

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



20th *Give thanks to the Lord for He is good*
Psalms 136 v1 NIV **September 2020**

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk
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NW SYNOD - MEANDERS FROM OUR MENTOR

The season of Creationtide, also known as the Season Of Creation, has its origins in the Eastern Orthodox Church which in 1989 declared September 1st as a day of prayer for creation. Over the following decades, as awareness of the present ecological challenges facing our world grew, this single day of prayer developed into a liturgical season running from September 1st to October 4th, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi (the patriot Saint of Ecology). This season of Creationtide has been embraced ecumenically and Christians around the world are encouraged to pray for, and care for, God's good creation. This is also when we celebrate Climate Sunday and Harvest services in our churches.

If there is maybe one positive aspect that came out of this time of Covid 19, it is that we tread more gently on God's creation. The reduced travel by air and land, the reduced pollution from factories etc enabled Mother earth to flourish without the devastating impact we as human beings have on the earth. Many of us forget that the 5th mark of Mission is: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. We are made in God's image to do as God does, to create and not destroy, to respect and honour that which was made good, to repair and to restore and to be guardians of a better future.

There are many modern day prophets in our midst from whom have we heard the warnings of the climate crisis? It could be communities in the global south, on the frontline of the climate crisis and feeling its effects acutely. Or, has it been activists, who have been campaigning on this issue for years? Voices such as Greta Thunberg's and David Attenborough? Or, is creation itself the prophetic voice we need to hear? Should we be listening to the pain of wildfires, flooding, tsunamis and earthquakes?

Saint Francis the Patron saint of Ecology said: "Preach the Gospel at all times; and when absolutely necessary, use words." Francis was all about orthopraxy, or living the Gospel, rather than orthodoxy, or merely verbal beliefs.

As the Church, a global body with brothers and sisters around the world, whom feeling acutely the impact of the climate crisis. Do we listen to these cries? What is our role as local churches sharing this message and addressing it? Please contact your mentor or one of the Green Apostle team members to learn some more.

Rev Daleen ten Cate Missional Discipleship Mentor for Lancashire
& Part of the Green Apostle Team

ECO CHURCH FROM THE GREEN APOSTLE TEAM

A reminder that we have embarked on becoming an Eco-Church and how that originated. Our local lead on this is Gill Ashurst.

Are you passionate about the environment? Would you like to make some sort of difference to the way we treat our planet-home? Are you up for exploring how we can tread more lightly on the earth? Do you see that as something connected to following Jesus and making a Jesus shaped difference to the world? Did you know that the 5th Mark of Mission is: 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'

We can support you to become an Eco Church.

At the recent Synod Meeting, the North Western Synod adopted the 'Environmental Charter' set out below, which encourages each congregation to embrace it in all they do and agrees to bring a similar resolution to the next General Assembly for adoption by the whole United Reformed Church.

a. We believe that creation reveals the glory of God. That we are called to be stewards of God's creation working with all people of good will to make sure that His earth remains a beautiful place full of wonder, worship, love, justice and peace by respecting the environment and all creatures.

b. We challenge ourselves to live simply and in solidarity with the poor not taking unfair amounts of the world's resources or creating waste and pollution.

c. We commit ourselves to safeguarding life and living sustainably by taking our environmental impact fully into account.

To find out more about the ECO Church Award, visit ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk. and contact the Green Apostle Team or your Missional Discipleship Mentor. We can walk alongside you to do an Eco Church Audit in order for you to look through an Eco lens to the following aspects of being church.

Worship and Teaching; Management and Church Buildings
Management of Church Land; Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Looking forward to hear from you

The logo for Green Apostles is a green rectangle with a white curved shape on the left side, resembling a stylized leaf or a drop. The text "Green Apostles" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the right side of the green area.

Green Apostles

Blessings

The Green Apostles Team

Rev'd Kate Gray:

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Rev'd Daleen ten Cate:

Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk

Rev'd Dr. Rosalind Selby:

Rosalind.Selby@lkh.co.uk

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

Women's Group Meeting

Ladies

There will be no meeting for us in October, I'm afraid.
Watch out for news for November.

And please remember that I wish to stand down from running the group with effect from 1 January 2021.

I am looking forward to getting together again in due course. Brenda



A NOTE FROM PAT & DEREK

Pat and I have seen very few of you around since the big shut down in March. Like all of you we miss not going to Church, although I do get in most weeks to my little jobs, Pat unfortunately doesn't have the RVS lunch club going, and misses seeing her band of diners. Those little tasks help keep us in contact with the Church, and I'm sure many of you have your own ways of keeping in touch, waiting for the day we can return. We would like to say thanks to Beverley and Jenny for keeping up their good work, and to the Elders also involved and thanks to Margaret and Alan for producing Contact both in hard copy and on the web. Please remember them all in your prayers. Thank you also to those who contribute to Contact, especially Hylda's poems, keep your contributions coming (Alan needs the work!!!). Pat and Derek P

LONGTON VILLAGE WALKING TREASURE HUNT

for Christian Aid's Emergency and Development work



Saturday September 26th: 10.00am - 5.00pm;

Sunday September 27th: 11.00am - 5.00pm.

START and FINISH: 16 FRANKLANDS, LONGTON

The route goes from Franklands, along Liverpool to the Brickcroft, round the Brickcroft, back along School Lane, through the Churchyard, onto Liverpool Road and into Franklands.

Approximately 40 (mainly easy!) questions,
on features observed on your walk (many suitable for children)

Question sheets to be collected at the start. (not in advance.)

Approx. time: 2-2½ hrs. Admission: £5.00 per question sheet
(People in a family group may share a sheet or purchase extra)

N.B. Children and young people under 18 must
be accompanied by an adult.

The Treasure

(3 prizes) A hamper, a football, chocolates (all Fairtrade items)
(Prize-winners will be notified) Light refreshments (cartons of fruit juice, cookies and cakes) will be available on your return.

For further details, please phone: Cath Greenlees - 613500

A REFLECTION

REASON FOR HOPE

I...will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.' Hosea 2:15 NIV

Biblical references to valleys generally symbolise a state of hopelessness. The Valley of Achor [judgement] got its name when Achan's family was stoned to death and Israel's armies were defeated (see Joshua 7:25-26). Feeling hopeless is part of the human condition, and many of history's most notable heroes experienced it.

William Penn said, 'There is scarcely anything around us but ruin and despair.' Lord Shaftesbury announced, 'Nothing can save the British Empire from shipwreck.' Benjamin Disraeli declared, 'In industry, commerce, and agriculture there is no hope.' And Lord Grey lamented, 'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see the light again in our lifetime.'

There are naysayers and prophets of doom everywhere, and if you buy what they're selling, you'll end up convinced there's no hope for your situation. Nothing could be further from the truth! Paul said, 'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope...He who promised is faithful' (Hebrews 10:23 NKJV). God can transform your 'Valley of Achor [into] a door of hope'. It's the same promise He made to His people even after they'd turned their backs on Him. He said in Isaiah 65:10, 'The Achor Valley will be a resting place.. .for my people who search for me' (GWT) [God's Word Translation].

As Henry Blackaby observes: 'Optimists don't ignore the difficulties, but the knowledge of God's presence prevents them from becoming discouraged...It's impossible to stand in His presence and be a pessimist. If we focus on our problems they'll seem gigantic. But as we focus on God we see our situation in perspective and are assured that all things are possible.'



above with permission United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST64JF and taken from UCB 'Word for Today' - free copies are available for the UK at this address or online at www.ucb.co.uk/read

URC - NW SYNOD - COMMUNION INVITATION VIA "ZOOM"

You are invited to the Partnership Online Communion in September 2020. Please join Rev'd Daleen ten Cate for communion and fellowship around Jesus' table on **Friday 25 Sep 2020 at 10.00am via Zoom.**

If you would like to join us, and you haven't signed up for the Coffee

mornings/ Communion before, please drop Daleen an email, in order for Daleen to send you an invite : Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk



Proost style communion - Introduction/Invitation

The first time this story was told they gathered around a table, a ragged collection of people, sinners, betrayers, the power hungry, fragile, lonely, lost.

The first time this story was told, Jesus promised that it was for all time, that whenever the bread was broken and the wine was poured, wherever the story was told around the table he would be there.

Today we tell the story as it been told million's of times over; we break the bread, and we pour the wine; certain, that as we do, we belong to this table and that Jesus is here with us.

On the night Jesus was betrayed. He took bread, broke it, blessed it and asked his disciples to remember how his life was given for them and the generations to come.

In the same way after eating, he took the wine and asked them to remember how his love was poured out as a sign of a new relationship with God and for the forgiveness of sins.

If we come to this table angry, let this bread and wine be our peace.

If we come to this table as sinners, let this bread and wine be our grace.

If we come to this table betrayed, let this bread and wine be our hope.

If we come to this table broken, let this bread and wine be our wholeness.

If we come to this table empty, let this bread and wine be our life.

For this is a holy table, with food to feed a hungry world and wine to quench thirsty hearts. It is God's in the making, and ours for the receiving and sharing.

Let us pray

URC - NW SYNOD - COMMUNION INVITATION VIA "ZOOM" cont'd

We give you thanks God that

Word becomes flesh
flesh becomes bread
bread becomes body
body becomes word

God is bread
bread is broken
pain becomes wine
wine becomes joy

Wine bursts the wineskins
God bursts the tomb
bread bursts into praise

Therefore with all your people in heaven and on earth we proclaim the triumphant hymn of your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you - **And also with you**

We offer the peace in the name of our brother and friend Jesus who taught us to pray this way...

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing of the feast:

Jesus said, "take, eat, this is my body broken for you."

The bread is shared

Eat with the Thanksgiving. The bread of life broken for all

Jesus said," drink this, all of you; for this is a symbol of my blood shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins."

The wine is shared

Drink with humility, the cup of blessing poured out in love.

Prayer after the Lord supper:

Let us pray

Maybe in this experience there has been a glimpse of the kingdom.

A foretaste, a hint, a promise.

Let it hold you and let it send you so that you will never be at peace; until all are fed, until all know home, until all are free, until justice is done, until peace is the way, until grace is the law, until love is the rule.

Until the father's realm comes, until the Son's realm comes, until the Spirit's realm comes. **Amen**



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE ARTICLE - IOPT

The United Reformed Church is known for its activism in support of justice and equity for the Palestinian people in the Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories. In this edition of *Moving Stories*, commend the work of the Sabeel-Kairos URC Action Group, a dedicated gathering of URC activists, working tirelessly for peace in the region. The Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre is a Christian liberation theology organisation based in Jerusalem. It was founded in 1989 by former Canon of St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, Rev. Naim Ateek. Follow the [Sabeel Wave of Prayer](https://sabeel.org/category/wave-of-prayers/) at <https://sabeel.org/category/wave-of-prayers/>.

Each week, the “**Kumi Now**” initiative (linked to Sabeel) features an organisation making a difference in Israel and Palestine. You can watch the current month at <https://kuminow.com/> You can also access the archived sessions from their website menu. Also, during the lockdown the Amos Trust (www.amostrust.org) has produced a number of interesting programmes accessible from their website. If you have queries or would like to make contact with the Action Group, please email sabeelkairos.urc@gmail.com

Virtual Pilgrimage 22nd Sept

Because Bethlehem is so heavily dependent on tourism, locals have suffered enormously because of the lockdown. Emma Clare Nutbrown-Hughes (pictured, from Christian Aid & a student for the URC ministry) came up with the idea of a ‘virtual pilgrimage to Bethlehem’ to help our friends at the Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. Email kevin.snyman@urc.org.uk for more info.



World silent as Gaza Bombed. Read more about this at www.presstv.com and www.palestinechronicle.com.

The URC's very own Diana Paulding is part of Christian Aid's Prophetic Activist Scheme. These young Christians are working for climate justice. The activists launched the Stop Fuelling the Fire Campaign, which is petitioning the UK government to end using UK Export Finance to fund fossil fuel projects overseas. Diana feels strongly about this issue, and with training from Christian Aid has, in collaboration with other activists, organised a petition to Boris Johnson. Please do sign their important petition at <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/SFTF>



Middle East

Lebanon - The wake of the catastrophic explosion in Beirut

Lebanon is struggling in the wake of the recent catastrophic explosion in Beirut as well as with the Covid-19 outbreak, acute economic issues, and political turmoil. Please pray for those injured and those who lost family and friends due to the explosion, as well as those who have been rendered homeless or lost their means of livelihood; for the mobilising of assistance and for wise decisions amongst leaders; for stability and positive change in Lebanon; that God's love and provision is the source of comfort, encouragement, hope and buoyancy for the people of Lebanon, including the many refugees residing there.

(Middle East Concern)

Europe

Republic of Ireland - Students

Pray for the ministry of Christian Unions Ireland (CUI). Pray that God would strengthen the team at CUI to continue reaching their goal: to give every student in Ireland an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. Praise God for the online evangelistic events that have drawn non-Christian students from across the island to hear the gospel, and the opportunities He has given to students to witness to non-believing family members whilst being quarantined at home. Pray that God would continue this vital work for His Kingdom and glory, so that more students across Ireland would come to know Him as Lord and King.

(Christian Unions Ireland)

Worldwide

Deaf unreached people groups

An unknown number of people across the world have little access to the gospel because of their hearing impairments. Please pray for workers, strategies and opportunities to communicate the good news to them effectively. *(WEC International)*

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

SOME JEWISH FEASTS, MONTHS AND SEASONS - WORDSEARCH

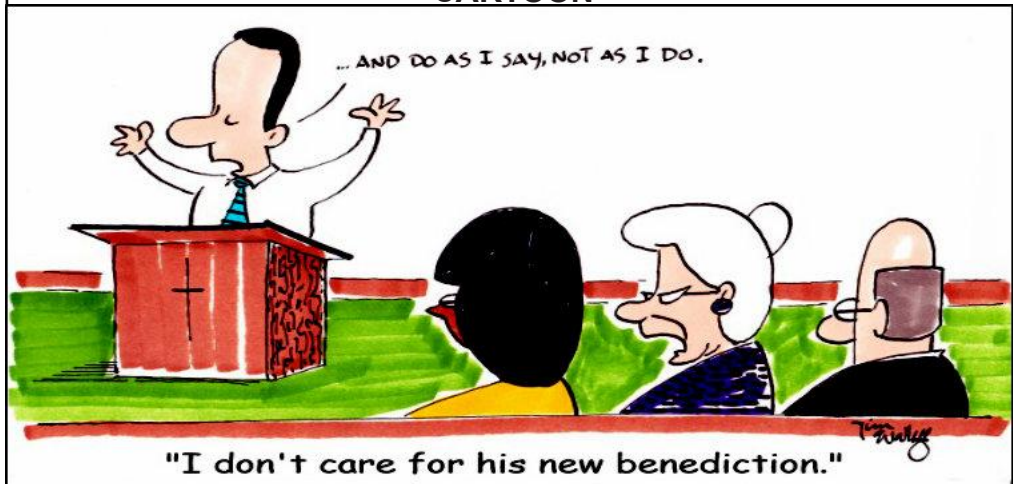
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Abib	FirstFruits	Pentecost	Shavuot	Tishrei
DayofAtonement	Nisan	Pesach	Succot	Trumpets
Feasts	Passover	Sivan	Tabernacles	UnleavenedBread

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

For solution contact Ed.

CARTOON



BIBLE RIDDLES FROM THE INTERNET

	Answers
1. What kind of lights did Noah use on the Ark?	1. Only 'flood lights' would do!
2. Who was the smartest man in the Old Testament?	2. Abraham, he knew a Lot!
3. Where is the first tennis match noted in the Bible?	3. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court!
4. Where did the most talkative people in the Bible live?	4. They lived in Babylon - "babble on"!

<https://www.riddlesandanswers.com/tag/bible-riddles/>



Photo - old
chapel grounds
Betws-y-Coed
(Ed.)

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 : 27 September. It is hoped to get

“Contact” to you by the following dates:

this issue by 20 September then on 04 October

With best wishes to you all. Ed.

COLOURING PAGE - HARVEST

Building 'booths' for the Feast of Tabernacles at the very end of the Harvest season - sometimes called the Feast of Ingathering, or the Feast of Booths



Find more Bible coloring pages at <http://colorthetibible.blogspot.com/>