

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday 23rd May 2021



MAY 2021

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk

PURC E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com

To contact Secretaries telephone - 07716129719

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

As I write this lockdown is again starting to ease, and shops, gyms and outdoor dining are opening, and I am looking forward to a time when we can meet again at church. There will still be restrictions as there were when we had the two services at Christmas, but it is something to look forward to.

The one restriction that I think I feel most is not being able to sing! This has always been an important part of the service for me for a number of reasons. It is a part of the service we can all join in with and, to me, says much about the way we as nonconformists worship God.

There are many different types of hymns. Psalm 100 says “Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord”, and some hymns do just this – we can worship God and sing out without thinking too much about what we are singing. Some, like “Jubilate” are fun to sing and bring us together, especially when we sing it in a round. Others remind us of happy times, weddings, Christmas and Easter etc. When we sing “Jerusalem” it takes me back to a time when I was a teenager with my mother at the village Women’s Institute. (I still have the wicker wastepaper basket I made one summer, not completely round, but still useful 55 years later!) One holiday (I think in Whitby) we came upon an open-air service by the harbour, and as the sun went down, they were singing “The Day thou Gavest Lord is Ended”.

But perhaps we can use the hymns in a different way, and concentrate more on what the words mean to us. Following the words on the screen as we listen to the music, either played on the hymnal or another choir singing for us. I watched the funeral service of the Duke of Edinburgh last Saturday and found the hymns and prayers sung by that very small choir quite moving and added something different to the service.

There are some beautiful hymns in our hymnbook. I particularly like some of the more modern hymns written by Fred Kaan, Fred Pratt Green and Alan Gaunt particularly.

We walked this morning round Morecambe Bay at Heysham Village which seems apt when I read F Pratt Green’s words:

Verse 1 begins: God in his love for us lent us this planet,

And in the fourth verse: Earth is the Lord’s: it is ours to enjoy it,

Gill Turner



FAMILY AND FRIENDS



I'm sure by now most of you will have had your first Covid injection and maybe your second as well, and you've now been able to meet outside with more members of your family which has to be a massive step forward to resuming life after Covid.

The future is starting to look a little brighter now and God willing it won't be long before we are back in our lovely church again.

The services won't be as you remember them for a while as we still have certain guidelines we have to follow.

Two metres apart, masks, no singing etc and it will be a much shorter service, but at least we can enjoy each other's company in God's house.

We hope to open for our first service at Pentecost, (May 23rd), and maybe if the weather permits we thought a 'bring your own coffee' morning in the church grounds, would be a good way of welcoming you all back, but this can't happen before May 17th when we will hopefully be at step 3.

We will of course keep you informed via e-mail/phone of any decisions we make at our monthly Elders meetings.

Love and blessings from your Elders.

(Ed.)

(Article not on website)

PURC FAMILY & FRIENDS CONT'D



WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

The Women's Group send their best wishes to:
Hylde Hurst, Pat Poulton & Anne Lemon
who have a birthday in May.
Many Happy Returns
Jean Frew

PURC ECO CHURCH MISSION

Go Wild in the garden this summer!

Lawns provide a home for lots of different insects that are eaten by birds and other wildlife. Lawns can also provide seeds for birds. Any area of short grass will act as a feeding area for birds. Longer grass provides shelter and egg-laying opportunities for the insects on which birds and wildlife feed. You can improve your lawn for birds and wildlife by avoiding the use of weed killers and artificial fertilisers as the birds love the things we don't - dandelions, buttercups and clover!

If you want to go a step further, you can allow part of your lawn or garden to become a wild meadow. Bee bombs (<https://www.beebombs.com/>) are excellent as you just throw them onto soil or grass. You can also put them into pots!

If you would like to create a wildflower meadow the link below is for a pack which you just spread over a small area which is easily prepared just by raking the soil.

<https://rootgrow.co.uk/product/mini-meadow-wild-flower-seed-with-rootgrow-500ml/>



There are lots of different packs in the garden centres to choose from. When we come back to Church, I hope to get the children involved in planting a wild meadow area somewhere in the grounds.

Gillian Ashurst



PURC WEEKLY GIVING AND ENVELOPE SCHEME

As we look forward to the proposed opening of church and the resumption of services, I need to tell you about some changes to this scheme.

As we didn't use last year's envelopes and when it was time to order new ones we were still in lockdown, I decided that we should use up last year's batch! I know the actual dates on the envelopes will be wrong, but we can easily alter those by hand if we want to. The important part of the envelope is the number which links the scheme to you personally; as long as I have a record of that I can link your giving in my records. Some of you continued to use the envelopes during the year passing them on when possible. Don't worry I have spare sets, so I can give you a new pack. Some of you have been giving through your bank. If you want to continue with this, that's fine, but I would appreciate your pack of envelopes if you are not using them. If you wish to continue giving weekly in church please let me know.



I would like to thank you for your continued support through the past year, it was very much appreciated. Although we saved on gas, electricity and water, we did continue to pay for other services, such as to the Synod and refuse collection, and there are always small jobs needed to take care of the buildings.

I look forward to seeing you all soon (at a safe distance of course)

Gill Turner

PENWORTHAM GALA 2021

It has been agreed that the Penwortham Gala will NOT take place over that second weekend in June due to the continuing uncertainties around staging the event so soon after lockdown has been eased.

It is hoped Penwortham Town Council can stage an event, whether it be called Gala or not, and whether it would have all the normal component parts, later in the summer.

The Events Committee will now meet at least monthly until further notice to review the situation, and to determine in light of that, whether an event can go ahead and what form that event will take. I will keep you posted.

From Cllr. Tim Young - Penwortham Town Council

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY 2021 - IMPORTANT NOTICE

Hello to all Church friends. We hope you are well and perhaps enjoying a little more freedom with the easing of restrictions.



I'm sure you will be aware that C.Aid Week approaches, 10-16th May, and with it the need for help with envelopes. This year we are distributing only door-to-door, not collecting. Collection points for the envelopes will be at local shops and the Post Office and Barbara and I will cover that aspect with help from other churches.

Barbara and I do need help however with distributing envelopes to the usual streets on PURC's allocation.

Thank you to those who have contacted us to say they will help, we are grateful, but we are really in need of others to help out too. Remember it is just putting an envelope through the door, no collections at all. Please help PURC to play its part in Penwortham churches Christian Aid collection. ***Do give us a call or drop us a line. Thank you.***

Barbara Edmondson

Cath Addison

PENWORTHAM FOOD BANK INFORMATION

Hello Foodbank Friends,

As I'm sure you know, the Foodbank has continued to serve the community throughout the past year.

We have been able to virtually take over the community centre and many of you will have seen the piles of food waiting to be sorted and collected.

From Monday 12th April, the Community Centre will gradually open up to its usual range of activities.

Because of this, we will have to "rationalise" our storage. Volunteers will have received an email from Tim about the rota in future. If anyone wishes to go on the volunteer rota, will they please let Tim or me know. timfcyoung@gmail.com or johnatkins@hotmail.com

Another consequence is that we will no longer accept donations on Thursdays. Times for donations will be Mondays 10 to 12 and Fridays 8.30 to 12 (during Foodbank opening).

Please will you bring these to the attention of your congregations and friends. Thank you, John (via Anne Hall)

OTHER NOTICES/INFORMATION

PRESTON'S CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTRE IS TO CLOSE

The Covid restrictions have affected us badly and after much prayer and with a heavy heart we have come to the decision to close by mid-June. We are still taking orders for any items that are not currently in the shop but can be obtained from our suppliers; please continue to contact us for your supplies. Once all the stock is sold, with many bargains to be had, we will close the doors for the last time, unless you are aware of anybody who would like to take on and develop this ministry and business. We would love to meet them.

May we take this opportunity to thank all those who have been customers of ours; it has been a privilege getting to know you, especially the regulars, who we will miss immensely, thank you for your support and encouragement.

Nigel & Kath, Christian Book Centre, 4-6 Fox Street, Preston PR1 2AB, Tel/Fax: 01772 259279 , www.prestonchristianresourcecentre.co.uk

ONLINE RETREATS IN MAY

Please use website to apply: <https://www.christianretreats.live/>
- there are details of further events there too.

Sat 8 May, 2pm: Wilderness Retreat (or Mon 10 May, 10am)

Sat 15 May, 10am: The Aramaic Lord's Prayer

Sun 23 May, 2pm: Pentecost

All retreats cost £20, unless otherwise stated. For bookings, see the website or contact Donna Worthington : drworthington@live.co.uk

EASTER PICTURE (on display until PENTECOST)

At **All Saints', New Longton**, we display a large picture on the front wall of the church each Christmas, but this year we have decided to do the same for Easter. The attached photo shows the picture *Der Ostermorgen* (Easter Morning), by Friedrich Overbeck, painted in 1818. The original is in a museum in Düsseldorf. It is intended to display this, to show something of the true meaning of Easter, until Pentecost. [John Balaam]



OTHER NOTICES/INFORMATION cont'd



Christian Aid Online Service

Sunday, 9th May at 6.30pm

Christian Aid is hosting an online service. This is to celebrate its

75th Anniversary

and will be a time of celebration, reflection and recommitment to the cause. There is more information and a sign-up form on the website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/Join/75-anniversary-service-sign>

URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - ZOOM TO ZIMBABWE

Dear Friends

Commitment for Life in partnership with Christian Aid are organising during Christian Aid week, on **Tuesday, 11th May at 2pm 'Zoom to Zimbabwe'**. We do hope that you are able to join us for an afternoon of updates, music, fellowship and more. Please do put this in your diaries and circulate the attached poster amongst your congregation.



Suzanne Pearson

URC Commitment for Life

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/>

[93023982876?pwd=QIRhTStDcGhtQ29vWUMyYmFkdWl5s4Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/93023982876?pwd=QIRhTStDcGhtQ29vWUMyYmFkdWl5s4Zz09)

Meeting ID: 930 2398 2876 Passcode: 750863



A PENTECOST PRAYER

God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit
be our goal and our strength,
now and always. Amen.

As printed in the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship

URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - ZIMBABWE NEWS

Commitment for Life works in partnership with Christian Aid in Zimbabwe. Our programmes put people at the centre. Faith is crucial to our programmes, along with that values of openness and sharing. We are committed to amplifying the voices of the poorest people. Our work focuses on Matabeleland, and is also linked to action at a national level.

MEET THE COUNTRY TEAM



Tafadzwa Muropa leads the Social and Economic Justice Unit. She plays a leading role in mainstreaming gender in Zimbabwe as well as fundraising and implementing projects in gender equality, transparency and accountability, human rights and peacebuilding. She has worked with local and international organisations in Eastern and Southern Africa for over 16 years.

Tafadzwa has a BA Degree in Economic History and Philosophy with University of Zimbabwe, has received post graduate short course training in public policy, human rights, gender equality, project management and macroeconomic policy with local, regional and international institutions. She is currently completing her dissertation in a Master's in Public Policy and Governance with Africa University, Zimbabwe.

Without people like Tafadza, Commitment for Life could not begin to be effective in our work for justice in Zimbabwe. We are grateful to her and the rest of the team!

The URC Commitment for Life Reports focus on 4 key geographical areas of co-operation with Christian Aid to further activity supporting communities in : Central America, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and the Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT). Reports are forwarded by Rev'd Kevin Snyman and Suzanne Pearson and details can also be found on the URC website to which there is a link on the 'Home' page of the PURC website <https://penworthamurc.org.uk/>



A REFLECTION

Where can you find peace?

Psalm 29:11

***The Lord gives strength to His people:
the Lord blesses His people with peace***

Increasing our pace has decreased our peace. There's an old joke about a stressed-out personal assistant who told the boss, 'When this rush is over, I'm going to have a nervous breakdown. I've earned it, I deserve it, and nobody's going to take it from me!'

We smile, but chances are you can relate. Not long ago we marked the passing of time in seasons. But seasons begat monthly calendars, which begat day-timers, which begat one-minute managers, which begat handheld personal organisers. And what does it all lead to?

As our productivity goes up, our quality of life seems to go down. An article in *USA Today* describes how therapist Ofer Zur staged a conference called '*Speed, com: The Search for Meaning in the New Millennium*'. And guess where he staged it? In the heart of stressed-out Silicon Valley, California!

As the attendees gathered, Zur noted the drawn faces, worried looks, and preoccupied demeanour of his audience. He said his personal alarm sounded when he noted they had brought mobile phones and laptops - and began using them during the session. Here's what he said about it: 'We've become obsessed with speed. We end up with lots of plans that we can't execute and a full schedule that can't be followed. The paradox of our timesaving tech gadgets is that we've wound up with no free time.' Sound familiar?

So where can you go to find peace? To the One whose name is 'Prince of Peace'. Today He's saying to you: 'If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea' (Isaiah 48:18 NIV)

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

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

Kenya - East Africa- Lawyers provide legal aid for prisoners
CLEAR Kenya is a legal aid project meeting the legal needs of those who can't defend or speak for themselves. They've recently sought to recruit a new paralegal to serve a prison in Kisumu, where prisoners have very little to no access to laptops or phones to talk to lawyers or contact family. Please pray for the prisoners whose cases are not prioritised, and who have been in prison for longer than they should. Pray that Covid cases don't rise so lawyers can still visit and help those in needs (Lawyers Christian Fellowship)

UK and Rol - Western Europe - Neighbours Worldwide Ministry
Pray for Neighbours Worldwide, a ministry which aims to reach unreached ethnic groups in the UK and Ireland. Working alongside existing churches, Neighbours Worldwide workers teach English, lead Bible studies, visit families, give out Christian literature and do all they can to share the gospel in a relevant way. (WEC International)

Tanzania - East Africa - Bringing Jesus to West Tanga
Emmanuel International partner church, Tanzania Assemblies of God, is reaching out to a new area: the rural districts in West Tanga. People here are among the poorest in Tanzania with low literacy and the majority are Muslims. We are assisting the church to reach the community spiritually and physically, while training Edward and Joshua to start ministering. Please pray they will be able to launch into this new area effectively and reach the communities with Jesus' love. (Emmanuel International)

France - Western Europe - Fruit harvests lost
In certain parts of France many farmers have lost nearly all their crops of fruits like peaches, apricots, cherries, and grapes as a result of a recent cold snap following a period of warmer weather that caused trees to start fruiting. Few will have been insured against such losses. Pray for them and the economic impact of such losses on their communities at this time. (France Mission)

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

POETRY PAGE

A Mothers' Day Gift

On Mothers' Day twenty, twenty,
My daughter gave me a large note book,
If I ever need a quotation
that is the place I will look.

Each page has its quotation,
Some challenge, or make you feel calmer,
Some are author anonymous,
Several by the wise Dalai Lama.



Most focus on optimism or morals,
Or a cure for most of life's cares,
One by writer Rudyard Kipling says
Don't look backward or you'll fall down the stairs.

Action may not always bring happiness
Says the late Prime Minister Disraeli,
But there's no happiness without action,
Mottos like this I read daily.



The Chinese philosopher Confucius says,
Life is simple, but we make it complicated.
That was true for him in 500 B.C.
Though many of his thoughts are outdated.

The inventor Thomas Edison says,
I have not failed: I've just found
ten thousand ways that won't work,
A philosophy that's very sound.



I have a favourite written by Anon,
A message that I'll always treasure,
The secret of living well, eat half, walk double,
laugh triple and love without measure



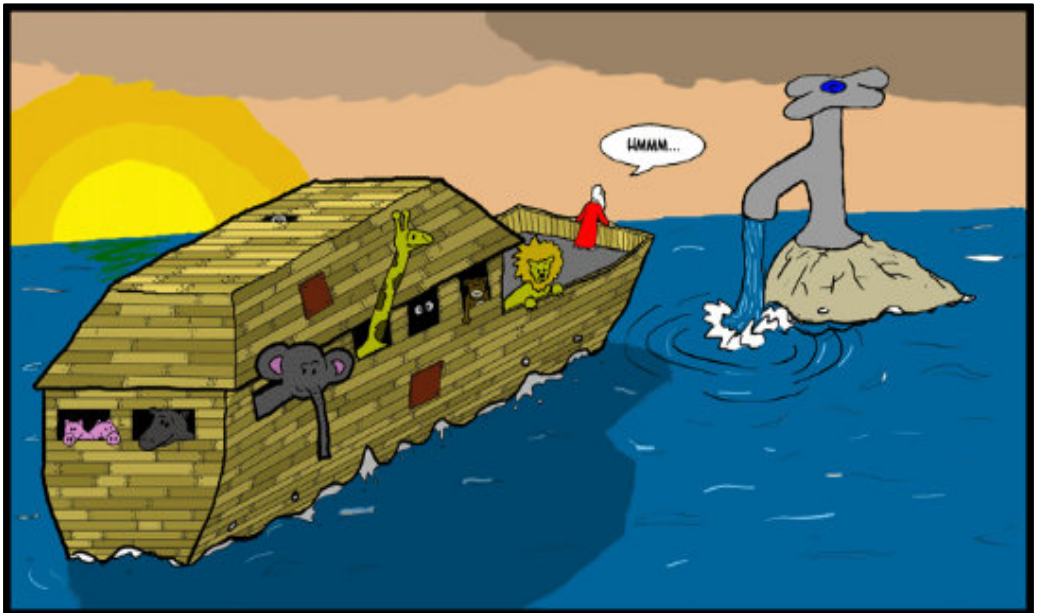
David, the Patron Saint of Wales,
Of his goodness the Nation sings,
His lasting message was "Feel the joy,
Keep the Faith and do the little things."

Hylfa Hurst



08-07-2015

CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?



CARTOONS cont'd

With permission Tim Walburg



"Nobody told me it was casual day!"

HUMOUR TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE SITUATION!

1. How many Politicians does it take to change a light bulb?
A difficult one to answer because it needs an investigation to find out why the bulb burned out; a committee to examine the type and cost of replacement; a liberal democrat to make sure civil rights aren't infringed; a conservative to sell the used bulbs to the highest bidder and a prime minister to explain to the tax payers why change is right.
- 2 How many Microsoft or Apple Engineers does it take to change a light bulb?
That's easy!! Zero, they'll all redefine darkness as the new standard
- 3 How many Psychologists does it take to change a light bulb?
Choose any figure you like and it will be right, but first you must make sure the light bulb WANTS to change.
- 4 How many Computer Programmers does it take to change a light bulb?
That's easy too - also Zero. A failed light bulb is a hardware problem, not a software error.

WORLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - N to P

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

Nailviolin

Oboe

Omnichord

Orpharion

Palendag

Nodaiko

Ocarina

Oopoochawa

Oud

Piano

Nyckelharpa

Octavin

Organ

Paiban

Psaltery

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

For solution contact Ed.

CONTACT

Dear Reader

From 2 May 2021 "Contact will revert to a monthly issue as lockdown restrictions ease & this will be kept under review.

"Contact" is also published on our Website (minus any personal or pastoral information not 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 to 27 Hazel Close. **Many thanks to those contributing.**

Next submission date will be 23 May

Next issue will be 30 May

Ed.

COLOURING SHEET FOR PENTECOST



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Acts 2 1- 4 (NRSVA) When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.