

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church

Keep your face to the sunshine and
you cannot see the shadows. *Helen Keller*



Jesus said: I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life. John 8:12 NIV

JULY-AUGUST 2024

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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD



My goodness, it was magic to listen to our youngsters from our junior church take the service on Sunday 23rd June. Confident and clear in what they had to say. It was uplifting with their subject of “Can Do” identified by famous sports people who suffer forms of debility.

The positivity of the subject brightened up the recent boring political arguments which we have all been subjected to.



As a congregation we are blessed with an active junior church who under the guidance of their adult team, bring energy and commitment to our Sunday worship.

With the world system currently in tatters, it is easy to become individually and collectively, negative in our thoughts. Our youngsters showed us a different approach, which if we all applied, would achieve a stronger church and a closer membership.

Bill



FAMILY AND FRIENDS



I sit down to write this after a very enjoyable weekend

On Saturday evening many of us joined a party at Leyland Golf Club to celebrate Paul M's birthday. Happy Birthday Paul.

Then on Sunday the service was led by Junior Church. The theme was "Yes I can" and showed us examples of people who had not let anyone tell them "they couldn't ..." Thank you to all the readers and particularly the two Gills and Viv for organizing it. I really enjoyed it and found it most uplifting.

As we approach the summer holidays many of our young people will be looking forward to changes in their lives. We wish them luck, particularly at their new school. We hope they will enjoy all the new opportunities they experience. Remember "Yes I can!"

A number of our friends have been ill over the past few weeks. Covid has been around again. We missed Gill on Sunday as she had tested positive. We look forward to welcoming Alan E back to take our service on 30th June after a short illness. We send our best wishes to them and anyone who has felt unwell over the past few weeks. I hope the warm sunny weather cheers everyone up.

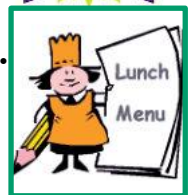
The Elders



PURC CELEBRATORY 95TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

SUNDAY 01 SEPTEMBER 2024

To celebrate the 95th Anniversary of the opening of the present church building, we are to hold a lunch following morning worship. Everyone is welcome. In due course a list will be placed on the Foyer Notice Board for you to add your name and make your menu choices before 25th August.



PURC SERVICES FOR JULY - PART SEPTEMBER 2024

07 Jul	Holy Communion	15:00	Rev'd Martin Whiffen**
14 Jul	Parade Service	10:30	To Be Advised
21 Jul	Family Worship	10:30	Margery Pitcher
28 Jul	Family Worship	10:30	Alan Edward
Notes ** Afternoon start time at 3.00pm			
04 Aug	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury
11 Aug	Family Worship	10:30	To Be Advised
18 Aug	Family Worship	10:30	Alan Edward
25 Aug	Family Worship	10:30	To Be Advised
01 Sep	Holy Communion	10:30	Gill Turner
08 Sep	Parade Service	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury

(Brenda)



PURC FLOWER ROTA FOR JULY - PART SEPTEMBER 2024

07 Jul	Val Tiffin
14 Jul	Bill & Celia McCartney
21 Jul	Basil & Hylda Hurst
28 Jul	Rita Taylor
04 Aug	Betty Carruthers
11 Aug	Hugh Dawkins
18 Aug	Andrew Dawkins
25 Aug	Jenny Oliver
01 Sep	Marjorie Smith
08 Sep	Bill & Celia McCartney



(Jenny)

ECO CHURCH ARTICLE

BEE FACTS AND FIGURES.

£1.8 billion: How much it would cost UK farmers to pollinate their crops without bees.

97%: The number of flower-rich meadows that have been lost since the 1930s.

4: The number of seasons in which different bees need pollen and nectar.



WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP?

Lavender is a great summer plant we can all get to help the bees during the hot weather. It can be planted or put in a pot.

Gillian A for the Eco-Church Team

INTERNATIONAL AID DELIVERY 17TH JUNE

Thank you very much for all your kind donations for International Aid.

This included lovely knitted items, 11 blankets, 24 children's jumpers, 38 hats, 15 scarves, mittens and gloves, 2 cuddly owls and a cuddly mouse.

Other donations included, bedding, a sleeping bag, ladies' clothes, children's clothes, stationery, colouring books, plastic drinking cups, filled wash bags and lots of toiletries.

Julie, and the other volunteers at the warehouse, asked us to pass on their thanks for all your kindness.

Rita and Joyce.



RE: NEW EVENT - AMENDMENT NOTICE



FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC



It is with regret that, due to technical difficulties, the "For the Love of Music" event that was originally planned for July, has had to be postponed, for which apologies from Dee.

It is hoped that, come the Autumn, things will be back on 'track'. Do please watch this space for further announcements after the summer break.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT - ADVANCE NOTICE - SEPTEMBER

Congratulations to Anne H and helpers on a successful series of Community Social Afternoons which have seen a number of very interesting speakers attending, have raised money for charities and been well received by the many who attended.

At the last session before the Summer break, the sum of £200.00 was donated to St. Catherine's Hospice following Peter Frankish's visit. The next event will take place in September with details below.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON at

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

Monday 23rd September 2024 at 2.00pm



Celebrating 25 Years of Saving Lives
a representative from the
North West Air Ambulance Charity
will give a talk about their wonderful
work throughout our region.



Photo Flickr.com Public Domain



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



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

Extract from Moving Stories 01/05/2024



photo by Rev'd Dr. Kevin Snyman

WHAT IS COMMITMENT FOR LIFE

We are the URC's global justice programme. Our goal is to enable you, the local congregation, to make global justice a core foundation of your mission. We offer resources to facilitate prayer, advocacy, and effective action for the most vulnerable people in the world

MEET THE TEAM: GRACE MUGEBE

ZIMBABWE : On the recent Commitment for Life trip to Zimbabwe, we met up with the wonderful Grace, the Programme Manager for the Zimbabwe team.

Grace was very welcoming and eager to let us know how much she appreciated the support of Commitment for Life.

Grace has over 20 years' experience in governance programmes, gender equality, public health, organisation development, operations management, and communications.

Grace manages the Zimbabwe country programme portfolio covering social, economic, humanitarian and climate justice projects.

Grace holds several degrees, including a Master of Science in Development Studies. Without the gifts of skilled people like Grace, our work in Zimbabwe would be severely curtailed.

Grace speaks about her appreciation for all that Commitment for Life does for Zimbabwe.

Thank you for all you do too, Grace!

A BIBLICAL REFLECTION

TAKE TIME TO WONDER AND WORSHIP

Then God saw everything that He had made and indeed it was very good. Genesis 1:31 NKJV

The first reaction recorded in Scripture is God's reaction to His own creation. He stepped back at the end of each day, looked at what He had made, and said, 'It's good.' Then on the sixth day when creation was complete, He said, 'It's very good.' This is why we feel so spiritual when we watch an ocean sunset or the towering summit of a mountain. Thomas Carlyle said, 'Worship is transcendent wonder. Wonder for which there is no limit or measure; that is worship.' It's standing in amazement of the Creator and His creation. It's translating the beauty of creation into worship of the Creator. It's thanking God for splendid sunrises and dazzling stars and unique snowflakes. It's giving credit where credit is due - to the Creator. The psalmist captured it in the words: 'The heavens declare the glory of God' (Psalm 19:1 KJV). The musical group U2 captured it in the words of their hit song 'Beautiful Day'. Such wonder is also an act of worship. One pastor writes: 'The sunrise is so consistent that we take it for granted, but few things are as miraculous as the celestial dance that takes place on a daily basis. The earth spins on its axis at a speed of 1,000 mph. And while it rotates 360 degrees on its axis every twenty-four hours, it is also hurtling through space at the unimaginable speed of 67,000 mph. You may not have any big plans for today, but you will travel 1.6 million miles in your annual lap around the sun. Quite an accomplishment!' So, take time to wonder and worship God.

*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)



CTL AT THE ROYAL LANCASHIRE SHOW

The Churches Together in Lancashire "Church Tent" returns to the **Royal Lancashire Show which will take place 19-21st July**. Despite the mud, which was worthy of Glastonbury, we are preparing to return. There will be free refreshments and somewhere free to sit down for a chat a brew.

The central focus this year will be **Farming and Mental Health**. We are partnering with Lancashire Mind and will again be joined by other charities that provide resources and training for supporting farming communities across a range of needs.

To find out just how valuable this provision is, please do look at the following link : <https://cte.org.uk/one-big-tent/>

SURFSTAGE FESTIVAL - PARBOLD - 5 to 7 JULY 2024

Join us in our field in Parbold for a handmade celebration of music, food and fun. Created by Christians who believe Love is the Way, Joy is for sharing and Peace isn't just for hippies!

<https://www.surfstage.co.uk/>

ONLINE AND IN-SITU RETREATS

For full details of both online and in-situ retreats please see the website or contact Donna Worthington: drworthington@live.co.uk. Website: www.christianretreats/live. The in-situ retreats include locations such as Parcevall Hall, Appletreewick; Holy Island (Lindisfarne) and a number of locations in Ireland.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

O God, you would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace:

let the design of your great love shine upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows;

*and give peace to your church,
peace among nations,*

*peace in our homes, and
peace in our hearts.*

*(From Hereford Cathedral as
Worship Words contributors.)*



*(From a Salisbury URC window
by Ana Gobledeale)*

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 mentions just a few of the world prayer articles on the website of [Global Connections](https://globalconnections.org.uk)

Asia: Mongolia - Sharing Christ Internationally

A Mongolian man correctly said people have no awareness of sin and believe that this life is all there is. They struggle to survive, and to get as much pleasure as possible. A Canadian man found Mongolians are nearly completely materialist with no interest in God. The Gospel goes out, but barely no interest is shown. We toil and toil but no human ability can make even one person repent. We go on in obedience and do not lose heart. PRAY that God will work in people.

Africa: Democratic Republic of The Congo - World Share

Please pray for an end to the siege of Goma, DR Congo. Pray that roads would be able to reopen, allowing food supplies to travel through the country again and reach the vulnerable people currently facing starvation. Thank God for protecting HEAL Africa staff and their families through the many threats they're facing in DR Congo including conflict, food shortages and even a cholera outbreak. HEAL Africa would like us to pray that overseas media would give more attention to the situation in eastern DR Congo so more support can be given to the people suffering as a result of the conflict.

Europe: France - France Mission

The Paris Olympics are due to run from 26 July to 11 August, with the Paralympics to follow from 28 August to 8 September. Please pray for French Christians as they seek to bless their communities and to share Jesus during this period when the world will be focused on France. You can find out more about all that's happening at <https://www.ensemble2024.com/en/>

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

CARTOON



HEROD
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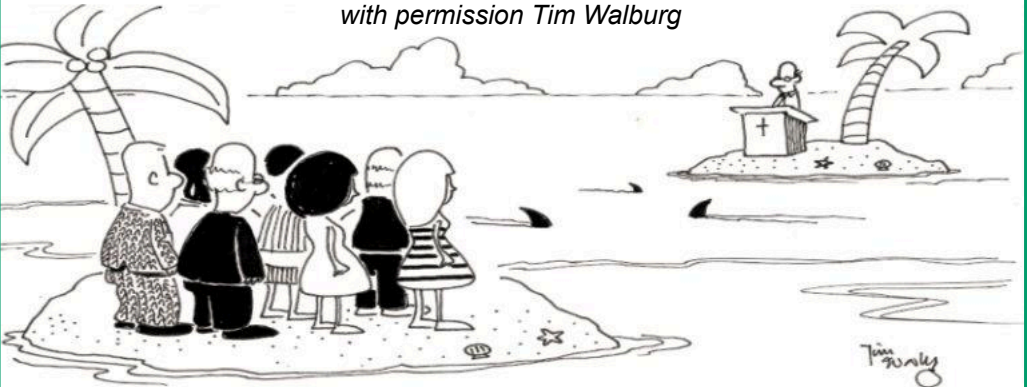
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with permission Tim Walburg

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Tim Walburg

"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the September 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 ; speak to Alan Edward or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be Sunday 25 August 2024.

Next issue date will be Sunday 01 September 2024.

BIBLE VERSE SEARCH AND FIND

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

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