

# CONTACT

*introduces and welcomes*

**YOU**

*to*

**PENWORTHAM**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Ps91 : 1 (NIV)*



**2021-FEBRUARY-ISSUE 1**

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## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends

A year ago I wrote about perseverance. We had no idea of Covid when I wrote! But how we have needed perseverance to get through the last 10 months!

For this year, I think the watch-word had better be “patience”. We are still in lock-down; normal activities are severely limited; many of us are isolated; others are seeing very few people.

Although nowadays pretty well everything that we actually need is available one way or another, life is most definitely NOT normal.

The arrival of vaccines gives us hope. Some of us have already had one injection. We need to be thankful to all those who have worked so hard to devise and deliver vaccines.

Tiresome though this is, I myself hope that the Government will keep things locked down until most people have had at least one injection and the public-health figures have improved markedly. Otherwise we shall have to go through it all over again in the Spring.

I realise that this means some of us being lonely and miserable for a bit longer, and I am sorry for that. It is going to try everybody's patience, but it should be worth it for everyone in the long run. Not least, it should take some of the pressure off the NHS – they certainly need it.

There are some people who will need to be extra patient, even though they may fall into the priority groups – especially, perhaps, those who have asked for their jabs to be delivered at home. There is good reason for this. The Pfizer vaccine has to be kept almost entirely at -70°C (at the hottest!), which is manageable in a “centre” where a lot can be dealt with in one place, but difficult individual visits. By comparison, a domestic freezer runs at -18°C.

Happily, however, there are other vaccines needing to be kept at a temperature no higher than that of a domestic fridge at just above 0°C which have now been approved, but of which each batch needs to be tested to check that it is all right and which, as I write, are only just seriously coming on stream.

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD (cont'd)

So let's be as patient as makes good all-round sense, carry on taking precautions for a while yet, and look forward to meeting properly in the church or elsewhere as soon as we can ...

... remembering that patience is one of the cardinal virtues, as recommended for all Christians by no less than St Paul – for example, in his letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verse 22.

And remember that God will continue to bless us all, come what may.

*Brenda*



Galatians 5 22-23

## CONTACT

**Dear Reader**

“Contact” is being published as usual on our Website (minus any personal/pastoral information advised as not 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 [purcmagweb@talktalk.net](mailto:purcmagweb@talktalk.net) or a text to 07538976140 or call Alan Edward on 01772740129 or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

**Many thanks to those who are contributing.**

**Next submission date will be 7 February**

**Next issue will be 14 February**

## WITH VERY GRATEFUL THANKS

*Reverend Nigel Lemon*

In the last edition of Contact, Nigel advised us all of his understandable decision to retire from leading worship and conducting funerals and other special services.

Whilst we are sad that this is the case, we can but respect his wishes for all the pertinent reasons he so eloquently provided. It is a testament to his care for others that he should wish to take such time and trouble to explain his thoughts and actions.

We therefore wish to thank Nigel for his varied and substantial contribution to the life of Penwortham United Reformed Church over many years, and indeed to several other sister churches in the Northwest Synod.

We are certain that Nigel's support of our church will remain, albeit in different areas, and wish him on behalf of all members and friends, continued good health and happiness.

Thank you again Nigel, The Elders.

## NOTICES AND INFORMATION

### WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

The Women's Group send their best wishes to:

**Joyce Boreham**

who has a birthday in February

*Many Happy Returns*

*Jean Frew*



### **World Interfaith Harmony Week 2021.**

All are welcome to join us  
**on Monday Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm**  
for short Faith presentations on the theme  
– **'Faith in Action: Being and Doing'**  
– followed by discussion.

The Zoom ID is 323 275 0271  
and Passcode 123321  
Warmest wishes *Malcolm Craig*

## PURC ECO MISSION - ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GIVING

As part of our plan to become an Eco-church we're trying to reduce the amount of paper we use.

It would be great if you could help us by giving by monthly standing order through your bank, rather than the weekly envelopes, if you are able to.

Currently about 60 packs of envelopes are ordered each year. This means we use 3120 envelopes each year at a cost of £124.

Unfortunately, this year many envelopes have gone to waste as we have not been at Church.

Bill counts the money each week, records it on a sheet, and pays it into the bank at the post office. He then takes the sheet to Gill T who records it on the computer for Gift Aid records and records the amount in the accounts book. Payment by standing order would not only save paper, but would save time and the handling of money. It would also minimise the risk involved in weekly cash banking.

We understand that some people may feel awkward if they have nothing to put onto the offertory plate when the children hold it out to them. We will talk to the children about our plans so that they will understand why members are not putting money or envelopes onto the offertory plate.

We would really appreciate your help with this. You can set up a standing order by ringing your bank and completing a form which can be paper or online. You would need the Church bank details which Gill Turner can supply.

Thank you from the Eco Team.

*(Gill Ashurst)*

STANDING ORDER	
<small>(Please use block capitals)</small>	
<b>YOUR BANK MANAGER</b>	<b>Instruction to your Bank or Building Society</b>
To: The Manager      Bank/Building Society	Please pay to
Address _____	Bank of Sonceby Account Number
Postcode _____	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
Name(s) of Account Holder(s)	Sort Code
_____	[ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ]
Bank/Building Society Account Number	The sum of £ _____
_____	Commencing on the _____
Branch Sort Code	Every: year/quarter/month (delete as appropriate)
[ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ] - [ ] [ ] [ ]	On the same date until further notice.
Signature(s): _____	Please return completed Mandate to:
Date: _____	ABCDE
Name: _____	or THIS LOCATION
Address: _____	THIS PLACE
Postcode: _____	THIS CITY
	THIS COUNTY
	THIS CODE
	Thank you



## A REFLECTION

### SUSTAINING GRACE

*'My grace is sufficient for you.'* 2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV

There are two kinds of grace:

1. *Saving Grace*. The moment you place your trust in Christ, God expunges the entire record of your sin.

2) *Sustaining grace*. Paul writes: 'I was given a thorn in my flesh. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"' (w. 7-9 NIV). Such vivid imagery! A thorn pierces the soft skin and lodges beneath the surface. Every step is a reminder of it: The child in the rehab centre. The red ink on the ledger. The criminal offence on the record. The craving for alcohol in the middle of the day. The tears in the middle of the night. 'Lord, take it away?' But what you hear is this: 'My grace is sufficient for you.'

Sustaining grace promises us not the absence of struggle, but the strengthening presence of God. John Newton, the Anglican clergyman who wrote 'Amazing Grace', found that God's grace was sufficient. On the day his beloved wife, Mary, died, he found the strength to preach a Sunday sermon. The next day he visited church members, and later on officiated at her funeral. Looking back he wrote: 'The Bank of England is too poor to compensate for such a loss as mine. But the Lord, all-sufficient God, speaks, and it is done. Let those who know Him, and trust Him, be of good courage. He can give them strength according to their day. He can increase their strength as their trials increase...And what He can do, He has promised He will do.'

*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](http://www.ucb.co.uk/read)*

**God's grace is Sufficient**



## POETRY PAGE

### PLACE NAMES?

Isn't it strange how place names change?  
Just look at the spelling of some.  
But you pronounce it all wrong,  
There's no way of telling, how come?



An odd one's ULNES WALTON, it's daft,  
MYERSCOUGH but it hasn't a cough.  
And TREALES pronounced trails,  
Little SOUGH is said like suff



How do you say BETWYS-Y-COED?  
Near Lancaster's QUERNMORE or is it Quermer?  
There's GOOSNARGH, always gooz ner,  
Try miserable SOLLOM, be firmer.

Can you get your tongue round PRUDHOE?  
Say it wrong you make locals shudder,  
They know how to say it they live there,  
Not PRUD HOE, it's well known, it's Prudder.



There's a mill outlet at OSWALDTWISTLE,  
Folks there all call it Ossie,  
Just try to tell them different,  
They'll tell you your just very bossy

How about EUXTON, is that a station?  
Course not, it's Exton rhymes with sexton.  
And YEALAND, there's several, all Yelland,  
There's even one with an X on.



On the fells above Longridge  
Is a hill by the name of PARLICK,  
As for shortening names try BARNOLDSWICK,  
You couldn't do better than Barlick.

*Hyláa Hurst*

## CARTOON



*With permission Tim Walburg*

### **“DEAR AUNT MARTHA”-REPLIES FROM A CHURCH AGONY AUNT?!**

(To ensure confidentiality, Aunt Martha will only reply to your letters, never reprint them.)

Please do not offend her delicate nature with indelicate language.)

Reply to : Miss K -

Believe me, I know how you feel, a hot Summer's Sunday morning, a rush to get to church on time and then to find somebody else in your parking place, as you say not for the first time but the third time in as many weeks. And you'd politely asked them not to park there on both the previous occasions. What is more, I definitely think the owner of the car is biased, just because he's a petrol pump attendant and sold you a can of petrol the day before, doesn't mean to say you purposely set fire to his car. I fully believe you when you say you saw some grass on fire, looked in your boot for water and saw a can and used that to put the fire out (how is the gardener?). It is a great pity about the other cars though, but I'm glad yours wasn't touched. By the way who was the 'ranting lunatic' as mentioned in the local paper who set fire to three fire engines, two police cars and the 'Jingle Bells' ice cream van?

*with permission - Parish Window*

COLOURING PAGE

GOD  
IS  
LOVE

