

CONTACT

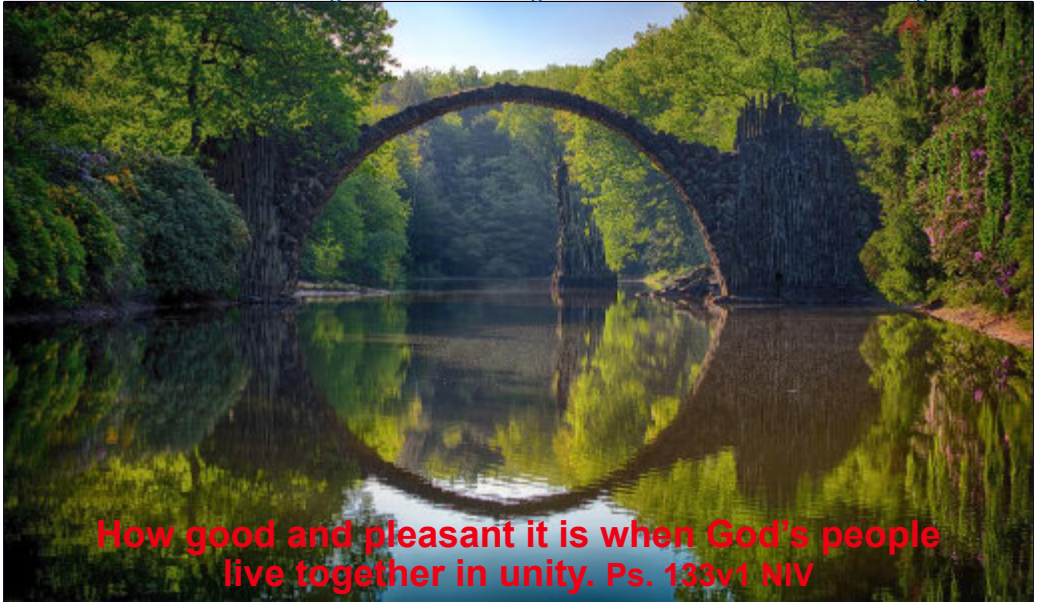
introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



**How good and pleasant it is when God's people
live together in unity. Ps. 133v1 NIV**

JUNE 2021

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk

PURC E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com

To contact Secretaries telephone - 07716129719

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

By the time you read this we will have had two services back in church, and hopefully by the end of June we will return to 'normal' services.

It's been 15 months since the first lockdown, a very unusual time for all of us, sadly we had to say goodbye to four of our members, Geoff, Noel, Milne and the lovely Pat.

We have all had to adjust to a very different lifestyle over the past 15 months and I thought it would take some time to get back to our 'old ways' but I'm not so sure.....

Our daughters bought us an overnight stay in a very nice hotel in the lakes for Christmas, and after cancelling it once we finally managed it on the 19th/20th May.

We had one very nice dry day in Ambleside and one very wet day in Windermere, (don't you just love our British weather) but it struck me whilst we were walking around how quickly we can slip back into life before 'covid'.

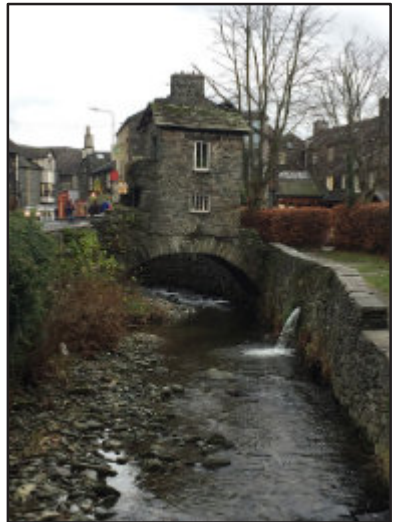
Apart from the obvious masks that we still have to wear indoors, we saw people meeting up with friends, having a meal inside a cafe/ restaurant, queuing for a trip on the lake, a perfectly normal sunny day in a beautiful part of our country.

Sitting on a bench watching the swans, it was easy to forget the year and a half we all lost to the pandemic.

But we mustn't forget, we must take and learn something from the past year and move forward with renewed faith and strength to cope with whatever lies ahead in the future.

Love and blessings

Jenny.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Our 'outdoor' coffee morning went ahead on Monday 17th May, despite the black clouds above us, about 20 of our congregation turned up with their flasks of coffee and even though we had to move inside when the rain came, it was lovely to see you all and hopefully our monthly coffee mornings will be able resume in the not too distant future.

Some of our members and friends have been making arrangements to visit family members they haven't seen for quite a while; we hope their visits went well which I'm sure they did.

Our Junior church children are still enjoying their 'zoom' lessons every other week, and we thank the teachers and Steven for all they have done to keep our children in touch with God during the pandemic.

Sending our love and prayers to you all and God willing we will see you all very soon.

Your Elders.

WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

On behalf of the Group we must send our thanks to **Jean Frew** who diligently remembers everyone's birthday and includes them in Contact.

Incidentally, Jean's birthday passed unnoticed last October.

A much belated **Happy Birthday Jean.**

Hylda Hurst



SCOUTS AND BEAVERS



We are grateful to the Scouts and Beavers for the imaginative range of planters, including recycled tyres, that have brightened up the grounds in springtime with bulbs and blossoms. They have now replanted them with summer bedding and we look forward to a lovely show of colour in the coming months. Not only has it been a nice project for 5th Penwortham Scouts, but has also been a lovely touch during a difficult period.

Anne Hall

IMPORTANT NOTICE- PURC SERVICES - JUNE/JULY 2021

The dates for forthcoming services at PURC are as follows:

June 20th and June 27th - these two services will be identical.

July 11th and July 18th - these two services will not be identical.

June 6th, 13th and July 4th, 25th - **no services planned.**

Services of Holy Communion will be notified as and when arrangements are made.

Pending further advice from URC NW Synod, restrictions on numbers still apply, so it remains necessary to **book your place** for each service by contacting either Jenny or your Elder.

A REFLECTION

THE SECRET TO SURVIVING HARD TIMES

‘Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ.’ Philippians 3:8 CEV

The secret to surviving hard times doesn't lie in *what* you know, but *who* you know. You say, ‘Right now I've got more troubles than Job.’ Well, when the bottom dropped out of Job's world, he said: ‘He (God) knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread’ (Job 23:10-12 NIV).

And Paul's life wasn't a picnic either: ‘I have been in danger from rivers...from bandits...from my fellow Jews...from Gentiles; in danger in the city...in the country...at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have laboured and toiled and... often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches’ (2 Corinthians 11:26-28 NIVUK).

Reading that list makes us ask the question, ‘How did he do it?’ Paul knew the secret to surviving hard times. What was it? He allowed his troubles to drive him closer to the Lord: ‘I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong’ (2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NIV). Do you want what Job and Paul had? Then draw closer to the Lord - that's the secret!

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

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK COLLECTION 2021

Firstly and most importantly, we are very grateful to both **Barbara Edmondson and Cath Addison** for all their hard work in the annotating of all the Christian Aid envelopes with the collection locations; organising the envelope distribution and participating with the other local churches in the counting and recording activity.

Many thanks too, to the PURC envelope distributors for our area.

Then also a thank you to all of you who have contributed by envelope or online to this very worthy cause; every donation will particularly help those in “climate crisis” whose lives & livelihoods are threatened by changes in the world’s climate.



From the collection points in Penwortham, through envelopes and cash, over £1800 raised was apportioned to PURC, St. Mary’s and Penwortham Methodists; our sum being £728.79.

Thanks to Cath & Barbara for the collection detail e-mail of 23 May.

Brenda Kendall & Ed.

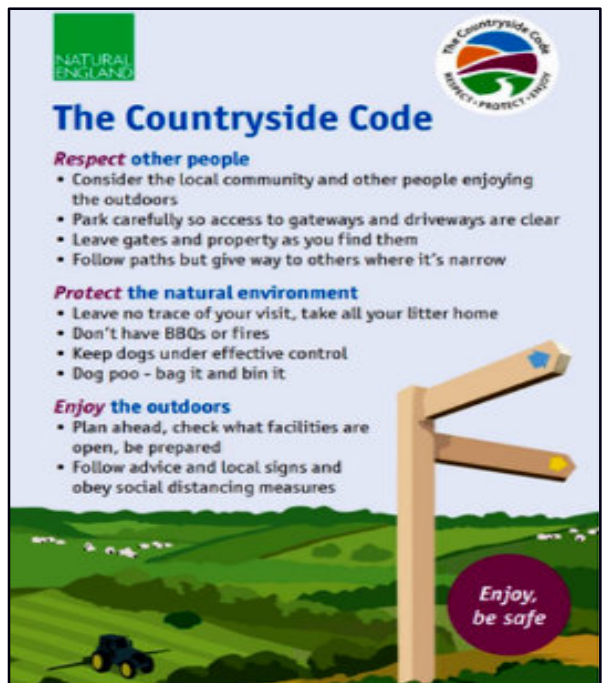
PURC ECO-CHURCH MISSION

The Countryside Code

As we will (hopefully) be able to go further afield in the countryside in the next few months, I thought it would be good to remind the children of the Countryside code. As part of our eco-theme, it would be great if we could all promote it. There is also a link to a short animated film:

[https://
www.youtube.com/watch?
v=ZHBVMNROsSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHBVMNROsSI)

Gillian Ashurst



WORLD PRAYER NEWS

Yemen - South-West Asia (aka the Middle East)

Humanitarian crisis needs prayers for peace and restoration

Four out of five people in Yemen need humanitarian assistance, making it the world's largest humanitarian crisis of our time. Civil war, economic collapse, and the mass displacement of people have generated a situation that continues to deteriorate and push already exhausted communities to the brink. 20 million people in Yemen cannot access adequate health care, nor do they have enough food to eat, and nearly 18 million people do not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Pray that God will bring peace and restoration to this nation. Please pray for the millions of people in need of food and clean water. Pray that their daily needs will be met and that they will be able to receive humanitarian aid. Ask God to help Medair reach vulnerable communities with emergency healthcare and nutrition services, especially women and children who are most at risk and suffering from malnutrition. (Medair)

Caribbean Islands - Evangelism in the Caribbean

65 years ago Trinidadian graduate Ruby Thompson started Inter-School/InterVarsity Fellowship of Trinidad and Tobago. She had witnessed the transformative work of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in the lives of students at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and was encouraged to start a similar group at home. Today, there are still some islands without Christian witness in the universities, colleges and schools. Give thanks for graduate volunteer Tonia from Jamaica, currently pioneering ministry in St Kitts and Nevis where she works as a pharmacist. Pray for pioneering graduates seeking to follow Ruby and Tonia's examples in Saint Martin and Sint Maarten. (IFES)

Mission teams in Australia

Give thanks for the safe arrival of five Australian families for home assignment. Pray that they will have good opportunities to share about ministry and connect with people who are interested in missions. Pray also for new people to join OMF Australia's New South Wales team as some current team members look to move on to other ministries. Pray especially for God to raise up someone with a heart for member care and another with a heart for mobilisation. (Overseas Missionary Fellowship International)
all above with permission of - www.globalconnections.org.uk

ANDREW'S NEWS FROM RUSSIA (edited)

Winter in Siberia

Good evening from Novosibirsk! This winter has been particularly cold, much colder than last year. Temperatures dropped as low as -49C. At that temperature the air is so fresh, but your breath freezes your eyelashes shut if you're not careful! Christmas is celebrated on K Jan 7th, so on 25th Dec I presented my master's research in Russian at the triennial Russian Economic Congress. It was a new and valuable experience, and I even received a special mention in the closing ceremony. The night before I'd ticked an item off my Russian bucket list – going to the “banya” (Russian baths) for the first time. It's a fantastic, revitalising experience, and a tradition to visit and be hit by eucalyptus branches to relieve stress around New Year.

The centre of Novosibirsk was brightly decorated as usual. I celebrated New Year with my coursemates in our halls of residence, we watched the traditional Soviet New Year films “Ivan Vasilievich Changes Profession” and “The Irony of Fate (or Enjoy Your Bath!)”.

I'm making the most of my time here, both culturally and academically. I saw the Nutcracker ballet, the opera La Boheme, and went to the philharmonic to listen to three works by Tchaikovsky. This followed by seeing a well-known Russian actor, Maxim Averin, play a one-man show, with singing, poetry reciting, acting and comedy, and also a lecture by a Russian hitchhiker, Anton Krotov. Finally, several trips to the cinema to see recent Russian and American films, and an old showing of The Taming of the Shrew from the Globe Theatre in English with Russian subtitles

As the weather warmed up my flatmate Max and I went cross-country skiing, with mixed success. For my birthday in March, we walked round the ski route, as the ski base was still shut from International Women's Day. In turn we stumbled across a well-built igloo, sat inside, and enjoyed our flask of tea. It was certainly the most surreal birthday. The Russian spring is also rather grim, as all the snow and ice melts, making pavements slippery and flooding streets

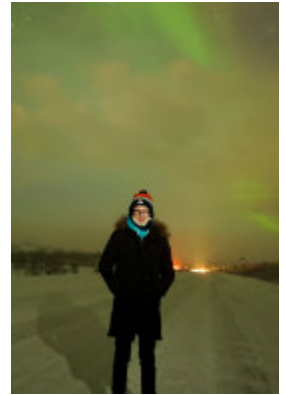


ANDREWS NEWS FROM RUSSIA - EDITED (cont'd)

With summer approaching, I've taken out insurance against tick bites; the norm here. Uni work has been intense, finishing my dissertation, which has to be defended later this month, carrying out extra work for the Russian Academy of Sciences and teaching English once a week. I presented aspects of British culture, to students and uni's "International Week". I also took part in an online winter school run by the Uni of the Arctic. I'll be back to the UK this summer after graduating, and in Oct will move to Cambridge to conduct PhD research into global environmental change. I have been awarded a fully funded scholarship by the NERC and will be based at the British Antarctic Survey with additional study at Durham Uni and at the Institute of the Forest in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, over the next three years.

This year I've managed to make two trips to west Russia, a 10 day holiday at the end of Jan to Yaroslavl, Kostroma, Murmansk and St Petersburg, and then a short business trip with the Academy of Sciences to Moscow with an invite to a classical concert "From Bach to Jazz" at the Catholic Cathedral involving an organ; violin; a soprano singing and a saxophone. I'm still not convinced that the organ is a jazz instrument! However, the organ and violin improvisation to the tune of Slane was certainly a highlight.

The winter holiday was eventful meeting up with old friends in Yaroslavl; to Kostroma, an old city on the Golden Ring, and on up to Murmansk on a 38-year-old Antonov 26 turboprop plane. Certainly a retro experience; one I won't be repeating any time soon! In Murmansk I saw the Northern Lights for the first time; a truly wonderful, jaw-dropping experience. Then I took a trip with a group of Bangladeshi nuclear engineering students to Teriberka, even further north on the Barents Sea, part of the Arctic Ocean. The size of Russia really is beyond belief, but wherever you go you're treated with warmth and openness. I've read 4 books, watched Line of Duty, and stumbled across Fisherman's Friends in the local shop here in Akademgorodok. Easter celebrations are relatively muted. Hope you make the most of the Lancashire weather and enjoy the rest of spring and summer. See you soon!



Andrew Clelland

POETRY PAGE

ODE TO THE MASKS ?!



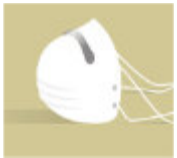
At the start of the Covid outbreak
Many questions we did ask,
We could walk outside, just briefly,
And we didn't wear a mask



By June many shops had reopened,
With arrows and footprints, what a task,
At the checkouts the staff were shielded,
But they didn't wear a mask.

The Spring and Summer had been lovely
In nice warm sunshine we'd bask,
People could meet in a garden.
But they didn't wear a mask.

By July things were changing
Visits to Fleetwood with food and a flask.
We sat on a form in the sun,
Still we didn't wear a mask.



In August we could meet in the park
But not in garden, why? we may ask.
Shops are spraying their trolleys.
And everyone's wearing a mask.



There is still no full church service,
And singing, the worship it lacks,
Sitting in bubbles, no more than thirty,
And all persons wearing their masks.

At the end of the year still no let up,
Infection increasing by shedloads and sacks,
A three day amnesty for Christmas,
The whole family wearing their masks.

Another Spring, the year has turned round,
Chilly, flowers late, are the facts,
But a vaccine programme is well underway
Yet still we are wearing our masks.

At Pentecost we had a Church Service,
Ban on singing rule - no relax
But we met together as friends
And continued wearing our masks

Hylda Hurst

CARTOON

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(See Matthew 7:24-27)

08-29-2014

THE FOOLISH MAN HAD TROUBLES LATER IN LIFE, BUT HE HAD HIS WINS AS A CHILD

100 YEARS AGO IN JUNE

- Jun 6 Southwark Bridge in London was opened to traffic by King George V and Queen Mary.
- Jun 10 The late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was born in Mon Repos, Corfu, Greece.
- Jun 11 Brazil adopted women's suffrage.
- Jun 15 Bessie Colman became the first black woman to obtain both a US national and an international (FAI) pilot's licence.
- Jun 19 A Census was held in Great Britain
- Jun 20 11.5 inches of rainfall was recorded in Circle, Montana, USA
- Jun 20 The Imperial Conference was held in London at which V.S. Srinivasa Sastri proposed full citizenship rights for Indians in South Africa and other British Colonies
- Jun 21 The UK, Dominions and India form the British Commonwealth

WORLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - Q to S

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

Quatro	Ratchet	Recorder	Sackbut	Sarod
Quintophone	Rattle	Reyong	Sanshin	Sarrusophone
Rainstick	Ravanahatha	Rubab	Santur	Saxophone

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

For solution contact Ed.

CONTACT

Dear Reader

From 2 May 2021 "Contact has reverted 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 20 June

Next issue will be 27 June

Ed.

COLOURING SHEET

