

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Pentecost Sunday
31st May

Trinity Sunday
7th June



May 31st 2020

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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

MEMORIES.....

During my daily walk a few weeks ago I was listening to one of my favourite albums, 'The Ultimate Musicals Experience' trying to think of a suitable theme for this months 'foreword', when 'Memory' from the musical Cats came on, and I thought what a fitting title that would be for these rather un-usual times we have found ourselves in.

Different people will take different memories from this year, depending on their age and circumstances.....

The children will remember it as a time when school suddenly finished and they were taught at home by their parents.

Teenagers didn't have to take exams and 'Zoom' came into our lives.

It's weird to think that we will become part of history, and in years to come our grandchildren will be reading about it at school.

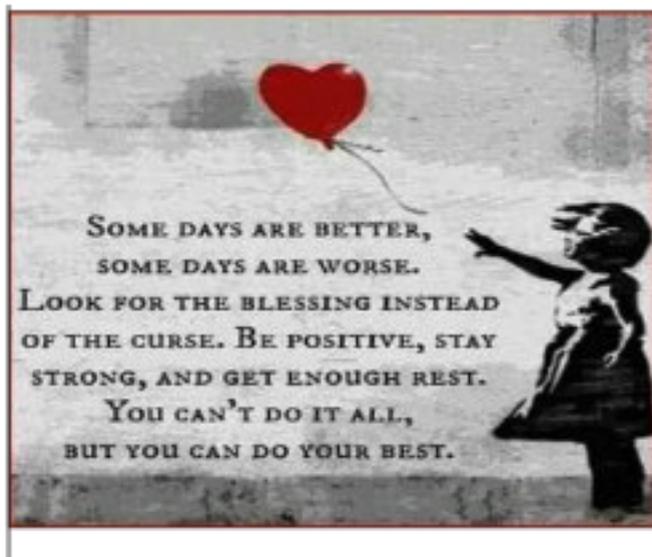
The families of our dear friends Geoff and Noel will remember it with sadness, and many of our older members will have especially missed seeing their friends at church.

For myself and my family, the month of June holds another memory as it will be a year since we said goodbye to our dear 'mum'.

But I do believe that things happen for a reason, we don't always know why at the time, but hopefully in the future months to come when the storm has quietened down, the rainbow will bring those answers to us, whatever they may be.

And finally, remember...

Jenny



NOTICES AND INFORMATION

Let us continue to remember in our prayers those of the fellowship, as well as wider family and friends who are in hospital; recovering after being in hospital; being supported in care or at home or otherwise finding these recent times difficult to cope with. (Ed.)



Women's Group

The Women's Group send their very best wishes to one of their number who has a birthday in June - namely **June Mortimer**. Many Happy Returns! *Jean Frew*

Money Matters

Firstly, I would like to thank all those friends who paid money straight into the bank by digital banking or by setting up a standing order. It has been a great help.



I know a number of you do not "do" digital banking, so for anyone who would like to contribute to church funds by cheque or cash, I propose going to the bank once a month during lockdown, on or around 15th of the month. So I can pay any money in at this time.

Thank you once again for your support throughout this time.

Keep Safe.

Gill Turner

UNICEF Mites Scheme



A **BIG** thank you to all of you who have saved your 5p coins to contribute to the UNICEF Mites Scheme. The Mite Scheme – started in 1986 by the late Mr Roy Barnett MBE – and now co-ordinated by Mr Keith Garner raises vital funds by collecting 5p coins, to purchase Oral Rehydration Sachets through UNICEF to keep children around the world healthy and safe. Just like alka-seltzer after a party, these salts can re-hydrate the body. Crucially, for a child suffering from cholera or malnutrition five sachets, at a cost of 40p in total, could mean the difference between life and death.

Please continue to save any 5p coins you come across and we will collect them in as soon as we are able to do so. During the Quarter Jan to Mar 2020 you generously gave £43.25 towards the scheme in the 11 week collecting period (the last 2 weeks were in lockdown), potentially life-saving for 108 children. (Ed.)

A REFLECTION FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

You can say the words, but they don't mean anything unless they're backed up with commitment, devotion and action.

Calling Jesus Lord, rings hollow unless you model his way of being, his teachings, and his devotion to God.

Calling Jesus Lord, means his call on your life has priority. It means that the rulers of this world, your very self, and those that you love and ally yourself with, are in second place to the way of Christ. His first followers declared this and in doing so denied that Caesar was Lord. They pledged their allegiance to a peasant, executed as a rebel, rather than to the might of the Roman

Empire that held sway over every aspect of their lives.

Calling Jesus Lord isn't just about being nice and turning up once a week, it is about being open to being transformed from your very core.

Calling Jesus Lord is also a spiritual declaration. All the things you do and say feed in to this, but when you enter into silence and repeat those words you place yourself in communion with his followers in this, and every age, and with God.

Everyone has gifts. The Spirit of God abides within us, around us, and beyond all that is. We all have something to contribute to the common good. We beat ourselves up that we haven't got the 'important' gifts, or perform the 'special' activities but the key is the Spirit. Not what you do, but that you rely on the Spirit to do it. In those blessed moments of communion in the Spirit, words of wisdom and knowledge, affirmation of faith, the bringing of wholeness, seemingly impossible transformations, inspired messages, discernment of God's will, mystical experiences, and clarity from confusion, are all possible.



It is the Spirit of God that is at work, not us by ourselves. It is the Spirit that empowers and moves in, through and with us.

It is the Spirit that unites us in Christ. We are all vital to living out the life of Christ. We are all equal, whatever part we play. It is the Spirit that transforms us from who we were into Christ's body, and the health of the body relies on each of our unique contributions. Jesus is Lord. Amen.

D.C.

URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE ARTICLE - CENTRAL AMERICA

Christian Aid has released a comprehensive study examining the relationship between migration, gender and climate change in the Central American Dry Corridor (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua).



Women are particularly vulnerable to the unfolding environmental crisis in Central America, but are also taking the lead in mitigating some of the effects.

Women in the region of El Rodeo, Honduras, have created a co-operative, communal plot where they sow maize and beans. They also created a seed bank that is able to sell seeds at a significantly lower price than the market.

Women also report that they have found indigenous seeds to be far more resilient to drought, such as black corn, bejuco beans, barco, chajan etc. These varieties have a shorter life cycle, and are more resistant to pests.

Christian Aid's work in Central America is vital. Commitment for Life is pleased to be able to continue our support in the region at this time.

The full report makes for fascinating reading, and can be found here: https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/2019_migration_gender_climate_change_Central_America.pdf

Prayer

Loving God, though we may be separated in body, we are one in spirit; set apart, but drawn together to magnify your name.

Thank you for your grace in Jesus, helping us to live in the fullness of life that you desire for all.

May your will be done on earth as in heaven, helping us to turn from fear; forgive all debt, and set the prisoner free.

In the light of Christ's name, we pray. AMEN

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

Brazil - A prayer for discernment

Phil Rout, Latin Link member in São Paulo, Brazil, writes: "Social distancing measures seem to be having the desired effect. About half of the deaths (in Brazil) have occurred here in São Paulo state, as São Paulo city is the epicentre of the virus in Brazil. However, it is difficult to be sure what the real situation is, because rates of testing are still very low.

"Brazil's public health system is rather precarious, and some cities and states recently announced that they have reached capacity and now have people waiting for beds in intensive care. It is very worrying to think what might happen to the most vulnerable in society – our church has been taking food out to the streets every day to feed the homeless."

Please pray for: Brazil's leaders, for God to give them wisdom and make the right decisions. Also pray for Christians in Brazil, that they would discern opportunities to share the hope that we all have in Jesus, at a time when many are very fearful or are struggling to cope.

(Latin Link)

Paraguay - Reaching indigenous groups

People belonging to most of the indigenous groups in Paraguay live and die with almost no access to God's good news. SIM is partnering with other mission agencies to record scriptures in the heart language of these communities. Pray for these workers and for the ministry teams being sent to disciple and train believers.

(SIM UK)

Argentina - Translation workshops - what now?

In March, the Argentine Bible Society helped run another workshop for potential translators for the Bermejo Wichi New Testament. The intention was to hold several more workshops in neighbouring zones before taking decisions about the team of (probably six) translators, but this is now on hold because of the coronavirus lockdown. It is not yet clear whether the annual training courses in Juarez in May or Misión La Paz in June will be able to go ahead. Pray for the Lord to open up the way for what he wants to happen this year, and for good decisions about what events to suspend.

(Church Mission Society)

Brazil- Bringing restoration to the broken

Betel's mission is to bring long-term freedom and restoration to lives broken by drug and alcohol abuse through building values, skills and character – living, working and worshipping together in a caring Christian community. Betel in São Paulo, Brazil, is strong and prospering. They are planning to develop a new business in the nearest large town, with the goal of establishing a new residential facility and a second church. Pray that God will make this possible.

(WEC International)

above with permission of - www.globalconnections.org.uk

IS THAT SO?!!

Some whimsical sayings and equally whimsical explanations:



Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.



Hence the saying, 'Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!'



In the old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day, they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while.

Hence the rhyme, 'Peas (or pease) porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old'.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could 'bring home the bacon'. They would cut off a little to share with guests, and would all sit around and 'chew the fat'.

Now, whoever said history was boring?

and also for those with with a love for words:

You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish.
To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
The batteries were given out free of charge.

This page courtesy of Margo Evans

WE ALL NEED A TREE

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tyre made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill packed in and his ancient pick-up refused to start.

I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.



When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation.. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterwards he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

'Oh, that's my trouble tree,' he replied 'I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again.' 'Funny thing is,' he smiled, 'when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.'

Author Unknown

Philippians4 : 6-9 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you

PENTECOST AND TRINITY SUNDAYS - WORDSEARCH

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

Amazed	Father	Holy Spirit	Multitude	Tongues of Fire
Apostles	Filled	House	Sitting	Trinity
Day of Pentecost	Heaven	Languages	Son	Wind

Words may be Horizontal, Vertical, Diagonal, Back to Front - Ed.

REGENCY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM	SUNDAY MORNING 11:00AM	SUNDAY NIGHT 5:30PM	THURS. NIGHT 6:30PM
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THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWERS.
"CLEANSE YOUR HANDS" - JAMES 4:8

STEVEN BECKER, *Pastor*
PH. 652-6279



CARTOON

with permission Tim Walburg



Dear Reader

“Contact” is being published as usual on our Website (minus any personal/pastoral news not confirmed for general publication) :

see: www.penworthamurc.org.uk

If you have anything you would like to contribute to “CONTACT” you can:

- send it by e-mail to purcmagweb@talktalk.net
- send a text to 07538976140 or call Alan Edward on 01772740129
- deliver your contribution to the church through its letter box.
- or through the letter box at 27 Hazel Close.

All contributions welcome inc. pastoral news and prayer requests

Latest submission dates will be : 7 Jun and 21 June for the next 2 issues. It is hoped to get “Contact” to you by the following dates: this issue 14 Jun and 28 Jun.

With best wishes to you all. Ed.

PENTECOST COLOURING PAGE

Acts 2 v 3&4 ... 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit (NIV)

