

# CONTACT

*introduces and welcomes*

**YOU**

*to*

**PENWORTHAM**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



*Let the peace of Christ  
rule in your hearts...*

*Col 3:15*

# 15 November 2020

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

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## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"

Matt 19:14.

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There was a little girl, who's father was a vicar.

One day, she came to her father and said, "Daddy, can a person go their whole life without sinning?"

The father answered, "No dear, I'm sorry, but that's just not possible."

"What about a year, daddy? Can a person go a whole year without sinning?" she continued.

"No, I don't think that's possible either."

"What about a day, can a person go a day without sinning once?"

"It's very unlikely, no, I don't think they can."

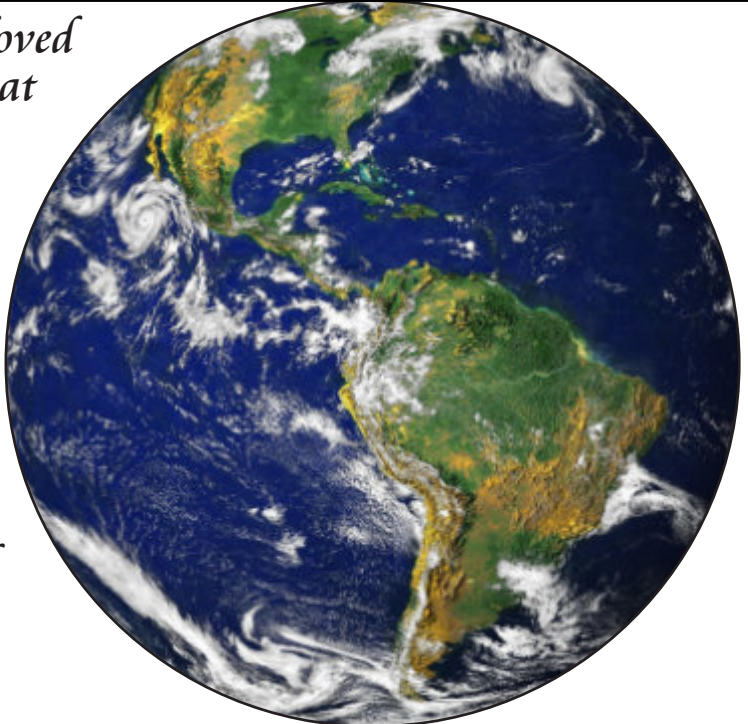
"What about one moment, daddy, can a person go one moment without sinning?"

"Yes, that is possible."

***"Then daddy, I want to live my life, moment by moment."***

(Author Unknown)

*For God so loved  
the world that  
He gave His  
only Son  
so that  
everyone  
who  
believes in  
him may  
not perish  
but may  
have eternal  
life.  
John 3:16*



## NOTICES AND INFORMATION

### ECO CHURCH IDEAS



We will be applying to be an Eco Church in the New Year and will keep you updated in Contact with our progress. ***We would like everyone to be involved and would welcome any ideas you have that promote being eco-friendly so that we can share them through Contact.***

Bev told me about the Scouts planting flowers at the front of the Church and they are really beautiful. This picture shows one of the planters they have created from an old tyre. They have re-used many pots and baskets to create a floral display which really brightens up the front of the Church. Maybe we could all re-use containers to create a winter flowering display in our gardens or balconies. *(Gill Ashurst)*

### ZOOM COFFEE & CHAT

The Elders are inviting you to an informal coffee and chat via 'Zoom', on ***Tuesday 17th November at 11.am.*** Please let us know if you would like to join us and we will send out an invite.



**Support for Missional Partnerships in Lancashire**



**You are invited to the Partnership Online Communion in November 2020**

Please join me for communion and fellowship around Jesus' table.

***20<sup>th</sup> November @ 10am- Lancashire South Missional Partnership***

If you would like to join us, and you haven't signed up for the Coffee mornings/ Communion before, please drop me an email, in order for me to send you an invite [Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:Daleen.TenCate@nwsynod.org.uk)

## **WORLD PRAYER NEWS**

### ***East Africa - Burundi - Cross-cultural church planting***

Burundi is considered evangelised. However, in practice people still need to learn God's Word, and African church leaders need to grasp God's plan for cross-cultural church planting. WEC's Burundian mobiliser, Aloys, says "It is now the indigenous churches of Africa who will take the responsibility for their own share in world evangelisation, as sending churches." Churches started during colonialism are not growing; they're so involved in administration, they've forgotten the Great Commission. Pastors of Burundian-founded churches are mostly not theologically educated. Ask God to change the leaders' mindset regarding mission. Pray peace, boldness and provision for those considering service. *(WEC International)*

### ***Middle East - Gulf States - Pray for the Gulf States***

Please pray for Bible work in the Gulf States. The Bible Society in the Gulf provides support and Scriptures for the thousands of migrant workers who leave their homes and countries to come to work this area of the world. Many migrant workers endure harsh living and working conditions, abuse, and non-payment of wages. Pray that those living in difficult circumstances will keep their faith and draw strength and comfort through reading or listening to God's Word. *(Scottish Bible Society)*

### ***Eastern Europe - Republic of Moldova - Food Prices & Famine***

On top of the ravages of COVID-19, the largely rural population of Moldova, now struggles with the prospect of famine. After months of drought, many harvests have failed. Crop yields of corn, wheat and sunflowers have been severely affected resulting in huge spikes in the cost of basic food due to expensive imports. Situated between Romania and Ukraine, Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe. The region is threatened by climate change and efforts to address irrigation, forestry and improved crop management lag behind. There is widespread fear about surviving the coming winter. Pray for God's provision. *(Transform Europe Network)*

above with permission of - [www.globalconnections.org.uk](http://www.globalconnections.org.uk)

## LECTIONARY REFLECTIONS

**Lectionary Readings:** Judges 4:1-7; Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18;  
Psalm 123; **Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;**  
Matthew 25:14-30



### ***The awesomeness of God in Psalm 90:1–12***

God is eternal. Since time began, before it existed, and in whatever unknown future; God was, is, and shall be. All of life is held within God. All life, from the simplest to complex, is energised by God. All of Creation, from quantum to galaxy, is encompassed within God. All of time, past, present and future, is beheld by God.

What are our lives but a blink of God's eye? Fifty generations pass in a night. Like dew-soaked grass that turns brown when you look away. Our inability to truly comprehend the mind of God traps us in fear and shame. Our imperfect lives are scorched by the perfection of God's presence. Human life is a struggle if we focus inwards rather than outwards in God. It begins with a cry and ends with a whimper.

However long our life may be, our days are filled with work and worry. They quickly come to an end and we disappear from sight. So contemplate the nature of God and seek to emulate it. Stand in awe before God and embrace your unknowing. Make your days' count, and strive after wisdom.

### ***Life's pattern through 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11***

It will come as no surprise to you that death will come when you least expect it. Whatever the circumstances, however prepared you try to be, you will always anticipate another dawn. Yet prepared you must be. When you grow complacent and comfortable, it can come as a disaster. When you deny the natural order, it can cause fear and pain.

You are not ignorant of this. You are loved, bear God's image, and are aware of life's pattern. So, be prepared. Do not embrace ignorance, distraction or denial. Fill your heart with faith and love. Concentrate your mind on hope and liberation.

God calls you to emulate Christ Jesus, and live, share and celebrate his way. In life and in death you are held within God. Know this. Share this. Celebrate it! Offer encouragement to your brothers and sisters and nourish their faith, as you have always done.

Rev'd D.C.

*Courtesy – Gray's URC -Silent Visitor – Nov 20*

## URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE EXTRACT

### Central America and Covid 19

Covid 19 has forced lockdowns and curfews in Central America with income loss for many poor families, many of who depend on informal markets. There has also been increased violence against women and children. The governments have not put suitable mechanisms in place to test a lot of people and implement protocols to safeguard people's health and livelihoods. In many cases, hospitals have collapsed. People with Covid symptoms have decided to stay at home instead of going to the hospital.

The four countries in which Christian Aid works in Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua) reported around 180,525 positive cases by early September. However, due to inadequate testing, cases and deaths could be much much higher. The region has lost more than one million jobs. The fear is that violence and poverty will increase significantly.

In Nicaragua, the government has not been upfront about the number of cases and the real impact on the population. The authorities have promoted business-as-usual (including public events) – contrary to international standards and protocols. In the case of health workers, the authorities decided to fire some specialists and nurses for expressing their concerns about the strategy used to manage the pandemic.

Christian Aid partners are responding to the pandemic by providing biosecurity equipment, psycho-social support and food to the communities. Our partners used virtual communication to monitor the impact of the pandemic. Other partners have denounced the government corruption which exists in the management of funds for medical equipment and medical stock to cope the pandemic. In many cases the resources approved via international loan or national budgets were mismanaged. This has reduced the governments' capacity to provide adequate health care.

Please, pray for the people who have lost jobs and do not have enough food and medicines. Pray that our work in the region makes a difference to the most vulnerable



## POETRY PAGE

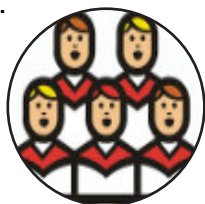
### *Hymnody*

Through the ages hymns have been written,  
To praise to thank, to pray.  
The ones that we know date from days of yore,  
Or modern ones offered today.

An ancient writer was David,  
In more recent times still we're uplifted  
by words that move or inspire us,  
performed by women and men so gifted.



Charles Wesley was the most prolific,  
But Isaac Watts was supreme.  
Wesley praised his "When I survey",  
Of poetry this was the cream.



Hymns of trust, faith and promise,  
Must include "Thine be the glory",  
Of hymns that relate to the Bible,  
One is "Tell me the old old story".



"What a friend we have in Jesus "  
"Father I place into your hands"  
"Be thou my vision"  
Hymns of faith we all understand.



From Wesley, Watts, Gaunt and Fred Kaan.  
All of them writers of fame,  
To Emmanuel's children with Miss Newport (1),  
Christian poets, too many to name.

*Hylða Hurst*

1. They wrote "Think of a world without any flowers"

## RIDDLE-ME-REE

1. You enter a deserted house at night. Inside there is an oil lamp, a gas fire and a stove full of wood. You have only one match however, so which would you light first.?
2. An electrician and a plumber were waiting in line for admission to the "International Home Show". One of them was the father to the other one's son. How could this be possible?
3. Sid worked for a construction company that was experiencing theft. The security guards were tipped off to watch Sid. Each night he passed through security with a wheelbarrow full of scrap lumber, discarded electrical wires and chunks of concrete. The security guards checked the contents daily, but could find nothing of value. What was Sid stealing?
4. An absent minded professor, who was late for his lecture, went through a red light and turned down a one-way street in the wrong direction. A policeman observed the entire scene but took no action. How could the professor get away with such behaviour?
5. Ben never tells a lie. George can never tell the truth. One of them said "the other said he is George". Which one said that?
6. Picture a ship at anchor. Over the side hangs a rope ladder with half metre rungs. The tide rises a half metre an hour. At the end of 5 hours how much of the ladder will remain above the water assuming 9 rungs were above the water when the tide began to rise?

(Riddles courtesy of Margo Evans)

(Answers are on page 10)

## CARTOON



With permission Tim Walburg



## SOME WELL KNOWN CHRISTIANS - WORDSEARCH

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

Augustine	CSLewis	DTutu	JRR Tolkien	MLuther
BGraham	DBonhoeffer	EFry	JWycliffe	TBeckett
Constantine	DErasmus	FNightingale	MLKing	WTyndale

Words may be Horizontal, Vertical, Diagonal, Back to Front

Names in order of Christian Name (if used). For solution contact Ed.

## ANSWERS TO RIDDLES -PAGE 9

1. Hopefully you will light the match first.
2. The electrician and plumber were husband and wife.
3. Sid was stealing wheelbarrows.
4. The professor was on foot.
5. It was George. Since George can never tell the truth, Ben couldn't have uttered that statement.
6. There will still be nine rungs above water. As the tide rises, so too will the ship and its ladder.

## CARTOON

With permission Tim Walburg



"HAS A PLAN OF ACTION BEEN DECIDED BY THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE YET?"

### 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" it will be most welcome - send by e-mail to [purchmagweb@talktalk.net](mailto:purchmagweb@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 : 30 November.

The **one** December issue is due out on 6 December

With best wishes to you all. Ed.

MOSES IN THE BULRUSHES

