

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



MARCH 2022

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk

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To contact Secretaries telephone - 07716129719

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

With the daily reminders of the troubling Russo-Ukrainian situation, I thought it might be apt to mention it in this month's copy of Contact.

This ongoing situation is clearly leading to concern over further potential conflict, although it is not an entirely new situation. In 2014 Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine.

Since then, more than 14,000 Ukrainian people have died, with an estimated one million people being forced to leave their homes in Eastern Ukraine.

This annexation has been described as an outright landgrab led by Vladimir Putin's pro Soviet Union Kremlin. Vladimir Putin described the dissolution of the Soviet Union as one of the greatest disasters of the 20th century.

As Christians, this is difficult to comprehend when compared with other humanitarian disasters such as the Nazi Holocaust. With these contradicting mindsets, there is concern that additional conflict will lead to loss of life and injury on both sides, and more displacement of ordinary people living peacefully in their own country.

Jesus said "There will always be wars, and rumours of wars" and so it seems to be. But for most of us ordinary people a situation such as this is very difficult to comprehend. We yearn for peace and quiet in a busy and fractious world, and if they are to be found we know that it can only be temporary.

This year the URC celebrates its Golden Jubilee, A Milestone of 50 years and since its inception our Church has promoted unity in diversity and will continue to do so.

The Queen celebrates her Platinum Jubilee. How much has changed during her 70 year reign, both nationally and internationally, and likewise within the church and society? Not all of it bad! We can be very sure that change will continue at a frightening pace, but as Christians we need have no fear. In these days of Lent we look forward to the hope and promise of Easter. Although part of Jesus' personal journey involved pain, suffering and betrayal by his friends, the ultimate outcome was good and has remained so to this day.

I would ask you to take heart in the message of the gospels and whatever the doom and gloom around us, try to remember that God's love for us and ours for one another remains at the heart of our Christian lives, whatever the future may bring.

With all good wishes,

Daniel

PURC SERVICES - MARCH & APRIL 2022

- 6 March** Family Worship - 10.30am - Gill Turner & Jenny Oliver
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 13 March** Family Worship - 10.30am - Steve Mitchell
- 20 March** Family Church - 10.30am - Rev'd Nigel Lemon
and Baptism
- 27 March** Family Church - 10.30am - George Grime
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- 3 April** Sacrament of Holy Communion - 10.30am
PURC Annual General Meeting - All Welcome
- 10 April** Family Worship - 10.30am - Val Atkinson (provisional)
- 14 April** Maundy Thursday - 7.30pm - The Elders
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 17 April** Easter Sunday - 10.30am - The Elders
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 24 April** Service of Thanksgiving - Details to be announced

CHANGING COVID RESTRICTIONS

It has been announced that the Government is going to lay out a "Living with Covid" plan.

The Elders are very much aware that this will be great news for some and cause concern for others.

The Elders have therefore decided that restrictions / rules will be changed very gradually.

We wish to reassure everybody that nobody will be asked to do something they feel at all uncomfortable with.

The Elders will meet this week to discuss a "Living with Covid" plan for PURC which we will present to you in due course.

Stay safe.

Blessings.

The Elders

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Last Monday we said 'goodbye' to Marjorie O. Rev'd Martin Whiffen from Chorley led a lovely service with readings from members of the family, Beverley and Robert. Please remember Debra in your prayers.



Some of you may remember Rev'd Paul P who preached at our church many times following his retirement from the ministry. Sadly Paul passed away peacefully on February 8th, please keep Ailsa his wife in your thoughts and prayers.

Some of our member's and friends have spent some time in hospital during the last month, we wish them well as they continue their recovery.

Last Sunday (20th) we welcomed Elliott T. into our church family, he was very well behaved and we thank Rev'd Martin Whiffen for taking the service and baptising Elliott.

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.

Our best wishes go to anyone who will be celebrating a Birthday/ Anniversary in March.

And finally..... As we move forward to a 'new normal' life in our church, please give some thoughts to how you could support the Elders in some way in the running of the church, it's been a hard two years and we could do with some fresh blood.

Jenny O

Lent



OUTCOMES FROM THE SERVICE ON 6 FEBRUARY 2022

On Sunday 6th February 2022, our service was led by Rev'd Daleen ten Cate with her theme taken from Paul's letter to the Corinthians being, "We are many parts, but all parts of the one body". Daleen asked us to write on a card what we might currently do to assist the Church, and what extra we might wish to contribute in the future. The cards were collected and placed on the Communion Table as part of that Sunday's worship.

Looking through them afterwards, it has been very interesting to read what people had written; confirming the many tasks and duties which quite a number carry out, often unseen by the majority of us, and also what others had suggested that they might undertake from now on. From those willing to help in a new way, here are some examples:

- Be a "Greeter" at the church door to welcome people.
- Try to be a better listener.
- Possible Elder.
- Helping to clear up after various activities.
- Help to keep the church grounds tidy, watering plants and picking up litter.
- Friendship to anyone who might need it.
- To be on the rota for the Bible readers.
- Help with serving tea/coffee after the service, and at Messy Church if these activities can be resumed. (More volunteers definitely needed for Coffee!)
- Help with the children's artwork, or aspects of visual presentation/communication.
- As a musician.
- Help the Elders by telephoning people who might appreciate a chat or a visit.
- Pray for others within our church and the community
- More than one person has offered to drive others to church.

There is a great deal here, and every single item is important and add greatly to the life of our church. If you didn't attend Daleen's service or there are things on this list which you hadn't thought of at the time, please consider what you may be able to do. Those of us who have offered new ways to serve will know who we are, and I would encourage you to speak to an Elder about it and when you might be willing to start, in order for us to see how we can best utilise these gifts. I am sure that everyone will agree that working together more closely adds greatly to the spirit of friendship and co-operation within our fellowship, when we can all feel that we contribute something to the whole.

Thank you, Robert

NOTICES AND INFORMATION



THE 2022 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service will be held in **Penwortham** on
Friday, 4th March at 2pm in
St. Mary Magdalen Church
130 Leyland Rd, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9QD.
All are welcome
Anne H

WOMEN'S GROUP BIRTHDAYS

Women's Group send their best wishes to:

Margaret Taylor

who has a birthday in March

Many Happy Returns

Jean F



PURC ECO CHURCH ARTICLE

The Queen's Green Canopy "Plant a tree for the Platinum Jubilee".

In celebration of the Queen's 70 years' service to the nation everyone is encouraged to plant a tree for the Platinum Jubilee. If you would like to plant a tree in your garden the website will guide you through the process of planting trees so that they survive and flourish for years to come.

As a Church we are looking into planting a tree in the Church grounds in Autumn.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>



Gill A

CHARITY NEWS

PENWORTHAM FOODBANK



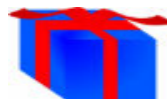
With the increase in energy costs and other rises in the cost of living, your Penwortham Foodbank appreciates whatever donations you can manage in a period of rising demand for its services. A box for items is available in the Foyer; all donations will be go to the Foodbank.

Many thanks

Anne H

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

We have received a Thank You acknowledgement for our Shoebox contribution, I have placed it next to the posters on the foyer notice board. If you have any knitted items on the go we will be sending the next contributions later this month and again at regular intervals so please keep knitting or if you have items suitable for shoeboxes bring them to Church and they will be gratefully received at the warehouse.



International Aid is an ongoing appeal and working hard to make a difference in these uncertain times.



Thank you

Rita T and Joyce B.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God
G K Chesterton.

Christians are like the several flowers in a garden that have each of them the dew of heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other's roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other
John Bunyan

Your greatest pleasure is that which rebounds from hearts that you have made glad.
Henry W Beecher

Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him."
James Hudson Taylor

If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God wants you to be.
Wanda E. Brunstetter

Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.
C.S. Lewis

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its strength.
Corrie Ten Boom

PURC SPONSORED EVENT - ADVANCED NOTICE

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON
at

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB

Monday 4th April 2022 at 2.00pm

**An afternoon of musical entertainment
with the**

**STRUMMERS AND WARBLERS
UKELELE BAND**

All are welcome to this event

*The event will be followed by Tea, Coffee and Biscuits
The Cost will be £4.00*

Do come along and bring a friend.



SOME PRESTON/PENWORTHAM AREA EVENTS

Tuesday 8 March, 7.30pm: Concert for Church on the Streets @Central Methodist The Church on the Streets are holding a concert by the South Ribble Concert Band at 7.30pm at Central Methodist on Tuesday 8th March. This Concert is to raise awareness about work with the homeless/street sleepers in Preston. Tickets are £5.00 and available from: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/myevent/268450521737/invite-and-promote/> You may then need to search for Concert for Church on the Streets Tickets, Tue 8 Mar 2022. Please come and give your support. [Andrew R. Pratt]

Sat 19 March, 7.30pm: "Come & Sing" Stainer's Crucifixion Preston Orpheus Choir have a "Come & Sing" Stainer's Crucifixion on Saturday 19th March at St Leonard's, Marshals Brow, Penwortham. Workshop at 2.30pm, performance at 7pm. For information call -01772 735197 [Mick Gardner]

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

This month in a time of reflection on the Christian church in the world we thank God for those people being reached through initiatives of continuing Bible translation in their mother tongue, radio and television broadcasts and efforts to present the Bible in simplified English with a limited vocabulary, whilst retaining the essence of Gospel message.

Europe - Outreach to displaced people groups

Pray for peace for people groups increasing in Europe, including the UK, after fleeing from the instability and crises in their homelands. Christianity is new to many of them and some of their languages do not yet have Bible translations in print. Pray for Christians trying to support them and who, by their actions as much as their words are expressing God's love for them. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work to create opportunities for discussion, friendship and points of connection. Particular people groups are Tajiks, from Central Asia, Parsees from Iran via India, Mandeans (Sabeans) from Iraq and Iran, Tatars in the Crimea. (WEC)

Egypt - Ministry of the Christian Radio Station - Voice of Egypt

Lift up Feba UK's partner radio station in Egypt - Voice of Egypt* - in prayer as they share the good news of Jesus, especially with young people. The Covid 19 pandemic continues to affect all areas of life in Egypt. Please pray for the protection of staff during the pandemic and the impact it has across communities. Pray for listeners reaching out and being supported in follow-up by team members. Please pray for God's guidance and wisdom in their conversations. (Feba UK)

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Displacement crisis.

The DR Congo is one of the world's most neglected displacement crises. 19.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The Conflict has destroyed livelihoods and left communities struggling to provide for their most basic needs. Pray that Medair will be able to provide medicines and nutrition treatment to the most vulnerable populations. Pray for our teams to overcome logistical challenges to import life-saving resources. Ask God to bless our community engagement efforts around prevention, and for the Congolese people to understand the importance of getting vaccinated. (MAF UK)

with permission of www.globalconnections.org.uk

CARTOON



A POEM FOR SPRING

Isn't it good the days are lengthening,
Each year it seems a long time coming,
Then suddenly in March
The daylight is up and running.

There's no need to breakfast in the dark,
Except for days of thick cloud,
But sunshine, sometimes infrequent
Cheers us when we look around.

At dusk the curtains stay open
A little longer each day, there's a view.
Snowdrops have bloomed in abundance,
And daffodils are now peeping through.

The Christmas rose has clusters of flowers,
There are buds on camellia and may.
Forsythia is showing some yellow,
Drifts of crocus will soon fade away.

Blue tits are eyeing nest boxes,
Even pigeons are feeling less bossy,
The robins come calling in pairs,
Mr Blackbird now has plumage so glossy.

The sheep in the fields are waiting
To add their new lambs to the flocks
The reason is Spring, the turn of the year.
In March is the Spring equinox.

Once again Winter darkness will leave us,
Although there may still be cold days,
We give thanks for the promise of Summer,
To warm us in so many ways.

Hyfda Hurst



WORDSEARCH - WORDS FOR LENT

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

almsgiving	fortydays	penitence
AshWednesday	humbleness	praise
confession	Jesus	prayer
contemplation	Lent	reconciliation
fasting	meditation	service
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 27th March 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 Edward on 01772740129 or deliver to 27 Hazel Close. **Many thanks to those contributing.**

Next submission date will be 20th March

Ed.



JESUS

L
O
R
D



Lent

- ✠ pray
- ✠ fast
- ✠ give alms

SAVIOUR