

# CONTACT

*introduces and welcomes*  
**YOU**  
*to*

**PENWORTHAM**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



Celebrate the  
resurrection of  
our Lord!

*Happy*  
**EASTER**



**ALLELUIA**

**2021-APRIL-1**

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

PURC E-mail: [penworthamurc@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurc@gmail.com)

To contact Secretaries telephone - 07716129719

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

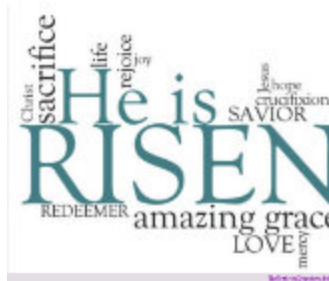
Dear Friends,

As many of you may know, my wife Katy and I have recently celebrated the birth of our third child Alfie, who was born on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

This new life brings hope and joy, and I wonder whether this gives us a chance to think about what is important. As we approach Easter, we can think again as Christians as to how we may teach children of its true meaning – not to mention ourselves.

Like me, do you feel that similar to Christmas, Easter has lost much of its religious meaning in popular culture? Ask your average child what the holiday is about, and they will tell you all about the Easter Bunny, egg hunts with baskets full of chocolate eggs.

For practising Christians, I believe that Easter Sunday and the Holy week that precedes it are the apex of our faith. Without the resurrection of Christ there is no Christianity. Easter is about being saved and the promise of a new life after this one that gives true meaning and purpose to our time on Earth. And that is just too important to not celebrate.



So how can we bring the meaning of Easter back to our homes, in a way that our children can truly appreciate and remember? Here are a couple ideas I found...

Ditching the Easter basket and getting crafty.

On Good Friday or Holy Saturday, children draw an image of Jesus on the Cross and cut it out. Then, using small strips of white cloth (tissues will work), wrap Jesus up, just as his disciples did when they took him off the cross. Then place Jesus in a box with a lid (a shoe box will do) to symbolise the tomb. Finally, send the children out in to the garden to find the perfect rock to put on top of the lid — again, to symbolise the rock that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb.

Then tell the children that they are not to open the lid until Easter Sunday. On Easter morning, when they open the box, Jesus is gone and in His place are lots of treats and chocolates!

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD cont'd



Bring back some old traditions.

Take time on Holy Week to make hot cross buns with the children. If you are too busy (or hate to bake!) make a tradition of taking them on a special trip to the shops to buy them.

Eating these sweet rolls with the symbol of the cross started in the Middle Ages and traditionally, they are only eaten on Good Friday.

I recently discovered that if you take a cute 5-year-old to The Upper crust Bakery, the owner may even give you one for Free!

Finally, keep Holy Week "holy" and special. Read books together about the meaning of Easter and watch religious movies. Find animated videos online telling the Easter story of a selfless Saviour, not a bunny!

I appreciate that this Easter many of us may not be too close to our friends and families, and some of the above might not be possible. But please do try to make Easter special in any way that you can.

Sending love from our family to yours this Easter,  
Daniel and the Kehoes.

## AN INVITATION

### COMMUNION

The Elders are inviting you to a  
'zoom' communion service on

***Maundy Thursday***  
***1st April at 10.30am.***

Please supply your own  
bread and wine/juice etc.  
Please join us if you can.



The 'zoom' link will  
be sent separately



## FAMILY AND FRIENDS



We hope you are all keeping well and staying safe, I'm sure by now most of you will have had your first vaccine and I know some of you have had your second as well, which is brilliant.

There is definitely light at the end of that tunnel.

Have faith, stay positive and we'll see you all very soon.

F-amilies, fun and friends  
A-ccept the situation  
M-aking memories  
I-ndulge yourselves  
L-ove life and laugh a lot  
Y-ou are all part of our  
Church Family.

With our love and prayers  
Your Elders

## A CELEBRATION!

*Derek Poulton sends a message to say:*

*With Love to my wife Pat on our Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 4<sup>th</sup>. So 50 years of happiness and Joy.*

*Derek*

We all join in sending warmest wishes to Derek and Pat on this wonderful occasion.



## AND THERE'S MORE!!

### WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

The Women's Group send their best wishes to:

**Mavis West and Barbara Dawson**

who have a birthday in April

*Many Happy Returns*

*Jean Frew*



## **AN EASTER REFLECTION**

### **Easter People, an Always-Growing Story**

One Easter Day fifty-plus years ago in a Congregational Church I would quite soon know, the minister stood in the pulpit for the start of the service. But there was no usual “Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!” nor any other joyful opening: instead, he told the congregation that he believed not a single word of that day’s story; he could not continue there in church; he was resigning his ordination. He then marched straight out of the building, never again to act as its minister. Shock, disbelief, fear for the church’s future were among the emotions felt by the stunned assembled congregation.

In the decades following the trauma of that Easter morning when I now knew that church, a new minister had already served for two years; one of its ministers felt called to serve the church overseas; the vision of another helped found the URC’s Windermere Centre; and at least four members became ordained United Reformed Church ministers. Today, that church is the numerically strongest URC congregation in its city.

After even despair and potential tragedy, the Gospel of the Resurrection triumphed with obvious strength and effect. “The Light shone in the darkness and the darkness could not put it out”

The Community of the Resurrection is a company of monastic brothers whose home since 1898 has been in Mirfield, West Yorkshire: they live “to make public” the resurrection fruits of community life. In his book entitled “Resurrection”, the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams names a chapter “Communities of Resurrection”: he notes the social transformations brought about by such communities as l’Arche, where mutual circles of support join people with and without disabilities.

It should never surprise us when churches have brought reconciliation and restoration to troubled individuals and communities alike. After all, when the Crucifixion had made Jesus’s disciples fear that all their hopes had now been destroyed, the New Testament then shows the confidence they felt in the continued life of Jesus among them and others: Resurrection Power was working to change absolutely anyone.

Covid-19 may sometimes make us think that it will cause the end of community, of church, of fellowship, of even conversation. But to know and proclaim that “Christ is Risen” is to believe that God’s future among us and our communities will always happen, now and as we continue to live and grow in his name.

**NIGEL LEMON**



## **NOTICES FROM THE ELDERS**

### **Re – opening PURC**

The Elders have decided to follow the recent guidance from the Synod Moderators on the re-opening of churches.

Their recommendation is for us to aim for Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May) as a date to consider the resumption of in-person worship, subject to important conditions being met!

At this stage we can't give a definite date but will keep you informed of developments.

If you would like a copy of the guidance please let us know and we will send you a copy.

Jenny and Beverley

### **Looking Forward**

#### **Easter**

Daleen has suggested that for Easter, churches decorate the outside of their buildings to remind the community that although the building may be closed "we are still here".

So if you are passing PURC between Palm Sunday and Easter Day take a moment to stop and look.

There will be no Daffodil Cross but there will be a Prayer Cross. Take a moment to be still and quiet, perhaps place a flower on the cross as you remember with love someone or something.

Look at our church with love and a smile. WE WILL BE BACK TOGETHER SOON.

#### **Picnic**

One of the things we want to organise is a church picnic in the church grounds. Social distanced of course and you will need to bring your own flask and cake. It won't be quite like a coffee morning but we will be able to see each other and wave !!

This is very dependent on government guide lines so "Watch this space".

#### **Opening**

When we do decide to open **safety will be our priority**. Numbers will be regulated as at Christmas but all that is in the future for now we have HOPE.

SEE YOU SOON.

**RECYCLE YOUR OLD WELLIES**

<https://www.daviddomoney.com/how-to-make-your-own-welly-planter/>

This is a link to suggest how you could make a welly planter. You can use walking boots, clogs or Crocs.

**TO MAKE WELLY PLANT POTS, YOU WILL NEED:**

Old wellies

Stones

Compost

A drill of sorts

Seeds or small plants

**HOW TO MAKE WELLY PLANT POTS:**

Begin by making a few holes on the bottom of your welly to make a drainage system.

Put some stones or broken pot pieces in the bottom (without clogging up the holes)

Fill with compost to about two inches from the top.

Plant your plants (or seeds)

If your wellies are large, you can cut holes in the toe and grow plants from there too.

Your wellies can either be free standing or hung up.



Gillian Ashurst

## CHRISTIAN AID MEETING NEWS - 9th MARCH

Myself and eight others, including Rev James Watterson from Carey Baptist Church, attended the online meeting. Rev Jane Wild, Fulwood Methodist Church, has agreed to be the Chairperson for CAid Preston meetings. Rachel Tuke, who attends Penwortham St. Mary's, will continue as Vice- Chairperson and Anne Garsed will take on the role of Secretary.

The meeting started with feedback from Anne about the recent FairTrade Fortnight online events which were well supported. Cath Greenlees reported on her planned tree themed events including a Lent appeal to "Plant an Olive Tree in Palestine". "Plant Trees with 20p's" to support buying cocoa saplings in Nicaragua and a quiz to support fruit planting in Kenya. Also her sponsored walk and cycle on Saturday 27th March. See info given in March (1) Contact or for further details : [cathgreenlees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathgreenlees@hotmail.co.uk)

Vaccination Appeal- as you may be aware the Diocese of Manchester has partnered with CAid to give thanks for the Covid-19 vaccine and enable people to pass on the blessing by making a donation to CAid's Corona-virus appeal. Dr. David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, said "While the pandemic affects all of us, it has highlighted the deep disparities in how communities and families are able to protect themselves both within our country and around the world." "....many people want to express their gratitude by reaching out to others." See [manchester.anglican.org](http://manchester.anglican.org).

300.000 steps challenge - if this appeals to you or you fancy a team effort then check out the CAid site and sign up for May.

A proposal was made by Rev. Jane to set up a CAid Preston Facebook and JustGiving page. This seems like a good idea and a convenient way for many people to access info and method of donating. It is acknowledged, especially in these difficult times, that virtual events and online methods are the way forward. Hopefully these methods will engage the support of younger generations.

Please go to [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) for info about CAid Week, events and challenges.

The next Zoom CAid meeting is in April when we should have a better understanding of any restrictions. I will continue to keep you up-to-date and would ask you to think about whether you'd be able to help with "delivery only" envelopes should this be feasible and "allowed."

Let us see what's the next few weeks bring. Stay safe and well everyone.

Cath A





## WORLD PRAYER NEWS

### ***Cambodia - South East Asia- Church Growth***

*Buddhism has been the Cambodian national religion since the 15th century. Cambodians were scarcely reached by the Gospel until just before Pol Pot's infamous regime in the 70s, during which the majority of Buddhist monks and most Christians perished. Deep psychological wounds need healing and true restoration by the Holy Spirit. Recently, four new churches have been planted in Cambodia, and one of these churches has sent out three workers into world mission and is preparing three more. Praise God for these new churches and pray that they would be beacons of hope and truth within their communities (Operation Mobilisation)*

### ***Colombia - South America - Student Ministry***

*The uncertainty over restrictions, closures and curfews make student ministry challenging. Please pray for UCU Colombia staff who are mentoring students across the country, training them to lead Bible studies, disciple younger students and share their faith with course mates in person and online.  
(International Fellowship of Evangelical Students)*

### ***India - South Asia - Persecution***

*We're heartbroken to hear that 171 people are missing and 26 have lost their lives in India's state of Uttarakhand after a Himalayan glacier burst on 7th Feb. Please pray with us for all of the families affected. Please also pray for more Adult Literacy Class teachers in the state of Haryana where only 65.5% of women can read, and for Persecuted Christians all across India - ranked the tenth most severe country for persecution for a third year in a row. Join us as we pray for the safety and salvation of the millions of people flocking to temples in the city of Varanasi.  
(Mission India)*

### ***Madagascar - Indian Ocean - Water Shortage***

*Please pray for continued rainfall in Madagascar. The capital city (Antananarivo) has been running out of water; wells and rice fields are parched. The electricity and water supplies are less than half the city's requirement. Pray for rain to replenish supplies.  
(Mission Aviation Fellowship UK)*

EASTER

Soon Easter will be with us,  
And all earth now rejoices,  
Jesus Christ, risen from death.  
In praise we lift our voices.

Forty days of darkness passed away;  
New life with Spring to cheer,  
Nature bursts it's buds, puts forth green shoots,  
Thrills and surprises each year.

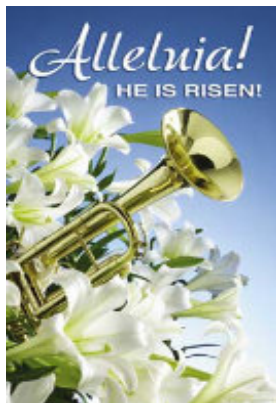
We have much for which to give thanks,  
The promise of growth and renewal,  
Fresh hopes for the future ahead,  
Encouragement our daily fuel.

The past year has been hard  
For many and not just for some,  
Isolation and loneliness all around,  
Waiting for bright days to come.

Yet kindness and friendship have lightened  
the dull dark times of past weeks,  
The earth is awakening, Jesus is with us.  
He promises the solace we seek.

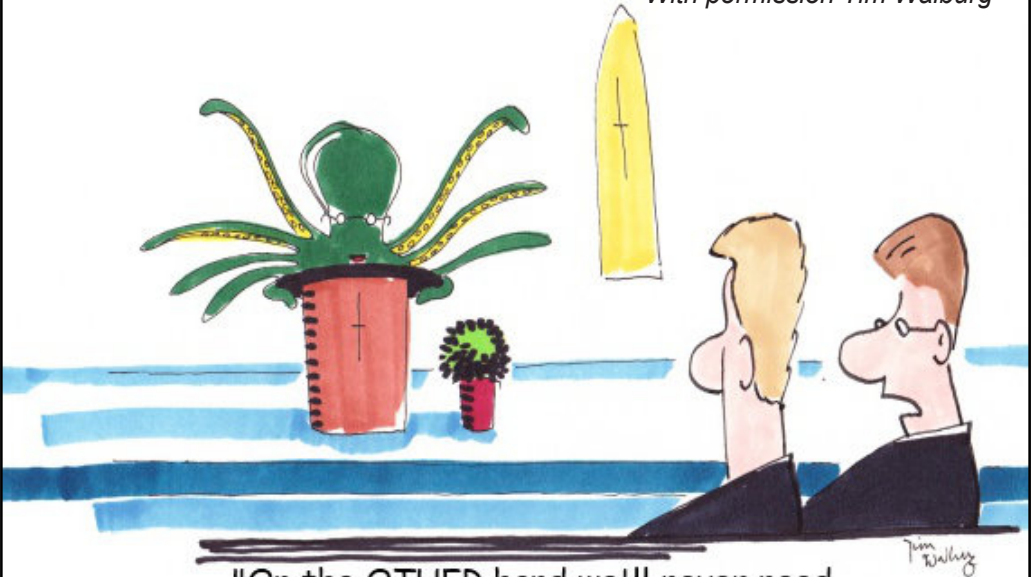


*Hylða Hurst*



## CARTOON

*With permission Tim Walburg*



"On the OTHER hand we'll never need  
an Associate Pastor to lend a HAND."

## HUMOUR!

A Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when little Percy interrupted. 'My mummy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced, 'and she turned into a telephone pole.'

Another Sunday School teacher, said to her children, 'We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?' George blurted out, 'I know, Aces.'

An Englishman, a Scotsman and an Irishman all entered a 26 mile long swimming race. After 12 miles the Scottish man gets tired and drops out. Then after 16 miles the English man gets tired and drops out. After 25 miles the Irish man decides he can't finish the race, so he turns around and swims back to the start.

## WORDSEARCH FOR EASTER

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

Alleluia

Grace

Joy

Mercy

Risen

Christ

Hope

Life

Redeemer

Sacrifice

Crucifixion

Jesus

Love

Rejoice

Saviour

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

For solution contact Ed.

### 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.**

**Easter Blessings.**

**Next submission date will be 6 April**

**Next issue will be 11 April**

**Ed.**