

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

MINI CONTACT SEPTEMBER 2023

FOREWORD

We are still in August but the apples are falling from the trees and it feels like Autumn already. As I write this it is raining and going dark at 7pm! However, we must count our blessings. The lawns are green, the gardens are healthy and hopefully the reservoirs will be replenished. This summer we have seen fires raging in Greece, Portugal, Canada and Hawaii. The physical, social and environmental effects have been devastating. We can count our blessings that we live in the mild, maritime climate of the UK so we should not suffer the extremes of weather we see in other areas in the world.

We have so much to be thankful for. Whatever we are going through, there is always something we can be thankful for each day, even if it is something as simple as seeing flowers, having something nice to eat, a comfy bed at the end of a long day or the fellowship of Sunday worship. We have so many friends at Church who we can call on if we need them and sometimes it is just good to know they are there if we need them.

Hopefully we will have an Indian summer and we will have sunny days and feel the warmth of the sun during September.



Best wishes. Gillian Ashurst.

OUR JOURNEY TO URC.

We would like to thank everyone for welcoming us to URC as new members.

We first came to the church in the Autumn of 2017 when, following the death of Pam's husband we thought that we would like to attend a church on a regular basis. So for the next few Sundays we went to several churches in the area.

When the day came to visit URC, we were greeted at the door which was a nice welcome, as we went into the church, People were so friendly. We sat with Derek, who is now our lovely new friend. Jenny started the service and said in her kind manner that "we would like to welcome anyone who is visiting us for the first time today". We felt that this kindness was just the kind of church that we needed, along with the family feel about the church. We decided that we had found "Our church".

Since then we have attended URC and have enjoyed the Services and various activities, we have been made most welcome and have made many new friends and feel part of the congregation.

On the 9th July ourselves along with Margo and Non became members of the church. It was a lovely service and Daleen and Robert made the occasion both personal and meaningful for us all. It was nice that as close friends we all became members together.

We would like to also thank the church Elders for all their hard work that they continue to do for the church. We all greatly appreciate it. Keep up the good work.

Thank you everyone.
Pam Hilary and Lynda.

FIVE NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday 9th July Revd Daleen Ten Cate inducted five new members into our church.

We were delighted to receive Lynda, Non, Pam, Margo and Hilary into membership and wish them every blessing as they continue to work and worship at Penwortham URC.



Notice:

Leyland URC are holding a "Last Night of the Proms" on Sunday 10th September at 7.00pm.

Tickets cost £10.00 and can be reserved in advance.

Further details are on the foyer Notice Board.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

First of all, we would like to thank Nigel Lemon for stepping in on 20 August, when the minister was stuck behind an accident on the M6.

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer and had a holiday or days out. We welcome the children back from their summer holidays and look forward to hearing their news.

Celia and Bill McCartney have celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary in August, and Gillian and Steven Ashurst have celebrated their Ruby anniversary. It is lovely to see Barbara Baird back in Church.

Joyce Duckworth's 100 th birthday celebrations were successful and she really enjoyed seeing everyone. We wish Heather Robbins a very happy birthday, as she celebrates a significant birthday in September. We would like to send our very best wishes to anyone else who is celebrating a special occasion.

As always, we keep those members of our Church who aren't well or may be sad, in our thoughts and prayers. We also remember our members who are not able to attend Church.

The Elders.

Message from Barbara Baird:

I would like to thank everyone at church for their lovely cards, messages, flowers and good wishes received following my recent spell in hospital. They have all been greatly appreciated.

I am much recovered and glad to be attending church once more.

Thank you again. Barbara Baird

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH'S 20th CENTURY HYMN-POETS

Our Reformed Tradition would not be able to worship without the long history of hymns that we use Sunday by Sunday: that history goes back to at least 17th Century Isaac Watts, and continues still in some five prominent Congregational and then United Reformed Church minister-hymnwriters whose work was produced in just my own lifetime.

Albert Bayly, the earliest but least-known of the five, wrote "Rejoice, O people, in the mounting years" for the London Missionary Society's 300th Anniversary celebrations: he was acknowledged by his four contemporaries as "the father of modern hymn-writing", the mid-to-late 20th century's serious hymn-revolution.

The widely-known Fred Kaan's "For the healing of the nations" is sung internationally.

Brian Wren, now the only survivor of the five and long resident in the USA where he taught courses about hymnody, gives us his quiet communion hymn, "I come with joy to meet my Lord".

Caryl Micklem wrote accompanying tunes for some of his own hymns: one of his best pairings is "Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart and a believing mind": his minister-daughter Alison also writes hymns.

And then there's Alan Gaunt who died last month and was the wordsmith of the group. Alan was ordained at Clitheroe, served only in the north including at Windermere: at the national URC Training Centre there, he encouraged course participants to write their own hymns. His wide knowledge, love and appreciation of all sorts of poetry will have aided the elegance and precision of his own writing. "Jesus went to worship in the synagogue" provides for all-age services; his deep and challenging theology is seen in "Eternal God, your love's tremendous glory". Then for dismissal, there is his version from Augustine's Latin of "How blest are all the saints, our God", or his careful and a closer translation from the Swiss-French of what we usually sing as "Thine be the glory": Alan Gaunt focused correctly on Easter's 'resurrection' theme rather than the mistranslation's 'conquering'.

We in the United Reformed Church are privileged to have this collection of hymn-poets whose verse helps us to worship the God of today and tomorrow, rather than be fixed in spoken credal words written fifteen hundred years ago. Their hymns, not least from Alan Gaunt, will remain in books to help Christians worship well beyond our own lifetimes.

NIGEL LEMON

INTERNATIONAL AID

After an informative, and thought provoking service, kindly led by Bernard from International Aid Trust, it was wonderful to be able to collect together all your lovely knitted creations and donations of toiletries, and deliver them to their warehouse on Monday 14 August, sorted, packed and labelled, ready to go onto the lorry.

This included:

Ladies coat, gloves and shoes.

8 medium/large blankets.

43 knitted hats.

3 pairs mittens, 2 scarves.

14 baby jumpers, 8 toddler jumpers.

3 knitted baby ducks and 2 teddies.

First aid and household items.

Lots and lots of toiletries, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, tooth brushes and tooth paste, wash bags, sponges, flannels, face and hand creams.

It was very much appreciated by the staff at the warehouse and they sent their thanks to everyone.

If you are able to help again, further donations will continue to be needed, and appreciated.

Thank you, Rita and Joyce

MAGAZINE DATE FOR OCTOBER

Can you please note that the dates for the October magazine are very early. I am sorry if that causes inconvenience.

Brenda

COMMUNITY EVENT ON 25 SEPTEMBER

This will take place as advertised, but the speaker has had to withdraw. Anne will arrange an alternative speaker and announce it in due course.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

at

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB

Monday 25th September 2023 at 2.00pm

Nature in Close-up



a talk by
Peter Smith



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

The cost will be £4.00



FLOWERS

03 September Marjorie Smith
10 September Bill and Celia McCartney
17 September Derek Woodburn
24 September VACANT

01 October Bill and Sue Bradley-White
08 October HARVEST
15 October Alan and Margaret Edward
22 October Rita Taylor
29 October Jack and Margaret Tallo

SERVICES

03 September	Holy Communion	Rev Rob Hoch followed by short church meeting
10 September	Parade	Carol and Henry Rose
17 September	Family Worship	Jennifer Liddell
24 September	Family Worship	Rev Frank Kendall
01 October	Holy Communion	Rev Martin Whiffen – NB 3 PM
08 October	Parade - HARVEST	Steve Mitchell
15 October	Family Worship	Linda McLanachan
22 October	Family Worship	George Grime
29 October	Family Worship	Rev Frank Kendall

CONTACT MAGAZINE INFORMATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the October issue

"CONTACT" is also published on our web site, minus any personal or pastoral information not for general publication.

See www.penwortham.org.uk

If you have anything you would like to contribute to "Contact", it will be most welcome.

Send it by e-mail to z555brenda@gmail.com
or ring Brenda on 01772 748021 or deliver it to 52 Kingsway.
Thank you for any contribution.

Next submission date will be Sunday 17 September

Next issue date will be 24 September