

# CONTACT

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

## PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



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*Prayer Fasting Works of Love*



# MARCH 2019

[www.clipart-library.com](http://www.clipart-library.com)

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

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

As we move into March the days will get longer, the skies brighter and the temperature warmer (well hopefully!). We will also start the countdown to Easter and the numerous events that will take place in the month including:

Shrove Tuesday

Ash Wednesday and Lent

St Patricks Day

Mothering Sunday

The start of British Summertime

And of course who could forget .....Brexit!!



For many of us there is no greater symbol that Easter is approaching than celebrating Pancake Day. Traditionally Pancake Day, or more officially Shrove Tuesday, is the feast day before the start of lent on Ash Wednesday. The expression 'shrove' is derived from the word 'shrive' meaning absolve and Anglo Saxon Christians would attend confession on Shrove Tuesday and be "shriven" (absolved of their sins).

Lent was traditionally a time to prepare for Easter through prayer, repentance, fasting and abstinence and the making of pancakes was an ideal way for families to use up eggs and fats before their period of fasting commenced. Today whilst many Christians no longer fast during lent they do continue to commit time to their spirituality and to some form of abstinence, with the majority of people opting to give up a luxury in order to replicate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days.

It is interesting to note that lent is actually 47, not 40, days long. This is because when lent originated it was forbidden to fast on the Sabbath day and subsequently the period of 47 days was required to ensure that 40 days of sacrifice, abstinence and self denial could be met. For those of you choosing to abstain or give up luxuries during the period of lent you may find some light relief in the knowledge that you could possibly sneak that one biscuit at church every Sunday!

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD cont'd

In previous years I have 'given up', amongst other things, chocolate, cake, biscuits, crisps and playing games on my phone for lent and I am currently trying to encourage Charlotte to choose a luxury to abstain from this year. This is proving difficult and at the moment, having said no to my numerous suggestions of opting for one of the above luxuries or possibly abstaining from watching the television one day a week, her only offering has been to give up fruit (I don't think she's quite grasped the concept yet!!)

I myself have been in a quandary as I feel each year I give up a luxury but I do so in order to benefit myself i.e. to lose weight, improve health etc. So, this year, I have decided to take a different stance and I am going to 'take up' gratitude for lent. I am going to use the period of lent to be thankful for what I have and to deny myself the right of being self pitying, ungrateful and unaware of what others do for me. Whilst I am still formulating exactly what I will do I am looking to complete one act of gratitude each day whether that be sending a note to someone to thank them for what they do, spending time helping someone complete a specific task or visiting a charity that I am grateful exists and supporting them in whatever way I can.

So, as we move into March, Lent and the preparations for Easter I think it is important for us to consider that everybody approaches this period in a slightly different manner and that the important thing to remember is that however you choose to approach lent make sure it is meaningful for you.

P.S. Don't church on to indulge Beverley's



forget to visit  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
in Jenny and  
excellent pancakes!!

Every Blessing  
Gillian Price

# BLANK

## YOUR COFFEE MORNING NEEDS YOU!!



**Helpers needed.....**For our coffee morning's which happen **on the first Saturday of each month**, to join Robert Maureen and myself, we already have two volunteers, but we could always do with more, so if you would like to help out please speak to one of us.

## PURC EVENTS - MARCH



### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - ECUMENICAL SERVICE

What was formerly the "Women's World Day of Prayer", has been opened up to all and this year a service is to be held at our church on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at 2.00pm**. Please come along and join us, for what is always a very interesting time. This year the Service has been formulated by people in Slovenia, entitled "Come – Everything is Ready!" The service will be led by members of our church and we would be most grateful for volunteers who might be willing to read or take part. Please speak to me, Jenny or Beverley if you feel you can help.

*Robert B*

## PURC EVENTS - MARCH - cont'd



### **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

12 noon – 1.30pm

Come and enjoy some expertly prepared and tossed (?) pancakes courtesy of our Church Secretaries

**Beverley & Jenny**

and their assistants on the brews.

### **MEN'S GROUP**

Meets: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March

2.0pm in the Guild Room

Topic: Collecting Railwayana

Led by: Martyn Rigby

Next Meeting : 1<sup>st</sup> April

*(Nigel L)*

### **WOMEN'S GROUP**

Meets: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

2.30pm in the Guild Room

Event: Guide Dogs for the Blind

Led By : David & Julie Oliver

Next Meeting : 3<sup>rd</sup> April

*(Brenda K)*



**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 - 07

**Coming Dates are:** March 9<sup>th</sup> / April 13<sup>th</sup> *(Gillian P)*

### **CRAFT GROUP**

Meets: Tuesday 2.00pm

12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

in the Guild Room.

Next Meeting :

9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### **THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP**

Meets for Tea/Coffee & Chat

and events discussion

every 2 weeks at 1pm

in the Church Hall.

Meet: 14<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> March

### **IMPORTANT DIARY NOTE - PURC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Our AGM will be held after the service on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Please do try to come along

## PURC EVENTS /INFORMATION - MARCH/APRIL 2019

### DISCUSSION GROUP - A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP - MARCH

The last in our series exploring a fresh perspective on the film **Casablanca**, looking at themes such as love, loss, faith and sacrifice and relating these to scripture will be held at

**7.30pm on Wednesday 13 March.** All are welcome.

Alan E

### AFTERNOON AT HOME



**At Home**

**Would you like to come to another  
“Afternoon At Home” Event  
similar to that held last year.**

If there is sufficient interest for this little social gathering, then we'll plan for something in May, with more details for you in the April 'Contact'. Please let me know if you are interested and any ideas for the event will be welcome.

Thank you. Rita T

### ADVANCE NOTICE - WALK OF WITNESS - 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL FOLLOWED BY THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT PENWORTHAM METHODIST CHURCH



As you may be aware we forgo a Good Friday Service at our own church and support the joint service organised by our ecumenical friends within Churches Together in Penwortham. This year

**Penwortham Methodist Church, on Leyland Road** are hosting the events. Proceedings will commence with the Ecumenical Cross being carried in procession around a route in lower Penwortham. The walking group will form in front of Penwortham Methodist Church at 10.00am, returning to the church for the Joint Service which will begin at 11.00am. Please support this important event and join us for the Walk, the Service, or both. Everyone is welcome. Should you require a lift to the church please speak to your Elder, Anne Hall, Barbara Baird or myself. More details in the April Contact.

Many thanks, Robert Bulloch



### Christian Aid Meeting

The January meeting started positively with feedback on several successful fundraisers including an Autumn Fair, quiz night, singers and a volunteer training day. Do look out for posters detailing forthcoming events including those for Christian Aid or Fairtrade events. These will include Fairtrade wine tasting, film, promotional events at supermarkets and workshop for schools. Also concerts, a recycling event, sponsored walk/cycle and a Hunger Lunch at Much Hoole.

The main focus of the meeting was reporting on the continuing "Big Shift" campaign. You may remember the "pig campaign" targeting banks to question investment in fossil fuels. Christian Aid is concerned by the impact of climate change on poor communities and considers money to be key. HSBC is the focus as they invest billions in energy projects and have continued to fund coal power in 3 countries extremely vulnerable to climate change, namely Bangladesh, Vietnam and Indonesia. Christian Aid consider that HSBC, as one of the biggest banks in the world, should use its power to help create a cleaner, safer world.

Go to [caid.org.uk/bigshift](http://caid.org.uk/bigshift) to read more and check out the poster on the notice board. During Lent signatures will be gathered within church communities to present to HSBC branch offices.

We want every branch to hear from us locally. That might mean simply hand-delivering a card or letter which calls on HSBC to make the Big Shift out of fossil fuels and into renewable energy, or do something that gets noticed by passers-by, the local press, other customers in branch, or – ideally – all three! We believe that we are called to put our faith into action by loving our neighbours and caring for the earth, our common home. What can you do this Lent to support your global neighbours?

Of course **Christian Aid Week** will soon be with us! Have you any suggestions regarding new ideas for "ways forward"? See separate article in this edition of Contact. Do chat to **Barbara E or Cath A** if you have ideas or wish to know more.



## WHAT'S ON MARCH / APRIL 2019

### March 2019

<b>Friday</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>World Day of Prayer Service</b>	<b>Penwortham URC</b>
Saturday	2nd	1030am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Rev'd Paul Pells</b>
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
Saturday	9th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Worship Group 2</b>
Tuesday	12th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	13th	7.30pm	Discussion Group - Session 5	Side Rooms
Thursday	14th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Parade &amp; Family Worship</b>	<b>Jeff Brailsford</b>
Wednesday	20th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>George Grime</b>
Thursday	28th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> <i>(Mothering Sunday)</i>	<b>Ernest Wrenall</b>

### April 2019

Monday	1st	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	3rd	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Saturday	6th	1030am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Elizabeth Fletcher/Elders</b>
Tuesday	9th	2.00pm	Craft Group	Guild Room
Thursday	11th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	13th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Family Worship</b>	<b>Rev'd Nigel Lemon</b>
Wednesday	17th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>Worship Group 1</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Good Friday Walk of Witness</b>	<b>Penwortham Methodist</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Good Friday Service (CTiP)</b>	<b>Penwortham Methodist</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Carole &amp; Henry Rose</b>
Thursday	25th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>Worship Group 2</b>
Sunday	28th	12.00noon	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	Follows the Service

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



## OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

### Weekly Offertory

*Gill T*

27 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	£533.00
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Feb	£609.00
10 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	£493.00

### Flowers

*Cath A/Robert B*

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar	Barbara Dawson
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Margaret & Alan Edward
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Jenny Oliver
24 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Women's Group
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mar	Pauline Bennett
7 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Sid Senior
14 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Alan & Margery Owen
21 <sup>st</sup>	Apr	Easter Sunday
28 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Barbara Baird

### Sunday Coffee

*Robert B*

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

**Closing date for the Apr "Contact" is Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
**Issue date for the Apr "Contact" is Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Mar**

## PURC ORGANISTS



Since Andrew and Will started university we have struggled to find an organist to play on a regular basis, and then Nigel due to his preaching commitments decided to stop playing too, our thanks must go to Basil at this point who has continued to play each week when no one else was available.

As most of you know we have now started to use the hymnal and despite a few hiccups we at least know how to use it. But I am now happy to report that we have two ladies from our congregation who are willing to play the organ once a month for us. Ruth Rhodes (Cara's mum) and Sam Davies (Beaver leader) will join Andrew who will still play every 3rd Sunday and Will when he's home from university, and hopefully it will make things a lot easier for Basil, who co-ordinates everything behind the scenes, and has done so for many years.

We hope in the coming months he will be able to enjoy the services sitting next to Hylda in the congregation.

*(Jenny O)*

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT - 25 FEBRUARY TO 10 MARCH

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year we are focusing on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much. For more details visit :

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

Maureen W

## PENWORTHAM TABLE GAMES

***Games Afternoon - Every Tuesday 2.00 to 4.00pm at Kingsfold Library, Hawksbury Drive.*** The games afternoon is free. It's a chance to meet new friends at the weekly board and card games sessions for grown-ups. Play a range of games including Scrabble, chess, dominoes and whist. ***For more information, please contact 0300 123 6703 or email [kingsfold.library@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:kingsfold.library@lancashire.gov.uk)***

*(Maureen W)*

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2019

### Advance Notice!

### Christian Aid Week May 12-18<sup>th</sup> 2019



Barbara and I are hoping we can rely on our regular band of volunteers to cover house-to-house collections. If anyone can help who hasn't collected before we'd be pleased to chat to you about it. Also, please note, there is now opportunity to deliver "no reply" envelopes which do not have to be collected. The idea is that the householder will return their donation themselves or may donate online. Obviously a more personal approach is desirable and likely to yield more donations but using some of the new envelopes may help us cover as many roads as possible which has been a problem in recent years. Barbara will have the usual sheets with roads to cover and we will appreciate your help in donation of envelopes.

In addition we hope to trial a Saturday coffee and cakes event linked to C.Aid Week.

If you remember this was one suggestion in the Contact article I wrote after last years C.Aid week. Both this idea and the introduction of a number of "no reply" envelopes may provide the slow transition necessary to ensure that C.Aid Week continues.



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

The fact is **Christian Aid Week is invaluable**, whatever methods of collection are undertaken.

**In 2018 £8.5m was raised.**

**57,000 volunteers took part.** Perhaps you were one of them? Perhaps you'd like to volunteer in 2019?

More information will be forthcoming as we get nearer to May but please note, **Christian Aid Week 12-18<sup>th</sup> May** and check **Contact** and the **Notice board** or chat to **Barbara E and Cath A** if you'd like to know more.

Many thanks. Cath



**News from Bangladesh**

**Clothing Factory Safety Concerns**

Over 1,100 people died when the Rana Plaza building in Dhaka collapsed in 2013. It exposed poor safety standards and regulation. Big retail brands may have been culpable in their drive to keep prices as low as possible.

Following that disaster, two internationally backed efforts were initiated to improve safety standards. How safe is it now for workers in the garment-manufacturing industry in Bangladesh?

The Accord on Fire and Building Safety remains dubious. It says 188 factories have completed all the work required after inspections. A further 1,220 factories are behind schedule.

Implementing new safety measures can be expensive, and some factory bosses are unhappy. H&M told the BBC they wanted to see a proper timeline for a "smooth and progressive" transition until the locally run safety monitoring system is "fully ready".

**Climate Change linked to Miscarriage**

Along coastal and river villages in Bangladesh, researchers have noticed a significant increase in the rate of miscarriages. Increased sea levels have inundated fields that in the 1990's were rice paddies. Salt water has infiltrated rivers and underground aquifers. Local villagers rely on these for drinking, but the salt is having increasingly deleterious effects on health. "This is climate change in action," says Dr Manzoor Hanifi, a scientist from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR), a research institute.

Our **Commitment for Life** partner in Bangladesh is Christian Aid, who works to promote resilience. It has a track record in developing technical skills, knowledge and capacity around climate change adaptation. Through its local partners they have a wide reach and significant experience in disaster risk reduction.

They have proven their expertise in delivering emergency food security, supporting communities to rebuild their livelihoods.



## PRAYER TOPICS

### **CHINA - Uyghurs detained in internment centres.**

The Chinese Government fear the rise of religious extremism and terrorism in their country. In an attempt to prevent this, they have detained over 1 million Uyghurs, a minority Muslim people group living there. They have been sent to internment centres where they face unhealthy living conditions, poor nutrition, violence and torture. Despite this suffering, hundreds of Uyghurs have found eternal hope in Jesus Christ. Pray that this widespread assault on Uyghur identity leads to an unprecedented questioning of ancient religious assumptions in China, openness to the answers found in the gospel and a yearning to know the Saviour of the world. Pray that the Chinese church would be moved by this injustice and strengthened with a vision to reach their Muslim neighbours. Lift up those who are detained and pray for their release. (*Frontiers*)

### **NEPAL - Persecution from anti-evangelism laws**

Intensifying pressure from Hindu locals recently led to the forced closure of a church in Nepal. For two months, a group of Hindus disrupted services being held in the church. Members of the church abandoned their building and resorted to meeting in their own homes. However, the group of Hindus publicly threatened any Christian found meeting anywhere. Since the persecution began, the pastor of the church reported dwindling attendance due to fear. At the beginning of November, the church disbanded entirely. Opposition to Christianity in Nepal has been growing over recent years, accelerated by the recent passing of anti-evangelism laws. Please continue to pray with us for our partner and others in Nepal as they proclaim the gospel, plant churches and bring aid to needy people across the country. (*AsiaLink*)

### **INDIA -Uttar Pradesh church attack**

Rishu, a partially blind girl, was severely beaten with sticks, and a ten-year-old boy needed stitches after the attack on the Uttar Pradesh church in India. Pray that these children will know God's love and healing and become powerful witnesses for Christ.

(*Release International*)

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

## WORDSEARCH

### Archbishops of Canterbury 1

Find the first 18 Archbishops of Canterbury who range from 597 to 870.  
Please note that Wighard died of the plague before his consecration.

b	w	c	k	u	z	n	o	t	h	h	e	l	m
r	a	t	h	d	r	a	h	l	e	h	t	e	a
e	c	h	j	o	d	e	u	s	d	e	d	i	t
g	e	h	t	o	n	l	e	o	c	l	y	h	x
o	k	n	f	t	d	o	n	a	i	b	r	q	i
w	d	z	i	s	r	w	r	g	w	e	f	d	h
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e	r	u	z	p	k	w	e	t	a	v	c	u	i
r	e	a	h	o	n	f	u	h	e	j	a	w	n
f	b	l	s	u	t	s	u	j	t	h	j	k	e

Augustine  
Laurence  
Mellitus  
Justus  
Honorius  
Deusdedit  
Wighard  
Theodore  
Berhtwald

Tatwine  
Nothhelm  
Cuthbert  
Bregowine  
Jaenberht  
Aethelhard  
Wulfred  
Feologild  
Coelnoth

courtesy parish window.co.uk

## QUOTES

"The Christian shoemaker does his duty, not by putting little crosses on the shoes, but by making good shoes, because God is interested in good craftsmanship." - *Martin Luther*

"I have never met the man I could despair of after discerning what lies in me apart from the grace of God." *Oswald Chambers*

"We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts."

*A.W. Tozer*

## CARTOON

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Chris Sumner

04-09-2003

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE STILL  
RUNNING MICHAISOFT 2000BC

## HUMOUR

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car. The dad said he'd make a deal with his son: "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut - then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut." The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

To this his father replied, "Did you also notice that they walked everywhere they went?"

*<http://www.wisethinks.com>*

COLOURING PAGE



Young shepherd David plays his harp as  
he watches over his sheep

*courtesy warrencampdesign.com*