

# CONTACT

*introduces and welcomes*

**YOU**

*to*

**PENWORTHAM**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



“and God said, ...let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.”

*Gen 1 v 20 (NIV)*



**June 28<sup>th</sup> 2020**

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

PURC E-mail: [penworthamurc@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurc@gmail.com)

To contact Secretaries telephone : 07716129719

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

*Amazing grace!  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.*

### AMAZING GRACE

During the Lockdown I have enjoyed Zoom meetings with our South Missional Partnership Team arranged by Daleen.

We have had Virtual Coffee Mornings and Communion Services. At the last service we all listened to a version of Amazing Grace. It was sung by people from all around the world, all in their own languages. The words were written at the bottom of the screen in English, so it was easy to follow. We were told some of the history of the hymn which sounded interesting so I have done some research which I will share with you.

It was written in 1779 by an Anglican clergyman called John Newton, who also wrote "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken". However, his early life seems a long way from this life. He went to sea at a young age and served on slave ships for many years. He was sailing on the Slave Triangle sailing from the West Indies to England when the ship was struck by a violent storm. Although not a practising Christian at that time he prayed to God for deliverance and the storm died down.

He studied to become a clergyman after he left the sea and was an evangelical lay preacher before being ordained. It was when he was a clergyman that he became an abolitionist. In 1788, 34 years after retiring from the sea, he published a pamphlet which described the horrific conditions on the slave ships and became an ally of William Wilberforce, who led the campaign to abolish slavery. This became law in Britain in 1807 just months before he died at the age of 82.



John Newton



William Wilberforce

Gill Turner

## NOTICES AND INFORMATION



# The United Reformed Church



is pleased to invite you and members of your church/es to  
an on-line Service of Worship in which

**Rev'd Brian Jolly**

will be Inducted as

**Moderator of the North Western Synod  
of the United Reformed Church**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 11 am**

### RSVP

if you are able to attend  
**please reply by**  
**25<sup>th</sup> June**  
to receive  
joining details



Please reply to  
Ms Kerry Later, Communications & Business Support Officer  
[office@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:office@nwsynod.org.uk)

### Joining In

once you have replied  
**a link**  
**will be sent**  
to your  
email address

## HOW TO JOIN A ZOOM MEETING

You do not need membership or registration at ZOOM to join a meeting which someone else has organised. The following link gives full video instructions for joining following receipt of an e-mail invitation as indicated in the notice above:

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

## WOMEN'S GROUP NOTICE

I have run this now for about 6 years, and have done my best.  
But getting to meetings on time and in the right frame of  
mind has been very difficult.

I am now keen that someone else should take over from  
**1 January 2021.**

I will start on the spring programme, which can  
be finished off in co-operation with a successor.

Should you be the one to take over?

Please think about it, and let me know.

*Brenda*



## REV'D NIGEL LEMON ON "EIGHTEEN TO EIGHTY"

If things had been normal this year, I should have been conducting services at Fulwood in late-June and Penwortham a month later. Slightly facetiously, I had considered preaching under the title which heads this piece: "Eighteen to Eighty". Unlike twelve or forty, neither of those numbers has a strong Biblical pedigree: so perhaps as usual, the sermon title would have followed one of the Sunday's main readings. But why "Eighteen to Eighty"?

Those June and July appointments would have been my first after I had turned eighty. And long after first reading lessons in church, the rather younger eighteen describes my initial full service, sermon included, as an "On Trial" Methodist Local Preacher.

Preaching has changed considerably since November 1958, for almost everyone. Then, most sermons started from some particular Biblical verse; rarely did non-Conformists work from a set Lectionary; not infrequently might successive visiting preachers use similar or favourite themes in the same churches. These days, I almost always work from a reading set for the day; and instead of some single Biblical text, I will start from a title, hopefully one that poses questions.



I've been privileged to lead worship in more than a hundred places: in Methodist Circuits in Kent, Huddersfield, Derby and Chester; for Congregationalists in Chester, and then the Cheshire United Reformed District; here in the Lancashire URC Area; among Anglicans and the Churches of Christ; and some individual places like Chelsea Methodist or the Sussex URC where my mother was a member. But unlike some, I have not kept records of every service or sermon.

The situation today means that I cannot tell when, where or even whether "Eighteen to Eighty" will become a reality. Nonetheless, two verses from a favourite hymn express what I can believe as a certainty:

I know not where his islands lift  
their froned palms in air;  
I only know I cannot drift  
beyond his love and care.

I know not what the future has  
of marvel or surprise,  
assured alone that life and death  
God's mercy underlies.

*Nigel*

## CHRISTIAN AID ARTICLE



### Christian Aid Week

It was a very different C.Aid Week this year but thank you to all who managed to contribute either online or through the postal system.

We have received information from our NW representative, Ruth, stating that C.Aid has currently raised around 30% of what it would normally raise in C.Aid Week. We agree with Ruth, hoping that as things return to some kind of normality there may be the opportunity to undertake some fundraising activities later in the year.

### Coronavirus Appeal

C.Aid inform us that "Together with our local partners we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world."

C.Aid report that they are providing training for frontline aid workers, equipping health facilities with supplies, informing people and organising hygiene and hand washing sessions.

### Black Lives Matter

C.Aid state "Our mission is rooted in the belief that every human being is made in the image of God and has innate dignity."

For more concerning C.Aid's statement and a piece written by CEO Amanda Khozi Mukwashi please see the C.Aid website.

On the website you will find a variety of information and articles including the concern for millions of people in India and Bangladesh who have been evacuated and homes destroyed in the recent Cyclone Amphan. [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

As always Barbara and I will try to keep you informed.  
We hope you are taking care and keeping well.  
Barbara E & Cath A.

Picture from Christian Aid introducing the church film available online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/resources>



## WORLD PRAYER NEWS

### **Israel and Ukraine - Reaching Jewish people in lockdown**

CWI continues to reach out to Jewish people around the world. Over recent years, many of the those we have seen coming to faith in Jesus have been post-Soviet-era Russian-speaking Jewish people in Israel. As a result, we are expanding our mission work both there and in Ukraine. There has been a significant increase in interest in the gospel from the older generation of Russian-speaking Jewish people, many of whom have lived through the Holocaust and decades of communist oppression. CWI missionaries have been answering many questions by staying in regular communication with their Jewish contacts, during and post lockdown. Please pray for Russian-speaking Jewish people in both Israel and Ukraine, asking that many will turn to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour as we share the gospel with them. (*Christian Witness to Israel*)

### **Australia and New Zealand - Using technology to reach difficult places**

“And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.” The proof, a movement for the AI Massira training to go online, reaching larger and more diversified groups. Development of a new public website and start of a project to develop a new AI Massira App. Which can be used by those in difficult to reach places. Please pray that AI Massira teams around the world will continue to be nimble and creative to find ways to continue to share the good news of Jesus the Messiah with people in Islam. Also for funding to enable technical innovations to be undertaken. Please Pray for our developing work in Australia and New Zealand. Pray for spiritual growth among indigenous leaders and for the gospel to be received by all peoples. Pray for the increasing Syrian and Iraqi refugee communities, that they would receive their citizenship, not in any nation of this world but citizenship in Heaven itself. May their identity be deeply rooted in the living God. Pray he raises many labourers for his harvest field that will partake in an upcoming, online AI Massira training. (*AI Massira - 'the journey'*)  
above with permission of - [www.globalconnections.org.uk](http://www.globalconnections.org.uk)

## A FISHY CHURCHYARD

These photographs have been contributed by *Cath Addison* featuring a Messy Church project devised by St. Andrew's Church, Corbridge, Northumberland, to 'grow' a fish in the Church grounds. For further detail see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5xIKgo9x4E&list=PL88Mk3p8vuMDjOMLpujwF9N-MgSDAWq3o&index=3>



**Please help us to finish our fish!**

For centuries a fish has been a Christian symbol, reminding us of God's love shown to Adam.

Our Messy Church team and families have started on a fish made from decorated stones.

We'd love church families, anyone in the village, and any visitors, to help us finish it by filling in the fish with their own stones!

For further info, please contact the Messy Church team on 01661 811111 or visit our website at [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

Decorated stones are available to borrow from the Messy Church team. Please return them to the Messy Church team when you are finished.

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

## A POETRY PAGE

What a strange frightening start to  
the twenties,  
Since Spring we've been fighting a  
virus,  
Many millions world wide have  
suffered.  
But there has been much to inspire  
us.

Mature folk were urged to stay  
home.  
From the start there was self  
isolation,  
Shops and workplace shut down,  
We were almost a closed down  
nation.

For those who were mobile and safe  
There came a one off opportunity  
To offer shopping and posting and  
caring,  
What a way to serve the community.

For those who were stuck in at  
home  
Were the days going to be taxing?  
Or find time to do much needed jobs  
In the home, and a bit of relaxing.

Some of us made lists of things we  
could do,  
Fence painting, deep clean the  
oven,  
Clean all the windows, sweep out  
the shed,  
Motivation's a therapy proven.

Things are easier now and it's June  
We can meet keeping social  
distance,  
But some careless people don't  
heed,  
They ridicule others insistence.

Now a few schools are back,  
In some offices people are working,  
Maybe nail and hair salons will  
soon,  
But that's just frivolous talking.

A close one to call is catering,  
How can cooking and spacing and  
eating  
Be managed and kept virus free  
And still be a good social meeting?

So what jobs have I done in three  
months?  
I've done gardening, sewing and  
such,  
I've cleaned windows, dug roots out,  
To the oven I haven't done much.

But I have written poems, kept a  
diary,  
I telephoned some long lost friends,  
When all this is over and done with  
There has been means to some  
ends.

We must never forget Covid Virus,  
There should be a lesson to learn,  
To care for our loved ones as  
precious,  
Give more thought to others as  
norm.

*Hylda*

With grateful thanks to our PURC  
Poet in (lockdown) Residence  
Hylda Hurst

(look out for some more from  
Hylda's pen in due course)



**PSALM 89 - LECTIONARY 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE - WORDSEARCH**

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

Assembly	Extol	Happy	Rivers	Shield
Commandments	Foundation	Highest	Scattered	Steadfast
Covenant	Generations	Mighty	Sea	Transgressions
<i>Words may be Horizontal, Vertical, Diagonal, Back to Front -</i>				<i>Ed.</i>

**DINNER IN THE FIFTIES**

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.  
 Curry was a surname.  
 A take-away was a mathematical problem.  
 Rice was a milk pudding, and never, ever part of our dinner.  
 A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.  
 Brown bread was something only poor people ate.  
 Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.  
 Tea was made in a teapot using loose tea and never green.  
 Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.  
 None of us had ever heard of yogurt.  
 Healthy food consisted of anything edible.  
 Cooking outside was called camping.  
 Seaweed was not a recognised food.  
 Kebab was not even a word, never mind a food.  
 Prunes were medicinal.  
 Surprisingly muesli was readily available; it was called cattle feed.  
 Pineapples only ever came in chunks in a tin.  
 Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have been laughed at.  
 The one thing that we never, ever had on/at our table in the fifties...  
 was elbows, hats, and cell phones.

the above courtesy of Margo Evans

## 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](http://www.penworthamurc.org.uk)**

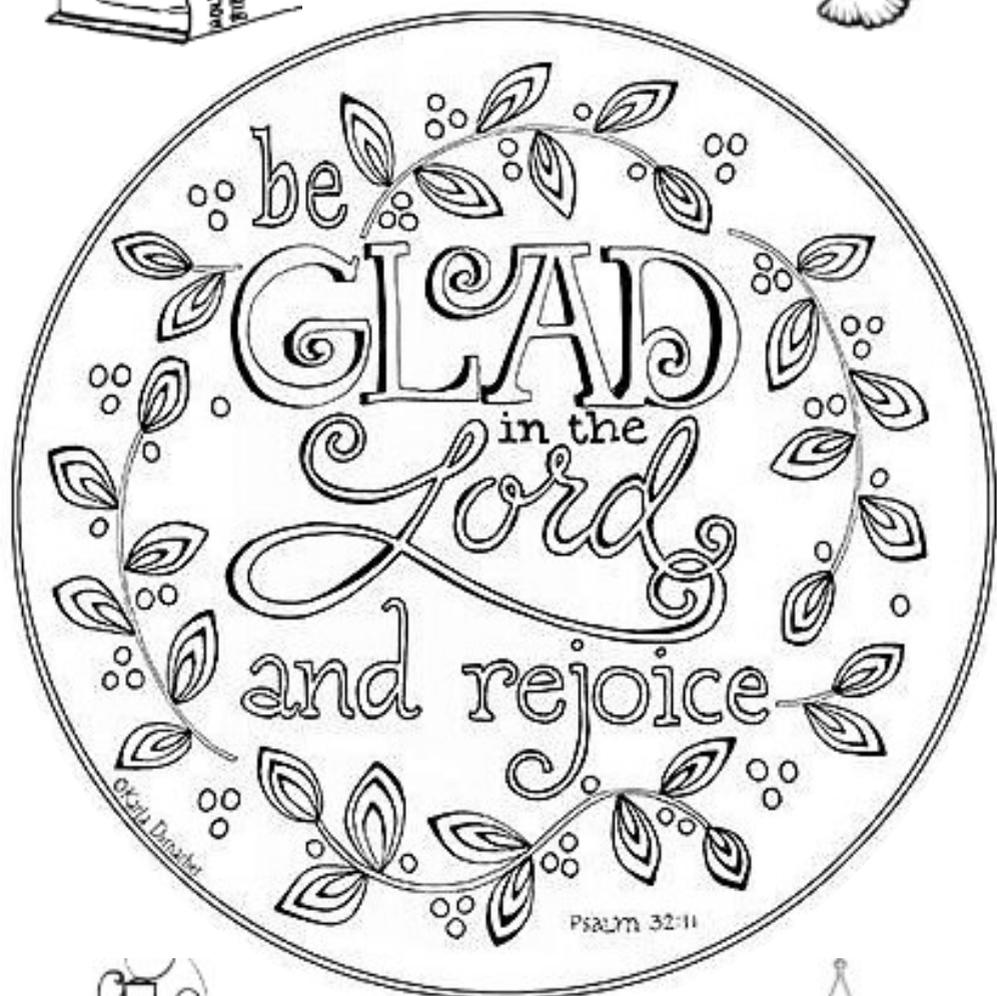
If you have anything you would like to contribute to "CONTACT" you can:

- send it by e-mail to [purcmagweb@talktalk.net](mailto: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.  
Many thanks to all those who are contributing.

Latest submission dates will be : 5 July/26 July for the next 2 issues.  
It is hoped to get "Contact" to you by the following dates: this issue by 28 June and then 12 July and 2 August.

With best wishes to you all. Ed.



PSALM 32:11

