

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church

Blessed be the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ!



By his great mercy he has given us a new birth
into a living hope through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead. (1Peter1:3 NRSVA)

APRIL 2024

Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk
E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com
Telephone - 07716129719

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

REJOICE! - IT'S EASTER FESTIVAL TIME

Hallo Everybody

Easter Festival time is here again! Are you ready for it?

By way of a warm-up, my husband (Frank) and I joined in the Nice Carnival and the Menton Citrus Festival in February. We set off by coach from Leyland, and took two days getting there and two getting back, with four days in an Italian beach resort quite near the border with France.

On the Saturday evening, the Nice carnival was a magnificent affair, with amazing costumes, dancing and floats – said to be the king of pop culture, it was deafening. Mercifully we had seats up in a grandstand, high enough to avoid the sacks full of confetti that were being hurled everywhere.



On the Sunday afternoon, the Menton Citrus Festival (known in English as the Lemon Festival) was also grand – with dancing and costumes, but mainly in that the displays incorporated 140 tonnes of lemons and oranges, though curiously of imported fruit. The Menton lemon is regarded as very special by chefs world-wide, so is not used for the displays, which take 20,000 man hours to create! Some are mobile and some static. [I attach a boxing match!]

Again, we were well up above the storm of confetti. But not out of the noise!

These two carnival festivals are a celebration of the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring. As far as I know, nowadays they do not have any religious connection, although they may have done at one time. But in Penwortham (and everywhere else, come to think of it,) Christians have their own magnificent festival of Easter to celebrate instead – the highlight of our church year.

However you welcome Spring, with colourful flowers instead of oranges and lemons hereabouts, do be sure to thank God for once again making “all things bright and beautiful” for us to enjoy and rejoice in.

With all good wishes.

Brenda

FAMILY AND FRIENDS



It was good to see Hylda and Basil at church following their spell of being poorly. Their long association with our church as members, office bearers and religious leaders is well appreciated by the congregation.

As we all age it is important that members difficulties are known to the Elders and support where practical can be arranged to meet their needs. It may well be that transport has become difficult and simple arrangements made which solves the problem.

Wishing everyone peace, health and happiness as we move into Spring of the year.



The Elders

Easter Sunday - "Hope lives, Easter Acclamation"

This morning we celebrate that hope lives,
that new life pushes up though the soil, green and strong,
that warmth and light return with the sun
as a new day dawns.

This morning we celebrate
that there is no darkness that love cannot reach,
no tomb that love cannot break open,
no depths from which love cannot raise us up.

This is no superficial joy; it is hard won.
The past is not erased, it is written on the body in scars.

This miraculous morning affirms
that all that is broken can be made beautiful,
integrated into new wholeness.

And so, like the daffodils,
we will lift our tear-streaked faces.
Like the blackbird,
we will greet the day with song.

Like Mary, we will feel our hearts swell
with delight that spills over
into Good, Good News:



Christ is risen

(By Cara Heafey-
"Worship Words" Contributor)

PURC SERVICES FOR APRIL - MAY 2024

07 Apr Holy Communion ****15:00** Rev'd Martin Whiffen
14 Apr Family Worship 10:30 Jim Wilson
21 Apr Family Worship 10:30 Linda McLanachan
28 Apr Family Worship 10:30 Margery Pitcher

Notes: ****Afternoon Service**

05 May Holy Communion 10:30 Rev'd Anton Muller**
12 May Parade Service 10:30 Robert Bulloch and
Gillian Price
19 May Pentecost Service 10:30 Steven Mitchell
26 May Family Worship 10:30 Carol & Henry Rose

Notes: **** Provisionally**
(Brenda)



PURC FLOWER ROTA FOR APRIL- MAY 2024

07 Apr Doris McC
14 Apr Graham & Viv M
21 Apr Linda McL
28 Apr Sue T

05 May Barbara B
12 May Alan & Beverley S
19 May Martin & Kirsty M
26 May Derek & Pat P



(Jenny)

PRAISE THE DIVINE GARDENER - INSPIRED BY PSALM 198

Praise the Eternal One, the Divine Gardener.
Who plants the sun, the moon, the stars in the heavens.
Who creates earth, the amazing garden upon which we live.
Who loosens rocks into teeming, incubating soil.
Who spreads the seeds of life in the seas, land, and skies
– which transform into beasts that swim, crawl and fly.
Who spreads a dazzling array of flora on field and plain.
Who plants dense forests and open moorland.
Who orchestrates nourishment through clouds, thunder and rain.
Praise the architect of earth and heaven
In whose lush garden we stand today.

By Ann Gobledale - "Worship Words" contributor.

A PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL

May the strength of God pilot us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us.
May the shield of God defend us.
May the host of God guard us
against the snares of evil
and the temptations of the world.

May Christ be with us,
Christ before us,
Christ in us,
Christ over us.

May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours
this day and for evermore. Amen.

(A prayer attributed to St. Patrick)

COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT - APRIL

Anne H has arranged for our next Community Social Event in April. A sum of £200 was recently donated to Christian Aid from the proceeds of the Community Social Events - well done to Anne and all her helpers.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

at

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

Monday 29th April 2024 at 2.00pm



Ever wondered what Customs Officers are looking for??

Brian Topping

will tell of his many years during the 1970s and 80s as a serving Customs Officer in the former department of HM Customs and Excise, at Heathrow Airport.

Tales of a Customs Officer

will provide an interesting, informative and entertaining journey through the many situations he came across when dealing with passengers travelling through the airport and his involvement in apprehending and investigating smugglers in his



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

The cost will be £4.00

Do come along and bring a friend





A PATCHWORK QUILT

Insert By Request

A PATCHWORK QUILT

The members of a certain Church
Worked well with willing hands.
And useful articles they made,
To send to foreign lands.

A dear old granny served with joy,
A patchwork quilt she made.
And as she joined the coloured scraps,
With every stitch she prayed

She took it to the Vicarage,
And beamed with pride and joy.
No thought that it might useless be,
Could her sweet peace destroy.

The Vicar, knowing her warm heart,
Thanked her in kindly chat.
But when she'd gone, he said "poor soul!"
What can we do with that?

The useful garments, large and small,
Into a box were pressed,
The quilt was spread across the top
To cover up the rest.

A missionary received the box
And soon its cords untied;
But when he saw the patchwork quilt,
He tossed it to one side.

Just then, a stately tribal chief
Came slowly walking by.
The brightly coloured patchwork quilt
Attracted his keen eye.

Oh, what a pretty thing he said,
Ah! this is very nice;
If you will sell this cloak to me,
I'll pay a very good price.



**Before the startled missionary
A ready answer found,
The chief said “For this lovely cloak
I’ll give a piece of ground.”**

**The man of God had prayed for land,
Where he a church could build;
So at this sign of answered prayer
His heart with rapture filled.**

**The bargain speedily was sealed;
The chief then strode away.
The work of building this new church
Went on from day to day.**

**At last, the happy Christian folk
Met there in sweet accord,
To hear the joyful Gospel News
And praise their Saviour Lord.**

**Then suddenly, the tribal chief
Strode down the aisle alone;
The patchwork quilt across his back
Was like a mantle thrown.**

**With awe he listened as he heard
How Jesus died to save,
Conquering the power of sin and death
By rising from the grave.**

**The chief believed, as faithfully,
The Gospel Truth was told,
And thankfully, by Jesus’ grace
Was brought into the fold.**

**And so, a tribal chief was won;
A mission Church was built -
Because a dear old praying soul
Had made a patchwork quilt.**



(Author Unknown)

C



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

PURC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We would like to confirm the date of the **Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 19th May 2024**, which will conclude morning worship.

The meeting has been arranged slightly later than usual as the completion and auditing of the church financial accounts are delayed due to personal reasons.

Any matters which you would like to be included under Any Other Business should be submitted to us no more than two weeks before the meeting please.

We look forward to seeing you on the day and welcome your participation.



A ROYAL PARTY FOR PAT

*Congratulations and best wishes to **Pat D**, (who as many of you know, leads the Butterflies friendship group at church) and has been honoured by H.M. The King with an invitation to a garden party at Buckingham Palace next month in recognition of her work in our community.*



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

STAMP COLLECTIONS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES



Please can you put any used stamps in the wooden box on the table in the foyer. They will be used to help local charities.

Please can you leave a quarter inch margin around each stamp.

Thank you.

Eco Church Team

BANGLADESH

Shumana Akhter Aisha's home in Sylhet was surrounded by a sea of water on a newly formed makeshift island. "The water was sweeping away everything. It was raining heavily along with thunder," said Shumana.

Sylhet normally has 840mm of rain in June. But in June 2022 it was soaked by more than 1,500mm. Erratic weather patterns will get worse in Bangladesh, one of the world's most climate vulnerable nations. The UN estimates that by 2050, 17% of the country will be submerged by rising sea levels. 20 million people will have lost their home.



Photo: by Khairul Islam, Pixabay

Our partner Christian Aid is calling on world leaders to commit more to climate finance.

“Governments urgently need to take further action at home and internationally, to cut emissions, and adapt to the effects of climate change. And where the impacts go beyond what people can adapt to, the loss and damage fund must be resourced to compensate the poorest countries for the effects of a crisis that isn't of their making,” said Patrick Watt, Chief Executive of Christian Aid.



A REFLECTION

'HOLD FAST'

*'Let us hold fast...without wavering...
He who promised is faithful.'*

Hebrews 10:23 NKJV

You will notice that during the creation process, God counts days based on the previous nights. The Bible does not say, 'The morning and evening were the first day.' No, it says, 'God called...the evening and the morning...the first day' (Genesis 1:5 KJV). That means God specialises in bringing light out of darkness - you just have to get through one to get to the other! God told Moses that the angel of death would come at night, and wherever he saw the blood of the lamb on the doorposts, the inhabitants of that house would be saved (see Exodus 12:12-13). Exodus states that God 'sent a..wind that blew all night until there was dry land..and the Israelites walked through' (Exodus 14:21-22 CEV). The psalmist wrote, 'Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning' (Psalm 30:5 NKJV). The dawn is all the more brilliant because of the darkness that preceded it, just as your progress is all the more rewarding when set against a backdrop of pain, gain, and breakthrough. Great mornings come by getting through rough nights. When you see somebody who is having a great day, chances are you're looking at somebody who has been through a long night. When you hear them shouting the victory, it may be because they have spent the night praying and weeping before God. The Bible says, 'Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise' (Hebrews 10:23 NLT). Trusting God is more than just wishful thinking. It is knowing that if He said it, He will do it. It's realising He doesn't just control creation; He controls your circumstances. So, 'hold fast'.

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)

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

There are many local issues, as well as widely publicised issues in the media, which we are called to pray for. Sometimes it is good to focus also on lesser known Christian endeavours that we can bring before God too. This page focuses on just a few of the world prayer articles on the website of [Global Connections](#)

Europe: [Church's Ministry among Jewish People \(CMJ\)](#)

Please pray that as we lead into Passover (an Old Testament Feast) that CMJ UK will have the opportunity to engage with Jewish communities sharing the truths of the Old Testament. Pray that many will remember how God gave his people a way to escape Egypt and that many will have an interest in the Passover feast's relevance for today.

Africa : [Zambesi Mission](#)

Millions of Malawians are struggling with the impact of back-to-back climate disasters – last year Cyclone Freddy devastated southern Malawi. This year El Niño has affected the same region. Long spells of drought have caused healthy growing crops to wither and die. Church pastors and congregations are wondering how they will feed their families today, let alone through the coming year until the next harvest in 2025. Let us pray that God will provide them with daily bread. Let's pray too for initiatives that will improve these communities' resilience in the future.

Asia : [Global Care](#)

Pray with us for Global Care's work in Kayah (Karenni) State, Myanmar. Please pray for: - Safe travels for John White (Global Care's CEO) who is meeting DS, our Myanmar partner, in Thailand this week - safety and provision for DS as he travels in conflict-ridden areas and peace with justice for the Karenni people, brutalised by their own government and ignored by the international community - protection and encouragement for the Karenni children, schools and teachers we support - an end to violence in Kayah State

Asia: [WEC International](#)

A WEC team are researching and developing resources about Christian pilgrimage tracing the journey of 16th century Jesuit Christians in Japan through Honshu to Nagasaki where they were martyred. Pray for more team members to share stories, inspiring interest in the gospel they gave their lives for

above with the permission of Global Connections

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

CARTOONS

With permission Tim Walburg



"You had to name the kid Arthur."

With permission Tim Walburg



"That's our visiting Pastor."

"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the May issue.

It is also published on our website, minus any personal or pastoral information when the Editor is advised that it is not for general publication.

See : <https://penworthamurc.org.uk/>

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

e-mail to purcmagweb@talktalk.net ; ring Alan Edward on 01772 740129 or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

Thank you for any contribution

Next submission date will be Sunday 21 April 2024.

Next issue date will be Sunday 28 April 2024.

BIBLE VERSE SEARCH AND FIND

Matthew 22:37 NIV

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind".

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