to gain control of highly lucrative diamond, gold and oil mines. The capital, Bangui, is controlled by the UN – but beyond this, the country is lawless. Violence, looting and kidnappings are widespread. Approximately 90% of people live in extreme poverty.

The Foreign Office advises not to travel to CAR at all. But our staff are working there, so I was compelled to go and see for myself. This is a difficult country to be in. The airport has no electricity so everything is done manually. The moment you exit the airport, it's total chaos... a marketplace of displaced people who sought refuge in the airport some years ago, and stayed, living and trading on the site ever since.

I went to meet our ten colleagues, based at two sites. The first 'office', on the edge of Bangui, is a former internet café. Eight staff share three desks in a boiling hot room. We tried to hold a board meeting, but the rain hammering on the tin roof was so loud we couldn't hear each other's voices. We had to wait two hours for the storm to pass, then start the meeting again.

I met the other colleagues in a small office at the Bangui Evangelical School of Theology. They have barely any basic tools like computers and printers. In fact, electricity is only available for three hours a day. Outside that, everyone relies on generators. You hear the noise of generators all over the city.

Afterwards, I was taken to the Bible 'warehouse' – an old freight container. In 2015 this container was looted by rebels, and Scripture material was set ablaze. I only saw the leftovers.

The whole set-up was chaotic and ramshackle and in this tense environment you have no idea if you will even make it to work the next day. When you fear for your life, you don't tidy your office or get organised. There's no order or records or proper resources. The war affects everything.

BIBLE SOCIETY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONT'D

I managed to get out of the city to meet a group of women involved in Bible-based literacy and trauma healing. These women have overcome all obstacles – war, insecurity, tension – to start a group teaching people to read and write using the Bible as the main text. They came, by bike and on foot, to engage with God's word.

Their energy and passion to understand the Bible moved me beyond words. I realised that when people decide they want to read God's word, they will find a way. These women live in such a hostile environment, but actively choose to press on. To study the Bible is everything. Scripture is their bedrock. It was the perfect picture of hope.

On the way back, my colleagues pointed out a small kiosk from which our stall sell Bibles. I couldn't believe it. In a country which is totally broken, people still use their scarce resources to buy Bibles. Tell me if that's not hope alive.

So these are the projects I'd like us to support over the next few years. This is where your donations in CAR will be directed, and where your prayers are vital.

We plan to train up 20 women as literacy class leaders and trauma healing counsellors, to run Bible based sessions in their communities. We'd like to install three new kiosks for Bible sales around Bangui, and build a new distribution centre. I also hope we can buy three motorbikes to deliver Bibles around the region.

For our colleagues, I want to provide proper support – computers, a printer, internet access and a refurbished office space. These people have not had their salary reviewed for 11 years, but have still worked faithfully to share God's word as best they can.

I have never been in a war-torn country before. This is one of the toughest, hardest places in Africa. But our staff and the women I met are the picture of resilience and hope – and I believe the Bible can change the lives of people here, for good.

Article by Ken Dachi,, Bible Society's Programme Adviser for Africa
Source: www.biblesociety.org.uk – Word in Action (Ed.)

BIBLE WORD CLOUD - THE WHOLE BIBLE

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



BiblePuzzles.com

Galatians 5:22-23

**FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
GOODNESS
JOY
KINDNESS
LOVE**

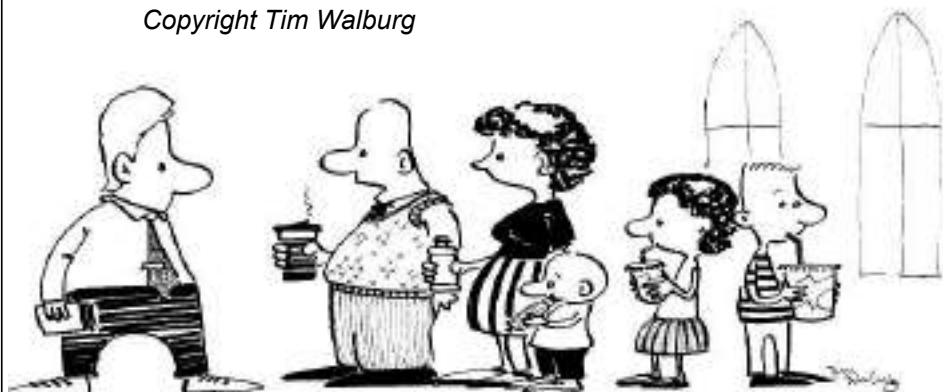


**PATIENCE
PEACE
SELF-CONTROL**

Courtesy: BiblePuzzles.com

CARTOON FUN

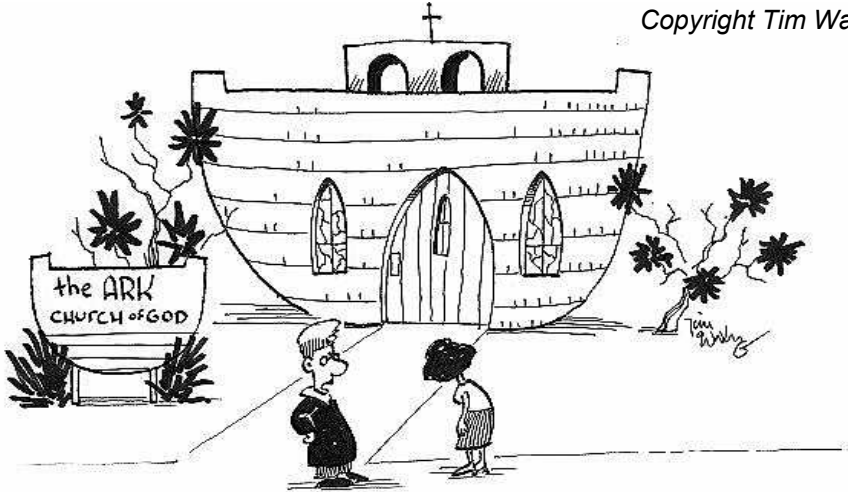
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"FEW FOR FIVE WITH CUPHOLDERS, PLEASE."

CARTOON FUN

Copyright Tim Walburg



"Starting this church up didn't work. Only one couple joined, and I had to turn away dozens of animals!"

QUOTES FOR PENTECOST

"Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power."
– J. Hudson Taylor



"Pentecost is an invitation to dream. For when a community of faith quits dreaming dreams, it has little to offer either its members or the wider world. These dreams involve adopting a new perspective on what's possible, rousing our creativity to free us from conventional expectations. They help us see that maybe what we thought was outlandish actually lies within reach.

–Matthew L. Skinner

COLOURING PAGE

Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost



Picture by Lena London; <http://www.supercoloring.com/>
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