

# CONTACT

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

## **Penwortham United Reformed Church**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)

**Lest  
we  
forget**

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:3 NLT)

# NOVEMBER 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

As someone who loves the Summer I tend to lament the colder weather and nights drawing in during the Autumn and Winter months. Or maybe it's just the fact that I'm a stingy Scotsman and don't like spending money on heating and electricity. Regardless, there's nothing I can do about it. It is inevitable.



But as I write this on a dull rainy morning, I am reminded of the joy that can come with Winter months. In a few days our night skies will be lit up with dazzling displays of fireworks on 5th November accompanied by choruses of 'oohs' and 'ahh's. Children (and adults) will make shapes with their sparklers, drink hot chocolate and squelch around in the mud. Now, as a dog owner I know the distress that can come with these evenings but I do find something joyful about the traditions that we have during this time.

In the Gospel according to John, Jesus claims "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). I pray that as you hear the bangs and see the wonderful, colour displays of light in the night skies you will be reminded that Jesus is the Light and darkness cannot overcome him. May he continue to be our light in the darkness, showing us the way to live and may we also be that same light to those who struggle with the darkness.



*Steven*

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Last month Diane G-W celebrated a Significant birthday, and enjoyed an extended trip around the country visiting members of her family, who quite rightly spoiled her! All good wishes Diane from everyone at Church.

Best wishes and good luck to Maureen W in her new home back here in Penwortham. We all look forward to seeing you back at church in the very near future.

Thank you again to Joyce and Rita for all their efforts in support of International Aid. Please ensure you help towards the current Shoe Box appeal.

We are pleased to hear that Hylda H continues to recover well, and Barbara B, who is comfortable at home but awaiting further treatment. Please keep all our members and friends who are housebound or unwell in your thoughts and prayers.

Following my return to Gatwick from a holiday in Italy with Jack B (Who sends everyone his warmest regards), I stayed for a few days with Revd David C, Rita and Mark at their home in Grays, Essex. They are all well, and ask to be remembered and send their good wishes to you all. Mark is now approaching his 13<sup>th</sup> birthday; is quite tall and in his second year at senior school (Can you believe??) On the morning I arrived, Grays URC were holding a mid-week Harvest Festival Service followed by a lunch.

The photograph shows David with two of the church members and some of the produce collected for a local Women's Refuge. It was nice to chat with members of the congregation, and indeed to spend time with David and his family.



God bless you all, *Robert*



## PURC SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

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	Revd Frank Kendall

01 Dec	Holy Communion	10:30	Revd Brian Drury
08 Dec	Parade & Toy Service	10:30	George Grime
15 Dec	Family Nativity Service	10:30	Junior Church
22 Dec	Carol Service **	15:00	Beverley Strange
25 Dec	Christmas Day Service	10:30	Robert Bulloch
29 Dec	Family Worship	10:30	Alan Edward

**\*\* 3 PM Service - no morning worship**

*(Brenda)*



## PURC FLOWER ROTA FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

03 Nov	Barbara D
10 Nov	Gill T
17 Nov	Marjorie S
24 Nov	Alan & Beverley S
01 Dec	Doris McC
08 Dec	Debra O
15 Dec	Robert B
22 Dec	Robert B
29 Dec	Cath A



*(Jenny)*

## NOTICES

### IMPORTANT - NOTICE OF A CHURCH MEETING

Please note that a Church Meeting is to be held following morning worship on

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

It would be appreciated if you could attend as matters of importance concerning the church are to be discussed.

Many thanks, *The Elders*



### INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST (IAT) DELIVERY - NOV. 2024



Your kind donations of Shoeboxes and Shoebox items, as well as the range of other gifts and knitted items have been rolling in. To meet the deadline for delivery to the IAT warehouse to facilitate their Christmas distribution, the final date for bringing your IAT gifts to church will be

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

Thank you all so much for your generosity which makes a real difference to so many. *Rita and Joyce*

### ECO CHURCH IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS

#### **Eco friendly Christmas wrapping! Recycled newspaper or magazines**

Save up a few weeks' worth of newspapers to use as gift wrap. You can add a little decoration with a ribbon and tags. If you don't like the black-and-white look you can use magazine pages.

*(Gillian A/eco Church)*



### HARVEST THANKSGIVING APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of our Harvest Thanksgiving Appeal on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Many items were delivered to the Penwortham Foodbank, together with donations of £130.00

*(Robert)*

### A Prayer For Peace

We pray for the peace of the world; Christ's peace, which can overcome the despair of nations.

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT - NOVEMBER**

**COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON**

*at*

**PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 2.00pm**

*An Afternoon Of  
Musical Entertainment*



*with the*



**STRUMMERS AND WARBLERS  
UKULELE BAND**

**All are Welcome to this Event**

*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 28<sup>th</sup> 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)

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**



**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH**

**Marshall's Brow, Penwortham**

# **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 10am - 4pm**

**Music by "Two Note" at 1.15 & 2.30pm**

**SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 12noon - 4pm**

**Followed by Songs of Praise at 4.15pm**

**Refreshments and Christmas Activities for  
children in the Large Hall**

**Craft items for sale and you can make your own**

**Christmas arrangements for floral tributes.**

**Materials provided.**

**ADMISSION £2.00 for adults**

**(under 16's free)**



## **LANCASHIRE CARERS SING CHRISTMAS 2024**

This event will take place on Wednesday 18th December live from the studio of Radio Lancashire in Blackburn. It will be broadcast at midday, but will be available on BBC Sounds for those wishing to host a local event in the evening, or even on another day. We will be joined by members of the Lancashire Salvation Army Bands and the Blackburn People's Choir. The programme highlights all those who are carers across the community at Christmas and so this popular countywide carol service has been rebranded as "Lancashire Carers Sing Christmas" If you have a good news story of Caring at Christmas, please do let me know.

[Revd Anton Müller, [antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk](mailto:antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk)]

# Moving Stories

Commitment  
for Life

Committed to supporting our global partners **BANGLADESH**



Photo credit: Helen Leggett

Commitment for Life wishes to thank Audrey Turner for her years of selfless service to the poorest in the world through *Commitment for Life*. Audrey is pictured here with her Certificate of Loyal and Devoted Service, which was given to her at the Chesterfield URC Church Meeting on Sunday 8 September.

In her response, Audrey said how much she had enjoyed promoting *Commitment for Life* and the programmes supported by Christian Aid in our partner country, Zimbabwe. She also said how much she valued the support of the church and local community in fundraising for Christian Aid over many years.



Photo credit: Andy Whitehouse, Facebook

**C**ommitment for Life partners continue to support our Christian Aid Bangladesh programmes. These include programmes on gender justice, climate justice and responding to needs of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.

In 2024-2025 the priorities remain to advocate for marginalized communities, equipping them to be independent agents of change and good governance. The focus is on the empowerment of women and capacity building. We continue to challenge harmful practices. We are equipping girls and women with more opportunities to gain skills and education for better economic independence.

The update this Autumn will feature a case study about Suhali, a man with physical and speech disabilities who did not let his limitations deter him from his dreams. Through our Empowering Left Behind Minority Communities programme, they were able to advocate for him and support him to attain a job in IT. People like Suhali are grateful for your support.



## A BIBLICAL REFLECTION

### IT'S NOT TOO SMALL FOR GOD

**'And the iron did swim.'**  
**2 Kings 6:6 KJV**

Second Kings 6 tells of a prophet chopping trees near a river when his iron axe head falls in. He said to Elisha: 'Alas, master! For it was borrowed' (v. 5 NKJV). He uses the past tense. As far as he is concerned, this axe head is gone forever. He has no expectation whatsoever that the axe head will be retrieved. He shows Elisha where he lost it. Elisha cuts a stick and flings it into the water, and something happens that most likely never happened before or since. 'And the iron did swim.' Notice, this isn't a life- or-death situation. Yes, it's a loaned axe head. Yes, it disappeared. But if that's the worst thing you have gone through, you have led a pretty sheltered life. You could put this into the same category as Jesus turning water into wine at a wedding party. Why waste your first miracle on helping a bride and groom avoid embarrassment because they didn't stock enough wine for their reception? This reveals something about God. He concerns Himself with the little things, like wedding receptions and borrowed axe heads. Nothing is too big for our great God, and nothing is too small for Him either. 'Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you' (1 Peter 5:7 NKJV). Note the words 'all your care'. If it matters to you, it matters to your loving heavenly Father. 'In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths' (Proverbs 3:6 NKJV). Note the words 'all your ways'. Today God wants you to share every detail of your life with Him.

*with permission United Christian Broadcasters,  
Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST64JF,  
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-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)*



### **REMEMBRANCE**

**Remember the days of old, consider the years long past; ask your parents, and they will inform you; your elders, and they will tell you. Deuteronomy 32 :7**

**The Kohima Epitaph**

**When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
for your tomorrow, we gave our today.**

## WORLD PRAYER NEWS

*Sometimes it is good to focus on lesser known Christian endeavours that we can bring before God. This page mentions just a few of the world prayer articles on the website of [Global Connections](https://globalconnections.org.uk)*

### **Europe: France - [France Mission](#)**

France finally has a new government three months after the general election. The new Prime Minister is Michel Barnier, who was previously the chief EU negotiator in relation to Brexit. The centre-right government is very fragile because it was the left-wing parties that did best in the election. Please pray that French Christians may be salt and light during these difficult political times, committed to all aspects of the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5).

### **South America: Brazil & Africa : [Mozambique AI Massira Int.](#)**

Please thank the LORD with AI Massira following a recent 'Train the Trainer' in Brazil, with 9 new accredited trainers and 2 more accredited Senior Lead Trainers. This is an answer to prayer for AI Massira in Latin America (and beyond) for raising up Portuguese-speaking African trainers in Mozambique that are being further equipped to share the Gospel through the AM resources. The Senior Lead Trainers are from Bolivia, Brazil and Venezuela. Please pray for the edifying, strengthening and unity of the Church, for further equipping God's people to 'go out' with the Gospel in Latin America – and beyond.

### **Asia: China - [Chinese Church Support Ministries\(CCSM\)](#)**

Please pray for church leaders and other believers who are experiencing increased persecution, religious suppression and control. Pray that they would be able to endure and stand firm in the Lord's strength, and that they would be protected from the work of the evil one.

### **Europe: UK- [Mission Assist](#)**

Thank God for the long term commitment of our trustees. Pray especially for those who are due to step down in 2025. Pray for wisdom during the process of seeking and appointing new people to join the board of trustees to help steer our mission support agency through the coming years. Praise God that modern technology for communication and video conferencing gives the opportunity for people to become a trustee wherever they are in the world

*above with the permission of Global Connections*

<https://globalconnections.org.uk>

## PREDICTIVE CARTOON - 1

with permission Tim Walburg



Organic Vegetable  
(Grown on a farm)



Non-Organic Vegetable  
(Manufactured in a lab)

## PREDICTIVE CARTOON - 2

with permission Tim Walburg



Organic Pastor  
(Grown on a farm)



Non-Organic Pastor  
(Manufactured in a lab)

## “CONTACT” PUBLICATION

*The next “CONTACT” will be the December/January issue.*

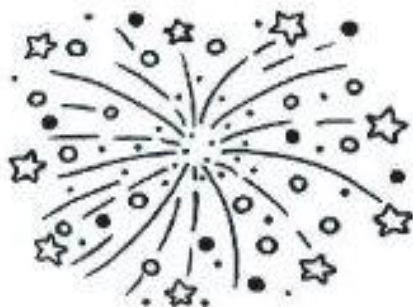
*It is also published on our website, minus any personal or pastoral information advised to the Editor. See : <https://penworthamurc.org.uk/>  
If you have anything you would like to contribute to “Contact”, it will be most welcome. Either send it by e-mail to [purcmagweb@talktalk.net](mailto:purcmagweb@talktalk.net) ;  
speak to Alan Edward or deliver to 27 Hazel Close*

*Thank you for your contributions*

*Next submission date will be Sunday 24 November 2024.*

*Next issue date will be Sunday 01 December 2024.*

## COLOURING PAGE - FIREWORKS



*Images from Clip Art Library*