

# CONTACT

*introduces and welcomes*  
**YOU**  
*to*

## **Penwortham United Reformed Church**



*"If you love me, obey me; and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Comforter, and he will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who leads into all truth"*



# MAY 2024

Web Site : [www.penworthamurc.org.uk](http://www.penworthamurc.org.uk)  
E-mail: [penworthamurc@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurc@gmail.com)  
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## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

In January my husband, Steven, and I went to Sri Lanka. It is a beautiful country with so much to offer. The weather was beautiful, and it was wonderful to escape the winter and be greeted by the sunshine



and the heat. We had many different experiences during our tour and felt privileged to meet some wonderful people. Late one night, on a very dark beach, we watched a turtle lay her eggs on the beach, cover them and then go back into the sea. This could only be viewed by the guide's infra-red torch. We saw many animals and beautiful birds

(Turtle Beach) incredible stars at night and some beautiful countryside and coastal areas, as well as experiencing culture and history. Nature came into our room too! Mainly geckos which never troubled us as they ran around on the walls and ceilings and seemed to sleep when we did. We shared a couple of our outdoor bathrooms with toads and tree frogs which I didn't mind. I made a fuss one night though when a snake dropped off a tree into my shower and landed on a shrub beside me! I also wasn't keen on the leech that fed off my leg when we stayed high up in the hills on a tea plantation. I wore leech socks afterwards when we went walking.

We felt humbled to meet the smiling, lovely people who were genuinely happy to engage with us and wanted nothing in return. They work incredibly hard, especially on the tea plantations, and are very poor compared to us. I keep these people in my prayers and feel blessed to have met them. They have reinforced to me that we must count our blessings daily for our health and happiness, and that, compared to them, we want for nothing. It is Christian Aid week this month and maybe we can all help to make sure that those less fortunate than us, are helped to lead sustainable lives.



Good wishes to you all,

*Gillian A*

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS



It has been lovely to see Paul M return to regular worship with us following his move back to Penwortham and to see some new faces in the congregation over the past few weeks.

Our best wishes go to Jack B who is celebrating a significant birthday in May.

Our thoughts and prayers are with anyone suffering illness or awaiting results or treatment. We are pleased to hear that Doreen B's treatment is finally moving forward and it has been nice to see some familiar faces back in church following recent bouts of illness/ injury.

Thank you to all those who contributed to and attended the Easter services. It was nice to see such a large congregation on Easter Sunday including the many children who turned up for the annual egg hunt!

*The Elders*

*Friends and Family*  
GATHER HERE

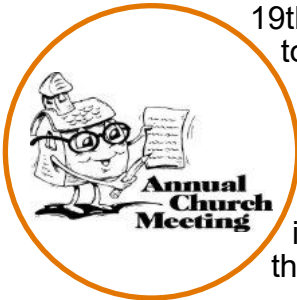


**When I lie down, I go to sleep in peace; you alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe. (Psalm 4 v 8 - GNT)**

## PURC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Church Annual General Meeting on Sunday 19th May 2024

The church A.G.M. will conclude morning worship on 19th May, and the Elders would encourage everyone to attend as important issues are to be discussed, including the proposed Youth Worker, major expenditure for building works, and the general life of the church.



I would ask you all to reconsider your current involvement and support, especially with regard to the appointment of elders and church officers.

Please give thought to vacancies which need to be filled in the following areas:-

- \* **Pulpit Supply.** Brenda is retiring from the post.
- \* **Christian Aid liaison person.** Barbara and Kath have stepped down from the post.
- \* **Lettings Co-ordinator.** Kirsty is retiring from the post.

The agenda and many of the reports will be supplied by email prior to the meeting, with a small number of printed copies available on the day.

If there are any items to be included under **Any Other Business**, please ensure they are with me no less than seven days prior to the meeting.

With all good wishes,

*Robert B  
Secretary*

### A MESSAGE FROM BRENDA

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the AGM.

I will be standing down as an Elder at the AGM, so I am writing to let you know that I will still be around, and less busy, now. So, if you need an extra pair of hands, I will be happy to help out.

*Brenda*

**PURC SERVICES FOR MAY-JUNE 2024**

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

02 Jun Holy Communion 10:30 Rev'd Daleen Ten Cate  
 09 Jun Pen. Gala Ecumenical Service - Hurst Grange Park \*\*  
 16 Jun Family Worship 10:30 Rev'd Frank Kendall  
 23 Jun Family Worship 10:30 Alan Edward  
 30 Jun Family Worship 10:30 Junior Church \*\*  
 Notes \*\* *Gala: Wet weather alternative to be advised*  
 \*\* *Junior Church Anniversary Service*

(Brenda)



**Penwortham**  
 United Reformed Church



*Serving, celebrating, and living the way of Christ together*



**PURC FLOWER ROTA FOR MAY-JUNE 2024**

05 May Barbara Baird  
 12 May Alan & Beverley Strange  
 19 May Martin & Kirsty Mills  
 26 May Derek & Pat Poulton  
 02 Jun Derek Woodburn  
 09 Jun Penwortham Gala  
 16 Jun Margaret & Alan Edward  
 23 Jun Alan & Gill Turner  
 30 Jun Jean Frew



(Jenny)

## **A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST - BASED ON PSALM 104**

O Lord, how many are the things you have made,  
***your thoughtfulness brought them all to life.***  
The earth is full of your creatures, great and small,  
all of them look to you in hope,  
***and you give them their food in good time.***

Without your breath they die,  
and when they cannot find you, they are dismayed.

***But when you send your Spirit abroad  
new life comes to all the earth.***

May your glory shine for ever.  
***May our worship do justice to your name.***



(From David Wilson  
A Worship Words  
contributor)

## **CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

### **UNICEF MITES SCHEME**

Your **Mites** donations have realised **£24.75 for the period 1 Jan to 31 Mar 2024** which will purchase a further **309 Oral Rehydration Sachets** which currently cost circa **8p each** with the rise in global costs (not yet updated in the The Mites Scheme section of the UNICEF Website).

Whatever you can donate via the **green tubs** on the staging at the rear of the worship area is very much appreciated. Just 5 sachets have the potential to save the life of a child suffering from dehydration, a common killer in children who are malnourished or suffering from diseases like cholera or dysentery. Such essential support continues to be vital and the value of your Mites is transferred quarterly to the Mites Scheme at the end of Mar, Jun, Sep and Dec each year and acknowledgement is sent to the Elders by coordinator Keith Garner.

Anne Hall has arranged for our next Community Social Event in May - well done to Anne and all her helpers.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON  
at

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

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2.00pm



**Steve Williams**  
presents a talk on



## Shifting Sands

**A regular visitor to  
MOREGAMBE BAY,  
the talk looks at the history and changes  
around the bay from Fleetwood to Arnside,  
Grange-over-Sands and the tip of  
Walney Island**



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



*The cost will be £4.00  
Do come along and bring a friend*

## URC COMMITMENT FOR LIFE - SPRING UPDATE - ZIMBABWE

Judgemore Kowo lives with his wife and two young children in Moyosvi village, Mutoko. His family struggled to pay basic expenses because of persistent crop failure and diseased livestock. One of their challenges is a dire lack of water at the homestead. 'We have no boreholes in this area, and we barely have enough water to drink, let alone give to our animals and crops.' says Judgemore. Christian Aid's BRAC programme has helped Judgemore and his family look at their problems in a different light and realise that the solutions are in their hands. One of the most important tools for Judgemore was disaster risk reduction. 'We learnt that to cope with drought and other challenges, we need to plan ahead... then we come up with solutions and put them in place to reduce the impacts of potential problems.' Judgemore has been trained as a lead farmer and has put a number of demonstrations in place at his homestead including water-harvesting pits, conservation agriculture, growing a wide range of different crop varieties. Judgemore has also received a Boer goat buck and this has provided income for the family. Another benefit he says is 'We learned about the importance of good food for children. This has motivated us to consume different foods including wild foods. We make healthy drinks for the children and do a lot of food processing and value addition to make sure that we have a variety of good food sources all year round. Because of the increased range of livestock that we are keeping including goats and chickens, we are able to eat more meat and eggs than we used to.' Judgemore says the project has initiated a total transformation in the community. People are collectively analysing their futures and looking at the community on a broad scale. 'We are proud of ourselves... poverty is being reduced and our families are happier and healthier.' Weathering droughts and building resilience

Judgemore Kowo and his wife showing one of the water harvesting pits they have dug in their field. For churches and individuals who want to learn more about poverty and how to challenge it, we have a six-session course called Act on Poverty which is ideal to use in small groups. Participants gain a deeper understanding of local and global poverty, hear stories of faith and activism that challenge the status quo, and learn how we can all take steps to tackle poverty together. Visit [caid.org.uk/actonpoverty](http://caid.org.uk/actonpoverty) to download our Act on Poverty course. Act on Poverty course available now. Thank you for all of your support through Commitment for Life which is helping farmers to weather the climate crisis. (abridged from full text at [URC cfl](#))





## A BIBLICAL REFLECTION

### THE ART OF BEING A SHEEP

*'The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.'*  
*Psalm 23:1 NIV*

Perhaps you memorised Psalm 23 as a child. The vivid visual images remain with us lifelong. Author Hannah Whitall Smith said, 'What we all need is just to get back into the nursery again, and take up our childish verses once more, and, while reading them with the intelligence of our grown-up years, to believe them with all our old childish faith.'

As adults we become jaded, losing the simple joy that stress-filled lives require. We need to remember these three things:

**1) *Who our shepherd is - The Lord***'. He is the source of everything we will ever need, beginning with salvation. Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep' (John 10:11 NKJV).

**2) *What the shepherd's job is - protector and provider for the sheep***. And He knows how to handle wayward, headstrong, vulnerable sheep and care for them. Long before Jesus came as our shepherd, the Father said, 'I will rescue [my flock] and no longer let them be mistreated...! will give you a shepherd from the family of my servant King David...All of you, both strong and weak, will have the same shepherd, and he will take good care of you' (Ezekiel 34:22-23 CEV).

**3) *What the sheep's job is - to trust the shepherd completely***. Attempting to do His job will exhaust and defeat us. We must believe 'with all our old childish faith' that Jesus is a dependable, committed, and capable shepherd - and then act like we believe it. Knowing that His goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives lifts our present worries and dispels all our future concerns.



*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](http://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](https://globalconnections.org.uk/)*

### **North America: Haiti - [World Share](#)**

Ask God to bring peace, healing and political stability to the nation of Haiti. Pray that PiFò Haiti would be able to use their food programmes to support those on La Gonâve who are desperately hungry. Continue to thank God for PiFò Haiti's new well at their community garden project, which is such a blessing to the local people, especially given the current instability.

### **South America: Ecuador - [Reach Beyond](#)**

Pray for Radio HCJB, Voz y Manos (Voice and Hands), and other Christian ministries in Ecuador as they work together to plan a special conference in June. The team hopes to train 50 young people on how to use audio-visual tools and the internet in their local church and for missions. Pray for inspiring discussions and new ways to share God's love story in Ecuador.

### **Middle East: Israeli Occupied Palestinian Territories - [Frontiers](#)**

Please pray for our teams working amongst Palestinians and Arab Israelis. Pray for hearts and minds to be opened to the gospel as they share Jesus with those they work amongst. Pray for one of our teams who partner with Messianic Jewish believers to help and pray for Palestinians, as they seek together to share Jesus in the midst of the current difficult situation.

### **Asia: Cambodia - [Global Care](#)**

Pray for our partners in Cambodia, and the children they support. Please pray for: - The team at Bethel Mission Organisation, our partners near Phnom Penh - Educational progress for children attending the graveyard preschool we support - Effective welfare and emotional support for the children - Families struggling with insecure work, inadequate housing and poor sanitation - Wisdom in developing this work.

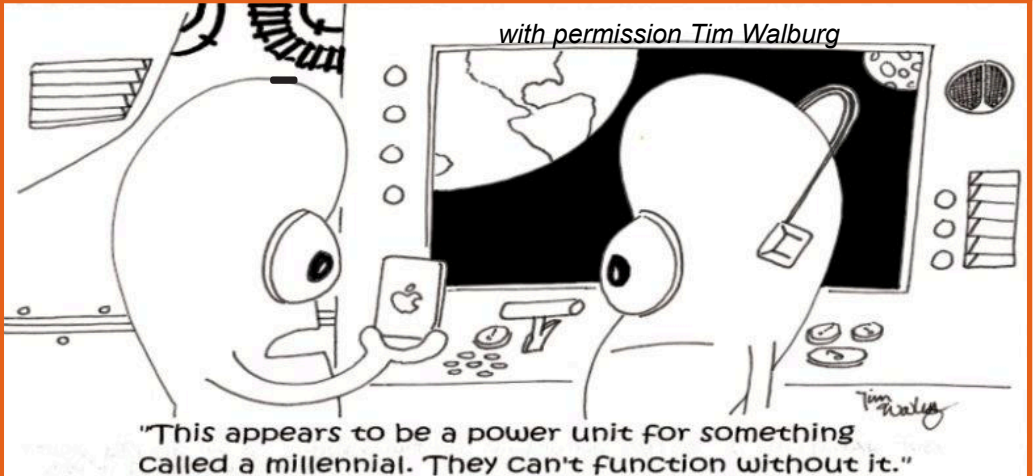
*above with the permission of Global Connections*  
<https://globalconnections.org.uk/>

## CARTOONS

with permission Tim Walburg



with permission Tim Walburg



## **"CONTACT" PUBLICATION**

**The next "CONTACT" will be the June issue.**

**It is also published on our website, minus any personal or pastoral information advised to the Editor.**

**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](mailto:purcmagweb@talktalk.net) ; ring Alan Edward on**

**01772 740129 or deliver to 27 Hazel Close**

**Thank you for your contributions**

**Next submission date will be Sunday 26 May 2024.**

**Next issue date will be Sunday 02 June 2024.**

## BIBLE VERSE SEARCH AND FIND

Numbers 6 : 24-26 (NIV)

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

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