

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.' Gen. 8: 22

August 30th-2020

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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

It is now several months since I have seen most of you, and it feels very strange indeed! Familiar faces one often sees most weeks have not been seen, which somehow doesn't seem right at all, and yet another aspect of life one is missing! Our lives continue in this normal abnormal fashion and whilst many things are much better in certain respects, it can hardly be described as "Proper" can it?

I was speaking to a friend in Longton recently, who had been in strict isolation due to a health condition. He said that although he could go out now, he still felt "Anxious" all the time for no specific reason whatsoever. I feel that this situation has perhaps given us too much time to think on particular things, whilst providing good time to take stock of others. We still have much to be grateful for, do we not? And much to look forward to. A routine can be boring at the best of times, but we do appear to have been almost robbed of so much, albeit for very good reasons. I have had five holidays which have been cancelled or postponed (Or are about to be) until 2021 when hopefully they can be taken – but we shall see, won't we?! I feel it's always better to have things to look forward to, but at present planning even the most simple of events is fraught with potential problems.

It is interesting to consider that natural events or matters over which we have no control can impact all our lives on this global scale and which have left us with feelings of loss and isolation, which in turn leads us to frustration, impatience and a feeling of being so helpless. But as people of faith it should not lead us to despair. The wheel turns and all things pass – as this will eventually pass too. We just don't know when - and its driving me mad.....

However.....We may be temporarily divided from each other at church, from many of our family and friends and activities we normally enjoy without thought or compromise, but there is no power on earth which can ever separate us from the love of God. We look forward to better times ahead, and those times will arrive as surely as night follows day. Let us enjoy each day as it comes, and deal with all it may have to offer in terms of work, rest, pleasure and the opportunity to serve each other, our community and our nation.

How good it has been to see strangers being so engaged as to say "Hello" in the street. A small thing, but amazing nevertheless – but will this and other examples of kindness continue?

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD cont'd

Now that we have to wear face masks we must smile with our eyes and voices. It doesn't take very much to brighten someone else's day, but do we consciously do so? No doubt there is an important lesson here for all of us.

I hope that you will enjoy these last days of August and look forward to actually seeing everyone again. I end with a favourite prayer of mine by St. Teresa of Avila which always gives me heart:

“Let naught distress thee, nothing frighten you ever.
Everything changes; God changes never.
Patience err conquers, but with God for thine own,
Thou nothing dost lack, He suffices alone.”

Wishing you every blessing, Robert



St. Teresa of Ávila, also called Saint Teresa of Jesus, original name Teresa de Cepeda y Ahumada, (born March 28, 1515, Ávila, Spain — died October 4, 1582, Alba de Tormes; canonised 1622; feast day October 15), Spanish nun, one of the great mystics and religious women of the Roman Catholic Church, and author of spiritual classics. She was the originator of the Carmelite Reform, which restored and emphasised the austerity and contemplative character of primitive Carmelite life. St. Teresa was elevated to 'doctor of the church' in 1970 by Pope Paul VI, the first woman to be so honoured.

WOMEN' GROUP NOTICES

MEETING

A reminder that the Women's Group meeting planned for September 2nd, 2020 will be unable to meet as scheduled. *(Brenda Kendall)*

BIRTHDAYS



The Women's Group send their best wishes to three of their number who have a birthday in September namely:

Betty Carruthers

Barbara Johnson and Heather Robbins.

Many Happy Returns

(Jean Frew)

FRIENDS AND FAMILY



Not much to report this month, because of the pandemic and the restrictions it has put on many of our friends and members, only a few of us are going out and about.

A few of our members have been in and out of hospital with various ailments but are all well again now.

Some of you have managed some time away in this country, a time to relax and re-charge those batteries, we hope you had a lovely time.

Our love and best wishes go to anybody who will be celebrating a birthday/anniversary in September.

The Elders will continue their phone calls to all of you until we meet again in church, and God willing that shouldn't be too long.

Jenny.

PRESTON /PENWORTHAM NOTICES

1. Christians Action Against Poverty (CAP) Job Club Penwortham online service

If you know someone who is looking for a job and has been out of work for a while, our online 'Steps to Employment Course' will really help them make fresh start, with access to one to one coaching, email, phone support and a weekly vacancy newsletter. The online Job Club will commence on 3rd Sept at 10.00am and will continue each Thursday for 6 weeks. To book a place or for more information contact

Mark Willett m : 07542736095 or

email jobclub@kingschurchfm.org.uk

2. Is God calling you to be a Street Pastor?

We're back on the streets of Preston and are in need of more volunteers to listen, care and help the people we meet on Friday and Saturday nights. **The commitment is only once a month and you will receive full professional training.** With Christians from over 20 local churches involved you will be part of the church in action, showing the love of God on our own doorstep. *Could this be the right time for you to join us?*

Contact Paul Blackett for an informal chat on 07794 008767
or email preston@streetpastors.org.uk .

Lebanon Crisis Appeal



Almost 150 people have lost their lives and more than 5000 have been injured by the explosion in Beirut on August 4th. Approximately 300,000 are homeless and over 750,000 have been affected. Approximately 85% Of the country's grain has been lost and hospitals and medical supplies destroyed. Half the population are facing starvation.

Christian Aid is working with local partners in Lebanon - distributing food, water, clothes, mattresses and blankets and helping to remove rubble and to provide access to medical services. Please support this Emergency Appeal. Donations may be given online at christianaid.org.uk

Coronavirus Appeal



Thousands of families are now living in crowded refugee camps in Yemen, Syria, Bangladesh and many other countries, with little access to medical care, clean water or sufficient food. In these conditions they are extremely vulnerable to the corona virus which is likely to be far more deadly in the camps than it has been here - and where there are not enough hospital beds or supplies to treat those who fall ill.

However, simple measures can make a huge difference and the Disasters Emergency Committee of which Christian Aid is a member, has launched an urgent appeal. If we act now, many lives could be saved.

Donations may be given online at christianaid.org.uk (Appeals)

Alternatively donations for both appeals may be sent to
Cath Greenlees 16 Franklands, Longton PR4 5PD (Please gift-aid if possible.)

Thank you very much for any help you are able to give.

Barbara Edmondson

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

Pacific -South East Asia

Philippines - Food packages for city dump settlements

“We don’t have food on the table,” read one distressed message from a pedicab driver living near the Quezon City dump. As day labourers, no work means no pay. Emmanuel International Philippines is partnering with churches in the informal settlements of squatters around the city dump. Having been in lockdown since the start of Covid-19 in mid-March, as the Philippines starts to slowly lift restrictions, EI Philippines has begun distributing food packages in these Quezon City dump settlements. The food packages are going not only to church member families but also to a neighbouring family of each church member. In this way, the churches are demonstrating practically the message of hope and life in Jesus’ gift of love. (*Emmanuel International*)

Atlantic - Gulf of Guinea

São Tomé & Príncipe - Instilling discipleship & mission vision

São Tomé and Príncipe is part of a volcano chain featuring striking rock and coral formations, rainforests and beaches, off the northwestern coast of Gabon. Our workers on these two islands held discipleship courses last year. During lockdown time, they are contacting pastors and church folk hoping to follow up on recent teaching which they gave at a 2-week seminar. The islands have some cases of COVID-19. but to date it is not serious. We ask for prayer for more church members to catch the vision for cross-cultural mission, and for church leaders to engage and commit the church to prayer, member care and support. Please continue to pray that God will call men and women to go to other nations with the Gospel. (*WEC International*)

Pacific- Oceania - Polynesia

Tuvalu - Environmentally and Socially Fragile

Very limited resources, possible rising sea levels and modern/ global external influences make this traditional culture fragile, both environmentally and socially. Pray that wisdom would prevail in preserving Tuvalu as a nation and culture, and that the long-standing presence of the Church would play a major role in this.

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

A REFLECTION - NAMING AND TRUSTING

Naming in Exodus 3:1–15

'I AM' the name of God should boom out of this passage as you read it.

An experience of the divine. A bush bursting with, but not consumed by, fire.

A prince of Egypt, a self-imposed exile, a shepherd in the wilderness.

A light drawing him in. Calling him away from his everyday concerns.

A voice. Calling him by name. Declaring this patch of earth sacred.

Holy ground to be connected with, not insulated from.

'I AM'. God as known by his ancestors.

'I AM'. God who knows the suffering of the oppressed.

'I AM'. God who calls us to liberate them.

'I AM'. God who understands our fears, but reassures us and shows us the way.

'I AM'. God who keeps on calling, however much we block our ears, fail to listen and make excuses.

'I AM WHO I AM'. God who is, was, and ever shall be.

Trusting in Psalm 26:1–8

As far as I know my own heart, I fear no reprimand from God. I have lived honourably, faithfully, and have always trusted in God. Show me the truth? Test my resolve, my desires and convictions.

I can sense your love all around me and I step out in faith seeking your path.

I turn away from anything that distracts me from you. Only you are worthy, true, wholesome and good.

My whole life is devoted to you. Your Creation is all your holy place. My voice is raised giving thanks for life's blessings and sharing stories of faith. I know your presence all around me and am lost in wonder, love and praise.

D.C.

Courtesy – Grays URC – Silent Visitor – August 2020

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE ARTICLE - HONDURAS

Honduras is one of the least developed countries in Central America, and Christian Aid has been working in Honduras since 1997.



Commitment for Life works in partnership with Christian Aid in Central America. Here, we work together with local communities so that they can prepare for disasters, protect what remains of the Honduran rainforest, support small rural businesses to thrive and grow, and advocate for tax reform.

In the early 2000's, Honduras was making steady progress towards poverty reduction. But a coup in June 2009 led to massive instability. Violence began to escalate particularly directed against women, journalists and human rights defenders. Land issues, economic inequality, corruption and political instability became factors blocking the path to progress, along with environmental and climate change issues.

Honduras has nearly 10,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. But testing is limited, and the public health system is operating under great strain. The centre of Honduras' epidemic has been in Cortes, but in recent weeks cases have surged around the capital of Tegucigalpa.

The Honduran President, a close ally of Donald Trump, has tested positive for COVID-19. It has been alleged that he has allowed the free movement of drugs to further his political career.

In spite of these many challenges, Christian Aid continues its work in Honduras, along with Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. We work with around 25 partner organisations, from community-based groups to larger organisations operating across the region and beyond.

Our partners include indigenous communities, small farmers' associations, cooperative enterprises, redevelopment organisations, research institutions and faith-based organisations.

Our regional approach works because of the close economic, social and political ties between the four countries. This leads to coherent programming, links between partners and other allies across the region, and shared learning. (*URC Commitment for Life*)

Park at a pub called 'Continental',
to walk by the river's a lark,
It's tidal, it goes on, it's a big one
Just here it's through Avenham Park.

Avenham's one park I've not mentioned,
Well tended with seats you can sit on,
They're needed, in parts it's quite hilly,
Namely the path that leads up to Preston.

But that's not really Penwortham,
The parks there are on Crookings Lane
and Marshall's Brow is the other,
Pear Tree Park is really its name.

The Council has bonfires on this one,
In November on Guy Fawkes' day.
There's a gala also in Summer
In June, or is it in May?

The shopping is not what we first knew it.
The main street has drinking and grub,
It's all very tasteful, but different,
There's also a new micro pub.

Is Penwortham a town? there's a Council,
A mayor with one year in office,
Population of near 24,000
That's in 2001, the old census.

So Penwortham's not what it once was,
New houses and cafes galore
But a very nice place to live in
Amenities? You couldn't want more

Hylde Hurst

(This is part 2 of the poem; Part 1 in the last issue - thank you Hylde.)

WORLDWIDE POTATO VARIETIES - WORDSEARCH

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

Agata	Bintje	Fingerling	Labella	Naxou
Antiguas	Desiree	Jerseys	Lika	Primura
Bamberger	Ditta	Kato	Majestic	Sirco

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

For solution contact Ed.

SOME RIDDLES

1. What 5 letter word in English is pronounced the same by removing 4 of its letters?
2. Even when starving, natives living in the Arctic will never eat a penguin's egg. Why not?
3. What holds water but is full of holes?
4. I am awake night after night without getting any sleep, yet I don't feel tired. Why?
5. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on earth?

the above courtesy of Margo Evans - answers page 11

CARTOON

With permission - Tim Walburg



"The airbag deploys when the pastor confronts the congregation with an unpleasant truth."

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" it will be most welcome - send by e-mail to purcmagweb@talktalk.net or a text to 07538976140 or call Alan Edward on 01772740129; or deliver your contribution to the church through its letter box or to 27 Hazel Close. **Many thanks to all those who are contributing.**

Next submission date will be : 13 September. It is hoped to get

"Contact" to you by the following dates:

this issue by 30 August then on 20 September

With best wishes to you all. Ed.

Answers to Riddles - Page 10

3. A sponge
4. I work nights and sleep in the day
5. It was still Mount Everest
2. There are no penguins in the Arctic
1. Queue



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COLOURING PAGE - HARVEST



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