

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church



5 MARCH



The Lord has told
you what is good.
He has told you what
he wants from you:
Do what is right to
other people.
Love being kind
to others.
And live humbly,
trusting your God.

*(International
Children's Bible)*

17 APRIL



MARCH 2025

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

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

As we approach the season of Lent, we look forward to Easter: the contemplation of Maundy Thursday; the lows of Good Friday, and the joys of Easter Sunday.

Before this, we are invited to Fast and Pray. But how many of us actually set aside time and effort to do so? Many of us may give up a pleasure, like chocolate (I was sponsored a number of times to give up my passport!) and these things are perhaps commendable, but are we really depriving ourselves and therefore is anything worthwhile actually achieved?

Our Muslim brothers and sisters are asked to refrain from eating and drinking from sunrise until sunset during the Holy month of Ramadan, this year from 23rd February until around 30th March. Friends tell me this can make them think, certainly about less fortunate people who generally have little or nothing to eat, but like many of their Christian counterparts some simply appear to go through the motions.

Therefore, if we are actually sincere in what we are trying to do, we should perhaps consider alternatives to the sort of deprivation which would hold any meaning, rather than a token gesture.

Some believe that rather than giving something up, we could aim to actively "Do" something instead, perhaps helping within our community which might bring about a more meaningful and constructive outcome.

In 2017, Pope Francis wrote the following as an alternative to the traditional ideals of fasting:

Fast from hurting words, and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Wherever your journey through Lent may take you, I hope that you find whatever peace and understanding you may need, and that you will think more of all those around us who may need an ear to listen, or a kind word to hear.



Wishing you every blessing,

Robert

FAMILY AND FRIENDS



As the days begin to lengthen and we see the first signs of spring the weather is still cold particularly the wind! But better weather is coming and we should be able to enjoy the sun and warmth.

As always at this time of the year many of us have had coughs and colds which this year seem to linger. I hope those members of our family affected this way are starting to feel better.

Derek W remains in hospital but is cheerful when people visit him. Valerie H has also been in hospital for a few days. Margo E is unwell and struggling to come to church at this time. Joanne, Alan and Margaret's daughter, is out of hospital and making progress after her recent illness.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all these friends and anyone else not well at this time.



Thanks go to Anne and Robert who have visited some of our housebound members to share communion with them. I know it has been greatly appreciated by them. Please speak to Anne or Robert if you would like to receive communion at home.

Gill T

PURC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ADVANCE NOTICE

Please note that the church A.G.M. will be held following morning worship on **Sunday 13th April 2025**, when a full review of the church's activities and other important issues will be discussed.

As you will be aware, the church is currently served by 6 elders, and we would ask every member to consider whether this vital role could be filled by them. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding fulfilling the role, please speak to any current serving elder.

As has been our practice for some years, the Reports and Financial Accounts will be emailed to you just prior to the meeting, or supplied as paper copies on the day. If any member has an item they wish to be raised under "Any Other Business", please supply this to me in writing seven days prior to the meeting.

Thank you, Robert B, Secretary.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENWORTHAM - NEXT MEETING

The next Churches Together in Penwortham meeting will be at **7.30pm on Monday 3rd March at Penwortham Bridge Methodist Church.**

I hope to see you there. *John A*

PURC SERVICES FOR MARCH-APRIL 2025

02 Mar	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Daleen ten Cate
09 Mar	Parade Service	10:30	Beverley Strange
16 Mar	Family Service	10:30	Rev'd Frank Kendall
23 Mar	Family Service	10:00	Rev'd Brian Drury
30 Mar	Family Service	10:30	Alan Edward
06 Apr	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Jim Wilson
13 Apr	Family Service	10:30	Linda McLanachan
17 Apr	Maundy Thursday Reflection	7:30pm	Beverley Strange & Jenny Oliver
20 Apr	Easter Sunday	10:30	Robert Bulloch
27 Apr	Family Service	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury

(Non)



PURC FLOWERS/DOOR/REFRESHMENTS ROTA FOR MAR-APR 2025

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
02 Mar Hugh Dawkins	Rita	Anne & Gloria
09 Mar Mary Lambert	Celia	
16 Mar Gill Turner	Debra	Joyce & Rita
23 Mar Pauline Bennett	Graham	
30 Mar Val Tiffin	Kirsty	
06 Apr Margaret & Alan Edward	Derek W	Alison & Kirsty
13 Apr Graham & Viv Moore	Viv	
20 Apr Sue Tennant	Cath	Gemma, Joanne & Gillian
27 Apr Linda McLanachan <i>(Jenny)</i>	Gloria <i>(Elders)</i>	<i>(Elders)</i>

FAMILY WORKER'S NEWS

MUSICAL SQUIRRELS

Following a music session for the Squirrels of 5th Penwortham Scout Group, **Katie**, our Family Worker said "It was great to visit the Squirrels and run a creative workshop with them. We painted our own percussion instruments and then learnt some rhythms and sang songs together whilst I accompanied them on guitar. We talked about how important music is and how music connects and brings us all together - the children really enjoyed the workshop and got to take home their own percussion instrument!" Below are some photos of the event:

Squirrels



MESSY CHURCH REMINDER

Don't forget ([see February "Contact"](#)) that Messy Church will be relaunching on **Saturday the 26th of April, 2:00-4:00pm**. The theme will be an **'Easter Forest Feast'**

If you would like to volunteer or for more information please contact:

Katie at:

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

FOR COMMUNITY CHOIR - SEE PAGE 8



PENWORTHAM EVENT - "JESUS THE EVIDENCE"

King's Church will be hosting part of a national tour by **Derek McIntyre** who will be presenting the historical evidence for Jesus' life and death.

This will be held **at Penwortham Community Centre, Kingsfold on Thursday April 3rd 7.30pm**.

The event would be encouraging to Christians and would help non-believers explore the rational basis of the Christian faith.

All are Welcome

Look out for the Poster on the Notice Board in Early March

NOTICES

5TH PENWORTHAM SCOUTS - CHARITY FUNDRAISING - RNLI



Hello again,

Just thought it might be of interest to you to let you know that thanks to the generosity of the URC community once again we were able to raise a staggering £107.50 for the RNLI. We were thrilled at the support and would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone involved in making the event such a success.

The RNLI representative joined us on 13th Feb and involved the Scouts in a very interactive talk about both water safety and the work/history of the charity which was thoroughly enjoyed by Scouts, leaders and the lady herself. We have certainly made a loyal contact for the future! She also was incredibly impressed by the money raised. If it is possible for you to either mention in the weekly notices or place a little message in the next church magazine to reinforce our appreciation to everyone for their help and support we would be very grateful.



Many, many thanks,

(Jackie M)

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

Our ongoing support for International Aid Trust carries on with hopefully a donation of goods being made at the end of March for their deliveries around Easter time.

We are collecting the usual items but not filling individual named shoe boxes, all goods will be distributed as needed, (remember NO aerosols, no chocolate) If you have any new, unopened gifts of toiletries, socks of any size, gloves, scarves, underwear (any size).

Please donate them to this charity who support so many people who

we will never know but we can help,

each donation shows we are

thinking about them.

Speak to Joyce or Rita for more details



PRESTON AREA

Nadeem Ashfaq of the [Light Foundation](#) is inviting Christians to an evening meal and guest speaker: On the theme of '**The Importance of Community: Turning Strangers into Friends**', we will be joined by a very special guest: Shaykh Ibrahim Hussein (The Imam of Southport Mosque who was trapped in his Southport Mosque as it came under attack during the violent riots.)

Thursday 6th March 2025 Time: 5pm to 7.30pm Quakers Friends Meeting House, 189 St Georges Road, Deepdale, PR16NB

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON at

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

Monday 31st March 2025 at 2.00pm



Brian Topping

tells us more about his his many years during the 1970s and 80s as a serving Customs Officer in the former department of HM Customs and Excise, at Heathrow Airport.

Tales of a Customs Officer

“A WORLD OF MULES AND MINDERS”

will provide an interesting, informative and entertaining journey through the many situations he came across when dealing with passengers travelling through the airport and his involvement in apprehending and investigating smugglers.



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

The cost will be £4.00

Do come along and bring a friend



BUTTERFLIES OUTING



At the end of February the Pat Duckworth, enjoyed a day out at Radio Lancashire with Graham Liver and refreshments at



Butterflies Group, led by the team as well as Blackburn Cathedral.

Well done to Pat and all who participated.

NW SYNOD - ECO CHURCH ACTIVITY

If you have access to the Internet, the NW Synod produces regular updates on activity amongst NW URC Churches and further afield which describe the work being done in various ways to improve the eco-friendly nature of both the natural and built environment. To access the latest and archived information click here [ECO Newsletters](#).

FAMILY WORKER'S NEWS cont'd - COMMUNITY CHOIR

The first evening of Katie's new initiative, our Community Choir, got off to a good start on the 18th Feb with a fine attendance. There were vocal exercises including the popular children's song "One Bottle of Pop" to get us all warmed up, followed by The Beatles 1968 song "Blackbird" from their "White Album" and Coldplay's "Yellow" from their debut 2000 album "Parachutes" and refreshments were also enjoyed.

The next 2 sessions are scheduled to be held on:

Tuesday 25th March 7:00-8:15pm

Tuesday 22nd April 7:00-8:15pm



A REFLECTION

GOD IS AT WORK!

‘Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.’

Philippians 3:8 NLT

The experiences you had before you committed your life to Christ, including things you regret, can be redeemed, and put to good use. Before Paul met Christ on the Damascus road, his life had been dedicated to the study of Old Testament law. ‘I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault’ (vs. 5-6 NLT).

Looking back, Paul may have considered his years of study as a Pharisee to be wasted. But God had prepared him to show the Jews how Christ was the fulfilment of the Old Testament Scriptures he knew so well. It’s easy to fall into the trap of thinking that God doesn’t begin working in our lives until the day we come to know Christ as Saviour.

Scripture says that He ‘foreknew’ us, meaning He chose and prepared us long before we ever met Him (see Romans 8:29-30). David says that God wrote out all the days of his life before they ever came to pass (see Psalm 139:16), and that’s true for you.

God is at work in your life in ways you’re unaware of. Even when you’re unable to notice Him at work, He is always active in you, causing *His* good pleasure. ‘For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure’ (Philippians 2:13 NKJV). Faith changes the question ‘*Is* God at work?’ into a declarative statement of faith: ‘God *is* at work!’

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-free copies are available for the UK
at this address or online at
www.ucb.co.uk/read***



(Margaret E)

Moving ^{URC} stories

Commitment
for **Life**

Committed to supporting our global partners **ZIMBABWE**

Facing the conflict in Ukraine

Commitment for Life is pleased to be supporting the work of our URC partner churches in Hungary and in Transcarpathia, Western Ukraine.

NATO expansion into Ukraine has been met by a devastatingly bloody, Russian special military operation. The conflict has led to the mass displacement of ordinary Ukrainians. People have fled to the safer, western parts of Ukraine and into neighbouring countries like Hungary.

Our partner churches are doing brilliant work to support these refugees. Watch our CFL video: https://youtu.be/lK9s_v4ebPU and support our appeal here: <https://gofund.me/d99524e8>

gofundme



Scan to donate to CFL's fundraiser
"The URC Supporting our Church Partners in Ukraine"



Photo credit: Charles Numbasi, Phobony

The BBC reports that the worst drought in living memory is devastating southern Africa, leaving close to 70 million people without sufficient food and water.

People living in the Mudzi district of northern Zimbabwe dig down into the bone-dry riverbed of the normally flowing Vombozi river. Using shovels and buckets, they desperately try to extract the last drops of water.

Along the riverbed there are a number of dug up holes, large enough to fit a single bucket. The water is used to bathe children, do laundry, and give cattle a drink.

Gracious Phiri, a 43-year-old mother of five, says that she now must walk up to three hours every day to fetch water. "I have never seen anything like this."

Food is also in short supply in Zimbabwe, where 7.7 million people face hunger. Children have been badly impacted, with hospital admissions for moderate to severe malnutrition increasing. Often, ground baobab fruit is stirred into a porridge for extra nutrients.

Your donations to Commitment for Life are helping our local partners install boreholes with solar power. This is one way to help people deepen their resilience in the face of climate change. See this video for more information: https://youtu.be/Ux9hZp5_aWg

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)

Africa: Ethiopia - [AI Massirah](#)

Praise the LORD for three face-to-face AI Massira training's in Ethiopia - two of which have taken place only 2 months after the first training in November, alongside the launch of AM into Amharic. There are three essential languages in Ethiopia for AI Massira. These are Amharic, Somali and Oromo. Amharic and Somali translations are complete and are available. Oromo dubbing is underway and when sufficient funding has been raised, the work can continue to make progress. Oromo is the main language spoken by Ethiopian's precious Ms population. Please pray for the LORD's faithful provision.

Europe: Albania - [Transform Europe Network](#)

Please pray for Albania. The ground is fertile for growing crops but the workers are few because many have emigrated, and the road infrastructure is very poor. New roads are sometimes left unfinished, which hinders transport and trade. Please pray for economic investment, for the roads to be finished to a decent standard and for workers to stay in the country to invest in the economy. Please pray also for more young Christian men to stay in the country and serve the churches and community.

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

Schools supported by PiFò Haiti are having a hard time collecting tuition fees from families struggling to meet payment deadlines. Ask God to provide for both the schools and the families. Give thanks to God that the PiFò Haiti community garden continues to grow food, meaning the team continues to receive income from market merchants purchasing the produce. An answer to prayer!

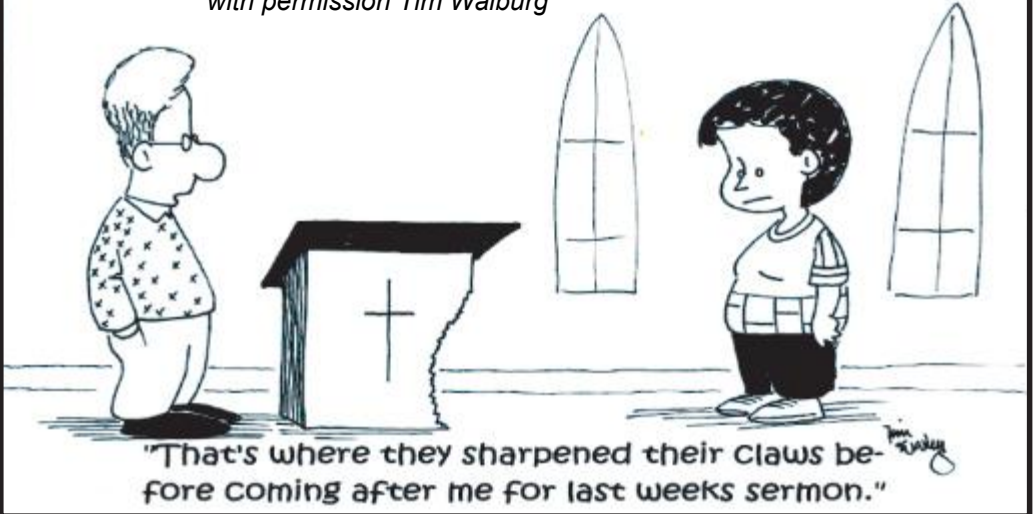
Asia - [Operation Mobilisation \(OM\) UK](#)

In parts of Central Asia, where being a Jesus follower is hindered by governmental restrictions and cultural pressures, give thanks that digital media has an important role in spreading the love of Christ. Broad seed sowing opens hearts and minds. One local said that digital media 'Children's Bibles, Action Bibles, and good books online don't need visas...they stay.'

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

CARTOON FOR COLOURING

with permission Tim Walburg



CARTOON

with permission Tim Walburg



"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the April issue.

It is also published on our website, minus any personal/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 23 March 2025.

Next issue date will be Sunday 30 March 2025