

CONTACT

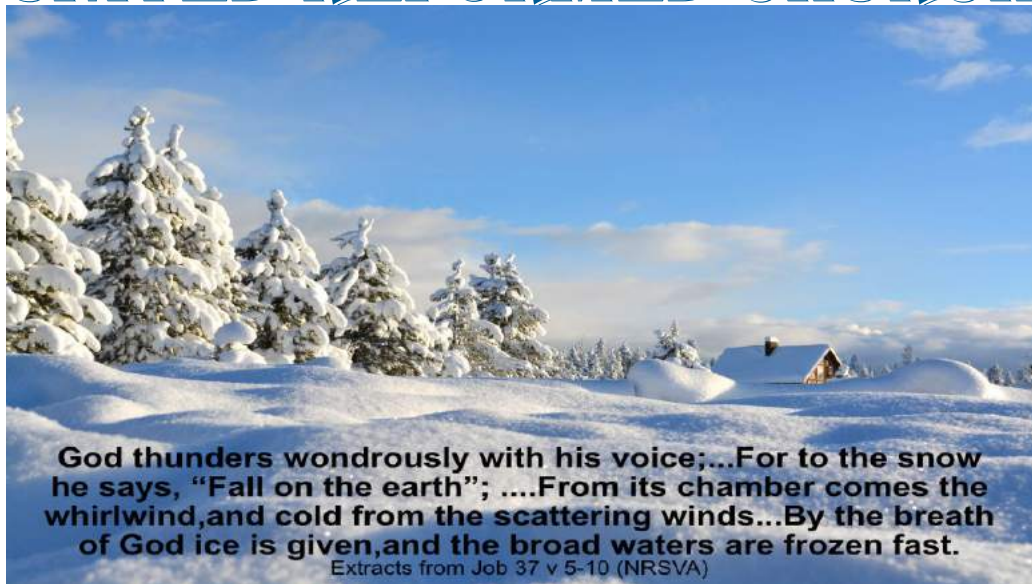
introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



God thunders wondrously with his voice;...For to the snow he says, "Fall on the earth";From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds...By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast.

Extracts from Job 37 v 5-10 (NRSVA)

FEBRUARY 2022

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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Faith into Action

Last month, with doubt and hesitation, I took my first service. This was a very daunting prospect and one I approached with trepidation and a good sprinkling of fear.

Whilst I have taken part in numerous services and events at the church, from nativities and Rose Queen services as a child, to carrying out readings and supporting Junior Church services as an adult, I had never envisaged a time where I would take on the responsibility of not only delivering a service but also writing and developing said service.

This was a new challenge for me and although reluctant I knew, at the Elders meeting when we were looking at the holes in our pulpit supply, that it was something I needed to do, to put my faith into action and support the church I have grown up with and love.

Preparing the church service, I found a new appreciation for those lay preachers and members of our church who have delivered countless services over the years. Trying to find bible verses I could relate to, hymns that related to those bible verses and develop a sermon that tied all constituent parts together took time, patience, and perseverance. All I can say is thank goodness for the internet (this would have been a very different service without access to the world wide web).

More importantly ensuring that all parts of the service were appropriate for my audience and believing that I could deliver something that would engage and encourage reflection from our congregation took faith.

On the morning of the service, I was nervous, would what I had produced make sense? Would the congregation, many of whom knew me as a child, find it appropriate? How would I be judged? Although all these thoughts, and many more, circled in my mind I stood at the lectern and reminded myself to have faith and to ask of myself, as I was going to do of others 'Is he living in me today'?

FEELLOWSHIP FOREWORD - FAITH INTO ACTION cont'd

From my point of view the service went well and as I read the closing prayer, I felt some relief but more importantly a sense of pride and fulfilment. I was thankful to those who had put their faith in me and pleased to have put my faith into action.

So let us all consider how we can put our faith into action, what we can do to support our church, each other, and our community. Let us have faith that we can and will make the right decisions and perhaps that with God's love we can take that small risk, step outside our comfort zone, do something a little different and continue to grow our church together

Gillian Price



PURC SERVICES - FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2022

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 6 February | <i>Rev'd Daleen ten Cate</i> | - Family Worship
and Holy Communion | - 10.30am |
| 13 February | <i>Garry Hammond</i> | - Family Worship | - 10.30am |
| 20 February | <i>Rev'd Martin Whiffen</i> | - Family Worship
with Baptism | - 3.00 pm |
| 27 February | <i>Robert Bulloch</i> | - Songs of Praise
followed by refreshments | - 10.30am |
| ----- | | | |
| 6 March | <i>Gill Turner/Robert Bulloch</i> | - Family Worship
and Holy Communion (with Jenny) | - 10.30am |
| 13 March | <i>Steven Mitchell</i> | - Family Worship | - 10.30am |
| 20 March | <i>Rev'd Nigel Lemon</i> | - Family Worship
with Baptism | - 10.30am |
| 27 March | <i>George Grime</i> | - Family Worship | - 10.30am |

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Some of our member's and friends have recently spent some time in hospital.

Margaret T..... is now back at home recovering well, Marjorie O is still in hospital after a fall at home and Margaret E is also back at home after a successful hip operation last week.



Beverley, (my partner in crime) has also spent a few days in hospital and whilst recovering at home she got Covid. I'm happy to say they are all recovering well and we send them our love and prayers for their continued recovery.

Please remember in your prayers, some of our 'more mature' members and friends who haven't yet returned to church, we hope to see them very soon.

We have two Christenings to look forward to in the next two months, Gill T.....'s grandchild Elliott on the 20th February and Adelle and Paul's grandchild Alice on the 20th March. We look forward to celebrating these special occasions with our church family.

A huge THANK YOU to Ruth R..... for playing the organ for us these past few months and thanks also to Angus her husband for his wonderful 'saxophone playing' at our Carol Service in December.

Our best wishes go to anyone who will be celebrating a Birthday/ Anniversary in February and congratulations to Stewart T..... who turned 99 at the end of January.

And finally..... We hope in the next few months to start getting 'back to normal', the Elders would like to thank you all for your patience during the pandemic, it hasn't been easy for anyone and Bev and I would like to thank the Elders especially for all their help and support they have given us during what has been quite a difficult time for us all.

Jenny.

Apologies..... In the December issue of 'Contact' there was a piece about 'Noel's Bench',, Noel Bracewell's daughter donated some money to buy a lovely bench for the Guild room in Noel's memory. I forgot to mention that it was a joint donation from and her daughter

(N.B. appearing on any page = redacted)

MESSAGES FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

From Doreen B.... (*via Anne H*)

Dear Anne.

Please pass on my thanks for the flowers, cards and good wishes I received from Penwortham U.R.C. during my recent stay in hospital and Ribble court care home. (It was nice to meet up with Fran in Ribble Court). I am now home and progressing well and hope to see you all again soon. May I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2022.

Thanks once again. God Bless. *Doreen.*

From Margaret E.....

Thank you for all the prayers, kind thoughts, messages and telephone calls and for the lovely flowers from church on 23 Jan.

I am happy to say things are progressing well since the hip operation and I am looking forward to seeing everyone again after the enforced pre- and post-op isolation!!

Every blessing. *Margaret*

PURC ECO CHURCH NEWS

An idea for an eco-friendly New Year's Resolution.

These re-usable makeup remover pads are a great alternative to disposable cotton pads. They can be washed and used again. They are sold by many retailers including Boots and Amazon.



Happy New Year from the Eco-team! 🧡 🧡 🧡 🧡 ♻️

Free!! - Wood Chip - Free!!

Similarly to the last time we pollarded the Lime Trees (essential to retaining form whilst restricting volume), the church is offering some of the resulting wood chippings to anyone who is in need of it for their garden (e.g. for paths or walkways; as a mulch layer for established garden beds; as a habitat enhancer for bug hotels, or loose laid woodpile animal/bug shelters). There are 2 piles of woodchip to the left of the large waste bins (as you face them) and opposite the emergency exit from the hall. Feel free to help yourself or, if you would like some bagged and delivered, please contact Alan on 01772740129.

(N.B. the chippings are not suitable for child play areas).

PURC NOTICES AND INFORMATION

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING



There will not be a meeting in February but the situation for future meetings is again under review as guidelines change once more; you'll be kept advised.
(Jean Frew)

WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

The Women's Group send their best wishes to:

Joyce Boreham

who has a birthday in February

Many Happy Returns

(Jean Frew)



UNICEF MITES SCHEME

Thank you to all contributing to support the Mites Scheme (5p/10ps) .



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.

You donated £35.00 for the quarter ending 31 December 2021.

Each sachet costs approximately 8p so our £35.00 purchased 437 sachets. When you come to church your Mites can be placed in the green 'Mites Boxes', on the stage .

If you would like your Mites to be collected call Alan on 01772740129.

For more information click ["Mites Scheme"](#).

FULWOOD URC CLOSURE

Fulwood URC closed at the end of 2021

Just confirming that Fulwood URC closed at the end of 2021; a closing service was held on 8th January '22. The service was led by Rev Lena Talbot with a socially distanced congregation. Blessings and thanks to the faithful members who kept the church alive through a time of reducing attendance, particularly during Covid. Some of the congregation will be going to Christ Church, Longridge as they have shared a minister with them in the past. [Margery Pitcher]

A REFLECTION

WE NEED EACH OTHER

'Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.'
Romans 1 : 12 NCV

Next time you walk in the woods, stop and think about what's taking place right under your feet. As the roots of the trees connect with each other, they form a support system. One has access to water, another to nutrients, and another to sunlight. No single tree has it all, but together they can grow, thrive, and withstand the storms of life. Then we will grow in every way and be more like Christ, the head of the body. Christ holds it together and makes all of its parts work perfectly, as it grows and becomes strong because of love' (Ephesians 4:15-16 CEV). Some of us independent types have difficulty with this concept. We want to fly solo - until we crash - then we realise our need for these:

1) *Encouragement*. Even Paul needed cheering on: 'Everyone in Asia has turned against me, especially Phygelus and Hermogenes. I pray that the Lord will be kind to the family of Onesiphorus. He often cheered me up and wasn't ashamed of me when I was put in jail. Then after he arrived in Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me' (2 Timothy 1:15-17 CEV).

2) *Sympathy*. 'Be sympathetic' (Colossians 3:12 GWT). We all need to be understood and have our feelings validated. But sometimes we're in such a hurry to 'fix' people, we don't have time to sympathise with them.

3) *Grace*. 'Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others' (Colossians 3:13 NLT). What motivates us to extend grace to others? God's grace to us! You will never be asked to extend more grace to someone than God has already extended to you.

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 AND FAIRTRADE SHOP IN PRESTON

The new Christian and Fairtrade shop at Central Methodist,
Lune Street, Preston is OPEN

In early December '21 we had a lovely opening week to our new Christian and Fairtrade shop at Central. We also have new stock, including an excellent range of books, so if you haven't yet called in, please do!

A reminder:

Do come on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am - 1pm,
and you could enjoy an excellent cup
of coffee and treats from

'The Olive Grove Café' as well !!

[Ruth Hopkins]



WORLD PRAYER NEWS

Northern Kenya and Somalia -East Africa

Since September, they have been experiencing a severe drought, receiving less than 30% of their usual rainfall -- the worst short-rain season recorded in decades, causing exacerbated food and water shortages. Pray for churches and Christians in these countries to continue to spread light and hope during this time. Pray for divine insight and guidance as they navigate Covid restrictions, government mandates, and other challenges. Pray for our LIA teams as they partner and walk closely with people in local communities. *(Life in Abundance International)*

Papua New Guinea - South-Western Pacific

In Papua New Guinea there is a lack of clean water supplies, meaning that diseases such as cholera, hepatitis and typhoid still proliferate. Pray for a solution to this issue, and that these waterborne infections will be eradicate. *(MAF-UK)*

Moldova and Ukraine - Eastern Europe

Pray for the Slavic Gospel Assn. who fund medical teams that hold regular clinics in rural areas, providing free medical care and spectacles to the poor and vulnerable, who, otherwise, would not have access to such care. The teams also hold evangelistic meetings before the clinics and share the Gospel during those meetings. *(SGA)*

Closed Country - Central Asia

A team of doctors is offering training to rural healthcare providers in a closed country in Central Asia. There is very little support for many of these rural workers and high levels of depression and burnout are common. The seminars aim to help them focus on their own health, happiness and wellbeing as they deal with large communities of need with no trained doctors available. Pray that these sessions will open doors for deeper discussions about faith. Also pray for our local partners in this country as they have been under some pressure and persecution recently due to their work in the villages. Pray that the Holy Spirit will change and soften hearts. *(Reach Beyond)*

with permission of www.globalconnections.org.uk

PURC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE EVENTS ON ZOOM

Commitment for Life
ZOOM Event

Workshop with Charlotte
Christian Aid's Church Relations Officer in the UK
Charlotte Scott updates us on Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, & Central America

Wed 9th February @ 2pm
Meeting ID 828 1061 2970

christian aid

Commitment for Life

The United Reformed Church

A Commitment for Life ZOOM EVENT

COFFEE WITH WILLIAM

JOIN US ON ZOOM TO HEAR WILLIAM BELL SHARE ON THE IMPACT OF THE 2021 CHRISTIAN AID REPORT "WHERE IS PALESTINE?"

THURS 17th March 2022
11am-12.15pm GMT

ZOOM Meeting ID **826 2918 7235**

christian aid

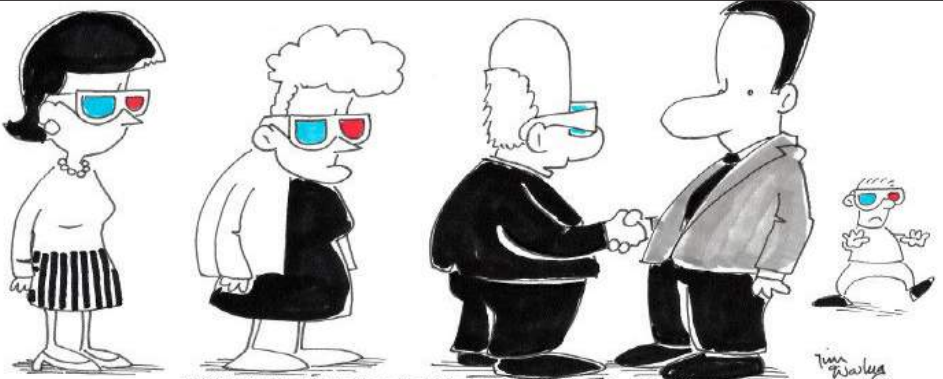
Commitment for Life

The United Reformed Church

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PARTNER - ZOCHROT

Zochrot is one of Commitment for Life's partner organisations working in the West Bank with the support of through Christian Aid. They helped over 2,000 people to increase their knowledge of the rights of Palestinian refugees, and the need for transitional justice approaches to any future lasting peace and security for Israel and the Palestinians. Zochrot used online educational materials, virtual tours, provocative discussions via blogs, podcasts, and other digital spaces. They campaigned on the connection between oppression, marginalisation, and the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. Your support for Commitment for Life and Christian Aid enables organisations like Zochrot to do what they do so effectively.

CARTOON



with permission Tim Walburg

AN ODE TO POETRY

Lennon and McCartney were poets,
each clever with words in their way,
John Lennon's "Imagine" was full of hope,
McCartney's song of lost love, poignant "Yesterday".



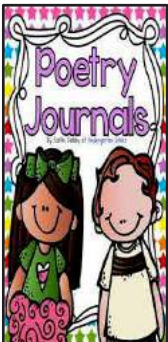
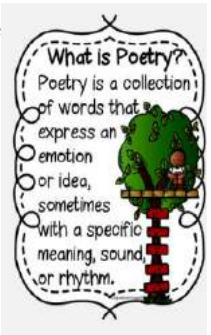
The poetry I enjoy is simple,
John Masefield's *Cargoes* and *Sea Fever*,
Learned parrot-fashion at school,
To be remembered, even sung, forever.
Poor Oscar Wilde wrote of discrimination
Told in the *Ballad of Reading Gaol*.
We can be saddened by old harsh laws,
Our sympathy cannot fail.

Poetry in language I don't understand,
fails to move or inspire me,
Some Poet Laureates leave me baffled,
But John Betjeman is light and easy.
He wrote of things of which he knew,
Trains and journeys in rhyme,
Of *Night Mail* and a *Nip in the Air*,
Just a man who wrote of his time.

For humour there's lovely Pam Ayres,
With her I can just laugh out loud,
Edward Lear's "*Owl and the Pussycat*",
A nonsense work, he must have been proud.

There are poets I can't understand,
I'm simply not tuned to their wavelength,
So I struggle to comprehend,
My mindset hasn't the strength

Hylda Hurst



WORDSEARCH - WORDS HIDDEN IN "FEBRUARY"

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

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

"CONTACT" MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Dear Reader

The next 'Contact' will be the March 22 issue

'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 E..... on 01772740129 or deliver to 27 Hazel Close. **Many thanks to those contributing.**

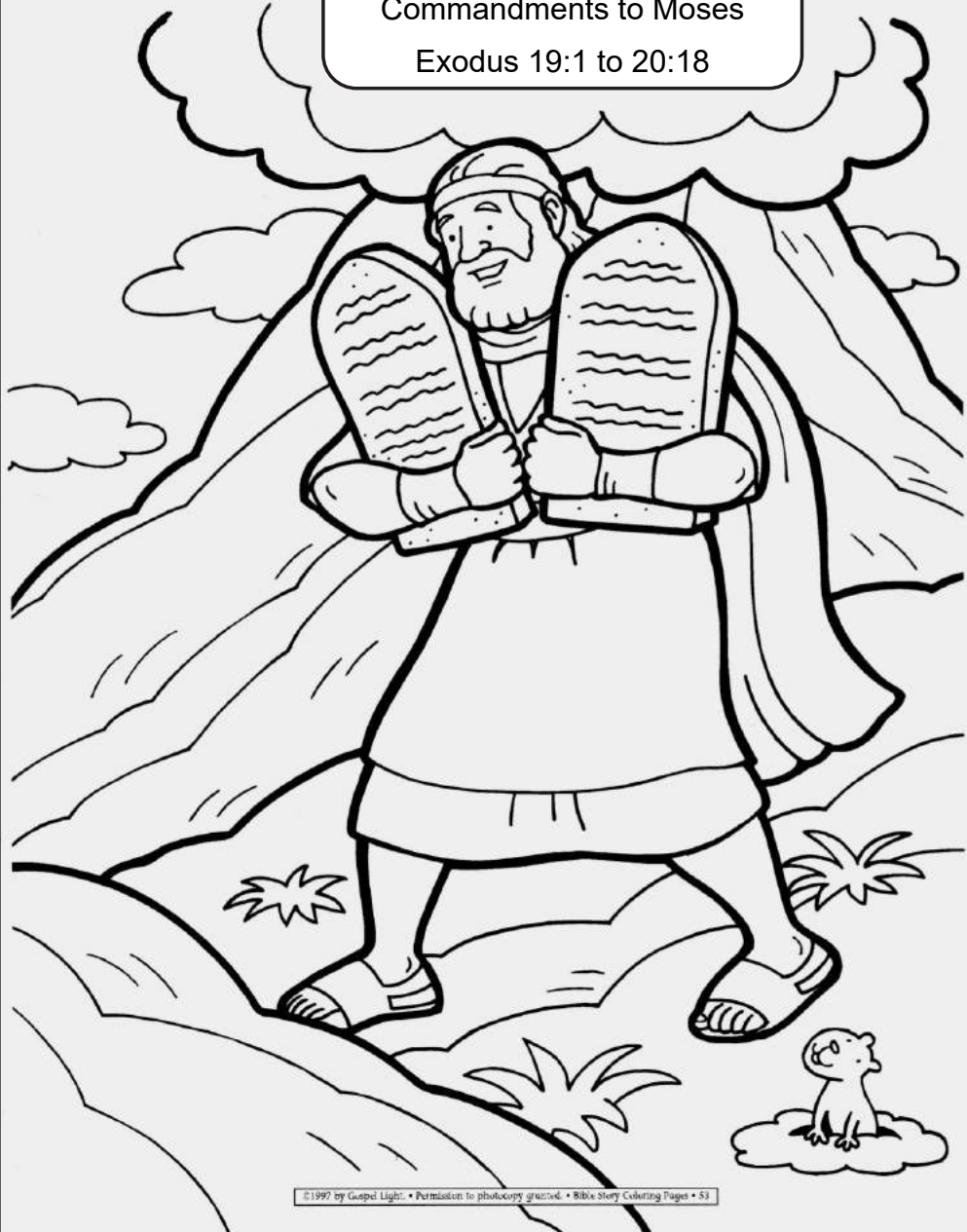
Next submission date will be 20 February

Next issue will be 27 February

Ed.

God gives the Ten
Commandments to Moses

Exodus 19:1 to 20:18



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