

# CONTACT

*introduces and welcomes*  
**YOU**  
*to*

# PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

*"Glory to God in Heaven, and upon earth peace, Good News to the children of men."  
Aramaic Bible in Plain English Luke 2. v14*



*May Jesus be at the heart of your Advent Expectations and Christmas Celebrations*

# December 2018

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

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

### *Christmas Through The Years*

As I write this I am amidst organising the Schools Christmas Fair, making arrangements for seasonal get-togethers with family and friends, planning Christmas shopping, making up shoe boxes, practising Christmas Messy Church crafts, looking for a last minute Christmas cake recipe (I have left making my traditional Delia recipe far too late!!) and trying to get on with all the day to day jobs that never get done –and I'm the lucky one I do not work!! (Ed. actually I have just secured 2 casual jobs so this will change soon!!)

Thinking of all the practicalities of Christmas, and the pressure you can feel as a mum to ensure that everything is perfect for your family and friends, it got me thinking about my memories of Christmas as a child and through the years.

I have very fond memories of Christmas as a child. The run up to Christmas was so care free and exciting, from writing Christmas cards, buying presents and putting up the tree, to guessing what picture would be on my advent calendar each morning. The anticipation of what treats and goodies mum and dad would bring home from their Christmas food shop (I vividly remember palpable excitement on seeing the tinned ham, vol au vent cases, bacon frazzles and potato chip-sticks!!) and I cannot forget the many weekend rehearsals at Preston Play House for the Christmas Panto –I will always think of Val Nichols as the Blue Fairy in Pinocchio!!

Without a doubt, another distinct childhood memory is Christmas and the church. Helping mum wrap presents for the Toy Service, early morning rehearsals for the nativity (and the toast beforehand!!) and the Christmas services, readings and carols.

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD cont'd

As I moved into my late teens and early adulthood Church fell by the wayside taken over by hockey matches, work, very late Saturday nights working or partying and the need for long lie ins! However, one thing that always remained true was my belief that Christmas is more than just the commerciality of presents and over indulgence. In particular I have always felt strongly that Christmas Day is a sacred day to spend with the ones you love, receiving more pleasure from the giving of gifts than receiving and being thankful for everything you have (even if at times you feel unsatisfied with your lot!).

And now I find myself married with a wonderful daughter (most of the time) and desperately wanting to make sure that she has as fonder memories of Christmas as I do. I admit I sometimes find it hard not to get carried away with the commerciality of everything and have to step back and remember that “stuff” is not what my fondest memories are of but of the time I spent with my loved ones and the things we did with, and for others. I also know that each year family, friends and the church provide me with more happy memories and hope that Charlotte will also look back fondly at our family Christmas's and time at church and always remember the true meaning of Christmas.

So finally, I would like to wish each and every one of you and your families a Christmas filled with health and happiness and a wonderful New Year.

God Bless Gillian

N.B. You don't have to be a Christian to celebrate Christmas – it just makes it all the more special



## AN AUDIBLE APPRECIATION

"Hugh Dawkins has for many years hidden in the corner by the organ, lovingly caring for the sound system. He has now decided to let someone else take over. He has done a wonderful job, always reliable and helpful.

Thank you, Hugh.

Daniel Kehoe has taken over, and we wish him a long and happy tenure of the job."

*(Brenda K)*



## CHRISTMAS CARDS



It's that time of year again where we will be starting to buy our Christmas cards and looking for that 'list'.

Instead of sending everyone individual cards to your friends at church this year, why not place one card to all the church family on the board in the foyer and donate the money you would

have spent on cards to our two new charities we will be supporting in 2019 which are Rosemere and North West Air Ambulance.

Please don't feel obliged to do this if you like sending cards to everyone but there will be a box for donations on the stage if you wish to contribute.

*(Jenny O)*

## FLOWER ROTA



A Big Thank You to everyone who has helped with the flowers in Church over the past 12 months. Not only do they contribute to a welcoming environment for the worship area, but also serve as a small recognition, for various reasons, of those folk to whom the flowers are passed on after worship. If you would like the opportunity to contribute in this way, but are not currently on the Flower rota, there are a few vacancies available during the year; or if you could help distribute flowers after a service it would also be a great help. Please have a word with me at any time about this. *Cath Addison (Thanks too to Cath for all her efforts!! Ed.)*

## PURC EVENTS - DECEMBER 2018

### MEN'S GROUP

Meets: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
Seasonal Lunch  
at the Ribble Pilot  
Meet at Church 12:00 noon  
Next Meeting : 7<sup>th</sup> January  
(Nigel L)

### **WOMEN'S GROUP**

Meets: Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> December  
Seasonal Lunch  
at Penwortham Golf Club  
Meet at Church 12:00 noon  
Next Meeting: To Be Advised  
(Brenda K)

### **CRAFT GROUP**

Meets: Tuesday 2.00pm  
11<sup>th</sup> December  
in the Guild Room.  
Next Meeting :  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets for Tea/Coffee & Chat  
and events discussion  
every 2 weeks at 1pm  
in the Church Hall.  
Meet: Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 2018; Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019  
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 - 07771://penworthamurc.org.uk

**Coming Dates are:** December 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party  
January 12<sup>th</sup> Film (Gillian P)

## TOY SERVICE - DECEMBER 2018



Please generously donate gifts of toys at our  
**Toy Service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
which will be collected by Chorley and South  
Ribble Children & Parenting Service, who will  
distribute them to families in our area who  
otherwise might not receive much in the way of  
presents. Thank You





### ADVENT SERVICE

The Churches Together in Penwortham Advent Service will be held at St. Mary's Parish Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 3.00pm. All are Welcome

(Anne H)



### LANCASHIRE SINGS CHRISTMAS

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December

6.30 for 7.00 pm

at Penwortham Golf Club

Penwortham Golf Club are hosting Lancashire Sings Christmas.

The Churches of Penwortham will be joining Radio Lancashire and churches all over Lancashire to sing Christmas Carols. There will be mulled wine and a quiz with prizes. This is always a lovely evening. Please try and support this event.

(Anne H)

### SOME QUOTES FOR CHRISTMAS

It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters, it's who is around it. ~ *Anonymous*

Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas. ~ *Peg Bracken -author*



Christmas is love in action – *Dale Evans - singer*

As people celebrate Christmas in different places, one thing remains constant – the love that Christ has for all humankind. *Anon*

Good news from heaven the angels bring. Glad tidings to the earth they sing: To us this day a child is given, to crown us with the joy of heaven. *Martin Luther -theologian*

## WHAT'S ON DECEMBER 2018 / JANUARY 2019

### DECEMBER 2018

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Rev'd Nigel Lemon</b>
			<b>inc. Communion, Christingle and Whitefield School Choir.</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Advent Service</b>	<b>St. Mary's Church</b>
Monday	3rd	12.00noon	Men's Group	Outing for 12.30pm
Wednesday	5th	12.00noon	Women's Group	Outing for 12.30pm
Wednesday	5th	7.30pm	Discussion Group-Session2	Side Rooms
Saturday	8th	2.30pm	Messy Church	<i>Christmas Party</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Toy Service and Parade</b>	<b>Jeff Brailsford</b>
Tuesday	11th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	12th	2.00pm	Whitefield Sch.Carol Service1	
Wednesday	12th	6.30pm	Whitefield Sch.Carol Service2	
Thursday	13th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Junior Church Nativity</b>	<b>Junior Church</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>	<b>Beverley Strange</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Worship</b>	<b>Worship Group 1</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Worship Group 2</b>

### January 2019



Thursday	3rd	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Elders</b>
Monday	7th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Tuesday	8th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	9th	2.00pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	9th	7.30pm	Discussion Group-Session3	Side Rooms
Saturday	12th	2.30pm	Messy Church	Film
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parade &amp; Family Worship</b>	<b>Steven Mitchell</b>
Wednesday	16th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
Thursday	17th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Rev'd Frank Kendall</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Rev'd Nigel Lemon</b>
Thursday	31st	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall

***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 Offertory

Gill T



28 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	£519.00	18 <sup>th</sup>	Nov	£582.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	Nov	£583.00	25 <sup>th</sup>	Nov	£551.00
11 <sup>th</sup>	Nov	£547.00			



### Flowers

Cath A/Robert B

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec	Alan & Margery Owen
9 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Milne & Doris McCutcheon
16 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Robert Bulloch
23 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Maureen Whitlock
30 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Christmas
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Bill & Sue Bradley White
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Fran Barker
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Graham & Viv Moore
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Nigel & Ann Lemon

### Sunday Coffee

Robert B

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec	Maureen Whitlock, Margaret & Alan Edward
9 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
16 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Rita Taylor and Joyce Boreham
23 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Anne Hall and Gemma Strange
30 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	Maureen Whitlock, Margaret & Alan Edward
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Rita Taylor and Joyce Boreham



**Closing date for the January 2019 "Contact" is**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Issue date for the January 2019 "Contact" is**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018**



## PURC SECRETARIES' NOTES

### ***Sunday 25th November.***

Thank you Maureen and Linda for leading the Worship. It was well received by everybody. We are lucky to have such talent in our congregation!

How nice it was to see Dave, Rita and Mark who combined a family get together with a visit to PURC. They were also visiting "Booths" on the way home. They don't have Lancashire Cheese "down south" well not as good as "up north".

### ***Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December***

Nigel will be taking the service which will include Communion and Christingle. Whitefield school choir will be visiting and singing for us.

### ***Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December***

Whitefield School will be using our Worship Space for their Christmas Carol Service on the afternoon (2pm) and in the evening (6.30). Jen and I are looking for people to act as stewards at either or both these events. Please let us know if you are able to help

### ***Thank You***

A great big "thank you" to all those who have kept the drive and car park free of leaves this autumn. It has been a hard job well done. Thank you. The Elders have looked into buying an industrial leaf blower for next year so next year life will be easier

*(Beverley S)*

## A SHORT POEM

**Merry Christmas from your paper boy!  
The news is good -- of love and peace and joy!  
As usual, I leave it at your door  
With hope the coming new year will bring more.**

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## CHARITY NEWS - INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST



When we delivered some of the filled shoe boxes Maureen and myself had a chat with the Manager and a tour of the huge warehouse at Much Hoole, we saw many boxes with items from ANORAKS to WALKING FRAMES, including Mobility aids, Hospital beds, sewing machines, etc etc.

They have links with various firms who donate end of line or surplus clothes and goods, Lancaster University collect all items left by the students at end of years (some lovely unused pots and pans), but it is YOU the general public who keep their shops and income going by both the generous donations of good clothes, bedding etc. and also by buying from the shops and furniture warehouse. The shops are stocked seasonally and changed regularly so customers have a good choice. The stock in the warehouse is sorted, weighed and then wrapped in bundles, shoes and loose items like toiletries, belts bags, healthcare items are boxed and labelled and all placed ready to be shipped to whoever and wherever they are needed.

The biggest concern for International Aid is funding ever rising shipping/fuel costs but they are determined to utilise everything they receive and try to sell on or recycle unsuitable goods and weigh in any unusable metals and electrical items they can't sell. Kirkham Prison help with some of the upgrading and mending and also help at the depot on day release schemes before they are released, a small army of volunteers keep expenses down to the minimum so money raised is used to help locally and in the Ukraine, Sierra Leone, Mexico and India.

The Manager would like to say THANK YOU for your support, they appreciate the direct support to Much Hoole and also shopping in the Penwortham shop. Their website gives lots more information and some photographs of youngsters receiving shoeboxes.

Maureen and myself also say thanks for your donations in the shoe box appeal, every one collected and delivered will make someone smile and know they are being thought of with love from afar.

Maureen and Rita

*(Special thanks to Maureen & Rita for all the effort for PURC in respect of the shoe boxes preparation and other items taken to International Aid. Ed.)*

## PRAYER TOPICS

### **Indonesia -Christian radio station assists after earthquake.**

Following the 7.5 magnitude quake that struck just off the central island of Sulawesi in September, a local Christian radio station in Palu has been providing essential on-air information to the community and emergency relief supplies to those affected. Initially the station was full of mud and water, but thankfully the radio tower was still standing. Pray for this devastated community as they rebuild their lives and their homes, and that Christ's love and compassion will be seen through this local ministry. (*Reach Beyond*)

### **Cuba - Bibles needed.**

The need for Bibles in Cuba is urgent as 40% of believers do not have a Bible, many sharing one Bible between a whole Bible study group. Furthermore, many who do have Bibles find that they are old and so well used that they are in a very poor condition. The One Million Bible Mission project will work with churches from all denominations to distribute Bibles to Christians in Cuba who desperately want their own copy of God's word. The Bible Commission (the name for the Bible Society in Cuba) are also providing scriptures for children and youth, and large print Bibles for the elderly. Only Bibles donated through Bible Societies around the world are allowed into Cuba. Pray for the import and distribution of Bibles into Cuba, and that everyone desperately waiting will soon experience the joy of having their own copy of God's word (*Scottish Bible Society*)

### **Guatemala - Mission Aviation.**

Working in partnership with hundreds of other Christian and relief organisations, Mission Aviation Fellowship enables practical help, physical healing, and spiritual hope to be delivered to many of the most remote and inaccessible communities on the planet. In Guatemala, please pray that those attending training programmes for pastors in remote areas will be equipped and encouraged for ministry. Pray also for engineers and support staff who maintain the Cessna 206 aircraft. Give thanks for their skills, experience and Christian witness. (*Mission Aviation Fellowship*)

<http://www.globalconnections.org.uk>

## ADVENT CARTOON

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THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES HAS BECOME AN EVENT AT BEPSONVILLE CHURCH.

## CHURCH SEASONAL SIGNAGE



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## CHRISTMAS CARTOON

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"AND THEN THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL READIED TO BLOW HIS HORN!"

## SEASONAL HUMOUR

Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Andy said to his uncle after the holidays. "It's the best present ever!!"  
"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"  
"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mum gives me a pound a day not to play it in the daytime and my dad gives me five pounds a week not to play it at night.



You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable nappies as gifts!



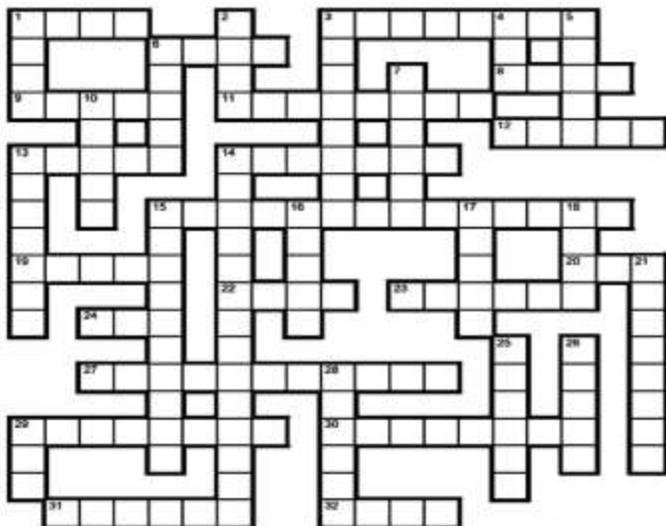
Q: What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet? A: Christmas has No - el in it !!

*public domain material widely available*

# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

## Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 \_\_\_ log; traditionally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)
- 32 Given at Christmas (4)



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

## Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)

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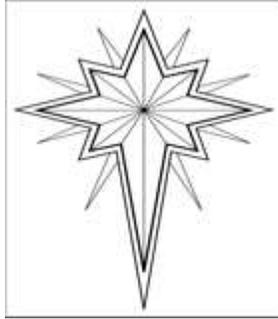
Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD - SOLUTION

Across: 1 Shed; 3 Stuffing; 6 Cris; 8 Noel; 9 Robin; 11 Epiphany; 12 Punch; 13 Mince; 14 Tiddings; 15 Cranberry sauce; 16 Cedar; 20 Red; 22 Yule; 23 Saced; 24 Ham; 27 Jingle Bells; 29 Presents; 30 Goodwill; 31 Winter; 32 Gift.

Down: 1 Star; 2 Pine; 3 Surprise; 4 Inn; 5 Green; 6 Candy; 7 Manger; 10 Birth; 11 Miracle; 14 Thank you letter; 15 Ceremonies; 16 Bells; 17 Sauce; 18 Card; 21 December; 25 Divine; 26 Child; 28 Eggnog; 29 Pie.

CHRISTMAS COLOURING PAGE



Joy to the World

