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YOU

**PENWORTHAM
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



FEBRUARY 2019

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

ANOTHER NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

I'm not going to write about the B-word. I'm sure you are all as sick of it as I am. So here is something else of topical – and arguably far more important – interest.

I love mountains, although I have never climbed one (unless Snowdon counts). However, I have often visited mountainous areas and walked among them.

In particular, the grandeur of a range of snowy mountains in the sunshine takes one's breath away; and snowy mountains have been in the news recently because there has been far too much snow in some mountainous places. Indeed, snow fell to shoulder height over a few days here and there.



Although we may feel sorry for people whose holidays have been ruined as a result of this, for most of us here in west Lancashire, it will have had little impact.



However, that is not true for the residents of the affected areas – faced with the roofs of their houses collapsing under the weight of the snow, avalanche damage to their property, and major loss of income.

Elsewhere we read of severe drought, forest fires, growing deserts, and threats to life itself through scarcity of food and safe water. And of people who live on low-lying ground being gradually overwhelmed by rising sea levels ...

Most of the scientists involved are sure that at least some of all this is due to overall global warming, caused in large measure by far too much toxic gas being spewed into the atmosphere, for example by industrial processes and methods of modern transport.



FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD cont'd

But things like the disposal of far too much waste food and single-use pieces of plastic also contribute to so-called greenhouse gas emissions, which promise to be disastrous for the whole of creation if it is not hugely reduced and very soon.

I suspect that most of our PURC congregation live fairly thriftily, not least because many of us remember and survived rationing all those years ago. But we can still do quite a bit to reduce the extent to which we more-or-less accidentally contribute to the ruination of life on earth as a whole.



We all surely owe it to our wonderful Creator to inform ourselves properly about global warming, and to play our part as best we can in keeping God's creation safe both for ourselves and for the future. Another New Year Resolution to be kept, perhaps?

With good wishes to all of you, from Brenda

NEW YEAR MEAL



Fellowship Meal

On Sunday 20th January, 35 members and friends enjoyed a wonderful meal together at Penwortham Golf Club, there was plenty of laughter and chatter amongst friends which was lovely to see; our thanks go to Anne Hall for organising the meal. (Jenny O)

UNICEF MITES SCHEME

IN AID OF  UNICEF
UNITED KINGDOM

www.unicef.org.uk/fundraise/fundraise-in-your-community/faith-groups/the-mite-scheme/

in the period 01 Oct to 31 Dec 2018 your

Mites (5p coins) reached a much appreciated total of £95.70p

Your donations have contributed to the purchase of Oral Re-hydration Sachets, the cost of which is now 8p each on the World Health Organization's "List of Essential Medicines"

Collection Boxes are on the stage at the back as you come into Church. Do keep your Mites coming. (Ed.)

PURC EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2019

MEN'S GROUP

Meets: Monday 4th February
2.30pm in the Guild Room
Topic: Straits of Calais
Led by: Alan Edward
Next Meeting : 4th March
(Nigel L)

WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets: Wednesday 6th February
2.30pm in the Guild Room
Event: "Communion"
Led By : Rev'd Nigel Lemon
Next Meeting : 6th March
Note: Start Times revert to
2.30pm (Brenda K)

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets for Tea/Coffee & Chat
and events discussion
every 2 weeks at 1pm
in the Church Hall.
Meet: 7th/21st February
Pat Duckworth

CRAFT GROUP

Meets: Tuesday 2.00pm
12th February 2019
in the Guild Room.
Next Meeting :
12th March 2019

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 - 07http://penworthamurc.org.uk

Coming Dates are: February 9th / March 9th
(Gillian P)

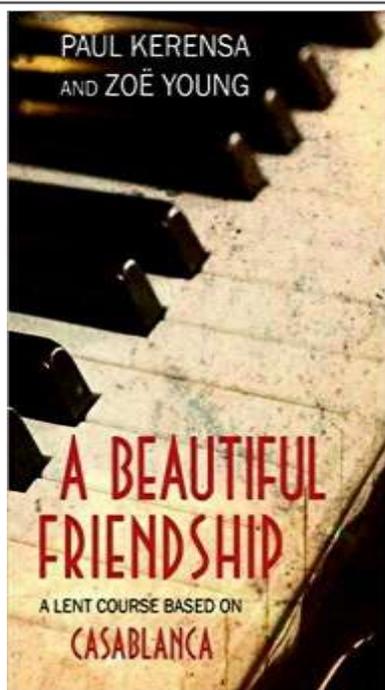


Snap up a bargain at our
TABLE TOP SALE
at PURC
on **Saturday 23rd February**
10.30am – 12.30pm

Raising money for our church charities -
Rosemere Cancer Foundation & NW Air Ambulance

Please speak to Maureen if you would like to book a table (£5)

DISCUSSION GROUP - A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP - FEBRUARY



You are invited to come and join us in exploring a fresh perspective on the film **Casablanca**, looking at themes such as love, loss, faith and sacrifice that can help us reflect on the Gospel message in a new way. We shall first watch the film and then in the following 5 sessions look at extracts for further exploration.

Dates and times are currently planned to be on *Wednesdays*:

7.00pm	07 Nov 2018	Watch the film
7.30pm	14 Nov 2018	Session 1
7.30pm	05 Dec 2018	Session 2
7.30pm	09 Jan 2019	Session 3
7.30pm	13 Feb 2019	Session 4
7.30pm	13 Mar 2019	Session 5

Our reflections will be supported by the book "A Beautiful Friendship" and copies will be available. Join us any session. *Ed.*

PRESTON EVENTS - ST. WALBURGE'S - FEBRUARY



Tours at one of Preston's most iconic buildings have been extended due to popular demand. The tours up the 94 metre high spire, which is the tallest of any parish church in England, will continue at 7.30pm every Saturday up to and including 23rd February. The tours are followed by refreshments in the church porch.

Booking is not required, but payment on the door is £8.50 to help with the maintenance of the church. Free heritage tours of the St Walburge's interior run every Saturday between 11.30am and 2.30pm.

For more information contact the church on preston@icrsp.org.
(Maureen W)

INFORMATION - FEBRUARY 2019

The Virtual Christmas Gift - 2018

It has been our custom for many years to make gifts of chocolates at Christmas to our most "Senior" members and friends. Some of these grateful recipients have indicated that they shouldn't or indeed can't eat them, and therefore the Elders decided to have a bit of a re-think. After much consideration we decided that, for Christmas 2018, to purchase on behalf of the whole church a Virtual Gift from Christian Aid, in place of the usual chocolates and at a cost of £115.00.



The Gift will be given specifically to a mobile health clinic in Kenya where mothers and children can access medical care in remote areas, where life expectancy for the under-five's is very low (1 in 15) - so vaccinations are vital. One of Christian Aids Partners in Kenya is the Transmara Rural Development Programme which treats mothers and children in places without hospitals or health centres and provides antenatal check-ups and the all-important immunisations. The Elders hope that you will agree this to be in the appropriate spirit of giving, when we here are all fortunate enough to have so much already.

Thank you. Your Elders.

SOME PRESTON CITY OPEN ACTIVITIES - FEBRUARY 2019

Fri 1st Feb, 7pm: Professor Keith Ward on "Stewardship or Dominion?" **Lancaster Priory**

Sat 2nd Feb, 8am: Men's Breakfast with comedian, Mark Palmer at Fulwood Free Methodist Church

Sat 2nd Feb, 7.30pm: Comedy Night with comedian, Mark Palmer at Fulwood Free Methodist Church.

Sat 2nd Feb, 9pm: 'Night Church' open at Central Methodist Church

Sat 9th Feb, 2.15pm: Singing for Fun Day – at Fulwood Methodist Church

Sat. 23rd Feb, 10.30am: Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality at Xaverian Mission Spirituality Centre.

Pope Calls for Resumed Talks

On Christmas Day 2018 Pope Francis called for the resumption of talks between Israel and Palestine. He included his comments along with prayers for many other conflict regions in the world. Francis said he hoped that the people of the region would "...end up with a deal that guarantees coexistence between two states and achieves the long-awaited peace."



The Pope is known for his strong support for peace, particularly for the most oppressed and poorest in the world. "Fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture. Fraternity among people with different ideas... Fraternity among persons of different religions," he said.

As Christians, we join Francis in praying and working for fraternity in Palestine and Israel. A video of his talk can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWRPGHEo6mM>

Food Cuts to Gaza and West Bank

The World Food Programme (WFP) will be cutting food aid to Palestine due to insufficient funds. Around 190,000 Palestinians will be affected. The WFP attributed this selective deprivation to the US withdrawal of humanitarian aid. In a recent report, the WFP stated that 22.5% of Palestinians suffered from food insecurity. It identified lack of mobility and economic restrictions as part reasons. Before the occupation local populations lived in relative abundance.

Humanitarian aid is currently necessary because of Israel's occupation. However, aid cannot be seen as a long-term solution. Many view it as little more than a veneer that maintains the current state of political violence. Nevertheless, this funding crisis ought to become a call to accountability, not only to the State of Israel, but also to the so-called international community. Who is being held to account for this insecurity is a question that needs to be asked. The question is unlikely to be answered any time soon.



(Extract from URC CIL- Moving Stories - Ed.)

WHAT'S ON FEBRUARY / MARCH 2019

February 2019

<i>Saturday</i>	2nd	1030am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Songs of Praise	Worship Group 1
Monday	4th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	6th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
<i>Thursday</i>	7th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	9th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Parade & Family Worship	Worship Group 1
Tuesday	12th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	13th	7.30pm	Discussion Group - Session 4	Side Rooms
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd Geoff Tolley
Wednesday	20th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
Thursday	21st	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	23rd	10.30am	Table Top Sale	Main Hall etc.
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd Shirley Farrier

March 2019

<i>Saturday</i>	2nd	1030am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	3rd	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd Paul Pells
Monday	4th	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Tuesday	5th	12.00noon	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes	Main Hall
Wednesday	6th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
<i>Thursday</i>	7th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	9th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd Shirley Farrier
Tuesday	12th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	13th	7.30pm	Discussion Group - Session 5	Side Rooms
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Parade & Family Worship	Jeff Brailsford
Wednesday	20th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
Thursday	21st	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	24th	10.30am	Family Worship	George Grime
Sunday	31st	10.30am	Family Worship <i>(Mothering Sunday)</i>	Ernest Wrenall

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

2 nd	Dec	£470.00	30 th	Dec	£488.00
9 th	Dec	£745.00	8 th	Jan	£625.00
16 th	Dec	£615.00	13 th	Jan	£614.00
23 rd	Dec	£1049.00	20 th	Jan	£513.00

Note: 23 Dec inc. Christmas Day and £300
each sent to the 2 chosen Charities for 2019.

Flowers

Cath A/Robert B

3 rd	Feb	Stewart Taylor
10 th	Feb	Marjorie Smith
17 th	Feb	Mary Lambert
24 th	Feb	Ken Rickard
3 rd	Mar	Barbara Dawson
10 th	Mar	Margaret & Alan Edward
17 th	Mar	Jenny Oliver
24 th	Mar	Women's Group
31 st	Mar	Pauline Bennett

Sunday Coffee

Robert B

3 rd	Feb	Anne Hall and Gemma Strange
10 th	Feb	Maureen Whitlock, Margaret & Alan Edward
17 th	Feb	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
24 th	Feb	Joan Kidman, Celia McCartney
3 rd	Mar	Jean Henley, Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
10 th	Mar	Rita Taylor and Joyce Boreham
17 th	Mar	Anne Hall and Gemma Strange
24 th	Mar	Viv Moore, April Rukin, Sue Bushell
31 st	Mar	Maureen Whitlock, Margaret & Alan Edward

Closing date for the Mar "Contact" is Sunday 17 Feb
Issue date for the Mar "Contact" is Sunday 24 Feb



One of the charities we are supporting as church in 2019 is “Rosemere Cancer Foundation which is part of the endowment funds of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Registered Charity No. 1131583. The supported Rosemere Cancer Centre of the Foundation at Royal Preston Hospital first opened its doors in 1997.

The Rosemere Cancer Foundation supports world class cancer treatment throughout Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Our aim is to work in partnership with local clinical staff to achieve the best possible care for cancer patients in Lancashire and South Cumbria wherever they are treated. We seek to do this by:

Funding cutting edge equipment to help clinicians remain at the forefront of the fight against cancer (e.g. state of the art robotic surgical equipment like the Da Vinci Xi apparatus)

Supporting innovative ways to take the fear out of cancer for patients and their families during their treatment, making it as comfortable and stress free as possible.

Backing local research projects that help improve our understanding of cancer and how it can be better diagnosed and treated.

Facilitating top quality training to help clinical staff treating cancer patients be the very best they can be.”

The Foundations website from which the above material is an extract can be found at: <https://www.rosemere.org.uk/>

For information on CLINICAL SERVICES at the Rosemere Cancer Centre call 01772 522900. If you need URGENT out of hours advice please contact the Acute Oncology Helpline on 01772 523205.

(Alan E)

CHURCH CHARITIES 2019 - 2



One of the charities we are supporting as church in 2019 is North West Air Ambulance. NWAA was founded in 1999 and originally operated five days per week. Then in 2002 sufficient money was raised to enable them to fly seven days a week. In 2004 the helicopter was upgraded thanks to a wonderful legacy of £500,000 and then in 2008, a second helicopter came into operation with a third one added to the fleet in 2013.

NWAA covers Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire. One helicopter is based at Blackpool and 2 at Barton near Manchester. They are crewed with pilots, paramedics and doctors. They are on call 7 days a week, 365 days a year, but due to CAA regulations can only fly during daytime hours. They attend more than 2000 missions each year.

Whenever access is difficult or time is critical, the speed and accessibility of the helicopters makes the service absolutely vital.

Anyone who has watched 'Helicopter ER' on TV will know how invaluable helicopters can be in delivering urgent medical care and transporting injured people to hospital.

The charity is entirely reliant on donations, so fund raising is key for its ongoing success. The charity has 10 shops across the region - our nearest ones are at Lytham, Garstang and Longridge.

Here are some examples of what donations can buy:

- ◆◆ £9 funds one minute of a NWAA mission;
- ◆◆ £17 could buy a one litre portable oxygen canister used by crew to treat seriously injured patients at the scene;
- ◆◆ £25 could buy a warming blanket to maintain the body temperature of severe trauma patients;
- ◆◆ £50 could kit out one aircraft with a complete set of road maps for the North West helping crews navigate to incidents.

(Maureen W)

CENTRAL AMERICA



Central America is the most unequal region in the world. Although it's made up of middle income countries, the divide between the richest and the poorest in El Salvador and Honduras is incredibly high with indigenous communities bearing the

brunt of this stark inequality.

The maternal mortality rate among indigenous women in Central America is disproportionately high. One of Christian Aid's projects empowers communities to claim their rights to sexual and reproductive health.

State-run health centres are often unequipped for indigenous cultures, meaning that women from these communities are far less likely to use them facing much higher risks in childbirth as a result. Family planning is culturally sensitive, so the rates of underage pregnancy in indigenous communities are significantly higher than other groups. 29% of all births in El Salvador are to mothers aged 10-19.

Indigenous communities often do not know their rights to reproductive and sexual health. Education is urgently needed to help them call on their governments for justice. This project is helping over 200,000 women of child-bearing age – and more than 560,000 in the target areas will indirectly benefit.

Christian Aid partners are:

- training traditional birth attendants to provide healthcare, including family planning
- working with health facilities so women from indigenous communities are welcomed, not excluded
- ensuring that contraceptive supplies are readily available
- educating teachers, heads of families and pupils on family planning, HIV, pregnancy and sexual and gender-based violence
- pushing for change at a national level by
- building up civil society and recording findings from these projects

(Extract from URC CfL -Stories for Change - Ed.)



PRAYER TOPICS

Mozambique : Leprosy hope for mother

Kayana lives in a rural area with her family. Three years ago she discovered patches on her legs that had no sensation. When she developed a wound that would not heal she approached the local health volunteer, who told her that leprosy is completely curable. Kayana is now able to plan her future. Pray for others in Kayana's village who may be scared to come forward due to the stigma and discrimination surrounding leprosy. (The Leprosy Mission England and Wales)

Bulgaria - Bulgarian law changes affect Christians

Bulgarian law changes threaten the current freedoms of Christians to assemble, publicly share their faith & be identified as an evangelical church member. Pray for evangelical church leaders, for unity among the churches & that these proposed changes will be dropped. (Transform Europe Network)

Finland; Norway & Sweden - New N. Sami Bible translation

A new Bible translation in the N. Sami language will give access to 10,000s Sami speakers, especially to young people who struggle to understand the dated language in older versions. Pray that God's word will reach all Sami people. (Bible Society Northern Ireland)

Romania - Helping with sight loss in Romania

The Dezna Outreach Centre, Romania, is currently being renovated and reopened by the Smiles Foundation whose eye specialist team from the USA met the needs of 200 people. Once complete, the centre will help bring God's love by helping sight loss and disability support. (Torch Trust for the Blind)

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

WORDSEARCH

Zacchaeus Word Search

E M G S F K V I R S R A E W G
F L O C Y N C O R H E W V Q W
R H P N F C T A Y O N S A T E
J B O O E C A Y B R N W S C L
H O U S E Y S M T T I G H I C
I R Y L S P H W O M S E L B O
S A L V A T I O N R A M M K M
F O T S O L P A Y T E I E S E
C S U O H C I R E J L E F D D
L A U B X C I D L C S C Q G X

CHEATED
CLIMB
COLLECTOR
FOUR
HOUSE
JERICHO
LOST
MONEY

PEOPLE
SALVATION
SAVE
SEEK
SHORT
SINNER
SYCAMORE
WELCOMED

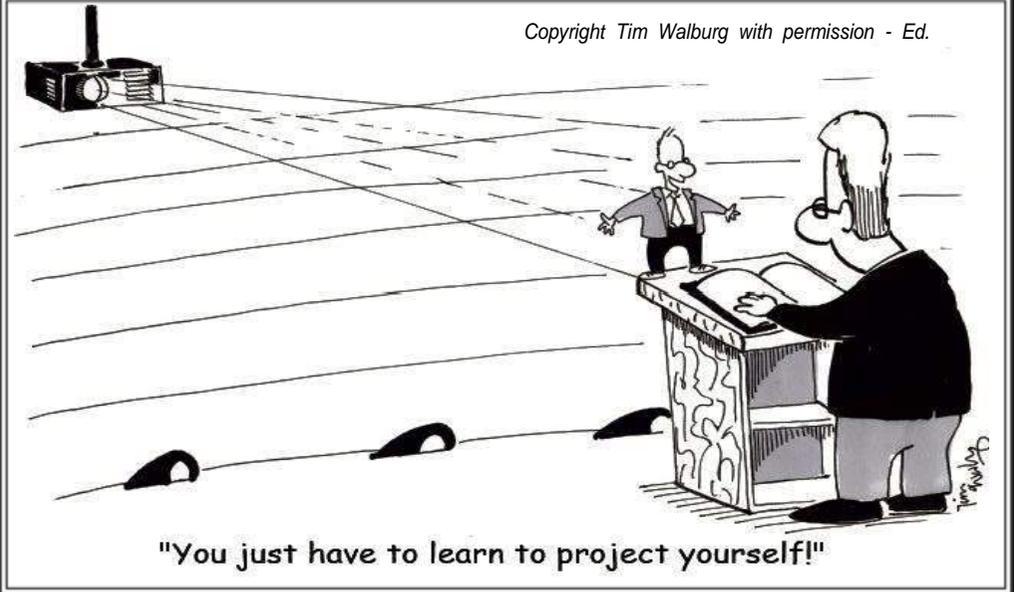


by Leanne Guenther © 1998-2019 DLTK's Sites



CARTOON

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A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired a lawyer to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling saying, "Your honour, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsellor, is woefully ignorant." the lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day.

(contributed by Derek & Pat Poulton)

BIBLE ONE WAY THAT GOD SENDS TO US IS THROUGH THE WORD OF THE HOLY BIBLE

