

# CONTACT

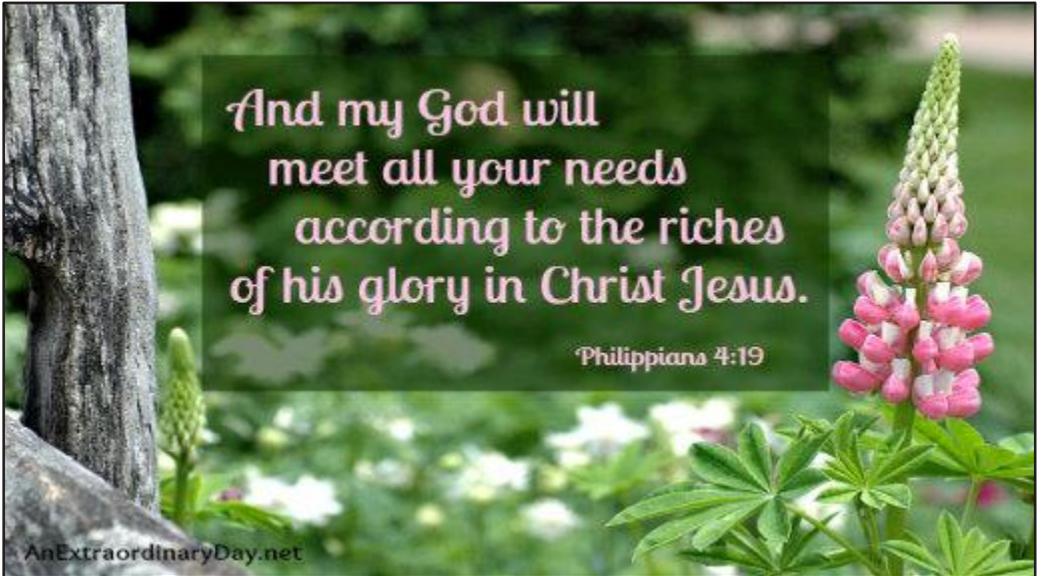
*introduces and welcomes*

**YOU**

*to*

**PENWORTHAM**

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**



And my God will  
meet all your needs  
according to the riches  
of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

AnExtraordinaryDay.net

## AUGUST 2021

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,

I found this “Pastoral Heart” while I was looking for something completely different, (I can’t even remember what I was looking for!) the heart meant so much to me.

<i>Worship</i>	<i>Kindness</i>	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Love</i>
<i>Respect</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Friendship</i>	<i>Generosity</i>
<i>Courage</i>	<i>Gentleness</i>	<i>Sharing</i>	<i>Forgiveness</i>
<i>Hope</i>	<i>Compassion</i>	<i>Justice</i>	<i>Faithfulness</i>

As I read the words I just thought **YES** that’s it in a nutshell –

**Penwortham URC**

We, the members and friends of PURC are in all these words.

*(cont’d)*

**1 Corinthians 12:14**

“For the body is not one member, but many”

This is, perhaps, the simplest and clearest statement about working together in the Bible. The body of Christ, or the people that are the whole of humanity, are a team. The body is not supported by one person but by all of us. We are one; we are strongest working together in unity. Teamwork is the key to living life in harmony, so that we can do God’s will.

Each Elder has worked tirelessly to keep in touch with everybody on their pastoral list, aided by their link helpers.

This Contact Magazine has been produced twice a month. Contributors and publishers have kept us informed about the goings on at PURC.

The gardens have been tended with love and care.

The church has been cleaned and kept covid free.

The Elders have worked for the good of the members, friends and fabric of our building.

The list goes on and on, lots of people working for the good of PURC

The list goes on, now you can see why my “Pastoral Heart” means so much to me.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.” Philippians 2;13.

As we work towards more covid restrictions being lifted let us work with HOPE and LOVE showing KINDNESS and GENEROSITY.

**God bless you for all that you do!**

Beverley.

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Our love and best wishes go to anybody celebrating a birthday/anniversary in August.

To all our Junior Church and their teachers, we wish you all a happy and restful break, and if you are going on holiday, have fun and stay safe.

Love & blessings

Your Elders



Remainder of article redacted  
in website copy.

### WOMEN'S GROUP

Hello Ladies,  
Hope you are all keeping well. Now that times are hopefully moving ahead made me think of meetings, laws permitting.

Do we aim for October & November or should we just start again in the New Year?

Please let me know your thoughts.



*Jean* - 01772 612597

(*Jean Frew*)

## **PURC COVID RESTRICTIONS UPDATE**

Following the Government's relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions on Monday the 19th July the Elders held an Elders' meeting on 23rd to discuss and agree our Church policy in light of the new restrictions.

It was agreed:

- The chairs would continue to be set out so socially distancing can be maintained.
- Worshippers would be asked to continue to wear their face masks whilst in the building.
- Track & Trace is still a legal requirement until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August so everyone attending will still have to sign in on the sheet provided or use the QR code.
- The current practice including use of hand sanitizers on both entry and exit will continue.
- The doors of the church will continue to be open during services to enable the circulation of fresh air.
- Numbers for services have been such that there will be no further need to "book in".
- Services will continue to last approximately 30 minutes. These restrictions will remain in place until the 16th August when the Government will review lifting more restrictions. The elders will meet again on the 18th August to plan the way forward.

If you have any worries/queries please get in touch with your elder or secretaries.

### **Services in August and September**

- Family Worship: 8th August at 10.30
- Family Worship: 22nd August at 10.30
- Family Worship: 12th September at 10.30
- Harvest: 19th September at 10.30

*Beverley*

## A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

### Paul Martin's 50th Birthday

As reported last month, Paul Martin reached the significant age of 50 on 23rd June 2021, when he enjoyed a day out in Blackpool and a fish and chip supper. This was the first trip out he had been able to take, other than visits to doctors and hospitals, since late March 2020 as he had been forced to shield completely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Paul has asked that we express his thanks here, to everyone who kindly gave him cards, gifts and made donations to Galloway's Society for the Blind in Penwortham in his name. It was all greatly appreciated.

For the past two years Paul had been wanting to plan a "Big Do" for this birthday, and following his directions a party for him and 28 guests was held at Farington Lodge in Leyland, complete with a trio who played his favourite jazz.

It was a great evening, and enjoyed by Paul and everyone he had invited.  
*(Robert Bulloch)*



## PURC ECO CHURCH NEWS - ECO CHURCH AWARD

We have achieved a **Bronze Eco Church Award**.



The ethos of **eco church** is to help churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully. We have been awarded gold in the community and global engagement, and worship and teaching sections, and silver in the land and lifestyle categories. In the buildings category we achieved a Bronze award. This is mainly because our building is old and does not have the scope for energy saving technology. When we are at Church regularly, we will work on developing the buildings and land and lifestyle categories.

Although we do not have much land, we achieved a silver in the land and lifestyle categories. This is mainly due to the excellent work over the years in managing the land in a way that encourages wildlife and promotes sustainability. However, we can look at ways in which the Church members can enjoy the land more. We will involve Junior Church in this process and please let us know if you have any ideas. It would be great to have an 'eco-team' and anyone is welcome to be part of it. Please let me know if you are interested. " (Gillian Ashurst)  
***(Congratulations to Gillian on steering us as a church to this achievement .....Ed.)***

## OTHER PURC NOTICES AND INFORMATION

### MISSIONARY BOXES

If anyone has a missionary box for counting please bring it to church and I will do the count and return ASAP.

Thank you, Viv

(Viv Moore)

### UNICEF MITES SCHEME



**Thank you to those who have dropped off Mites (5p coins) during the pandemic.**

These mites remain very important to the welfare of children around the world suffering from dehydration, malnutrition and other dehydrating illnesses like cholera. They provide essential "re-hydration salts" which are frequently life saving.

Since the beginning of the pandemic a total of £250.00 has been sent to and acknowledged with grateful thanks by the UK Coordinator. This sum provided approximately 3125 sachets costing now 8p ea.

When you come to church your Mites can be left in the offering plate in an envelope marked "Mites", or placed in the Mites Box.

With the cost of the sachets having increased to 8p for some time now, any 10p coins will also be welcome as "Mites", as well as larger donations. If you would like your Mites to be collected call Alan on 01772740129. For more information click ["Mites Scheme"](#).

### RACE FOR LIFE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

On the 29th August I am taking part in the Race for Life at Moor Park in Preston in aid of Cancer Research. My Mum has recently undergone treatment for cancer at Christies and I know there are others in our Church family who have been affected by cancer. All donations will be very gratefully received and will go to Cancer Research to help those in need. To donate simply click onto the link below (or copy and paste the URL into your computer browser). If you would like to donate but cannot access the giving page, I will put a sponsor sheet in the Church foyer.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/gillians-race-for-life-3229>

Thank you very much. Gillian Ashurst.



## ECO CHURCH ARTICLE FOR AUGUST

<https://shop.wateraid.org/>

Here is a link to the WaterAid website.

As we all know, clean water is vital for survival. Stand pipes enable people in African countries, and other developing countries, to be self-sufficient. It allows people to grow their own food, develop their communities and be healthy. Growing fruit and vegetables helps to make the area greener and encourages rainfall, thereby slowing climate change. It also allows girls to go to school rather than spend their days walking to find water.

If you have any spare 1ps and 2ps, please will you save them for me, and I will donate them to WaterAid. Our 1ps and 2ps really can help to save the planet!

Please take a look at the website if you are struggling to find a gift for the person who has everything.

Thank you very much for your kindness.

Gillian Ashurst.



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENWORTHAM

Hello Churches Together Friends,  
Please will you forward this email to any member of your church or congregation who might be interested.

We have not had any Churches Together activities since (I think) the Advent Service 2019. It is possible that the Covid emergency will wane over the next weeks and months. I hope you agree that a Grand Relaunch of Churches Together in Penwortham should take place soon. Please will you all prayerfully consider this and prepare your members and congregations accordingly. Each church is eligible for four representatives to attend meetings in addition to clergy. New faces will be most welcome.

A Zoom meeting was held earlier in July to discuss the need for CTIP to become a charity. In order to take this forward, any decisions or recommendations must be agreed at a CTIP meeting.

The date of the next meeting is Monday 18th October at 7.30 at the United Reformed Church, Liverpool Road.

Please put the date in your diary and discuss this with your members and congregations.

Thank you, John

*(forwarded by Anne Hall)*



## **URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE ARTICLE EXTRACTS**

### **Focus – Bangladesh - Shikha's Crab Farming Business**

Shikha was struggling to make ends meet. Bangladesh is one of the most exploited countries in the world. Shikha decided to approach our Christian Aid supported partner to be trained to become a crab farmer. This means that means she no longer has to rely on entering the dangerous river to catch fish to sell to provide food and education for her two children. Climate disruption is making it harder for her to look after the crabs. Cyclone Bulbul was particularly damaging. However, Shikha perseveres thanks to her determination and skill.

### **Focus – Nicaragua- Angela's Coffee Farm**

Angela's coffee farm used to provide a good living for her family. But now she's facing a crisis. The changing climate in Nicaragua means her coffee harvests are shrinking every year. Too much rain and the coffee beans don't ripen properly. Too much sun and the coffee beans can suffer from diseases like chasparria, causing half the bean to ripen too soon. Coffee farmers used to lose only 5% of their crop. Now it is 30%. Angela explained: 'With climate change, the coffee suffers from many diseases and pests. The sun has scorched the coffee beans; we cannot sell them and we're losing more every year because of climate change.' Your ongoing support for Angela through Commitment for Life makes all the difference. Please continue to pray and work for justice as you have been doing for so many years.

### **Focus –Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories –Abu Rashwan**

The 9,000 residents of Abu Rashwan area of Gaza feel safer and are better connected as a result of the support of our partner, CFTA. Abu Rashwan is an agricultural community where many families live hand to mouth – unemployment is high, and people often struggle with food insecurity. There are no properly functioning sewage or water services, and electricity shortages prevail. CFTA identify and advocate for their needs, the community resilience enhancement committee (CREC) in Abu Rashwan neighbourhood mobilised and coordinated private sector, municipal and local volunteers to purchase and install solar panel streetlights. These changes came as a result of the local CREC's improved confidence and trust in their own abilities. The area falls between two governorates and so local authority jurisdiction has largely been absent – this has now been improved with greater engagement from Khan Younis authority. now employing dispute resolution.

For further information go to [Commitment for Life](#)



## A REFLECTION

### HAVE YOU CONSULTED GOD ABOUT IT?

#### “But they didn’t ask God about it” - Joshua 9:14 ‘The Message’

When you consult God before making decisions, it keeps you out of all sorts of trouble. Joshua learned this the hard way. He had just conquered Jericho, the biggest city in the Promised Land. Flushed with victory, the Israelites felt like they didn’t need to consult God concerning their next move. But over-confidence can be deadly!

The Gibeonites, one of the enemy nations in the Promised Land, realised they couldn’t win against God’s people, so they sent negotiators in to make peace with them. And it worked. Even though the Gibeonites were lying, Joshua presumed they were telling the truth and signed a treaty. And it proved to be one of the biggest mistakes of his life. From that day on the Gibeonites became a constant thorn in Israel’s side. Joshua lived to regret that he ‘didn’t ask God about it’.

Some of the oldest hymns contain the greatest truths. Here’s one: ‘O what peace we often forfeit; o what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.’ Are you a ‘make-it-happen-in-your-own-strength’ kind of person? There’s a fine line between God-given assurance and self-sufficiency, and when you cross that line it can cost you dearly. If you’ve a tendency to move too quickly or operate in your own strength and skill, read these words carefully and prayerfully:

Trust in the **Lord** with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes’ (Proverbs 3:5-7 NKJV).

*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)*

**Penwortham**  
United Reformed Church



*Serving, celebrating, and living the way of Christ together*

### **Africa - Equipping local churches across Africa**

Please pray that the Gospel of peace would proceed forth throughout Nigeria, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, and other African nations on this incredible continent. May the beautiful feet of those who bring Good News be readied with peace. Pray for upcoming Al Massira training in Malawi. May they further equip the local Churches for discipleship and evangelism to advance the spread of the Gospel. Pray for the AM resources being translated into several African languages. May they bear fruit for the Kingdom. Pray the AM App would be fully provided for and ready for widespread use throughout Africa. (Al Massira)

### **Sierra Leone - West Africa - Slum solutions for Sierra Leone**

Pray for Home Leone in their Kingdom Vision to enable thousands to exit Sierra Leone's horrific slums. Thank God for Destiny Village and the first 200 people who have moved. Pray for breakthrough funding such that thousands can be re-housed in vibrant communities. Pray for the church and the school that they will reflect God's love to all who move, come to learn and live in the surrounding area. Pray for the Sierra Leone government that they will go deeper in slum solutions. (*Home Leone*)

### **Moldova - Eastern Europe The poorest country in Europe**

Moldova is the poorest country in Europe. Last year the country experienced drought, with many of the crops failing. Please pray for a good harvest this year so that people would not go hungry, especially after such a difficult year economically with the impact of the drought and of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pray too for a harvest for the Gospel. Please pray for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, for MPs to be elected who are able to help the country make progress politically and economically.

### **South East Asia - Giay people in Vietnam and Laos**

Few of the Giay people group have heard that Jesus Christ died for them. They are trapped in superstition and fear of evil spirits, and there are no strong christian communities nearby. Pray for God to call workers to reach these people in Vietnam and Laos.

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

## POETRY PAGE

### THE HIGH STREET

#### WOOLWORTHS

What has happened to our high streets?  
It's easy to make the right guess,  
The old shops have closed of course,  
Sadly, good old B.H.S.

#### GREENWOODS

Woolworths went many years since,  
We lost up market Owen Owen.  
Where's Timpsons and Dolcis and Mansfield?  
C&A, Burtons and Greenwoods, all gone.

#### LITTLEWOODS

Littlewoods was good for clothing,  
Also household, lighting and new curtains,  
A bit like M&S but cheaper  
they now do online that's certain.

#### OWEN OWEN

Chaps once always wore suits,  
Bargains from Fifty Shilling Tailor,  
Or Wearer to Wearer, never Marks,  
Or get them bespoke from a tailor.

#### WEARER TO WEARER

Now Debenhams have become the latest  
to shut its doors and close down,  
It was starting to struggle three years since,  
But another shop space in the town.

#### DEBENHAMS

With scores of empty and derelict shops,  
The high streets of old are all dead,  
To buy shirts, sweaters or trousers,  
It's online or mail order instead

*Hyláa Hurst*

## WORLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - W TO Z

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

Waj	WobbleBoard	Xylophone	Yazheng	Zhuihu
Washboard	WoodBlock	Xylorimba	Zampogna	Zither
Whistle	Xun	Yangqin	Zhonghu	Zummara

Words may be Horizontal, Vertical, Diagonal or Back to Front  
For solution contact Ed.

### CONTACT

**Dear Reader**

***'Contact' is issued monthly (inc. August in 2021).***

***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](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 contributing.**

**Next submission date will be 22 August**

**Next issue will be 29 August**

*Ed.*

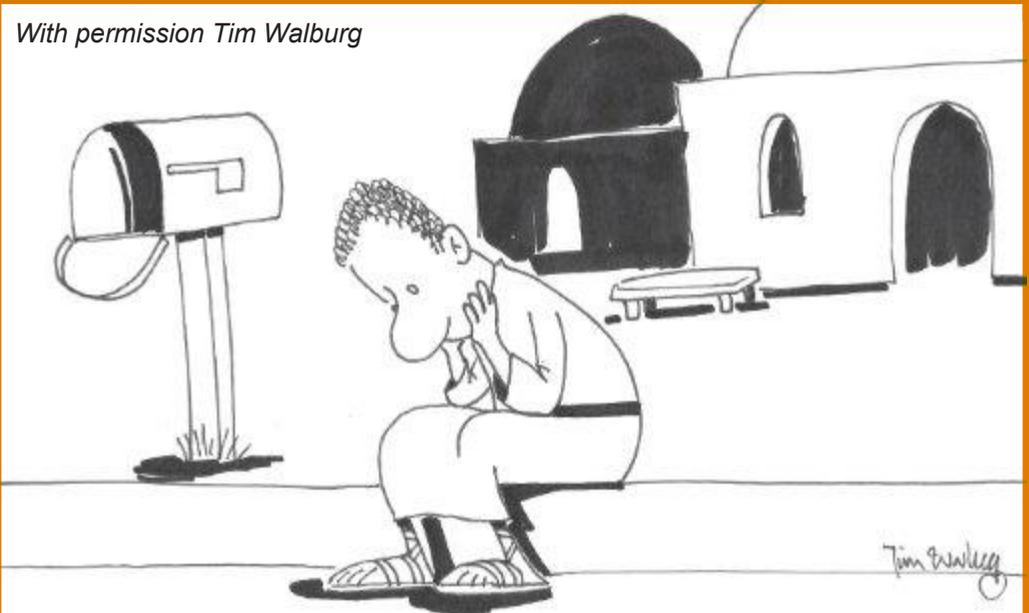
## CARTOONS

With permission Tim Walburg



"My faith has never grown like it does here."

With permission Tim Walburg



**PAUL'S THIRD LETTER TO TIMOTHY WAS LOST IN THE MAIL.**

COLOURING PAGE

MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH EXODUS CHAPTER 3

