

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Is. 40 v 8

18th October 2020

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OCTOBER REFLECTION

PRAY YOUR ALPHABET

'With thankful hearts offer up your prayers....' Phil. 4 : 6 (CEV)

Rachel and Jim owned a commercial building, half of which Jim used for his dental practice. For fifteen years they had no difficulty renting out the other half, which provided extra money to pay their bills. Then they lost their tenant, and an estate agent told them, 'Forget about advertising for a while - absolutely nobody is renting.'

To ease her stress, Rachel started swimming laps at the local YMCA pool. One day when she was feeling especially anxious, she decided to pray as she swam, using the alphabet to keep track of the number of laps. She focused on adjectives to describe God, starting with the letter A. 'You are Almighty God,' she prayed during lap one. B. A benevolent God, a bountiful God,' she prayed on the next lap. And then C, 'You are a caring, creative, can-do God.' By the time she'd completed twenty-six laps, an hour had passed and her fears were gone. She *knew* God would provide.

A short time later a physical therapist called to say she'd noticed the 'For Rent' sign, and asked to see the office. It was exactly what she wanted, so she and her partner rented the space. Rachel still prays while she's swimming laps. 'After all,' she says, 'I've discovered God's goodness stretches from A to Z.'

Are you worrying about something today? Here's a better option: 'With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel' (w. 6-7 CEV).



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

NOTICES AND INFORMATION



WOMEN'S GROUP

We have a further October birthday to be celebrated, our very own

Jean Frew

(who keeps tabs on everyone else's birthdays!!). The Women's Group send their best wishes to you Jean.

Many Happy Returns

(Brenda Kendall)



**You are invited to October's online
Partnership Coffee Morning
hosted by Rev'd Daleen ten Cate via ZOOM
on Friday 23rd October at 10.00am**

If you would like to join us, and you haven't signed up before, please send an email to

Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk

so that Daleen can email you an invite.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENWORTHAM

Hello Churches Together People,

About now, we should be having our AGM and planning the year's activities.

For obvious reasons, there will be no joint worship or other activities in the foreseeable future.



It is very important that we keep Churches Together in our prayers and at the top of our minds. I hope you agree that CTIP will have a vital role in our churches and church life when we are able to begin to approach "normality." For this reason, I am asking that you forward this email to your congregations, or at least share its sentiments. We must keep the flame alive. When it is appropriate, we might re-launch Churches Together and encourage new people to become involved.

As you know, Andrew Walker tried to step down as Treasurer a while back. He has been unwell recently and should be allowed to step down at this point. Perhaps we could all make an effort to persuade someone to take on this position. Over the next few weeks would be a good time to take over.

Thank you, John

CHRISTMAS 2020

As we move towards the Festive Season, the Elders thought it would be wise to think about certain aspects of Christmas which, as with many other things at present, will not be "As normal".

Firstly, we will not be able to hold our annual Toy Service when we are asked to give a gift for a child who would otherwise not receive one.

For many years our gifts were donated to South Ribble & Chorley Social Services, but due to their strange lack of interest last year, they were donated to the Salvation Army – who were extremely grateful for them.

When Beverley, Alan and I delivered the large number of gifts on behalf of the church last December, we said that would continue to our support this Christmas, not knowing how things would be so different!

I believe that the need for such gifts will be even greater this year. If anyone would like to make a gift as usual, or for the first time, we would ask you to send it or a donation to the Salvation Army at Harrington Street, Preston PR1 7BN. (Tel: 01772 555425)

If when doing so, you would like to say that you are a member or friend of Penwortham United Reformed Church, then that would be appreciated.

However, it is my intention to speak to the Salvation Army in the next few days about their 2020 Christmas Appeal and how they are going to operate it, and will update you accordingly.

If you would like to support the Appeal in any way, then I would be willing to collect anything from you in early December, should you feel that this would be helpful and to ensure safe delivery, and I will provide a further update and contact details in due course.



The Church Christmas decorations will also be scaled down to conform with the relevant Covid-19 regulations and advice.

Whatever this may mean, I am sure that we shall still have much to celebrate and even more to be grateful for.

Sadly this will also mean that I shall not be putting in an appearance as Herod either, which is a bitter disappointment for me – if no one else!!



With all good wishes, Robert

Coming together with Psalm 133

There is nothing better than when a community, with all of its individuals and diversity, shares a common purpose. When nothing is left unsaid, but is always spoken and received in love. Where everyone does what they can, without shirking or martyring themselves. Where important issues are discussed openly, thoroughly, and effectively. Where everyone feels just as welcome and accepted when they first enter as the one with the longest memory.



There is nothing better, and it is incredibly difficult to achieve, but when it does it feels like warm nourishing oil enveloping everyone. It's like the freshness of a Spring morning at your favourite place in all the world. It is the best of what life has to offer.

Humbled by Psalm 138

From the very depths of my being I declare my commitment to, delight in, and thankfulness to God. I turn from the temptations of life and ego, and place myself before God. I humble myself, devote myself to your community, giving thanks for the love, presence, and message known throughout the ages, within my heart, and bursting forth before me. In that first moment of recognition, my heart swelled and my spirit lifted.

**Humble yourselves,
therefore, under the
mighty hand of God.**
1Peter 5:6

How I desire that everyone felt this way too. If only the whole world were driven by love, mercy and justice – the song would blast throughout the galaxy. If only humility was the true measure of humanity – all would be lifted up in God.

Yet it is sadly not so, and I rely upon God as I walk through troubling times and places. God's presence is with me in it all, and I will discern intention and know love as I strive to live out God's way.

D.C.

Courtesy – Gray's URC – Silent Visitor – Aug 20

URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE EXTRACT - ZIMBABWE

Rebecca Kapaira, is from the village of Shamva in Zimbabwe. “Being a single mother, I have to work doubly hard,” she says. “Our economy is so unstable it becomes difficult for us to survive.”

Under lockdown, Rebecca fears not being able to put food on the table. Rebecca is a farmer, and like most Zimbabweans, she depends on just one, increasingly unreliable rainy season each year.

However, climate-induced droughts mean only one season in five has normal rainfall. Experts predict that the upcoming 2020 harvest will be even poorer than those preceding it. “For the past two years we haven’t harvested anything,” says Rebecca. “Our community hasn’t been able to predict rainfall patterns. Our timing seems wrong every time. The crops never mature enough to make it to harvest.”

Life has become harder each day for Rebecca and her children. Hyperinflation has sent food prices soaring. Rebecca is one of the over four million Zimbabweans experiencing emergency food insecurity.

“At the end of the day, women and girls are at the receiving end of the coronavirus. It will affect us more than anyone else. Why? Because it’s us women who do the household chores all the time.”



“We are the ones who fetch firewood for cooking from the bush. We are the ones who fetch water from unprotected wells, and it needs two to three people to pump it. We cannot do social distancing. We are the most at risk.”

Commitment for life supports Christian Aid’s phenomenal work in Zimbabwe, which includes implementing the Resilience Framework.

This framework focuses on climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management, in addition to the sustainable management of land, water, soils, forests, agriculture and agro-pastoralism that reduces poverty and hunger in the face of climate change.



Refugees Suffer under Lockdown

Nearly one million people live in the camps at Cox's Bazaar - one of the most densely populated places on earth - where social distancing very difficult. The Rohingya, who numbered about one million in Myanmar, are one of the many ethnic minorities in the country and have faced persecution for generations.



The latest exodus of Rohingya escaping to Bangladesh began in August 2017 after militants from a Rohingya insurgent group launched deadly attacks in Myanmar, it triggered one of the largest movements of people in recent history.

Life in Cox's Bazaar is tough. Authorities in Bangladesh cut mobile internet access to the sprawling, teeming camps in the country's southeast a year ago, citing security concerns, sparking international condemnation.

Foreign Secretary Masud bin Momen said recently that the spread of "baseless rumours and misinformation" could create panic and destabilise the camps. He has said that restrictions on 3G and 4G mobile networks, would be lifted very soon. The internet clampdown has disrupted communications between different camps, as well as with Rohingya still in Myanmar and elsewhere. It also complicated wire transfers of money from the Rohingya diaspora. Rights groups said the lack of internet access meant misinformation and rumours, particularly about the coronavirus, could spread unverified.

Some 750,000 Rohingya flooded across the border as they fled a military crackdown in Rakhine state in Myanmar in August 2017 that the UN has likened to ethnic cleansing, joining some 200,000 already in Bangladesh.



Your support for **Commitment for Life** may seem like a tiny droplet in a massive bucket of suffering, but for the refugees, your support is priceless. Our partner Christian Aid forms a vital part of the international support for Cox's Bazaar.

Central Asia

Tajikistan - Tajik people in Tajikistan

Please pray for the people of Tajikistan, a beautiful country of spectacular mountains. Only 0.4% of the Tajiks of Tajikistan call themselves Christians. The whole Bible is available in Tajik, and simpler translations are in progress, but it's difficult to import Bibles and christian literature into the country. Pray that the people will have access and opportunity to read the word of God, and that the Holy Spirit will enlighten their hearts with the truth.
(WEC International)

South America

Bolivia - Reaching people creatively

Pray for workers sent from God to join us in reaching those without Christ; for churches to turn away from legalistic attitudes, embracing the gospel of grace; and for God to use SIM's medical ministry, English classes and other creative outreaches to bring people closer to Him. Pray also for grace, unity and cultural understanding, as we live and work in multi-ethnic and multi-generational teams
(SIM UK)

Russia

Mari people

Pray for the Mari people – Europe's last pagans. A Finno-Ugric ethnic group who have traditionally lived along the Russian Volga and Kama rivers. Even though a significant number became members of the Russian Orthodox church during the Soviet era, many kept their pagan traditions. Mari tribes, which can be traced back to the 5th century, worship in Groves offering blood sacrifices. Please pray that the Gospel will take root amongst the Mari people – that they will come to see that Jesus made the once-for-all sacrifice for our sins. Pray for the church in Yoshkar-Ola, the capital city of the Mari El republic which has a population of about 700,000.
(People International)

POETRY PAGE

The Dancers



B. and H. used to go dancing,
Originally in the Church Hall,
Known as the Saturday night hop,
It certainly wasn't a ball.



The music came from a record,
And a gramophone somebody lent,
Supper of pies came in the middle,
And about one shilling we'd spent.

We loved those good times,
Though there were many poor dancers,
It didn't matter too much, all tried,
H. even once did the Lancers.



B. and H. moved ever upwards,
The Town Hall dance was just grand,
A most beautiful dance floor,
And music played by a big band.



It's most difficult now to believe,
These dances all through that decade,
For 12½p you could dance all the night,
No drinking except lemonade.

In the nineties they had church parties,
All great fun but not very posh.
Dances were Birdie Dance, Okey Cokey,
And Quick Steps and also The Slosh.

B. and H. enjoyed that senior age dancing
Still just as sprightly and neat.
For fifty years they'd been dancing.
No one said they'd got two left feet.



Hylida Hurst



TREES IN THE BIBLE - WORDSEARCH

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

Acacia	Cedar	Myrtle	Pine	Tamarisk
Algum	Cypress	Oak	Plane	Terebinth
Almond	Fig	Olive	Sycomorus	Willow

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

With permission Tin Walburg



"WOULD SOMEBODY PLEASE CLOSE THAT WINDOW?"

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

TRY THESE
FOUR LETTER WORDS
LOVE PRAY HOPE



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 : 25 October. It is hoped to get

"Contact" to you by the following dates:

this issue by 18 October then on 01 November

With best wishes to you all. Ed.



With permission Tim Walburg

