

# CONTACT

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

## **Penwortham United Reformed Church**

**But those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;**

**they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.**

*Isaiah 40:31(NIV)*

# FEBRUARY 2025

**Web Site : [www.penworthamurc.org.uk](http://www.penworthamurc.org.uk)  
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## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Traditionally the February foreword relates to Lent, however Easter falls later this year and Shrove Tuesday / Ash Wednesday will take place in the first week of March, so I will leave this to next months author!!

Instead I am going to think about Hope. As we move into the 6th week of 2025 I cannot believe how many disasters / unfortunate events have already impacted societies across the world and closer to home. We will all have our own thoughts on world events, politics, climate change etc and we will all be facing our own personal challenges, however what we are all likely to have in common is the ability to become consumed by this negativity and doom and gloom. Our challenge, should we choose to accept it, is to look for the positive and to have hope.

Hope, in the context of the Bible, means to have a confidence or a trust that something good will happen and a shining example of this is Christian Aid who, this year, will have been providing hope to thousands of communities and organisation across the world for 80 years. I am sure their work will continue to provide hope to those impacted by the tragic events unfolding across the world and that Penwortham URC will continue to support them in their endeavours for years to come.

Closer to home the introduction of our new family worker provides us hope that we, as a church, can start to build on our mission of supporting the local community. Katie joins us with a plethora of ideas and a great enthusiasm to build the church community. I personally am looking forward to being involved in some of these new adventures and hope that many of you will join us on the journey. As with any new endeavours we will need the congregation's support to make them successful, as it says in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12, verse 14 'Even so the body is not made up of one part but many' - we are strong when we work together in unity.

So as the days slowly start to get brighter, and hopefully drier and less windy, lets look for the positives, support each others endeavours and have faith that no matter what we face there are better days ahead.

Romans 12:12 'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer'.

*Gillian Price*

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

As always, the last two months have brought a mixture of happiness and sadness to our church community.

We said goodbye to our member and friend Marjorie Smith whose funeral was at church on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Marjorie will be sadly missed and we ask you to remember her, her family and many friends in your prayers.



A number of our friends and family from the congregation have not been well. Mary Lambert had a nasty fall outside her home in December, but with nothing broken she has made a good recovery. June Mortimer has been unwell for sometime and we send our very best wishes to her. We also send our best wishes to Margo Evans with her ongoing treatment. Our friend Susan Moon is unwell and is unable to attend church at present, as she is required to isolate whilst awaiting surgery. We send our hope for a short time of waiting, and our best wishes for an eventual speedy recovery. Derek Woodburn has had a difficult time too with a stay in hospital and we wish him well. We also continue to pray for Joanne, Alan and Margaret's daughter, as well as all our housebound members.

It has been lovely to see Hylda Hurst attending church in recent weeks following her recent period of ill health and we are pleased to see that Sue Tennant's splint has been removed from her broken wrist, and hope that this will continue to improve.

It was also wonderful to see all the children involved in the Nativity service and the opportunity to spend time with friends and family over Christmas and New Year. It was also great to welcome our new family worker, Katie, to the church along with her son Jesse and the wider family. We look forward to seeing how the work and mission develops as we seek to reach out more to the community.



*Steven*

*Friends and Family*  
GATHER HERE

**PURC SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY- 2025**

<b>02 Feb</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Rev'd Anton Muller</b>
<b>09 Feb</b>	<b>Parade Service</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Rev'd Jennifer Liddell</b>
<b>16 Feb</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Robert Bulloch</b>
<b>23 Feb</b>	<b>Family Worship</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Darren Hollands</b>
<b>02 Mar</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Rev'd Daleen ten Cate</b>
<b>09 Mar</b>	<b>Parade Service</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Beverley Strange</b>
<b>16 Mar</b>	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Rev'd Frank Kendall</b>
<b>23 Mar</b>	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Rev'd Brian Drury</b>
<b>30 Mar</b>	<b>Family Service</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Alan Edward</b>

*(Non)*



**PURC FLOWERS/DOOR/REFRESHMENTS ROTA FOR FEB/MAR 2025**

<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>DOOR</b>	<b>REFRESHMENTS</b>
<b>02 Feb</b> Stewart Taylor	<b>Derek</b>	<b>Beverley &amp; Jenny</b>
<b>09 Feb</b> Jemma Oliver	<b>Viv</b>	
<b>16 Feb</b> Gill Ashurst	<b>Cath</b>	<b>Alison &amp; Kirsty</b>
<b>23 Feb</b> Barbara Dawson	<b>Gloria</b>	
<b>02 Mar</b> Hugh Dawkins	<b>Rita</b>	<b>Anne &amp; Gloria</b>
<b>09 Mar</b> Mary Lambert	<b>Celia</b>	
<b>16 Mar</b> Gill Turner	<b>Debra</b>	<b>Joyce &amp; Rita</b>
<b>23 Mar</b> Pauline Bennett	<b>Graham</b>	
<b>30 Mar</b> Val Tiffin	<b>Kirsty</b>	
<i>(Jenny)</i>	<i>(Elders)</i>	<i>(Elders)</i>

## FAMILY WORKERS NEWS - NEW ACTIVITIES

### COMMUNITY CHOIR

Community choir for health and well-being will be running on the 18th February. The choir is for all abilities with no music experience needed, just a desire to sing. Singing is very good for our mental and physical health. We will be singing contemporary pop songs in our first session and focusing on vocal warm ups. ***Choir practise will be held in the Guild Room, 18th of February, 7:00-8:00pm and then the 25th of March, 7:00-8:00pm.*** We will then be hoping to run monthly, all welcome to join, the choir is most suitable for ages 14+. For more details or information please contact:

**Katie at: [penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com)**



### MESSY CHURCH - ADVANCE NOTICE

Messy Church will be relaunching on **Saturday the 26th of April, 2:00-4:00pm.** The theme will be an '**Easter Forest Feast**' and we will be making lanterns, planting sweet peas to grow in the summer, making Easter chocolate nests and colouring trees and decorating branches. We will be connecting with nature and thinking about spring and new life whilst celebrating Easter. There will also be music and snacks. All families welcome to join. We are seeking volunteers for this event to help with the preparation of food, tidying and some of the crafts. If you would like to volunteer or for more information please contact:

**Katie at: [penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com)**



The Messy Church® name and logo are registered trade marks of Bible Reading Fellowship, a charity (233280) and company limited by guarantee (301324), registered in England and Wales

## NOTICES

### 5TH PENWORTHAM SCOUTS - CHARITY FUNDRAISING



5th Penwortham Scouts are providing tea and coffee after the service on :  
Sunday 9th February,

They will be selling cakes etc. They are again appealing for our support for another charity they wish to learn more of; this time the RNLI.

A spokes-person is due to visit them on 13th February and they are again hoping to make a donation to this vital organisation.

Your support of their previous effort in aid of Galloways and Guide Dogs for the Blind was greatly appreciated, and I am sure that we will all be happy to do so once more.

*Thank you. Robert*

### SUNDAY FLOWER ROTA

Thank you to all who contribute throughout the year the lovely flowers which not only brighten up the Worship Area each week, but are also distributed to convey our love and friendship to members of the fellowship in times of celebration or commiseration. **In 2025 we have a couple of Flower Rota vacancies** and if you feel able to contribute to these please speak to **Jenny Oliver**.



The dates are: **16 November and 07 December**

### PULPIT FILLING ROLE

I am pleased to inform you that **Non Thomas** has now taken over this job. As a result, I no longer need the gmail account, so I shall close it on 1 March. If you wish to contact me, could you please use:

[fandbkendall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fandbkendall@hotmail.co.uk)

*Thank you.*

*Brenda (Kendall)*

### CONCERT AT HUTTON VILLAGE HALL

**South Ribble Concert Band: Friday Feb 7th at 7.30pm**

Big band and popular light music, film themes and music from the shows. Proceeds to FOMO, the Rainbow House of Hope, Uganda & Christian Aid.

Fairtrade Stall

Tickets £8.00

Cath Greenlees: 01772 613500; [cathgreenlees@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cathgreenlees@hotmail.co.uk)

COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT - FEBRUARY

# COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

at

**PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 2.00pm

**JEMMA OLIVER**

*gives a talk on*

**MY LIFE AS A PHYSIO IN SPORT  
AND TRAVELLING THE WORLD**



**-HOW TO LOOK AFTER  
YOURSELF  
& KEEP MOVING**



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

*The cost will be £4.00*



*Do come along and bring a friend*

## **NEW YEAR UPDATES ON THE SUPPORT OF CHARITIES**

### **CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE**

Gill Turner has sent a cheque for £700.00 to St. Catherine's Hospice which was the total collection at the Carol Service and Christmas Day Service. Thank you Gill

### **CHARLOTTE'S FUNDRAISING - ROSEMERE CANCER FOUNDATION**

I just wanted to say a quick thank you to everyone who bought one of Charlotte's chocolate sleighs, or donated to her charity collection, before Christmas. In total she raised £185 which has been donated to Rosemere Cancer Foundation in memory of her beloved Nana Jean. She has plans to exceed this in 2025 so you may find the sleighs making another appearance later this year!! (Gillian P)  
(Well done Charlotte)

### **PENWORTHAM FOODBANK**

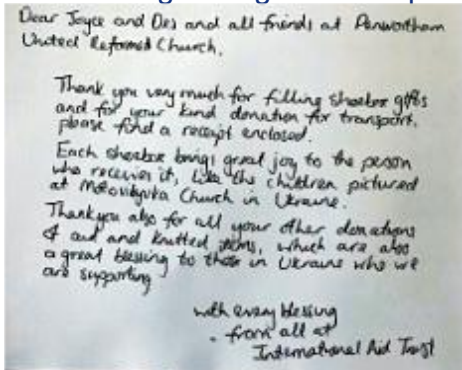
A sum of £300 has been gratefully received by the Penwortham Foodbank from the Community Social Events Fund with grateful thanks to all supporters and to Anne Hall for all the arrangements.

### **WATER AID**

Thank you to everyone who has donated loose change for WaterAid. I am sending £34.00 to WaterAid who will use the donation to provide communities in poor countries with a sustainable source of clean water. Digging a well or installing a tap in a community changes the lives of children for the better. This allows them to stay in school instead of wasting their precious childhood walking to collect water.  
Gillian Ashurst for Eco-Church. (Thank you Gillian for all the admin.)

### **INTERNATIONAL AID**

Here is a picture of a little note of thanks and a photo from International Aid to all who have contributed to both the Shoebox Appeal and all the other donations. Particular thanks to Rita, and Joyce (with husband Des), for all the organising and transport.



### **UNICEF MITES SCHEME**

Your donations of Mites (5, 10 & 20p) for the quarter ending 31 Dec. 2024 amounted to £35.10 (or 438 Oral Rehydration Sachets). Thank you to all who support this worthy cause benefitting children and saving lives.



## Committed to supporting our global partners

### A prayer for Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria

As they took down that bruised and broken body from empire's cross, Oh God, the disciples could not have dreamed that in a mere three days, Jesus would rise again in glory. Jesus gave himself over to death because he trusted that the same Love that birthed the universe would birth new life amid empire's death and destruction.

Oh God, we dare not lose hope now, and so we pray for the wounded, broken, and crucified people in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. We ask that you bring peace, joy, healing, equity, and justice to a people buried under the rubble of empire's bombs, broken promises, forever wars, and grinding poverty.

May we place our faith once again, Loving God, in the hope of the risen Jesus. May we trust that even the smallest act of solidarity will challenge impunity and can end injustice. Teach us that only Love can birth and multiply an abundance of peace, and laughter, and joy, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**C**ommitment for Life is the global justice programme of the United Reformed Church, working in partnership with Global Justice Now as well as Christian Aid in Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, and Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.



Photo credit: kashin on Pixabay

Commitment for Life is partnering with the Methodist Church's **All We Can**. We have come together to support people in Gaza and Lebanon. We would very much like you to pray for peace in the region. You could use the attached prayer in one of your services of worship.

Would you also consider donating to the appeal? In Gaza, your contribution will support a medical clinic. This is a wing of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, which has been supported by **All We Can** for many years. In Lebanon, we are supporting the vital work of our URC partner church, the National Evangelical Synod in Syria and Lebanon (NESSL).

NESSL's General Secretary is the Revd Joseph Kassab, writes: We appeal to our partners... to persist in their prayers for Syria [and Lebanon]. We urge you to advocate for Syria's future in your country, ensuring that this future becomes a sanctuary of safety, inclusion, and freedom for Christians to practice their faith without persecution... The path ahead will be challenging, but it cannot be navigated without partnership in faith, prayer, and mutual support. Your donations will go directly to these partners and will enable them to continue their vital work helping the most vulnerable in this conflict.

Search: *Just giving, Lebanon  
Gaza justice appeal*



[commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk](mailto:commitmentforlife@urc.org.uk)

[www.bit.ly/URCFL](http://www.bit.ly/URCFL)

## 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)*

### **Middle East - Syria - Global Care**

We pray for our work in Syria. Please pray for: - wisdom and energy for Afaf and the team at the Hope Centre the counsellors working so hard with children who have suffered so many traumas through the disintegration of Syria over the last decade or more - peace and joy for the children attending the centre, for progress in their learning and healing for their emotional wounds - positive relationships with families and local authorities - protection for everyone at the Hope Centre in an unstable region.

### **Africa: Zimbabwe Torch Trust**

Pray that the proofreading of the Bible in Ndebele would go smoothly and for good communication between the proofreaders and us. Pray that the remainder of the Bible text could be digitised soon enabling the whole Bible to be transcribed and distributed in Zimbabwe.

### **Asia - China Eurasia Education Foundation**

New work amongst Georgian Muslims, Pamiri Shias and Uyghurs reaching their own people in China needs much prayer.

### **Africa - Burundi Tearfund**

Church leaders are ambassadors for peace; they can heal the hurts that divide people and promote unity. 'I believe that church leaders should be present in everyday life, engage and invest in the peaceful processes in their country,' says Rev Onesphore Ndayizigamiye, who attended a Tearfund workshop in Burundi about promoting peace. 'They should not be afraid, but step up, because their role is very important.' Praise God for the work church leaders are doing to bring peace where there is conflict and suffering. Reflect on the divisions you see in society and pray for the church to step into the gap.

### **The World - Global Connections**

May the Lord continue to bless all those involved in mission around the world during 2025.

*above with the permission of Global Connections*

[https://globalconnections.org.uk/](https://globalconnections.org.uk)

## CARTOON - 1

with permission Tim Walburg



He reads his sermon...



He memorizes his sermon...



And he preaches off the cuff.

Tim Walburg

## CARTOON - 2



with permission Tim Walburg

Tim Walburg

## "CONTACT" PUBLICATION

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

**It is also published on our website, minus any personal/pastoral information so 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 23 February 2025.**

**Next issue date will be Sunday 02 March 2025**