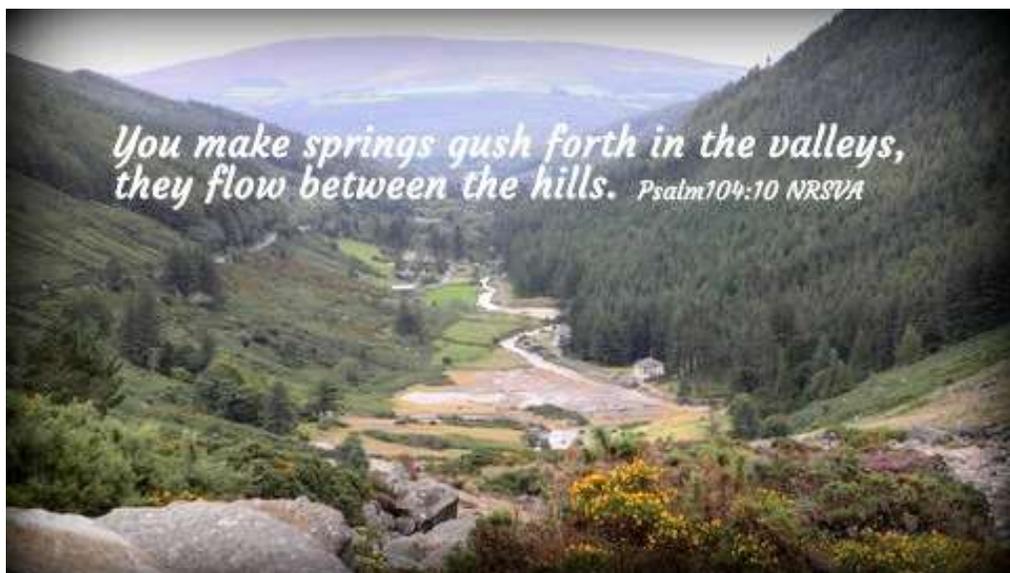


CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



*You make springs gush forth in the valleys,
they flow between the hills. Psalm 104:10 NRSVA*

FEBRUARY 2020

Cover - photo "Wicklow Gap" - Ed.

www.penworthamurc.org.uk

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

PERSEVERANCE - A CHRISTIAN VIRTUE

William Edward Hickson said: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again".

Some things require considerable personal effort and can take a long time: making a perfect carpentry joint, for example; learning a language; struggling with a complicated piece of needlework; climbing a long, steep hill. But given sufficient perseverance, we can get them done on our own; and when success is finally achieved, we get a great, God-given, feeling of satisfaction, especially if someone else is there to see the results.



There are also less obvious things we can persevere over which aren't known about unless we tell someone else: losing weight; doing regularly the exercises the physiotherapist taught us; stopping biting our nails; These too are well worth trying, trying and trying again over.

We can, however, persist in trying to do something when it would be wiser to ask for help: to change a high light bulb when we are no longer safe on a ladder; to carry too heavy a box downstairs; to dig up mighty tree-stumps. For me, it is usually unscrewing a recalcitrant bottle top.

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD continued

And then we can persevere when continuing to do so is a pointless waste of time.

I can think of two things in my life that I have given up on; first, James Joyce's book "Ulysses" (after two chapters, I still had no idea what on earth he was talking about); and secondly, a jigsaw in which hundreds of pieces were quite unmatchable, in script like Arabic (it was complete trial and error; and after two hours I had still not managed to place a single piece).

Spike Milligan apparently said: "If at first you don't succeed, give up. It simply isn't worth the effort!"

It is as well to appreciate when we really can do something ourselves given enough worth-while effort; when we really need help if we are to succeed in doing something worthwhile; and when whatever it is really isn't worth the effort.

So good luck – or rather God speed – as you persevere; but only when you can sensibly do so using your God-given intelligence.

Brenda



PURC EVENTS INFORMATION AND NOTICES - FEB/MAR

MEN'S GROUP

Meets: 2.00pm Monday 3rd February
Topic : "Out of Africa" led by Nigel Lemon
Next Meeting : 2nd March (Nigel L)

WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets: 2.30pm Wednesday 5th February
Details to be advised
Next Meeting: 4th March (Brenda K)

THE BUTTERFLIES GROUP

Meets for Tea/Coffee & Chat and events discussion
every 2 weeks at 1pm in the Church Hall.
Next Meetings : 6th Feb & 5th/19th Mar (Pat D)



Messy Church meets at

Penwortham United Reformed Church
Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB

2nd Saturday of the month 2.30pm - 4.30 pm

Messy Church is a fun family event aimed at 0-11 year olds.

PURCMessychurch@hotmail.com - 07

<http://penworthamurc.org.uk>

Coming Dates are: 8th February / 14th March 2020 (Gillian P)



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES

Tuesday 25th February 2020

12 noon - 1.30pm

Come and enjoy some expertly prepared
and tossed (?) Pancakes - courtesy of
our Church Secretaries - **Beverley & Jenny**
and their assistants!!.

URC - NW Synod
South Lancashire Missional Partnership Event
Saturday 28th March 2020
**South Lancashire Missional Partnership
Commissioning Service at PURC**

More details later (Beverley)



PENWORTHAM AND PRESTON NOTICES - FEB/MAR

PRESTON - FEBRUARY

1. **Wed 12 Feb, 7.30pm:** Wall of Answered Prayer – Meeting for Churches, at Fulwood Free Methodist, Lightfoot Lane.
(thewall.org.uk)
2. **Sat 29 Feb 2020, 9.30am:** 'Divine Image and Likeness'
St Cuthbert's, Fulwood, Speaker Dr Crispin Fletcher,
(www.eventbrite.co.uk)



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - ECUMENICAL SERVICE

This year the World Day of Prayer service is to be hosted at **St. Mary's Parish Church, Penwortham** on **Friday 6th March 2020 at 2.00pm.**

Please come along and join in, for what is always a very interesting time. This year the Service has been written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe entitled "Rise! Take your mat and walk". Everybody is welcome. If you need a lift please have a word with Anne Hall.
(Anne H)

PURC - JANUARY 2020 EVENT - UPDATE

South Lancashire Missional Partnership Gathering



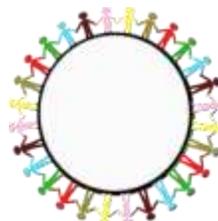
The
United
Reformed
Church

On Saturday, the 18th January it was our turn to host the churches that make up our Partnership.

We began with a short service in our worship space and then moved into the hall where there was room to move round, look at the displays, do some colouring or just sit and chat over a cuppa.

It was an informal and enjoyable time together.

Thank you to all those who came and to those who setup, cleared away and kept everybody supplied with tea & coffee.



Jenny and Beverley

PURC CHARITIES FOR 2020

Two Charities are selected and changed annually (as chosen by you) for PURC donations, in addition to the regular charitable support to **Christian Aid, International Aid Trust, URC Mission Boxes, UNICEF Mites Scheme, Penwortham Food Bank** and others. This years Charities are “**Galloways Society for the Blind**” and “**Macmillan Cancer Support**” with a little detail as follows:



Galloway's Society for the Blind, (with the main office in Penwortham), was established in 1867 and since then has evolved and developed to provide a range of services to over 7000 Blind and Partially Sighted people across Lancashire and Sefton and a range of talking newspapers available nationally. Operating from four Sight Advice Centres and with support groups throughout various towns and villages, the Society strives to reach out and provide an accessible local service. We pride ourselves on being big enough to cope but small enough to care. Galloway's needs to raise over £1 million each and every year to meet the cost of its existing services. The majority of this work is funded by the general public through donations and legacies.

(Extract taken from
www.galloways.org.uk)



Since Douglas Macmillan founded our charity in 1911, we have grown to be the UK's leading source of cancer support, helping more and more people living with cancer, all with your help.

In 1911, a young man named Douglas Macmillan watched his father die of cancer. His father's pain and suffering moved Douglas so much, he founded the Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer. Douglas wanted advice and information to be provided to all people with cancer, homes for patients at low or no cost, and voluntary nurses to attend to patients in their own homes.

Today much of Douglas's legacy lives on. We've continually adapted the support we offer to ensure it's right for people today, and will be right in the future too. Our determination to continually improve the experience of cancer is something that will never waver

www.macmillan.org.uk)

(Ed.)

Zimbabwe - Safe Water in Matabeleland

This month we highlight the superb work done by one of *Commitment for Life's* Christain Aid partners in Zimbabwe, Dabane Trust. Dabane Trust operates in the south- western areas of the country - Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North. These regions are classified as arid and semi- arid rangelands. Here, Dabane Trust develops and supports sustainable low technology community initiatives. It is a leading, non-governmental organization dedicated to establishing water and food secure communities.



Dabane has what they call 'Water Workshops' which involve teaching and learning about water. Water sanitation and hygiene are especially emphasised. Communities are encouraged to have clean kitchens, pit latrines with handwashing facilities and well organised refuse pits.

Communities are also encouraged to draw water for domestic purposes only from approved water sources. In addition, Dabane is involved in borehole rehabilitation and construction of Rowa pumps.

Dabane works with rural communities to develop clean, palatable water supplies for household use, livestock drinking and small-scale irrigation system. Communities are assisted in developing alternative and seasonal water resources for sustainable domestic use, sanitation and hygiene. Learn more at <http://dabane.org>

Further News from Zimbabwe

President Emmerson Mnangagwa recently launched the annual, national tree planting day in Goromonzi at the 18th National People's Conference.

Zimbabwe has planted 12 million trees so far out of an annual target of 15 million trees. The government wants traditional leaders and churches to allocate land for forestry in their respective areas. However, tobacco farmers and tree-logging firms continue to log unabated, devastating the environment. The statistics for overall deforestation in the country make for grim reading. See



<https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/archive/Zimbabwe.htm>

WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday	1st	10.30am	Coffee Morning	Side Rooms
Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Family Worship and Holy Communion	Rev'd Shirley Farrier
Monday	3rd	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	5th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Thursday	6th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Saturday	8th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Family Worship	Rene Kendall
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Parade & Family Worship	Rev'd Daleen ten Cate
Wednesday	19th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
Thursday	20th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Family Worship	Ernest Wrenall
Tuesday	25th	12.00noon	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes	Main Hall

MARCH 2020

Sunday	1st	10.30am	Family Worship & Holy Communion	Rev'd Geoff Tolley
Monday	2nd	2.00pm	Men's Group	Guild Room
Wednesday	4th	2.30pm	Women's Group	Guild Room
Thursday	5th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Family Worship	George Grime
Saturday	14th	2.30pm	Messy Church	
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Parade Service & Family Worship	Leo Roberts
Wednesday	18th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting	Side Rooms
Thursday	19th	1.00pm	Butterflies	Main Hall
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Family Worship	Rev'd Frank Kendall
Saturday	28th	TBA	South Lancashire Missional Partnership Commissioning Service - details to follow	PURC
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Family Worship & Christening Service	Rev'd Shirley Farrier

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

5th Penwortham (URC) Scout Group Parade Services every 3rd Sunday except Apr/Jun/Aug/Nov

OFFERINGS AND ROTAS

Weekly Offertory

Gill T

1	Dec	£507.00	22/25	Dec	£670.00	<i>Charity Donations</i>
8	Dec	£579.00	5	Jan	£683.00	
15	Dec	£655.00	12	Jan	£443.00	
22	Dec	£163.00	19	Jan	£577.00	
29	Dec	£420.00				

Flowers

Cath A & Robert B

2	Feb	Stewart Taylor
9	Feb	Marjorie Smith
16	Feb	Mary Lambert
23	Feb	Ken Rickard
1	Mar	Barbara Dawson
8	Mar	Margaret & Alan Edward
15	Mar	Jenny Oliver
22	Mar	Women's Group
29	Mar	Pauline Bennett

Refreshments

Robert B

2	Feb	Joan Kidman & Celia McCartney
9	Feb	Rita Taylor & Joyce Boreham
16	Feb	Linda Coppin, Barbara Baird
23	Feb	Anne Hall and Gemma Strange
1	Mar	Margaret & Alan Edward
8	Mar	Viv and Graham Moore & Sue Bushell
15	Mar	Joan Kidman & Celia McCartney
22	Mar	Rita Taylor & Joyce Boreham
29	Mar	Margaret & Alan Edward

Closing date for the March 2020 "Contact" is Sunday 23 Feb.
Issue date for the March 2020 "Contact" is Sunday 01 Mar.

Lethal Government Force in Nicaragua



Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere after Haiti.

Ordinary people are saying, enough. Huge demonstrations, led by students, began on 18 April in response to government reforms. These hiked worker social security contributions, while cutting benefits.

Nicaraguan authorities have adopted a strategy of repression. They have relied on the excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, control of the media, and the use of pro-government armed groups, to crush protests, according to Amnesty International.

“The Nicaraguan authorities have turned on their own people,” said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas Director at Amnesty International. “The government of President Ortega has then shamelessly tried to cover up these atrocities, violating the victims’ rights to truth, justice and reparation.” It is vital that organisations like *Commitment for Life*, along with partners Christian Aid, are active in countries like Nicaragua.

Christian Aid works in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. It has learned that an effective way to work in the region is to link up with local organisations. We partner with community-based groups as well as larger organisations operating across the region, like Centro Humboldt, which works on climate monitoring across the country. It trains local people to monitor the climate and share the data with small farmers, cooperatives and local organisations. Centro Humboldt also gathers evidence of tax evasion from mining companies. These lost revenues have negative consequences on the national budget and government capacity in social investment. *Commitment for Life*

strongly supports a fair taxation system in the hope of an equal sharing of God’s abundance.



(extract from *CfL/Moving Stories Central America Jan 2020*)

GLOBAL PRAYER TOPICS

Sierra Leone - Africa

Church garden provides welcome vegetables

Please join us in giving thanks that the security wall and gates are now complete at New Hope School/ Church, Lungi and that the church family are now able to grow vegetables in the grounds. Please pray that this food is a blessing and support to very poor families in the area, and also a help in the church's witness as they share Jesus's love. (International Aid Trust)

Moldova - Europe

Beginning of Life project restores young people

Pray for Worldshare's partners, Beginning of Life, as they seek to respond to the changing situation in Moldova and the deeper realisation that at the root of many issues of human trafficking lie dysfunctional families and women who have been abused and mistreated in their childhood and teens. Pray particularly for the Urban Centre, that the young people who attend would build self-worth and confidence, enabling them to make a better future for themselves. Give thanks that many young people, whom Beginning of Life has helped in the past, are now volunteers and mentors to the next generation. May Beginning of Life continue, as their strapline says, to be "...where the differences are needed" (WorldShare)

Middle East and Africa

New resources for Muslims tell of Jesus the Messiah

Many people in Islam are asking questions about their faith and becoming open to the message of Jesus the Messiah. Worldwide trainings have been held and the Al Massira Resource in 27 languages can be now accessed from a USB or a mobile. A Farsi version of the resource has been produced for the Persian diaspora. The Sub-Sahara project trained 319 across several African countries but face issues of security and infrastructure concerns, with trainees being poor and lacking in education. The resource is being produced in Hausa, Fulani, Somali and Swahili to enable trainees to hear the message in their heart language. Please pray for the continued development of the work at Al Massira; to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, as new opportunities emerge to spread the good news of Jesus the Messiah. (Al Massira International)

www.globalconnections.org.uk

University Life in Siberia – December 2019 – Part 1 of 2

Greetings from Novosibirsk! Time has flown by and I'm now approaching the end of my first term here, studying for a master's degree in Oil and Gas Management at Novosibirsk State University (NSU). To address the stereotypes, yes, it is cold: we had a couple of really icy weeks where the temperature reached -32°C; yes, it is snowy: it started snowing in the middle of October and is now piled several feet high and no, I haven't seen any bears (yet).

NSU is situated in the town of Akademgorodok, 40 minutes south of Novosibirsk city centre. It was a purpose-built science and research town and today houses over 110,000 students, scientists and researchers in state-of-the-art institutes. The town is situated in the middle of the Siberian forest and is 3,500 miles away from Preston; not exactly an easy trip home. In fact, it took exactly 24 hours to get here door to door, via Manchester, Düsseldorf and Moscow.

Having already visited the town and university last year whilst on my travels across Russia, I knew what to expect upon arrival. First impressions were positive; the halls where I'm staying were built eight years ago, the main university building is only 5 years old, and everything you could possibly need is within a fifteen-minute walk. The big difference between university life here and back home is the sheer amount of administration you have to go through to fully enrol. This included obtaining a slip of paper with the results of a lung x-ray.

In halls I am staying in a flat on the seventh floor with two Russian guys, Max and Aldar. Both are 24, slightly older than me, and also in their first year of a master's degree, studying history and journalism respectively. Neither are local, Max is from Yekaterinburg; a city in the Ural Mountains halfway in-between Novosibirsk and Moscow, and Aldar is from Ulan-Ude, the capital of Buryatia, close to the Mongolian border.

A LETTER FROM RUSSIA - BY ANDREW CLELLAND - cont'd

We get on well and spend a lot of time together. As is common in Russia, Max and Aldar live in one room in the flat, whereas I am lucky and have my own. In Russia on the 1st September there are mass celebrations to mark the start of the new academic year. NSU put on several interesting talks, stalls and a concert. A couple of weeks later, the university celebrated its 60th anniversary, where there were more celebrations.

The course here is as expected; varied and interesting. So far, we've had modules on corporate finance, managerial economics, oil and gas economics and geology, strategic analysis and French language classes. Including me, there are six international guys on my course, of which I am the youngest. The others come from Mexico, France, Egypt, Lebanon and Indonesia. For some modules we mix with the Financial Management master's programme, which contains a mixture of Russian students and internationals. It's been a unique experience to meet and mix with students from across the globe. With advice from my supervisor, I have given lectures to Russian students about British university culture and student lifestyle; a first taste into the world of lecturing.

Andrew Clelland

(Edited from original and to be continued)



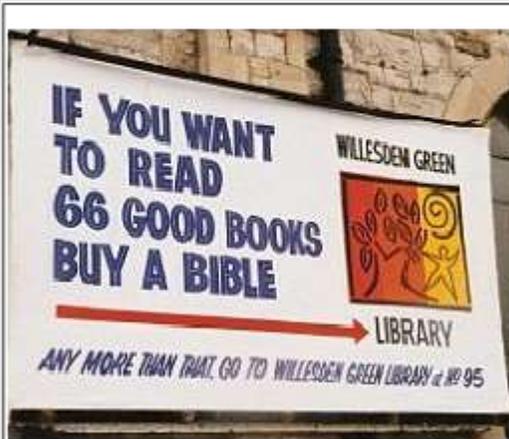
ENVIRONMENTAL WORDSEARCH

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Animals Flowers Leaves Oceans Rivers Streams
 Birds Grass Moon People Rocks Sun
 Earth Insects Mountains Plants Seasons Trees

(Words may be Vertical, Diagonal, Horizontal, BacktoFront) Ed.

CHURCH SIGNAGE



HUMOUR

New word definitions:

Arcane is a Liverpool bamboo

Aspire is the pointy bit on top of a church.

Curate is a doctor

Merciful is when Liverpool is most likely to be flooded.

Vespa is evensong on a scooter

=====

Gladys Dunn

Gladys Dunn was new to the area and decided to visit the church nearest to her new home. She enjoyed the service, the fine church and the lovely music by the choir, but the sermon that morning went on, and on, and on. Worse, it wasn't even very interesting. Glancing round, she saw more than one person in the congregation nodding off. Finally it was over. After the service, she turned to a still sleepy-looking gentleman next to her, extended her hand, and said, 'I'm Gladys Dunn.' 'Me too!' he replied

An Ark for Today

Some time after the Ark landed, God was in touch with Noah again. To Noah's surprise, he was asked to build a second craft. Would it be the same as the first one, Noah enquired. 'No, this one is special – it's just for fish.' 'For fish?' Noah asked. 'Any particular sort of fish?' 'Yes, indeed, Noah,' came the reply; 'for carp.' 'I see', said Noah, who didn't really see at all. 'Any special construction requirements?' 'I want a hold, at least ten decks, and an upper deck at the top. It has to be a multi-storey carp ark'

Traditional

A Vicar, a Rabbi and a Priest walk into a bar.
The barmaid says: 'Is this some kind of joke?'

The Bells

Just joined the local church's bell ringing group. They said they would show me the ropes.

Got some ideas whilst sitting in the church bell tower. I was inspired.

(all from the internet)

GENESIS CHAPTER 46 VERSES 28-29



After receiving help, Jacob and his family went to live in the land of the pharaohs.