

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Gal. 6:9 (ISV)

And a harvest of righteousness is grown from the seed of peace planted by peacemakers. John 3:18 (ISV)

OCTOBER 2024

**Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk
E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com
Telephone - 0771629719**

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD



Autumn is now upon us, and we will soon be celebrating harvest. The year seems to be flying by. It was lovely to see everybody enjoying themselves at our Anniversary meal, just like old times, and we must thank Gill T for leading us in worship. It really was a lovely day.

I must thank everybody who supported the scouts on their cake sale following morning worship on Sunday 8th September. The Elders have received a message of grateful thanks for the support which members of the congregation made to that fund-raising effort. They raised £110.02 towards a donation they intend to make to Galloways and Guide Dogs for the Blind, and enjoyed doing it and would love to do another event. It is heart warming to see us all joining together again.

Covid changed so many things. We have shown how strong we are as a Church and we must show this to the wider community, there are so many lonely and troubled people in Penwortham who just need somebody to listen to them and with Gods help, we can be that listening ear. It makes me so proud to belong our church. When I have had bad times there has always been love and we must show this to others.

With all good wishes

Anne

FAMILY AND FRIENDS



It was lovely to see the Scouts back after their summer break and we must wish them all the best as they start their new school year.

I must thank everybody for their good wishes, I have now had both eyes done and I can't believe the difference it has made, can now see all the cob webs.

Paul M is back home after a short stay in hospital. Barbara B has not been too well and is in hospital and we send her all our love and wish her a speedy recovery.

We thank Rev'd Frank K for gamely taking the service on 22 September, all the while nursing a broken arm.

All our thoughts and Prayers are with those who are not too well or are housebound and can't be with us in person.



God Bless you all

Anne

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service is to be held on Sunday 13th October, and will be led by Revd Anton Muller. We would ask you to support this service, and appeal for donations of money and/or tinned and dry goods for the Penwortham Foodbank.

Items supplied by the churches in Penwortham at harvest time are a major source of winter food for this much used and vital service to our community.

Assistance to transport items to the Foodbank on the morning of Friday 18th October would also be appreciated. If you are able to help, please speak to Anne H.

Thank you.

The Elders



PURC SERVICES FOR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

06 Oct Holy Communion 15:00 Rev'd Martin Whiffen++
13 Oct Harvest Service 10:30 Rev'd Anton Muller
20 Oct Family Worship 10:30 Linda McLanachan
27 Oct Family Worship 10:30 To Be Advised

Notes: ++ 3pm afternoon service

03 Nov Holy Communion 10:30 Margery Pitcher
10 Nov Remembrance Sunday 10:30 Jennifer Liddell
17 Nov Family Worship 10:30 George Grime
24 Nov Family Worship 10:30 Rev'd Frank Kendall

(Brenda)



PURC FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024

06 Oct Jack & Margaret T
13 Oct Harvest
20 Oct Margaret & Alan E
27 Oct Rita T

03 Nov Barbara D
10 Nov Gill T
17 Nov Marjorie S
24 Nov Alan & Beverley S



(Jenny)

CHARITABLE GIVING -NOTICES

INTERNATIONAL AID DELIVERY - 16th SEPTEMBER 2024

Thank you very much once again for all your kind donations. Knitted items included blankets, jumpers, hats, scarves, snoods, and hand warmers. There were also donations of new clothes, cuddly toys and handmade soft play balls.

Here is a snapshot of your very generous and kind donations, and then all sorted and labelled ready to go



For information, their new warehouse is now operational, and the address is, Briery Lane, Off Blackgate Lane, Tarleton, Preston PR4 6UU.



Thank you again,

Rita and Joyce

UNICEF MITE SCHEME

Your generous donations to the UNICEF MITE SCHEME during the period 01 April 2024 and 30 June 2024 amounted to £ 20.25p. The traditional mites (originally 5p coins) are reducing in circulation due to inflation and the increasing popularity of cashless transactions. Added to this, the cost of the Oral Rehydration Sachets, so important to small children suffering malnutrition and disease, have increased from 5p to 8p. Many of you have responded by adding 10p and 20p coins to your giving in the Mites boxes on the stage, which has been most welcome. All the receipts are counted, banked and passed on by cheque to the UNICEF Mites Scheme Coordinator (Keith G) once per quarter and acknowledged. With many children living in desperate need in various disaster zones, your "Mites" can really make a difference. Please continue to give to this worthy cause.



With grateful thanks,
Alan

COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT - OCTOBER

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

at

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

Monday 28th October 2024 at 2.00pm



Galloways

Support through sight loss

**A representative from
"Galloways"**

**will give a talk on their work
supporting people with sight
loss in North West England
for more than 150 years**



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

The cost will be £4.00

Do come along and bring a friend



IMPORTANT COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT DIARY NOTICE

On Tuesday 28th April 2025, Lady Anne Dodd has agreed to come along and speak about her life, including her many years with the legendary comedian, Sir Ken Dodd. Please do make a note of this and do tell your friends about what promises to be a very special afternoon. (Anne)



African Faith Leaders call for Fresh Debt Forgiveness for Africa.

On the 19 July 2024, African faith leaders (bit.ly/3YwWnGN) gathered in Kigali, Rwanda, to plan for the upcoming Catholic Year of Jubilee.

25 years ago, leading up to the previous Jubilee Year, faith leaders contributed towards mobilising over £100 billion debt relief for Africa. However, the global financial system is rigged.

Photo credit: Tumiso on Pixabay

It heavily favours wealthy creditors. Debt piles up far more quickly than any ability to repay. This is the infamous debt trap: damned if you do, and damned if you don't. Poor countries are forced to borrow at rates that are completely unsustainable both for people and planet.

Africa pays more in interest than it does on desperately needed social and environmental demands. As the earth becomes increasingly uninhabitable, debt cannot be allowed to be used to enrich the wealthy, as usual.

This must stop. Now.

We at *Commitment for Life* work incredibly hard through our partners to deliver for some of the poorest people in Zimbabwe. But our efforts pale into insignificance against this backdrop of a deeply unjust, global financial architecture. Please do all you can to learn more and confront this unjust system.

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

Commitment for Life is the URC's global justice programme.

A BIBLICAL REFLECTION

YOU'RE 'CALLED...BY HIS MARVELLOUS GRACE'

God...called me by his marvellous grace.'
Galatians 1:15 NLT

In Scripture you will notice that God usually called busy people. Moses the shepherd was busy tending his flock. Gideon the farmer was busy harvesting his crop. Peter and John the fishermen were busy mending their nets. But there was something inside each of them that responded to God's call.

With God, availability matters more than ability. Imagine for a moment a farm worker named Saul out looking for his father's lost mules, and returning home anointed to be Israel's first king (see 1 Samuel 9-10). There is no telling what God will do with you! So, be faithful and nurture the dream He put in your heart, and when the time is right, He will set everything in place.

The psalmist said, 'Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart' (Psalm 37:4 NIV). Don't be impatient. If God put the desire into your heart, He will provide everything needed to bring it to pass. Jesus said, 'Human effort accomplishes nothing...the...words I have spoken to you are spirit and life' (John 6:63 NLT).

So, water your vision with God's Word, and spend time with Him in prayer. And if anyone tries to come between you and what God has called you to do, tell them, 'Sorry, I have to go. I'm already spoken for. My destiny is too important to miss.' Don't waste another day struggling with God's call on your life; just surrender to Him! He didn't call you because of your great track record, great intellect, or great gift. The Bible says, 'Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound' (Romans 5:20 KJV). You're 'called.. .by his marvellous grace'.

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

Middle East: Lebanon - [Church Mission Society](#)

CMS mission partners Nabil and Sarah Shehadi are based in Lebanon, where Nabil serves as Alpha Levant coordinator and Sarah manages hospitality and administration, and runs courses with Nabil. Pray for the development of the fully contextualised Middle East North Africa Alpha film series, which they hope will reach 430 million Arabic speakers.

Africa : Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe - [Global Care](#)

Please pray again for communities struggling with food poverty, and for our Harvest Appeal. Please pray for: - families hungry due to climate-related challenges impacting harvests, especially unpredictable rains causing floods, drought, landslides and cyclones, and those coping with extreme temperatures - families hungry because they can't cope with cost of living increases - families hungry due to conflict and displacement - more work from international, national and local authorities to improve food security.

South America: Colombia - [Langham Partnership UK & Ireland](#)

Give thanks to God that this year marks 25 years of Preaching Clubs (called 'escualitas') in Colombia. They have been a fundamental pillar in the growth and consolidation of the preaching movement in Colombia.

Europe : Moldova, Ukraine - [World Share](#)

Give thanks that a trust grant last year has enabled Beginning of Life to support 50 Ukrainian women and their families through art therapy and counselling in Moldova. Please pray for the team working in the Psychological Art Studio at Beginning of Life. Pray that God would equip them as they cope with the emotional and physical strain caused by the strong emotions of those they serve.

above with the permission of Global Connections
[https://globalconnections.org.uk/](https://globalconnections.org.uk)

A FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION

A Franciscan Benediction

The origins of this prayer are unknown, but it surely presents another perspective of St Francis.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

(from Worship Words)

ECO CHURCH ARTICLE

Children's Corner

We would like to provide a box of toys and books (recycled) for toddlers to play with during parade services.

Any toys that you are able to donate would be very gratefully received. Preferably any plastic toys that can be wiped clean would be great.

**Please speak to any of the Junior Church leaders.
Thank you**



(Gillian A)

CARTOON

with permission Tim Walburg



If sermons had a referee.

CARTOON

with permission Tim Walburg



"Turn off Mic 5.... she's sounding too nasally."

"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the November 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 E or deliver to 27 Hazel Close*

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be Sunday 20 October 2024.

Next issue date will be Sunday 27 October 2024.

VERSE SEARCH

Psalm 62:6 NIV

Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress,
I will not be shaken.

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