

CONTACT
introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

**PENWORTHAM
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



OCTOBER 2018

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www.penworthamurc.org.uk

ELDERS' LETTER

When the readings on a Sunday morning are one of the parables about sheep it always takes me back to my childhood. I grew up on a dairy farm, but when I was small we had a large flock of sheep. The stories Jesus told about sheep are so true even today.



I'm sure when you've been in the country you have seen sheep who have escaped from a nearby field. Sheep are very good at finding their way out of a field, but never seem to remember how to get back! When Allen and I were out in the Trough of Bowland last summer we found a lamb who had put his head through the mesh for those tasty shoots, but his little horns stopped him getting back. It was quite a struggle to release him, but he very soon realised we were trying to help and stood quietly while we released him.

Jesus talks about leaving the 99 and going to search for the one who is lost. The 99 who were left would gather together to protect the lambs. A ewe will stand in front of her lambs and stamp her feet to keep them safe.

“The sheep recognise their shepherd” – How true, one of my lasting memories is of my father standing in the field with the rams, scratching them between their ears! During lambing my mother said that Dad could always sense when a ewe was in trouble, and would be out of bed and off to help!

Gill Turner

PURC EVENTS - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018

MEN'S GROUP

Meet: 2pm Monday 1st Oct
in the Guild Room
Topic: "Welsh Water"
Led by: Stewart Taylor
Next Meeting : Mon 5th Nov
(Nigel L)

WOMEN'S GROUP

Meet: 2pm Wednesday 3rd Oct
in the Guild Room
Topic "Tales from a village shop"
Led By: Sally Costall
Next Meeting : Wed 7th Nov
(Brenda K)

CRAFT GROUP

Meets: 2pm
Tuesday. 9th October
in the Guild Room
Next Meeting : 13th November

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets for Tea/Coffee, a chat
and events discussion
every 2 weeks at 1 pm
in the Church Hall.
Dates and details from
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 - 07716129719/ <http://penworthamurc.org.uk>

Coming Dates are: 13th October

10th November

(Gillian P)



AT HOME AGAIN? - OCTOBER



Would you be interested in coming along to another "social afternoon" during Half-Term week, (the end of October). If you are please tell Rita or Maureen as soon as possible. We will give out details in the Sunday Notices.

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP EVENT - OCTOBER 2018



Missional Partnerships

A Missional Partnership Get-Together has been arranged for

Saturday 6th October 2018 at

Chorley United Reformed Church

Hollinshead Road, Chorley, PR7 1EP

09:30am Refreshments for a 10:00am start : closing at 1:00pm

Led by Rev'd Daleen ten Cate with contributions from all 6 churches (Gillian Price will lead ours on Messy Church); everyone is invited.

Daleen says:

“ It will be fantastic to spend the day sharing our mission, getting to know each other and sharing fellowship over a meal. The idea is to ask every church to share a five-minute talk/presentation about one of their mission activities (such as Muddy church, Messy church, Scouts, Dementia cafe, Refugee & Asylum seekers Drop in Centre, Knitter and Natter, Homeless projects, Play groups Mums, Lunch clubs, Charities, Community Space etc.) and then to have lunch together and mingle afterwards. The intention is for all of us to build new relationships, learn from each other's mission activities and celebrate God's mission in our new partnership”.

Refreshments will be provided by the hosting church, but **please bring a picnic lunch for yourself.**

See PURC Notice Board for details and a sign-up sheet

if you require a lift please see one of the elders.

(Jenny O)

DISCUSSION GROUP/FILM NIGHT EVENTS



For those who have asked about the **Discussion Group** and **Film Night** activities, their timing and content is under review and will be announced as soon as possible.



CHRISTIAN AID REPORT



The September meeting updated on money raised in the Preston area for **Christian Aid Week**, a wonderful £29,129.90 As previously reported PURC raised £1384.15 which, when added to other Penwortham churches, made Penwortham group total £ 3,541.49. It is interesting to note that churches raised this money in various ways, through house-to-house collections and a variety of events including a supermarket bucket collection, lunches, concerts and an Open Garden event.

Some churches combine door-to-door collection with events, some just focus totally on events. Of course there are CAid **fund raising events** to look out for throughout the year. Hopefully you may have had the opportunity to support those on offer in September and the October concert in Longton. See **posters and** listen out for weekly church **Notices**.

Also look out for CAid charity tins in local shops and takeaways. **CAid events**, including the Conference in Manchester, have been described as “worthwhile” and “inspiring.” You may be interested in learning more?

There is a volunteer training day on **October 19th** at St Wilfrid's in Preston with a focus on Christmas, engaging young people and climate change. Cath and Barbara have further details. Similarly **CAid resources** are available online and may be of interest to Junior Church and Scout leaders, especially for celebrations like Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

We have all been encouraged to support **Fairtrade** with a reminder to look out for items in shops and Farmers Markets. Details are available for resources, activities and to achieve Fairtrade Church status. A reminder that Fairtrade gold wedding rings are available to purchase, even from Argos!

Finally Ruth Platt, Lancs Regional Co-ordination for CAid passed on “a huge thank you for everyone's efforts during Christian Aid Week.”

Thank you for your continued support for Christian Aid and for the recent donations during our Harvest Festival service.

Cath A & Barbara E

CLOSURE OF ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND IN PENWORTHAM

Royal Bank of Scotland Branch will close on 12 November 2018

Following a recent visit to RBS, Brenda Kendall spoke to the Branch Manager and passes on the following information:

"The bank realises that there will be people who are inconvenienced, and the manager thought that some extra information might be useful.

We do not need new cheque books, or to transfer formally to Preston Branch. All cheque transactions and direct debits etc will remain as they are now, although cheque books in future will carry the Preston address. Crucially account numbers and sorting codes do not have to change.

The Post Office has a facility to pay in cheques and pay bills (with the paying in slip and a cheque) much as we can do now at the bank. But they cannot deal with credit card bill payments.

The Post Office can also do the job of ATMs in handing out cash against a debit card.

So all is not a black as it might be. Hope this is helpful.

Brenda K

RBS has also published a "Ways to Bank" leaflet for each Branch that is closing, inserting useful local information relevant to the Branch area. They are available online by typing - PDF Penwortham-RBS - into your PC, I-Pad or Tablet "search engine" (e.g.Google) or ask the branch for a copy.

(Ed.)

OTHER NOTICES

SHOEBOX CONTINUING APPEAL

It's that time of year again when we start thinking about filling shoe boxes to give to International Aid for them to distribute to poorer parts of the world. But first we need shoeboxes and wrapping paper. So if you have 1 or 2 shoeboxes, ideally with separate tops, lurking at the back of your wardrobe, please dig them out and bring them to church. If you prefer you can wrap them yourself, otherwise we will sort that out. Also, if you have any spare Christmas wrapping paper or other suitable paper, that too would be very welcome, as would volunteers to cover the boxes.

(Maureen W)



Act of peace and solidarity

If you are driving to Jerusalem from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem's Manger square, you must pass through Checkpoint 300. This is a military checkpoint, on the separation barrier that divides Israel from the West Bank. If you are passing through at around 18:00 on a Friday, and if you have time while queuing, take a quick glance to your right. There, along the Palestinian side of the wall, you will notice a group of people walking slowly up and down. The group varies in size but every Friday since the eight-metre separation barrier was completed it has met for half-an hour to pray for peace.

Eight-five per cent of the wall is on Palestinian land; in 2014 its route was deemed illegal by the International Court of Justice. The wall prayer is an act of hope that someday peace will prevail between two peoples who once lived peacefully together.

The ritual was begun by an Italian priest during Lent 2004. Sister Lucia of the Franciscan Elizabethan Sisters of Padua was present from the beginning. "The idea of the wall prayer came from an Italian priest. He said, well, it can be really nice instead of praying the rosary in your own home you can go out – this would be a sign, a nonviolent sign, that the Virgin Mary will help us and support us – and overcome injustice".

The despair of the situation is brought home when Sister Lucia explains that "The Palestinians were building the wall to keep food on the table. But what must they think when they go home? They were building the wall in their own country." So, the wall prayer began as an act of peace and solidarity with what the sisters saw in front of them each day. This attracted much publicity and interest from the international press.

continued: At first, the soldiers viewed the gathering as another civic protest. But Sister Lucia explains that the aim is not to protest or even to meditate on the rosary. It is to “pray to our Mother for peace in our hearts and in the world – and that one day the wall will go away”.

The wall prayer is a peace prayer, with “no other aim than that – it does not have to make much publicity”.

The wall prayer finishes with the group standing below an icon of the Virgin Mary, painted on the wall in gold. Below it is a painting of the Mount of Olives. These are Christian symbols of suffering.

Information below from links (but not content) in the extract (Ed.)

Independent Jewish Voices

Did you know that there is a network of Jews in Britain who share a commitment to certain principles, especially with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in mind: ***putting human rights first, rejecting all forms of racism, and giving equal priority to Palestinians and Israelis in their quest for a peaceful and secure future.*** They believe that these principles, rather than group loyalty, should determine the parameters of legitimate debate. Coming from a wide range of backgrounds, and with a wide range of views, they share the belief that the interests of an occupying power should not count for more than the human rights of an occupied people.

The United States also has an organisation called:

Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP)

This organisation ***opposes anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim, and anti-Arab bigotry and oppression.*** JVP seeks an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians; a just solution for Palestinian refugees based on principles established in international law; an end to violence against civilians; and peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East.

The aims of both these movements can be found in similar organisations in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland.

WHAT'S ON - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

OCTOBER 2018

Monday	1st	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	3rd	2.00pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Thursday	4th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	6th	10.00am	Missional Partnership	Chorley URC
Saturday	6th	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	7th	10.30am	Family Worship	George Grime
Tuesday	9th	2.00pm	Craft Group	<i>Guild Room</i>
Saturday	13th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Family Worship	Beryl Holmes
Wednesday	17th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
Thursday	18th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Family Worship	Shirley Farrier
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Family Worship	Alan Edward

NOVEMBER 2018

Saturday	3rd	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	4th	10.30am	Family Worship	Shirley Farrier
Monday	5th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	7th	2.00pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	10th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Family Worship	Val Atkinson
Tuesday	13th	2.00pm	Craft Group	<i>Guild Room</i>
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Family Worship	Nigel Lemon
Wednesday	21st	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Family Worship	To Be Confirmed

Holy Communion will be celebrated as informed by Church Notices

All Services have a Junior Church & Crèche (Pulpit Supplies: Brenda Kendall)

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offering

(Gill T)

2 nd	Sep	£581.00
9 th	Sep	£429.00
16 th	Sep	£661.00

Flowers

(Robert B./Cath A.)

7 th	Oct	Colin & Pat Whalley
14 th	Oct	Margaret & Alan Edward
21 st	Oct	Rita Taylor
28 th	Oct	Barbara Johnson
4 th	Nov	Barbara Dawson
11 th	Nov	Robert Bulloch
18 st	Nov	Marjorie Smith
25 th	Nov	Beverley & Alan Strange

Sunday Coffee

(Robert B.)

7 th	Oct	Viv Moore, April Rukin and Sue Bushell
14 th	Oct	Joan Kidman and Celia McCartney
21 st	Oct	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
28 th	Oct	Maureen Whitlock, Margaret & Alan Edward
4 th	Nov	Rita Taylor and Joyce Boreham
11 th	Nov	Anne Hall and Gemma Strange
18 st	Nov	Viv Moore, April Rukin and Sue Bushell
25 th	Nov	Joan Kidman and Celia McCartney

Closing date for the November "Contact" is Sunday 21 Oct
Issue date for the November "Contact" is Sunday 28 Oct

DECEMBER DATES 2018

(I know it's early to be talking about December but thought it worthwhile putting these dates in the calendar)

Sunday 2nd Family Service

Sunday 9th Toy Service led by the Scouts

Sunday 16th Junior Church Nativity

Sunday 23rd **NO MORNING SERVICE**

CAROL SERVICE AT 3.30

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day

Sunday 30th Family Service.

(Beverley S)

FROM CHURCH QUOTES AND SIGNS

Tomorrow's forecast: God reigns and the Son shines!

Why pay for GPS? Jesus gives directions for free.

It's a TREAT, not a Trick. God loves You!

Autumn leaves. Jesus doesn't.

Do you keep your Bible as close as your mobile?

Church sign - ATM inside: Atonement, Truth, Mercy

Faithbook: Jesus has sent you a friend request.

Faith is the postage stamp on our prayers.

Church is like fudge... sweet, with a few nuts!

For God so loved the world, that He didn't send a committee.

The church is a gift from God. Some assembly required

(from various locations on the internet public domain - Ed.)

WE ARE GRATEFUL

Harvest 16th September

The Scouts led the Harvest Celebrations, a great big thank you to them, especially Jeff who orchestrated proceedings.



Thank you to all who brought produce for the Foodbank. The tables were overflowing.

The leaving collection for Christian Aid was rounded up to £100 and has been sent.

The Harvest Festival wouldn't be complete without the church looking wonderful as God's creation is celebrated .

Thank you to the "arrangers".

Thank to everybody who contributed in any way (Beverley S)

Songs of Praise - 23rd September



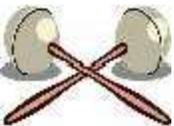
A great big thank you to Maureen and her team who led the service. The hymns were well known favourites and sung with gusto.



It was fascinating to hear the stories behind such loved hymns.

Will played for us, perhaps we could have guessed it was going to be the **William Tell** overture!

We had more musical instruments playing during Lynda's children's address. A very foot tapping service



Thank you to all (Beverley S)



PRAYER TOPICS NOT OFTEN IN THE NEWS

Central African Republic - Bible Translation Hindered

All Bible translation in the Central African Republic is done by local, first-language speakers of the various languages. Many of these teams haven't been able to live and work in their own home areas for years because of the political instability in their country, impacting their work, and ultimately hindering access to God's word. The translators are eager to be with their own language communities, to raise awareness of the new translations - but how, when travel is dangerous, difficult, and expensive? Please pray for this problem to be overcome so that these communities will be ready and eager to use the scriptures when they become available! (*Wycliffe Bible Translators*)

Mozambique - Farming School earning opportunities.

59-year-old Armando lives in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. Tragedy struck his family when disease took the lives of his wife and three of his children, leaving Armando consumed by grief. At the same time he was diagnosed with leprosy. However, Armando was offered a place at a 'farming school' and is now able to earn an income by growing cassava, pigeon peas, and peanuts. Pray that more people in Mozambique will be helped through this project that works to improve the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable people. (*The Leprosy Mission International*)

Panama - Seeing more clearly

A migrant shelter received a visit from a team of Logos Hope volunteers, who joined an outreach alongside local staff from Gideons International. They spent time with the men staying at the centre, and offered sight tests and free reading glasses to those who needed them. The men at the shelter were mainly between 25 and 50 years old, with the majority having come from Colombia and Latin America. After having their eyes tested, the men had smiles on their faces when they were finally able to see more clearly. The ship brought donations of books to help occupy the men's stay in the shelter, for which they expressed their gratitude. Pray that these men will receive spiritual sight as the Logos Hope team ministers to them. (*Operation Mobilisation*)

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

Japan- Sports ministry offers evangelism opportunities

Japanese people are the second largest unreached people group in the world; out of 126 million people, only 0.3% are evangelical Christians. One way churches can reach out to their communities is through sport. 70% of Japanese people are involved in sport in some way, but so far few churches have grasped this opportunity. One OMF missionary writes that, through ultimate frisbee, "I have more conversations about life, faith, God, and Christ than through any other ministry I'm involved with in Japan". Pray for more churches to get involved in sports ministry to see lives transformed in Japan. (*OMF International UK*)

Southern Asia- Mobile book ministry protection

Please pray for Christians involved with a Christian bookshop and book van ministry in a strongly Islamic country. The danger is escalating again and violence against Christians is on the increase. The small Christian community is extremely anxious. The bookshop workers, along with the rest of the believers are wondering what to do, where to go and what the future holds for them. Please pray for safety and the Lord's peace for this vulnerable Christian community (*Reach Across*)

Nepal - Protection during festivals

Dashain (pronounced Dossai) will be celebrated from 9th to 23rd October this year. It is the longest of several autumn festivals in Nepal and is celebrated by both Hindus and Buddhists. It commemorates a great victory by the gods over the demons. Dashain is a family celebration with people travelling home to spend time with relatives. Activities such as kite flying and swinging on huge homemade swings are traditional parts of the celebrations. Worship includes frequent visits to the temples and thousands of animal sacrifices. Please pray for Christians in Nepal who can feel quite isolated during this time, especially if they are the only Christian in their family. Pray too that other Nepalis will discover that Jesus is the true victor over evil. (*International Nepal Fellowship*)

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

NW SYNOD CHANGES

The Moderator - Rev'd Andrew Mills

I am sitting in the caravan on the moors of Dartmoor in the mist and rain!!!!

My mind has turned, as it often does, to the North West Synod and the latest issue that needs addressing. We have received the following:

A statement concerning the future ministry of Rev Andrew Mills



We write to let you know that Rev Andrew Mills, Moderator of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church, has accepted a call to return to local church ministry. Andrew is to serve in Southern Synod as minister of Christ Church (UM) Lewes, Cross Way (UM) Seaford and Alfriston Mission Project. He and Ruth expect to move there early in 2019.

Andrew has been Synod Moderator since September 2015. During his years of ministry in the North West, Andrew has encouraged the Synod to reflect carefully on what it means to Walk the Way of Jesus and on how members of local congregations can best be helped to develop their discipleship. As a consequence of his leadership the Synod Meeting adopted a Missional Discipleship strategy dedicated to helping churches focus on this aspect of their calling. Andrew has also led the Synod to reorganise the way in which stipendiary ministry is deployed, so that ministers' time and gifts can be focused in the most fruitful way possible on God's mission. In the wider church Andrew has shared in the ministries of the Moderators' Meeting and the Northerly Synods. In each setting he has been unstinting in giving of his time and energy, and his friendship and thoughtfulness have been highly valued.

Andrew offers the following reflection:

"It has been a privilege to serve the denomination in the role of Moderator of the North Western Synod and particularly during a period where the Synod has been wrestling with significant challenges that confront the whole church. The decision to move mid-term has not been taken lightly.

NW SYNOD CHANGES continued

“One of the particular joys for me during this time has been to meet with groups from local congregations a few weeks prior to leading worship on a Sunday, so that we could get to know each other a little more and to explore some of the mission going on as they shared the Good News of Jesus in their community in varied ways. However, these times also stirred within me a sense of loss, in that I was no longer able to participate in such patterns of work directly and share in the witness of God’s people in these ways.

Though I have really enjoyed working with many within the Synod and the wider URC, I have personally found the role to be very isolating, losing that deep sense of belonging within a local Christian community, and where relationships with fellow ministers are framed by my role rather than a common sense of collegiality. Some of you know too that Ruth and I struggled with the way in which ‘ministry’ was no longer something which we were sharing in together but rather something which I now ‘did’ alone.

I hope that in responding to the call of my heart I have also heard the call of God as I take up this opportunity within congregations to serve in a new phase of ministry.”

Let us be rightly thankful to God for Andrew’s ministry in the North West, sensitive to Andrew’s response to God’s call to him to return to local church ministry, and prayerfully supportive of Andrew, Ruth and their family as they prepare for the move to the South coast.

Let us also be prayerfully supportive of the churches of the North Western Synod, and of all who will be involved in the process of discernment concerning the impending vacancy.

Rev John Proctor /Rev Brian Jolly

General Secretary of the URC /Clerk of North Western Synod

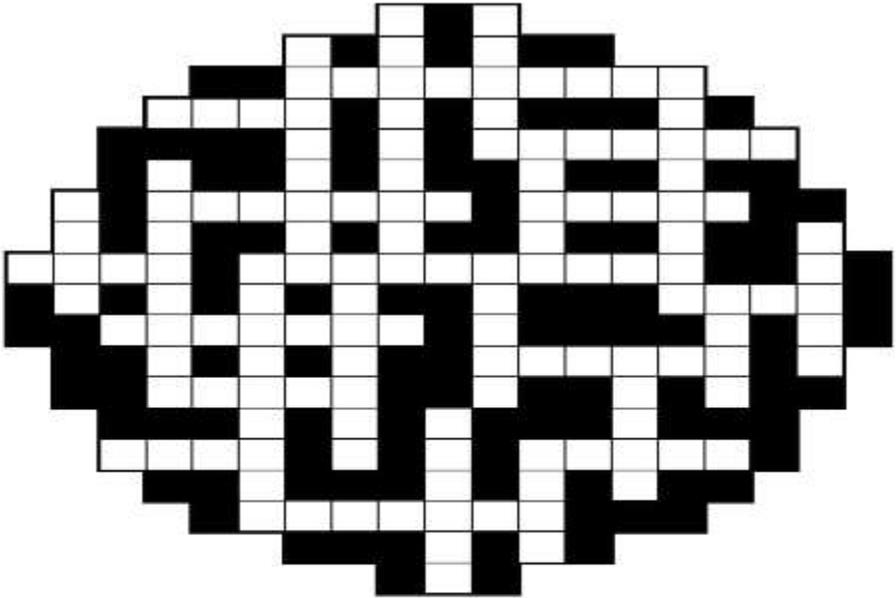


Interesting times ahead!! (Beverley S)

GLOBAL WORD PUZZLE

Global Word-Fit Puzzle

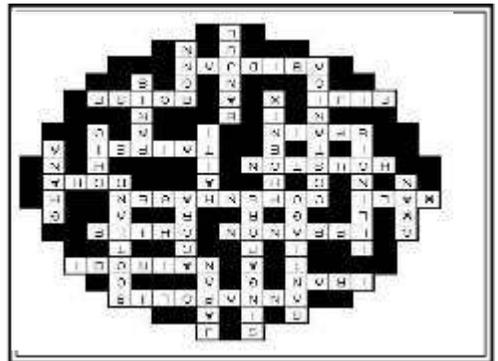
Can you fit the words from the list correctly into the grid?



4 letters BONN DOHA FIJI IRAN MALI OHIO OMAN	5 letters ACCRA BOISE CHILE GHANA HAITI JAPAN PARIS SPAIN	6 letters BANJUL TAIPEI 7 letters ABIDJAN HOUSTON LEBANON NAIROBI PHOENIX	8 letters ILLINOIS SANTIAGO SCOTLAND 9 letters ANNAPOLIS COSTA RICA SINGAPORE 10 letters COPENHAGEN
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Puzzle Choice - www.puzzlechoice.com

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SOME MORE PUNS - SO TO SPEAK!!

Bakers trade recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

If you don't pay your exorcist you will get repossessed.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

Dijon vu – the same mustard as before.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

(Courtesy of Maureen W)

CARTOON CORNER

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COLOURING PAGE

