

CONTACT


introduces and welcomes

YOU

to

PENWORTHAM

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH



Whenever you are reaping the harvest of your field and you leave some grain in the field, don't go back and get it. Let it go to the immigrants, the orphans, and the widows so that the LORD your God blesses you in all that you do. *Deut. 24:19 (CEBA)*

SEPTEMBER 2022

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk

PURC E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com

To contact Secretaries telephone - 07716129719

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

I am writing this in mid-August whilst the weather outside is very warm and sunny. When you read it, September will be upon us, and although the climate can (Sometimes) remain balmy for a time yet, one inevitably thinks towards our Harvest Service on the 18th, to be followed by autumn and eventually winter. The seasons, as with life, are forever changing.



We have faced changes before and we can be certain that change of whatever kind will remain part of everyone's daily existence. We see this in governments, fashions & trends, in prices and the cost of living, the international situation, and indeed in society itself. But not all changes are bad, even though the improvements and benefits are not always obvious at the outset.

As Church we also face changes; but this is hardly something new. As a congregation of God's people, we are different from the majority. We have Faith, and as a community of faith we must look at the future without fear or trepidation.

It is incumbent upon us to do our best in whatever circumstances we find ourselves, and to show that we must embrace change as "God given," as part of a divine plan beyond our knowledge or understanding – whether we personally like the changes, or not. Some may appear worried that our church may not survive beyond so many number of years. Why are we "worried" about this? Jesus asks us whether worry will add even one day to our lives, and to be concerned about today - for tomorrow will have worries of its own. I am sure that you will agree that whilst we should be self-effacing, we must not be complacent or defeatist. I do believe that we should move forward confidently, being always open to new ideas, new ways of seeing our fellow human beings and the wonderful world around us in all its rich diversity. We have much to be thankful for, especially for all those who make up our church community and the talents, abilities and personalities within our fellowship. We truly are Blessed. We have no need to feel downhearted.

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD continued

On 1st October we at Penwortham are hosting a social event designed to try to bring the diverse congregations of the South Lancashire Missional Partnership closer together in fellowship and understanding. Without such co-operation, how likely are we to attract a new minister to fill the current vacancy? We are leading this attempt, and all of us can play our part. The elders would be grateful of your participation and contribution to what will be an ongoing and possibly protracted situation.

I sincerely pray that we may continue to travel along the road together, with faith, hope and love.

With all good wishes, Robert

A TRIBUTE TO OUR OUTGOING JOINT SECRETARIES



Beverley and Jenny took over as joint secretaries in April 2017. Neither of them was fully fit, but they have worked well together to very good effect.

And since Dave C left in early 2018, their load has increased. There has been Covid, with all the necessary restrictions. The Church may have been closed, but that didn't mean there was nothing to do.

The Missional Partnership, which hasn't made much difference to some of you, has also meant a lot of extra work for them.

There have been a lot of time-consuming, but relatively minor, incidents to deal with – floods for example.

They leave the Church in a better state than before. Beverley, aided and abetted by her husband Alan, has got the heating working properly. She was also largely responsible for the improvements to the side rooms, taking out the screen and putting down a floor we can keep clean.

Jenny has shown a remarkable memory for faces and names. She has visited a large number of folk. Her flair when arranging a special occasion was clear.

Jointly, they have now re-vamped the Guild Room, which will make that a much pleasanter place.

They have richly earned their retirement, and I hope they enjoy it.

Brenda K

FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Please continue to keep in your thoughts and prayers the families of Jean H and Sydney (Syd) S at this sad time. We gave thanks for and celebrated their lives at services in PURC on the 1st August and on the 25th August respectively and were able to say our fond farewells.

A number of folks have been poorly. Doreen B has gone to stay with her son for a while, for support after her operation, hopefully she will be back home soon. I went to see Shirley F on Thursday 11th August, she is recovering well after her knee operation, but still struggling with her back. Pat P has had two falls and is in hospital after two fractures and Jean D is recovering from a cataract operation. Bill & Celia are the latest of our number to have had Covid and are now on the mend. Our thoughts go to anybody else who is feeling under the weather.

Hopefully Gillian, Gill & Viv have enjoyed a well earned rest and our Junior Church have had a good break before returning back to school to join their new classes.



Our best wishes to anybody who will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary.
Every Blessing Anne H

PURC SERVICES SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2022

4 th Sep.	Holy Communion	3.00pm	Rev'd Martin Whiffen
11 th Sep.	Family Worship	10.30am	To Be Advised
18 th Sep.	Harvest+Parade	10.30am	Leo Roberts
25 th Sep.	Family Worship	10.30am	Margery Pitcher
2 nd Oct.	Holy Communion	3.00pm	Rev'd Martin Whiffen
9 th Oct.	Family Worship	10.30am	Rev'd Angela Robinson
16 th Oct.	Parade Service	10.30am	Steven Mitchell
23 rd Oct.	Family Worship	10.30am	Alan Edward
30 th Oct.	Family Worship	10.30am	Rev'd Nigel Lemon

(Brenda K)

PURC FLOWER ROTA SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

- 4th Sep Marjorie S
11th Sep. Bill & Celia
18th Sep. HARVEST
25th Sep. Derek W
2nd Oct. Bill & Sue B-W
9th Oct. Colin W
16th Oct. Margaret & Alan E
23rd Oct. Rita T
30th Oct. Jack & Margaret T



(Jenny O)

NW SYNOD SOUTH LANCASHIRE MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP EVENT

Look out for details of a “coming together” event when PURC will host a social gathering of members from across the churches of the South Lancashire Missional partnership. This will be held on **Saturday 1st October 2022**, so please do make space in your diaries for what we trust will be an enjoyable time of fellowship for all.

PRESTON AREA ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- 3 Sep** Preston Salvation Army, Harrington St. will hold a Fun Day for the family 11am to 3pm. All money raised will support the Refugee Resettlement Programme.
- 6 Oct** Penwortham based King’s Church in association with Christians against Poverty will launch the next Job Club at Penwortham Community Centre on 6 Oct. If you know of anyone who might benefit or want more information contact Mark Willett m:07542736095 or e-mail jobclub@kingschurchfm.org.uk
- Sep & Oct** A series of Retreats both online and in person will be held in September and October led by Donna Worthington. For information and bookings go online to <https://christianretreats.live.co.uk> or e-mail drworthington@live.co.uk

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

at

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

Monday 26th September 2022 at 2.00pm

Penwortham in Lockdown

Nature Under Your Nose



a talk by

Peter Smith



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

The cost will be £4.00

Do come along and bring a friend



OTHER PURC NOTICES



BUTTERFLIES 2022-23

From **September** the Butterflies will continue to meet on a once per month basis, usually on the 1st Thursday of each month. Pat D.

PURC WOMEN'S GUILD

Having written in "Contact" in July about the likely closure of the Church' Women's Guild, there was just one response to the invitation to comment. After much thought we (Jean & Hylda) consider the time has come to finish.



Women's Guild

After all the years and all the fellowship, it wouldn't seem right to just cease without a more formal statement.

As we say farewell to the Guild, we will remember our very happy times and all our achievements.

Jean F and Hylda H

PURC ECO CHURCH ARTICLE



This ECOVER washing up liquid is eco-friendly, available in the larger supermarkets and about the same price as non-eco-friendly brands. As we conserve water, it enables us to pour washing up water onto the garden to water our plants.

Plans are advanced to establish a small seating area near the church building, supporting 2 benches and with a hard surface between them for our feet. We are now looking for a variety of mixed paving stones, bricks, pavements etc. to provide this small surface, so if anyone has any leftovers from garden projects do let us know.



Thank you for supporting our Eco Church Status.
Junior Church and the Eco-team

International Aid Trust

Christian Compassion For A Hurting World

<https://internationalaidtrust.org.uk/>

It is with grateful thanks that the editor has received, from Rita T and Joyce B, details of the latest set of items kindly donated by all you knitters, sewers and crafters which have been taken to International Aid for distribution to the many in need whom they serve in different locations around the world.

Particular thanks to Rita and Joyce for keeping contact with IAT and taking the trouble to transport all your donations for them to distribute. Thank you too to all of you who have contributed your time and skills to this effort. (Ed.)

The following note detailing the items taken to International Aid was received from Joyce & Rita :

“ 28 Premature Baby Hats; 8 Large Blankets; 54 Children’s Hats;
4 Adult Hats and 1 Snood; 5 mittens/hand-warmers; 10 scarves;
6 large scarves or wraps; 4 baby jumpers and 1 matching hat;
2 Jumpers 6-12 months; 3 Jumpers 1-2 years;
3 Jumpers 2-3 years;
1 Baby Blanket; 1 Cuddly Octopus ----129 Items in all.

Taken to International Aid Trust on Wednesday 3rd August and
Received with thanks.

Rita and Joyce

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST SHOEBOX SCHEME

Although operating year-round you will all be aware that PURC makes a special effort coming up to Christmas to collect items and/or make available the wherewithal to enable the distribution of shoeboxes containing essential items and gifts for distribution by IAT. They will soon be making available the details for us for this year’s effort.

Please keep an eye (and ear!) out for this year’s information and thank you in advance for your contributions. Rita

A REFLECTION

EIGHT PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

'Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity'

Proverbs 21:5 New Living Translation

People who set goals accomplish much more than people of equal education and ability who don't. With that in mind, build these eight principles into your life.



- 1) Decide what you want. But first consult God. 'Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails' (Proverbs 19:21 NIV).
- 2) Think on paper. Writing your goals down gives them a sense of permanency, plus it energises you. 'Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity.' Wishy-washy objectives won't get you where you want to go.
- 3) Establish a deadline. Without a definite beginning and ending it's easy to procrastinate and get nowhere.
- 4) Make a list of what you need to do to. Keep it before you at all times; it'll give you a track to run on.
- 5) Convert your list to a plan. Decide what you need to do first and what you can do later. An organised plan is always better than trying to carry stuff around in your head.
- 6) Act immediately. 'Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15- 16 NIV). Do something! A mediocre plan that's implemented beats a brilliant one that's not.
- 7) Do something every day to move you forwards. Build it into your schedule. For example, read systematically through your Bible, call a specific number of clients, engage in physical activity for a given time.
- 8) Have a goal you're willing to devote your life to. And keep your eye on that goal at all times. Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom' (Psalm 90:12 NIV)

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

(Margaret E)

A HARVEST MONTAGE



SOUTH SUDAN - Continuing Ministry

Thankful that permission was granted by the government to renew the Life in Abundance office lease in Rumbek for another ten years. During April 2022, two of the LIA health units have treated 2,425 patients with diseases. Thankful for the provision of medicines to alleviate the suffering, for our staff and continued work in these units. Thankful that the peace agreement signed four years ago to unify the armed forces is finally established. Pray it will work for the good of the people. Pray for wisdom for those in charge to use the vast natural resources in a way that creates growth for the country.

(Life in Abundance International)

ARGENTINA- Outreach to Children

Viva's partner network, Red Viva Argentina, comprises 146 churches and organisations, and last year reached out to 20,000 children. The network trains church leaders to improve safeguarding and protection policies in churches and is a key player in advising the evangelical group of churches in Argentina about child protection and how children should be brought up without the threat of abuse and violence. Pray for a commitment of local churches to work towards protecting all children who attend and young people in their communities. Pray too for people living in poverty in Argentina who continue to be affected by the health and economic implications of the pandemic. The network is running Viva's mentoring programme to support families in need. Mentors have been trained to work with families in Buenos Aires, Corrientes and in Chaco, where a new network is beginning. *(Viva - together for children)*

TUNISIA - Social Media Outreach

Our social media outreach in the Middle East attracts many hundreds of people who feel confident enough to ask about the bigger questions of life while staying anonymous. One person wrote, "I have been searching for answers to lots of questions about God and his love for me. One day while I was surfing the internet, I found your page. I contacted the team and now I believe in Jesus and accept Him as the Lord of my life. They introduced me to the local ministry team who met with me and baptised me. I was like floating in the air, full of joy. I have been so happy for this step!" Pray for continued impact through social media outreach in this region. *(Reach Beyond)*

above with permission of globalconnections.org.uk

AN EMERGING DEBT CRISIS IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL

Debt is strangling the poorest people in Palestine and Israel, and in any sane world would immediately be cancelled. Israel's national debt is around US\$208 billion. That equates to 66% of GDP or US\$24 000 per citizen. Each year \$US9 billion is added to the bill. Palestine's debt to GDP ratio has exceeded 63% - well over the 40% limit set in law. The Palestinian Authority's ability to service that debt is hampered by the illegal occupation and oppression of its people. For both Israel and Palestine, there is an emerging debt crisis that will affect the poorest citizens enormously, brought about by a deeply problematic global financial and economic architecture.

In fact, the global financial system beggars belief. Take the British foreign aid budget. The majority goes not to poor people but to a colonial-era investment firm called CDC that invests in luxury hotels, malls, and restaurant chains. In the end, only 3% of this aid goes to suppliers in the global south, with over 90% being paid to British firms. "This is the real scandal," says economist Jason Hickel. "Aid money is taken from the pockets of British taxpayers and sent straight into the already-gilded coffers of the British business elite. It's a shameful abuse of our most compassionate impulse," he concludes.

Together with Global Justice Now, Commitment for Life works to cancel the debt of the highly exploited nations. Thank you for all you do to bring about justice in our world through effective debt cancellation.

(In October, the United Reformed Church celebrates its Jubilee year – 50 years since it came into being in 1972. Jubilee came into being with the rise of the early City-State empires in ancient Mesopotamia. Their recently discovered debt-based credit system made shifting wealth from freshly conquered territories hugely efficient but came with problems. Ordinary people fell into debt way too easily, and the system gave rise of a class of oligarchs, whose newly acquired wealth and influence threatened the power of the kings. To cope with this threat, the kings used to declare a regular 'amarga' (lit. 'return to the mother') or Jubilee that reunited heavily indebted peasants to their lands and families.

A PRAYER God of Abundance, help us find alternatives to debt. Give us the wisdom, means, courage to forgive debt, thereby subverting empire's economics for the sake of your kingdom. We pray for Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Israel and Palestine; all are caught up in a web of debt that suffocates everyone, even the planet.)



POETRY PIECE



I've never written a sonnet,
That's a poem of fourteen lines,
My style is somewhat habitual,
Four lines, not prose, but rhymes.



I've dabbled with odes,
With metre irregular and lyric,
By accident, not by design,
Written in iambic or trochaic.

Renowned poets, especially Shakespeare
are masters of soliloquy.

My ramblings are thoughts of my brain,
Really more of an apology.

An idyll depicts a pastoral scene,
A tribute to beauty and nature,
Wordsworth or Keats could describe,
Filling their readers with rapture.

An elegy is a mournful poem,
Not at all within my sphere.
My words are factual or humorous,
Hopefully bringing some cheer.

The last and final poem,
In irregular rhythm and good will,
Is defined a comic verse,
Oddly named as doggerel.

I'm not sure where I fit in this genre,
I scribble and describe what I've done,
Or tell stories of family and times,
Then finish what I've begun.

Hylda H

CARTOON

With permission Tim Walburg



"Well, where do YOU go for your sermon illustrations?"

BACK TO SCHOOL WORDSEARCH

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

Assembly
Breaks

Examination
Learning

Revision
Sport

Classroom

Lessons

Teachers

Communication

Play

Uniform

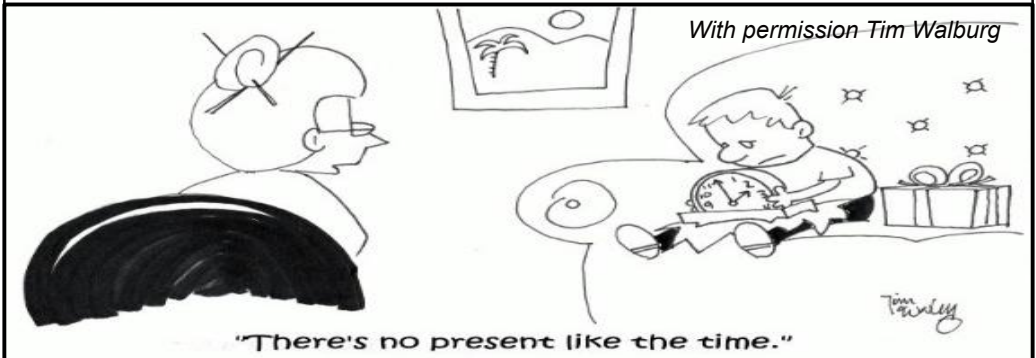
Desks

Reading

Writing

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

CARTOON



CONTACT MAGAZINE INFORMATION

Dear Reader

The next 'Contact' will be the October 2022 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 18 September

Next issue date will be 25 September

Ed.

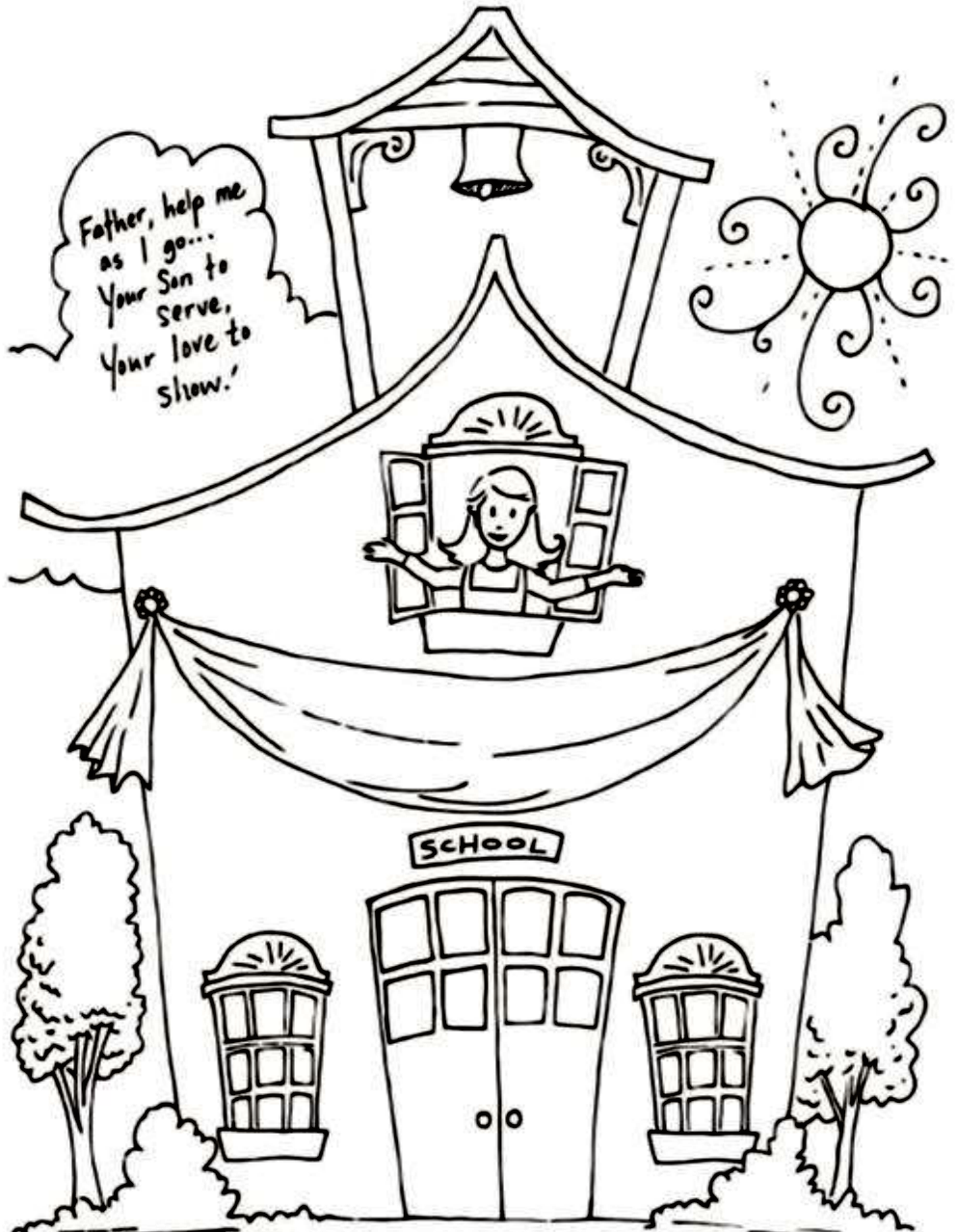
A SINCERE THANK YOU

The Editor would like to thank our outgoing Joint Secretaries - **Beverley and Jenny** for their steadfast support for our "Contact" magazine during what has been for them a much protracted period of service in challenging times. Grateful thanks are extended for their own regular contributions to the content and arranging for other contributions from the Elders team; for their forbearance with the editorial hiccups and for their great teamwork and always with a smile, notwithstanding everything else that has been going on over these past years! Their support will be very much missed.

Ed.

CHURCH ANECDOTES

1. The church had a going-away party for their Pastor_____. The congregation was anxious to give him a little momentum.
2. When a young minister was still single, he preached a sermon he entitled, "Rules for Raising Children." After he got married and had children of his own, he changed the title of the sermon to "Suggestions for Raising Children." When his children got to be teenagers, he stopped preaching on that subject altogether.
3. Message on the outside wall of a Convent
"Trespassers will be prosecuted - *Sisters of Mercy*"
4. Message on the outside sign of a church in America:
"We welcome all denominations - \$1,\$5, \$10,\$20, \$50."
5. After starting a new diet a church member altered their drive to work to avoid passing their favourite bakery. Absent-mindedly driving by one morning, there in the window were a host of lovely cakes. The member felt this was no accident, so prayed ... "Lord, it's up to You; If You want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." Sure enough, on the eighth time driving around there it was! God is so good!



Mandy Grace '11

ministry-to-children.com