

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth. Gen. 9v17 (NIV)

OCTOBER 2021

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk

PURC E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com

To contact Secretaries telephone - 07716129719

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

This is the time of the year for Christians throughout the world to be thanking God for the provision of food.

In our own nation, we generally take the supply of food as natural day to day, with choices of supermarkets etc. to meet everyone's needs.

However, not so in many areas around the world where families struggle to maintain regular supply of essential sustenance to their family members.

In many cases, the world is poorly divided in its support to the requirements of its civilisation.

So, as we enjoy the stabling of our food supply, let us consider in more depth the trials of many to meet the needs of life on a daily basis. With God's help, the future can be better, good fortune can be spread more equally, and the tragic sight of starving children will just be a past memory.

God bless



Bill McCartney



FAMILY AND FRIENDS



We send our love and blessings to anyone who is feeling unwell in these unusual times.

We send out best wishes to anyone who is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in October. With our blessings

Your Elders

Elements redacted from website edition

ELDERS' MEETING UPDATE

Elders' Meeting Held on 14th September



After much discussion the elders decided:

- Services will now be 30 – 45 minutes in length.
- In the Worship Space social distancing still applies but has been reduced to 1 metre.
- The collection plate will continue to be placed on the stage to reduce movement of people.
- Communion will be served by the elders on the first Sunday of the month.
- The wearing of masks is not a legal requirement but is recommended especially when singing and moving around.

WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

The Women's Group send their best wishes to:

Fran Barker and Doreen Baker

who have a birthday in September

Many Happy Returns (Jean Frew)

and of course (courtesy of a reminder from 2 Women's Group Members) we must also say

Happy Birthday to Jean Frew

who modestly never reminds the Ed.!!





Lancashire South Partnership
of the North Western Synod



Commissioning Service

Led by Mr Derek Estill
Preacher: Rev Daleen ten Cate



Saturday 23rd October – 2:00pm

Penwortham United Reformed Church
(PR1 0QB)

Numbers limited due to Covid precautions

To book a place, please contact

beverleystrange@hotmail.com

jennyoliver55@gmail.com

Also available on You tube: <rtmp://a.rtmp.youtube.com/live2>
or Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82576152727?pwd=eTMzdVlkZ2ZlcmxhV3BTRWYrYkFGUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 7615 2727 Passcode: 226888

One tap mobile

+442034815240,,82576152727#,,,,*226888# United Kingdom

+442039017895,,82576152727#,,,,*226888# United Kingdom

Dial by your location +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcGxp0ieyw>



URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE EXTRACT

Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories

Good News. We don't get enough good news from the Middle East, especially from Gaza. Christian Aid's Middle East Team is seriously proud that long-standing partner, Raji Sourani, CEO of Palestinian Center for Human Rights, based in Gaza, was awarded France's highest honour for the service of human rights in Palestine. The French Consul General said, "As the Director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), you contributed to Palestine's accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. As a man of peace, you have worked tirelessly in favour of justice and endeavoured all efforts to achieve reconciliation." Christian Aid was one of PCHR's earliest international partners.

Zimbabwe and Central America

Why Poverty? It is important to understand the context that fosters inequality in Zimbabwe and Central America. The poorest are embedded in systems of governance that are repressive, and sometimes violent. A growing divide between rich and poor is fostered. The space for civil society to address these issues is shrinking in both areas.

A Christian Aid Ireland report on adaptive programme management says that in **Zimbabwe** this is linked to inequalities between elite power holders and marginalised communities, violations of human rights, and lack of public accountability. Political violence is common in the informal sector and areas affected by mining; in **Central America** the focus is on mitigating the effects of gang violence, especially on women and children, against a background of extreme inequality and high-level corruption. In both areas the overall goal of Christian Aid is to contribute to remove barriers to the realisation of the human rights of poor and marginalised groups, paying particular attention to reducing gender inequality. Your support for Commitment for Life plays a vital role in achieving these aims. Thank you

Bangladesh

In the picture we see a support worker helping children with art activities. These and many other activities are run in the Child Friendly Space and managed by Christian Aid's partner Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), in Jamtoli camp, Bangladesh. Christian Aid continues to help people displaced by violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State. We support Rohingya refugees who have crossed the border into Bangladesh. Your support through Commitment for Life not only saves lives, it contributes to the education and development of children.



A REFLECTION

YOUR “EUROCLYDON”

“A tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon” Acts 27:14

The ship Paul was sailing on to Rome was wrecked by a storm named ‘*Euroclydon*’, meaning typhoon, tempest, or cyclone. Here are some valuable lessons we can learn from his experience:

- 1) ***God can make a bad situation work for your good.*** Because of this shipwreck, Paul ended up on Malta, where the people heard the gospel for the first time. Plus, when he and his followers ‘departed, they provided such things as were necessary’ (Acts 28:10 NKJV). Sometimes your problem can provide a platform for God to work in ways that’ll amaze you. Your future isn’t, nor ever will be, in the hands of people. It’s in God’s hands, and what He owns He protects and provides for.
- 2) ***To reach your God-ordained destination you’ll have to sail through storms.*** Paul said, ‘All hope that we would be saved was finally given up’ (Acts 27:20 NKJV). There’ll be days when you wonder how you’re going to make it, but by God’s grace you will (see Psalm 37:34).
- 3) ***Storms reveal how well you know the Lord.*** Paul said, ‘Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, “Do not be afraid, Paul!”’ (Acts 27:23-24 NIV). In hard times you discover the strength of your connection to God.
- 4) ***He can bring success from what looks like failure.*** Notice two particular things in this story: a) You may have to throw some things overboard to reach your destination (see v. 18). b) Despite your best efforts, occasionally you’ll run aground (see v. 26). That’s when you must remember what God promised you - and stand on it (see v. 25).

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

Jordan - Western Asia (MENA) - Refugees

Jordan currently hosts over half a million refugees. The cost of living is high and many live outside of formal camp settings in makeshift tents or rented accommodation. Syrian refugees – who cannot work without a permit –struggle to find ways to feed their families, pay for health care, or cover their basic needs. Please pray for refugees living with traumatic memories of the crisis in their home countries. Pray that Medair will be able to provide holistic and psychosocial support to help them overcome trauma experienced and improve their wellbeing. Ask God to meet and provide for basic needs, including warm, sufficient housing, enough food for their families and access to free medical care.

(Medair UK)

Ireland - Western Europe - International Students

International students are coming to Ireland from all over the world! It is a wonderful opportunity for local Christians to welcome and share Christ with these visitors. Christian Unions Ireland & Friends International are partnering together to reach international students and to encourage churches and CUs to do the same. Please pray that during their stay, students will meet local Christians, be invited to church and have a chance to hear and respond to the gospel.

(Friends International)

Lebanon - Western Asia (MENA) - Economic Problems

Lebanon has suffered profound economic problems. The value of its currency has plummeted. Ramifications of the pandemic, and explosion in 2020 in Beirut are ongoing. Unemployment and inflation have soared. Political turmoil continues. The emigration of Christian nationals is expected to heighten. Believers fleeing persecution in neighbouring countries have commonly sought new beginnings in Lebanon but inability to find employment increasingly drives them to leave the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. Christian organisations struggle to support destitute believers. Please pray for conditions allowing the faith to flourish in Lebanon, and for it to be a sanctuary where persecuted believers may rebuild their lives.

(Middle East Concern)

with permission of www.globalconnections.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID UPDATE

We have now received the Minutes from Preston Christian Aid Committee's Zoom meeting in April. The Treasurer reported that the CAid Week total for Preston amounted to £8610.75.



Totals were down in all areas however there is no record of donations made online or of money raised by individuals who set up Just Giving pages and did the 300,000 steps appeal.

It was noted that there had been more involvement from schools in Penwortham this year. The collection points in prominent places seemed to have generated more public awareness as a cashless society can be a problem for charity giving.

It is noted that Rev. James Watterson from Carey Baptist Church is a trained CAid speaker.

Christian Aid actions and appeals.

COP26 and 'prayer boats' - The Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) are carrying a model boat on pilgrimage to Glasgow.

Concerned people are being urged to contact their MP regarding climate change to support CAid's call for change and climate justice.

Malawi- An appeal has been launched to support those whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed by Cyclone Ida.

As always details of all Christian Aid actions and appeals can be found online.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cath A & Barbara E

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST UPDATE

If you would like to support International Aid shoebox scheme 2021 please have a look at the poster in the Church foyer, leaflets on the stage in Church or simply ask me, there are a few changes this year but still easy to help provide a gift for someone in need. Thank you.

Rita Taylor

CANCER RESEARCH UK - RACE FOR LIFE

Thank you very much to everyone who sponsored me. I was really overwhelmed by your generosity and very much appreciate your support. Once all the money is collected my daughter, friend and I will have raised approximately £1300, including gift aid.

Gillian Ashurst

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING

Great news! You can now recycle soft plastics like crisp packets and bread bags at a Co-op near you. It doesn't matter where you bought them. Just pop your soft plastics into their recycling units and they will do the rest. It means we can all do our bit for the environment.

Clean it.
Scrunch it.
Co-op it.

Pope Lane Co-op and Lostock Hall Co-op both have the recycling bins so you can drop off there. Gillian Price is arranging for us to have one of the official bags at Church for anyone who can't make it to the shop.

Soft plastics recycling is easy. Just follow these three steps:

- **Clean it** - First, rinse your packaging out.
- **Scrunch it** - Now, scrunch it up tight - if it pings back, it's a useful indicator it's soft plastic.
- **Co-op it** - Pop it into our soft plastics recycling bin at a Co-op near you.

Thank you, *Eco team.*

20%

of our own brand products contain soft plastics



6%

of our total packaging waste by weight is soft plastics



PRESTON EVENT AT CAREY BAPTIST CHURCH

We are delighted to welcome ***Resound Worship's Doxecology Concert Tour to Carey Baptist Church, Pole Street, Preston, PR1 1DX on Monday the 8th of November.***

Doxecology is an album of thirteen songs on themes of Creation, Ecology and Christian Hope.

The concert, which coincides with the COP 26 climate talks, will include worship from the album, a speaker from Christian environmental group **A Rocha** and a refreshment break.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start – the concert will finish around 9.30pm.

Tickets are £7 per person. They are available from **Eventbrite here**.

We have a small car park available with spaces for around 30 cars – however, we are also only 100m from the Preston Bus Station Multi-Storey car park. Or it would be great to be environmentally friendly and car share or catch the bus.

WORD SEARCH FOR AUTUMN

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

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|--------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Acorn | Blackberries | Colours | Mist | Rainbows |
| Apples | Chilly | Jam | October | Rake |
| Autumn | Clouds | Leaves | Rain | Wind |

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

CONTACT

Dear Reader

'Contact' is issued monthly.

'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 24 October

Next issue will be 31 October

Ed.

POETRY PAGE

ANIMAL SURNAMES



I'm back playing with surnames,
I've done trades, fish and some birds,
This is harder, there are much fewer
and not easy to rhyme all the words.



The subject is now based on animals,
There are not really many to share.
But there's Bullock and Beaver and Wolf,
Colt and Fox, Lion and Hare.



There was John Horse, U.S. soldier,
George Whale, a famed engineer,
And Bear, a science fiction author,
Bull, then Hart a male red deer.



I'm using poetic licence,
Lion spelt with a 'Y' is my guess,
Lamb is singular or plural,
But Gibbon as a name has an 'S'.



Two I haven't yet mentioned
are Badger and Brock, both the same,
Dozens of surnames with meaning,
Though few bearing animals names.



Hylða Hurst

CARTOON

with permission Tim Walburg



"Who scheduled recess during my sermon?"

Tim Walburg

COLOURING PAGE



Proverbs 4 verse 13 (Good News Translation)
Always remember what you have learned.
Your education is your life—guard it well.