

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

*The earth has yielded
its increase;*



*God, our God, has
blessed us.*

Ps. 67:6 (NRSVA)



SEPTEMBER 2021

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk

PURC E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com

To contact Secretaries telephone - 07716129719

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

Much has changed in all our lives during the past 18 months, and I believe that it is often worthwhile to take stock – especially of the Good which has occurred and for which we really should be grateful. It is certain that changes will continue to happen in the next 18 months and beyond; as all things in life, other than God, are subject to constant change.

The Church is no exception to this.

In chapter 3 of the Book of Ecclesiastes we read that there are times for every activity under the sun: for living and dying; for loving and hating, and all the other emotions and happenings which fill our varied existence. In the same chapter we also read:

“God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.”

As most of us will now have had both our Jabs, and as life appears to be returning to some sort of situation approaching “Normal”, is it too much to hope that activities and pleasures which we have been deprived, for good reason, can increasingly be enjoyed again? I certainly hope so. Everything passes, and this will pass too, but patience is a virtue not all of us possess in bucket loads.....

It has been so encouraging to see many more people being able to attend church and also to be able to sing! As we currently await a further update and recommendations from our North West Synod I believe we can look forward to services and celebrations as in the past, and I’m sure we can be glad about that!

However, as with many organisations at the present time, we must prepare ourselves for the fact that some things cannot be the same as we have come to know or indeed expect.

Additional pressures have become all too clear during these months of Lockdown, and one example is the lack of ministers and lay preachers who are now available to lead our worship.

Financial matters have not been exactly brilliant as weekly collections just haven't happened, although many fixed overheads and costs have remained.

As we move back to what should be our "Normal" pattern of worship, you can see that it will be even more important for us all to pull together and for each of us to play our part in the work and life of our Church. I am sure that you would agree with that old saying "Faith without action is no faith at all" and we must all consider very carefully what we currently engage in or not, and what we may also offer to every aspect of our spiritual and practical activities; from making coffee and washing up afterwards, to participating in services or Junior Church, helping with paperwork or acting as an Elder or office holder. What may be seen as an "unimportant" task still has to be undertaken by someone; it doesn't get done by itself.

As we have learnt very well recently, Time is a precious commodity. What we do with the time we have is equally important, and we must consider perhaps what time can be given to our church and the good of our community? Questions such as these will be asked at the next Church meeting and I would ask everyone to give prayerful consideration to these pressing matters, as your help will be important.

As ever we look forward in faith to a brighter future and to enjoy again the fellowship we love and share.

With all good wishes,

Robert

Penwor⁺ham
United Reformed Church



Serving, celebrating, and living the way of Christ together

FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Our two services in August went very well, with many of our members and friends coming back to church for the first time.

We send our best wishes to anybody celebrating a birthday or anniversary in a September.

And we also send our junior church children our best wishes as they return to school in September.

*With our blessings
Your Elders*

Other elements redacted for website

WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

The Women's Group send their best wishes to:

**Betty Carruthers, Heather Robbins
& Barbara Johnson**

who have a birthday in September

Many Happy Returns

Jean Frew



PURC SEPTEMBER 2021 SERVICES

September

5 th	Communion	The Elders
12 th	Family Worship	Daleen Ten Cate
19 th	Harvest	Steve Mitchell
26 th	Family Worship	Frank Kendall

Communion

The “Elements” will be served by the Elders, so no need to bring anything from home.

Harvest

Harvest giving will take the form of monetary gifts for Penwortham Food Bank.

Church Meeting

There will be a Church Meeting after the service on the 26th. If there is anything you would like to add to the agenda please speak to an Elder
Beverley

ADVANCE NOTICE - OCTOBER - SPECIAL SERVICE

**The Commissioning service for
Lancashire South Partnership
will take place on**

**Saturday 23rd October
2pm at Penwortham URC**

Everybody is invited.

The Commissioning Service is an important part of the process for filling the Partnership vacancy.

We have recently updated our Church Profile.

Rev Richard Bradley (Synod Pastoral Committee) will take all updated South Partnership Profiles to the next Moderators meeting.

A step in the right direction!!!!

Your Elders

URC NORTH WESTERN SYNOD NOTICE

An Invitation to Visit the New Synod Offices

Dear Friends,

Come and see our new offices

As you may know, after over 25 years at Patricroft, the Synod Office has moved to new offices in Salford Quays which have been designed specifically for our use – providing meeting rooms, a technology suite and office accommodation to enable the office based staff to work in a comfortable and modern environment.

We are really pleased with the new office space, and would be delighted to show you around. We are therefore making an open invitation to anyone who would like to come and have a look around. It will also be a chance for you to meet some of the office staff, and Officers and members of Synod Executive. We would be really pleased to see you.

We are suggesting dates by Areas, but if you would like to come on a date other than the one suggested for your area, then you are still more than welcome.

Thursday 16th September 1pm – 4pm Central Area

Tuesday 21st September 1pm – 4pm Lancashire & Cumbria Areas

Tuesday 21st September 5pm – 8pm South Area

The offices are easily accessible by public transport, with the Exchange Quay tram stop no more than a five-minute walk away. There is parking available, if you are driving. Please telephone the office if you need specific directions.

Our address is: Unit 20 Sandpiper Quay, Modwen Road,
Salford M5 3EZ Telephone: 0161 769 1122

We look forward to seeing you, and showing you round!

Tim Hopley

CONTACT

Dear Reader

'Contact' has now reverted to being issued monthly again.

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 19 September

Next issue will be 26 September

Ed.

CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL NOTICES

Emergency Appeals for Haiti and Afghanistan

Christian Aid has launched an Emergency Appeal for shelter, drinking water, food, healthcare and longer-term support following the earthquake in Haiti; and also an appeal for food and help in Afghanistan.

Donations may be given in the red Christian Aid Emergency Envelopes available in Church, with cheques payable to Christian Aid; or online at

www.christianaid.co.uk/appeals/emergencies

Cath Greenlees walks 50 times round Longton Brick Croft

During August I am doing a Sponsored Walk to raise funds for four aspects of the work of Christian Aid in devastated or very vulnerable areas: supplying clean water by means of dams, boreholes or pumps; planting cocoa and fruit trees in drought areas to combat climate change; supplying refugees with shelter, education and healthcare; providing Covid protection.

A small amount will also go to FOMO, Fairtrade and children suffering from hunger in a famine area of Uganda.

A leaflet is available on request.

I should complete the Walk by August 31st - but contributions may be made until the end of September. I should like to thank everyone for any support given. A wide variety of people are helped by Christian Aid and we know that this is very much appreciated and can transform lives.

Cath Greenlees 01772-613500; **cathgreenlees@hotmail.co.uk**

Cheques may be made payable to Christian Aid, please.



INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST - LATEST NEWS FROM RITA TAYLOR

Thank you for keeping on knitting for International Aid, they are now back in a more normal situation and will need our ongoing support, if you have items ready, please let me know and if you can please keep on making hats, scarves, gloves (in any size), knee or baby blankets and jumpers suitable for babies or toddlers. Every item will be welcomed.

The new collection point is in Lostock Hall and appointments are needed to drop off items so I will collect donations and arrange delivery in quantity. More information on arrangements later.

Their shoebox appeal has been enhanced and there are now 2 ways to donate your shoeboxes as follows:

Method 1

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST - VIRTUAL SHOEBOXES/BAGS

We now have an exciting new way to send a gift to a person in need (you will need internet access to give in this way)

Our virtual gift scheme enables you to select online the **age, gender and area of the world**, of the person to receive your shoebox/ bag.

Your donation funds a gift that is packed full of useful and fun items by our local in-country teams. This scheme will also help support local economies in the countries where we work. In areas where we have a '**Hands of Dorcas**' tailoring project, fabric bags or backpacks may be made by trainees to pack gifts in.

Please see individual virtual gifts details but generally your shoebox or bag will include items such as:

Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannel, comb, hair bobbles.

Clothing: socks, t-shirts, hats, scarves, Babygro for little ones.

Stationery: pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, colouring books, calculator, maths set.

Toys: cuddly toys, ball, skipping rope, puppets.

Other: plastic bowl, cup, cutlery, for adults a sewing kit or shaving kit.

Click or paste the link below to get started. You can either select the continent you would like to send a gift to, or you can choose to send a virtual shoebox wherever it is most needed!

<https://internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shop/virtual-shoeboxes/>

Method 2

PERSONALLY SELECTED AND PACKED SHOEBOX AT PURC
(as we have done in the past, more info. on arrangements later)

JOIN IN THE FUN – FILL A BOX OR TWO



Gift wrap the box and lid separately so lid can be lifted off, don't wrap individual items, use an elastic band to hold the box together.

Choose the age and gender of the person you want to receive your shoe box and fill the box with suitable items.

Label the box with who it is for e.g: Girl aged 2- 4, Boy aged 8-10, Adult Female aged 60+

TOILETRIES

Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, flannel or sponge, comb, hair bobbles, roll on deodorant *No sprays, medicines, vitamins, tablets.*

TOYS

Small toys, cuddly toys, balls, skipping rope, games, small jigsaws etc. *No guns or war toys.*

CLOTHES

Socks, T-shirts, hats, scarves, gloves, underwear, Babygro for little ones.

STATIONERY

pens, pencils, crayons, eraser, sharpener, notebooks, colouring books, *if sending scissors to children, please ensure they are round ended safety type.*

PRACTICAL

plastic bowl, cup, cutlery. Teens and adults: a small sewing kit, string, safety pins, a wind up torch or plasters. *No matches*

Transport

It costs us £2 per box to collect, store, transport and distribute each shoebox. In a time of increasing costs, your contributions are very welcome. Please do not put money inside or attached to boxes. Donations can be made through our website or by cheque.



Label to cut out and stick on your box

<input type="checkbox"/>	BOY	<input type="checkbox"/>	GIRL	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADULT MALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ADULT FEMALE	AGE

Thank you for all your support

Rita

(Rita Taylor)

(Many thanks to Rita for re-establishing the links with Int. Aid. Trust.... Ed.)

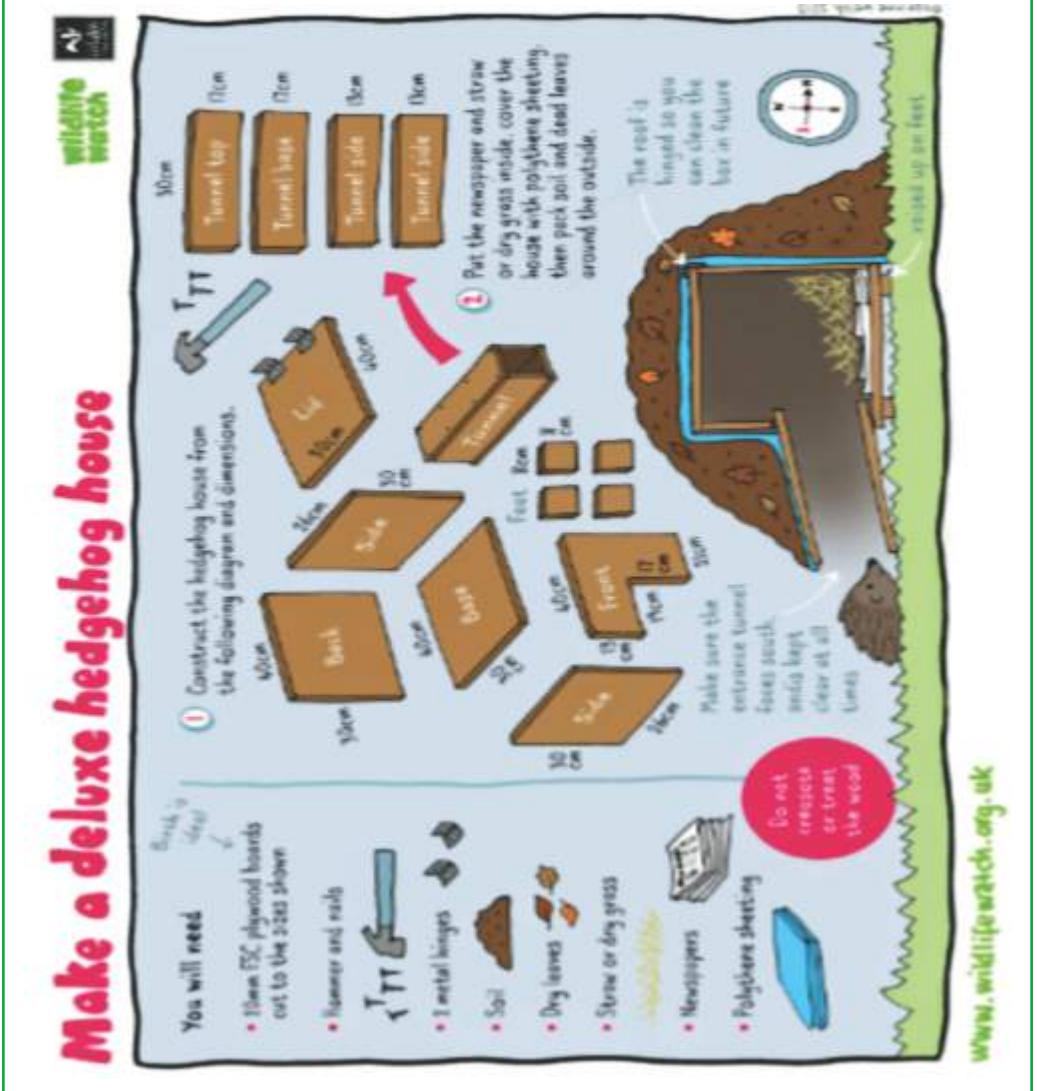
PURC ECO CHURCH ARTICLE

As part of our Eco Church theme, it would be great if we could find room in our gardens for a hedgehog house. For those who would like to make one, the instructions are below. They can be placed in an accessible quiet place any time before the end of summer.

Thank you,

Eco-team

Online Instructions: <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/Make%20a%20deluxe%20hedgehog%20house.jpg>



PRESTON FAITH FORUM



To whom it may concern

Preston Faith Forum has been active in Preston since 2003. Its mission was: "To improve the lives of the citizens of Preston by fostering inter-faith dialogue, understanding, co-operation and joint

working on a range of social economic and environmental issues"

Since 2003, Preston Faith Forum has provided a means for communication and consultation between Preston City Council and its faith communities.

Preston is a multi-cultural, multi-racial City with people of different faiths as well as those of no faith. These diverse communities make a major contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the City. We have been over the years been actively involved in the life of Preston

We run a series of events annually to support World Harmony week each February and Inter-Faith Week each November. We support the "Hello Preston" project working with refugees, asylum seekers and their families who have done sterling within our organisation.

We are aware that over these years Preston has changed and many people want nothing to do with religion. However we are all people of faith whether we believe in God or not and all want to see the betterment of our society for our future generations. We have struggled somewhat over the last few years but do not want to see the Preston Faith Forum disband as it still has a role to play in the life of Preston. Helping us all to come together to work side by side and face to face in these difficult times we are facing. However we cannot do it without YOUR help.

So we are looking for like minded people who believe we can together make a difference and help Preston to be a caring community for all our citizens whatever their background or belief.

If you or anyone you know are interested in helping to advance the interests of Preston Faith Forum please contact:

Penny Craig :

on Preston **700539** or email oceandream1953@gmail.com

Looking forward to hearing from you.

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

Afghanistan - South Central Asia - Uncertain Times

Please pray for the people of Afghanistan, particularly those who fear for their lives following the Taliban takeover of power in that country. Pray for those leaders of other countries who have influence with the Taliban, to urge for a peaceful and humanitarian approach in their dealings with a population already traumatised by many years of conflict.

Haiti - Hispaniola, Greater Antilles Archipelago, Caribbean Sea

Remember in your prayers the people of Haiti. Following the recent earthquake and tropical storm the situation is dire. There remains significant political unrest and the rule of law is widely flouted with extensive gang violence and crime. This brings with it security concerns for humanitarian workers trying to help in the crisis.

Flooding Incidents across the World

Pray for aid and support to those affected by flooding in many regions of the world over the past 2 months:

Central Europe, Turkey (Black Sea region), **Nigeria** (Bauchi State), **Niger** (country wide), **India** (Uttar Pradesh), **Cameroon** (Douala), **China** (Houbei).

Wildfire Incidents across the World

Pray for the availability of emergency teams, adequate water and international support to areas seriously impacted by wildfires:

Algeria (North), **Greece** (widespread), **Italy** (widespread), **USA** (41,000+ fires devastating over 4 million acres), **Canada** (5900+ fires devastating nearly 10 million acres)

Countries with Conflict Areas little reported across the World.

Pray for calm and negotiated settlements in all those areas where there is conflict and that there might be a real desire for peaceful co-existence:

Ukraine, Turkey, Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay, Guinea, Côte D'Ivoire, Benin, Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Yemen, Mozambique, Madagascar.

From Russia with Love – One Final Time – Andrew Clelland (edited)

Good afternoon from Longton, the Russian adventure is now complete and, having finished my 10-day isolation at home, I'm adjusting back to British village life. The last two months in Russia just flew by, with the main focus being the successful completion of my exams and master's dissertation, however there was still a bit of time left over for some adventuring.

Exam week in May featured my dissertation pre-defence, an exam and a controlled assessment. With good advice from my supervisor, my dissertation on the Bazhenov Formation achieved the highest mark at both the pre-defence and final defence. The exam and controlled assessment were also passed with high marks. To celebrate the end of the academic year, our group held a barbecue by the Ob Sea with our sister group. The weather was excellent, and we spent the evening eating kebabs and salads Russian style. Siberian summers are incredibly warm. Temperatures in the high (positive!) 20s were accompanied by completely clear blue skies, stunning sunsets, and lots of bugs. Due to the hot weather, thunderstorms are also commonplace, with impressive lightning storms. My flatmate Max and I took advantage of the good weather to walk and cycle round Akademgorodok, complete a "Go-Ape" style high ropes course, and spend time at his auntie's beautiful dacha (country cottage), which was built entirely by his uncle.

Graduation took place on a slightly overcast day, which meant that the temperature was more bearable. I was awarded a special "red" (honours) degree with the highest possible Grade Point Average of 5.0/5.0 (meaning that I'd scored 5 out of 5 in every module). Some lovely photographs were taken, and it was a truly special occasion.

Following graduation, Max, our friend Lina, and I spent six days in Altai, Russia's answer to Switzerland staying in a bungalow on the Katun river, Altai is an extraordinarily beautiful, untouched area of Southern Russia, which borders with Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and China. There are hundreds of peaks, rivers and valleys, and it is very much off the beaten track. We visited a small, but beautiful, monastery on its own island just outside the town of Chermal. It is an important place of pilgrimage for the local people. It left a long-lasting impression and was the perfect way to end two years of study.

Instead of coming straight home, I spent ten days in Moscow working for the Russian Academy of Sciences and adjusting to the time difference. In the evenings I was treated to several exquisite meals.

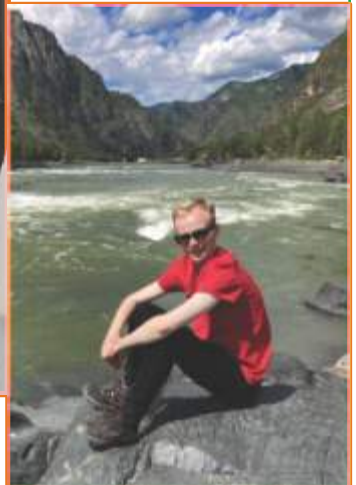
From Russia with Love – One Final Time – continued (edited)

Summer nights in Moscow are also stunningly pretty, and I spent a good amount of time walking round enjoying the atmosphere and weather. I also attended another organ concert at the Catholic Cathedral, with soundtracks from films and TV shows, which has given me some inspiration. I walked round the New Tretyakovskaya Gallery and took a trip to the outdoor Museum of Russian Military Aviation. For the last night we dined on a cruise on the River Moskva, taking in all the sights. From my first trip to Moscow in April 2011 I have grown to love the city and look forward to returning there in the future.

It remains for me to say a big thank you to everyone who's read these articles over the past four years. I hope you've learnt more about Russian everyday life and culture and gained an insight into this amazing country. I'll now be heading down to Cambridge to do my PhD, specialising in links between climate change and forest fires in Siberia.

Всем спасибо, и до новых встреч!

Andrew Clelland



HARVEST THANKSGIVING



In times past the Church Harvest
was an enormous show of earth's yields.
Gifts were brought in abundance,
The harvest of farms, gardens and fields

Food and flowers were later taken
to friends who were ill, old or lonely,
With a card, a greeting at harvest,
But never were the gifts of just money.

On Monday we had Harvest Supper,
A meal of bread rolls and good cheese,
Apple pie and cream to follow,
A feast always sure to please.



Now the displays are more modest,
Still beautiful and showing our praise.
The fruit, flowers and veg are part of our pledge,
to help others in these modern days.

Most care homes and schools have their Harvest,
Bringing produce as gifts to give thanks,
To help people in need of support,
And swell the stocks at food banks.

We've changed the way we celebrate Harvest,
Fewer flowers and produce we give,
But there are financial chances to show thanks,
To give aid that others might live.

Hylða Hurst



