

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church



APRIL 2025

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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Hello

The months are passing so fast.

Spring is my favourite time. The bulbs are showing their heads, the daffodils are in flower, days are getting longer, families are planning holidays.



Easter is nearly here. Our journey through Lent is nearly over and hopefully we have developed a closer relationship to God. God is present with us and promises us a future even when at times things seem bleak.

The Good Friday walk of Witness will be leaving Kingsfold Methodist Church at 10am this year, to return for a service at 11 am, and everybody is welcome.



It is nice to see the Messy Church starting again and the Choir which I have joined even though I am tone deaf. We wish Katie well with all her new ventures.

God Bless You All

Anne



(‘Worship Words’ Images)

FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Sadly Margo has passed away. She played a big part in our Church, we will remember her doing the readings and sitting on the stage. She will be very much missed.

Derek is now out of hospital and is now in Ribble Court Rest Home at Much Hoole. I have been to see him and he would love to have visitors.

Beverley and Robert have been to renew Pat and Derek's Wedding Vows. Joanne, Alan and Margaret's daughter, is still struggling and our prayers and all our love is with them

We send our love and Prayers to our housebound friends and wish them well, and anyone who is under the weather at this time.



Anne.

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.

BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

We are at last able to announce that the new bank account, the application for which was agreed at the A.G.M. last year AND has finally been completed and submitted to Unity Bank. This will allow greater flexibility to our banking arrangements, including "On-line" banking, which our current R.B.S. Account is unable to provide.

Robert & Gill T

PURC SERVICES FOR MARCH-APRIL 2025

06 Apr	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Jim Wilson
13 Apr	Family Service	10:30	The Elders
17 Apr	Maundy Thursday Reflection	7:30pm	Beverley Strange & Jenny Oliver
20 Apr	Easter Sunday Holy Communion	10:30	Robert Bulloch
27 Apr	Family Service	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury
04 May	Holy Communion	3:pm	Rev'd Martin Whiffen
11 May	Parade Service	10:30	5 th Penwortham Scouts
18 May	Family Worship	10:30	Margery Pitcher
25 May	Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Frank Kendall <i>(Non)</i>



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

FLOWERS



DOOR



REFRESHMENTS



06 Apr	Margaret & Alan E
13 Apr	Graham & Viv M
20 Apr	Sue T
27 Apr	Linda McL
04 May	Jo Hunter
11 May	Alan & Beverley S
18 May	Martin & Kirsty M
25 May	TBA <i>(Jenny)</i>

TBA
Viv
Cath
Gloria
Rita
Celia
Debra
Graham
<i>(Elders)</i>

Alison & Kirsty
Gemma, Joanne & Gillian
Jenny & Beverley
Alison & Kirsty <i>(Elders)</i>

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL - WALK OF WITNESS



Hello Everybody,
The Churches Together Good Friday Walk of Witness will begin and end at **Kingsfold Methodist Church, Padway, PR1 9EN**. There will be a modest walk beginning at 10 am followed by Good Friday Worship at Kingsfold at 11 am. Look out for Route Details soon.

John A

FAMILY WORKER'S NOTICES



22nd April 2025 7:00- 8:15 pm
at Penwortham United Reformed Church

Community Choir

singing fun and contemporary pop for Health and well-being. All abilities welcome. There will be tea and biscuits too. For more information contact Katie at: penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com

MESSY CHURCH - RELAUNCH

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

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

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

UNICEF "MITE SCHEME" CLOSURE

We are sad to inform you that the "Mite Scheme," which we have supported for approximately 30 years has been withdrawn. The organisers have asked that we relay their sincere thanks to everyone who has generously given over many years to a fund which has undoubtedly saved hundreds of thousands of lives. It appears that UNICEF has decided that this targeted approach to the issue of people suffering from dehydration is to be tackled in a different way in the future. Therefore, we will cease to collect the 5 pence pieces (and other coins) at the end of April.

We wish to say "Thank you" to you all for your continued support of this appeal throughout the decades.

The Elders.

The last Sunday for contributions will be 27 April 2025 and our final contributions will be sent to the national organiser - Keith Garner - on Monday 28 April 2025).

ADVANCE NOTICE - JOINT SOCIAL EVENT - MAY 2025



Please put a date in your diary of **Saturday 17th May 2025**, when a joint social event is to be organised.

Further details will be provided in next month's magazine.



COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

at

PENWORTHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Liverpool Road, Penwortham, PR1 0QB

Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 2.00pm

WE WELCOME

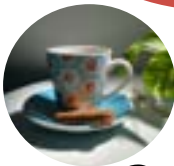
LADY ANNE DODD

WHO WILL GIVE A TALK ENTITLED

“Happy memories of
my life with Sir Ken”

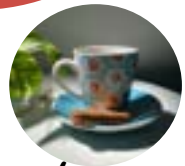


Photo: DAVID A ELLIS at the English Wikipedia



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

The cost will be £4.00



Do come along and bring a friend

Moving Stories

URC

Commitment
for Life

Committed to supporting our global partners **BANGLADESH**



Photo credit: Christian Aid

Christian Aid reports that there are around 6.5 million Dalits in Bangladesh. Many are descendants of migrant labourers from India under colonial rule. This history, their caste, and their ethnicity are all causes of discrimination. Little is known about these Dalits, who have come to be known as the 'missing poor'.

Women and girls among ethnic minorities in Bangladesh face intersecting challenges. These include restricted access to decent work opportunities. Older women and women with disabilities are especially denied access to public services. Christian Aid works to promote inclusive societies in Bangladesh and India.

Usha (pictured) was born into a family of Dalit farm labourers in Uttar Pradesh. She gradually emerged as a leader within her community. She organised Dalit agricultural labourers to oppose caste domination and negotiate for better wages. Some in her family and community rejected her new-found voice. This led to family violence and Usha was forced to leave her marital home. But the backlash has not dampened her resolve to fight for oppressed communities and Dalit women, and she now leads the women's collective supported by Dynamic Action Group.

ECO CHURCH NOTICE



ECOVER WASHING UP LIQUID.

This washing up liquid is kind to the environment. If your garden is dry, you can use your washing up water to water the plants.

Done on a daily basis, it does make a difference.

Gillian A

WORSHIP WORDS

ON THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LOVE

Ent'ring in the holy city,
crowds surround them as they walk,
laying leaves before their progress
on the road that leads to love.

No one knew how things would turn out,
breaks in trust, betrayal, loss
in a week where dark descended
on the road that leads to love.

Friends and followers would gather
round a table for a meal,
suddenly the mood was shattered
on the road that leads to love.

On a cross their friend was murdered,
threatening all their hopes and dreams,
yet despite this they continued
on the road that leads to love.

From the darkness of a cavern,
shone a light direct from God,
offering hope for all to follow
on the road that leads to love.

Here for us the path of promise,
here the way to find true self,
building bonds and showing oneness
on the road that leads to love



*Colorado Pathway journey
Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson
Worship Words contributor*

*Heather Whyte
(Worship Words contributor)
Tune "Sussex"*

YOU NEED A BIGGER CONCEPT OF GOD

‘So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’ Isaiah 55:9 NKJV

Your internal picture of God decides how you see everything else. The majority of our troubles are not circumstantial; they are perceptual. We can trace our biggest problems back to an insufficient understanding of who God is. God says, ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’ A best-selling author informs us: ‘Astronomers have spied galaxies 12.3 billion light-years from earth. To put that distance into perspective, consider the fact that light travelling at 186,000 miles per second only takes eight minutes to travel the 93 million miles between the sun and planet earth. Sunlight is only eight minutes old. But light from the farthest galaxy takes 12.3 billion light-years to get here. That distance is virtually incomprehensible. And God says that is about the distance between His thoughts and our thoughts. Your best thought about God on your best day falls 12.3 billion light-years short of how great and how good God really is...Maybe it’s time to stop placing four-dimensional limits on God. Maybe it’s time to stop putting God in a box the size of your cerebral cortex. It’s time to stop creating God in your image and let Him create you in His.’ The more we grow, the bigger God should become. And the bigger God becomes, the smaller our troubles will become. The hymnist Oscar C. Eliason wrote: ‘Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? Got any mountains you can’t tunnel through? God specialises in things thought impossible. He can do just what none other can do.’

*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)

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: Sudan - [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#)

The ongoing war in Sudan has caused widespread devastation, disrupting Bible translation efforts. Bible translation teams in Sudan remain committed despite the destruction of resources and the scattering of teams. Ask God to bring lasting peace to Sudan, healing its people and enabling the translation teams to resume their vital work. Pray for the translators, scattered by the conflict, to find safety, strength, and the resources needed to rebuild. Pray too for provision as the translation team replaces stolen equipment and plans future projects amid immense challenges.

South America: Brazil - [Church Mission Society](#)

Praise God for the community market in Recife, Brazil, which mission partners Rosie and Stu Bayford help to run. Through the market, Rosie and Stu and other volunteers are able to share Jesus' love with the local community by distributing surplus food donated by local businesses. Pray for Rosie and Stu and other volunteers as they build relationships with new families who have joined the community market. Pray for more local businesses to sign up to donate food, and

South Central Asia: India - [Global Care](#)

We pray for our newly-launched Lent Appeal, supporting Dalit families in Patripul. Give thanks for our partners, the GCare Foundation, and their unwavering commitment to Dalit children. Please pray for: Opportunities and fair access to education for children in Patripul, safety for Dalit girls often disregarded even by their families, protection for the staff and GCare Centres against higher caste groups opposing their work, a positive response to our Lent Appeal.

South East Asia: Myanmar - [Langham Partnership UK & Ireland](#)

Two separate Level One seminars are happening, 1000km apart, in Mandalay and Putao. For the first one, 30 participants expected. Please pray that 'these younger ministers will not be forcibly recruited by the military regime'—a growing problem in the country. The second seminar has 28 participants. Please also pray for the facilitators.

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 May 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 20April 2025.

Next issue date will be Sunday 27 April 2025