

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church

HARVEST

"Sow for yourselves
righteousness;
reap in mercy; break up
your fallow ground:
for it is time to seek the
Lord,
till he come and rain
righteousness upon
you."

Hosea 10v12 NRSVA



OCTOBER 2025

**Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk
E-mail: penworthamurc@gmail.com
Telephone - 07716129719**

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

As the summer draws to a close and the days are all ready noticeably shorter, we look forward to Autumn, Keats's season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. We will shortly celebrate our Harvest Festival, and it is an appropriate reminder of the good Earth's bounty and abundance.

We are indeed fortunate to live somewhere which enjoys relative peace and no shortage of resources, food and water. Friends of mine have recently moved from the USA to Cheshire, and it was interesting to hear that they were amazed at the variety and quality of the foods available in our shops and supermarkets, compared to where they lived previously.

Much that we take for granted is not experienced in so many parts of the world; either due to climatic conditions, mismanagement by governments and global corporations, or because of war and conflicts. This is also a time to consider what we are able to do for others, both at home and abroad.

Our Harvest Appeal is again in support of the Penwortham Foodbank. It is sad that such an organisation is needed in this area, in the 21st Century. But for some people, it is undoubtedly needed. We have much to be grateful for and should give thanks because of it. Thanks however isn't really enough, for as Jesus said "Faith without action is no faith at all."

The One Voice Community Choir recently performed at our church in support of our local Foodbank, and it was wonderful to see the support which was given by the people of Penwortham. In the same way, I hope that as we enjoy the fruitfulness of this beautiful season, we can also give whatever we can to assist those far less fortunate than ourselves. Feeding the spirit must be so much easier when we have first fed the body, and as part of the Body of Christ it is down to us to do his work and feed his lambs.

Wishing you every blessing in the weeks ahead,

Robert



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

As we approach Autumn and Winter I have some positive news this time!

It was lovely to see Viv and Graham back with us last Sunday after Viv's recent minor surgery.

I am pleased to say that Jean F has returned home after her fall and stay in hospital. She would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and prayers during her stay in hospital, it was greatly appreciated.



We have missed Martin over the past few weeks. He has been in hospital, but is now continuing his recovery at a rehabilitation unit in Warrington. We look forward to seeing him back with us.



Thank you to 5th Penwortham Scouts for their "Scarecrow Pirates" at the front of Church. We have really enjoyed their contributions this summer with the flower display and now our Pirate!

Paul M has recently had a short stay in hospital, but hopefully he is well enough to go on his planned cruise with Robert that he was looking forward to. We hope you have a good time!

The Elders

THANK YOU

Margaret and Alan wish to convey their grateful thanks for all the prayers, good wishes and visits that have been made for their daughter Joanne (Jo) during her 11 month spate of operations and ongoing rehabilitation. She continues to be as positive as she can and awaits news in late October as to whether a sixth important operation will be possible that could see her regain a decent level of mobility. Your continued prayers will be much appreciated. Thank you all.

PURC SERVICES FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025

05 Oct	Holy Communion	3:00pm*	Rev'd Martin Whiffen
12 Oct	Harvest & Parade Service	10:30	The Elders
19 Oct	Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury
26 Oct	Family Worship	10:30	TBC

*** Note: afternoon service**

02 Nov	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Robert Hoch
09 Nov	Family Worship	10:30	Margery Pitcher
16 Nov	Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Frank Kendall
23 Nov	TBC	10:30	The Elders
30 Nov	Family Worship	10:30	Rev. Daleen Ten Cate

(Non)



SUPPORT PENWORTHAM FOODBANK **at our Harvest Service on 12th October.**

Financial donations as well as your gifts of foodstuffs, cans of fruit, meat and veg.; pasta, rice, sauces, biscuits, cereals, teabags, coffee, toiletries etc., will be most welcome.
Thank you all for your generous support

PURC ROTAS FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
05 Oct Jack & Margaret	Graham	Joanne, Gemma & Gillian
12 Oct HARVEST	TBA	
19 Oct Margaret & Alan E	Viv	Alison & Kirsty
26 Oct Rita T	Cath	
02 Nov Barbara D	Celia	Beverley & Jenny
09 Nov Gill T	Rita	
16 Nov Jean F	Debra	Alison & Kirsty
23 Nov Alan & Beverley S		
30 Nov Debra Owen	Graham	
(Jenny)	(Elders)	(Elders)

Note: changes to Service and Rota details sometimes have to be made at short notice and are updated where possible in Sunday notices (Ed)

NOTICES

International Aid Trust Appeal



It is now time to ask once again for your support to collect suitable items for International Aid Trust, who as we know are supporting so many people in need in desperate situations.

If you are able to provide any of the items that we always need, toiletries, (NOT aerosol cans), socks any size, combs and hairbrushes, colouring books and pens or other items you think would be helpful. Small gifts suitable for children at Christmas are also welcome.

If you find it difficult to get to the shops a cash gift can be given for us to purchase items on your behalf or to donate directly to International Aid, who also have huge transport costs.

Joyce and Rita have more information so please just ask either of us, we are very grateful for your help and appreciate everything donated.

Rita and Joyce

<https://internationalaidtrust.org.uk/>

Preston Street Pastors' Report - 2024-25

For online access to the latest Preston Street Pastors' report click on the ink [HERE](#) or paste into your browser the following:

https://mcusercontent.com/ea021a59300964eed3d8ed4b0/files/ae253d23-415b-af32-ae9f-3e2ba7d343cd/SP_2024_25_Report.pdf
(Ed.)

LEYLAND URC EVENT - OCTOBER

Last Night of the Proms

Featuring

Victoria Ward & Richard Barry

With

Lewis Hampson

and

Lostock Hall Brass Band

Sunday 12th October 2025 at 7-00pm

Leyland United Reformed Church Hough Lane

£12.00 (including refreshments)

01772 433123

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON at

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

Monday 27th October 2025 at 2.00pm

Come and Meet

Greg Anderton

*proprietor of the Garden Hub at Lytham Hall
and RHS Gold Award winning Horticulturalist
aka "Gardening Greg" of BBC Radio
Lancashire Breakfast Show. He will talk about*

Creating a Beautiful Autumn Garden



*There will be
some plants
for sale
at 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



(Anne H)



NSPCC



Christmas Fair & Coffee Morning

United Reformed Church,
Penwortham

Saturday 29th November 2025

10:30am-1:30pm

Free entrance to the fair

Refreshments available on the day and raffle in
aid of NSPCC

Christmas drawing activity for children and
toddler and baby area.

For more info contact Katie:

penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Katie

Registered charity number 256401,
NSPCC, charity registered in Scotland, charity number SC037712,
Jersey registration number Jersey 304

NSPCC

Katie

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Make a traditional moss hand tied wreath in aid of
the NSPCC

**United Reformed Church,
Penwortham**

Saturday 29th November 2025

10:30am- 1:30pm

Christmas fair & coffee morning taking place too.

Wreath workshop £30 (incl light lunch &
refreshments)

For more info please contact Katie:

penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com

Registered charity number 216401.
NSPCC, charity registered in Scotland, charity number SC037717,
Jersey registration number Jersey 304



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Katie

ELDERS' NOTES

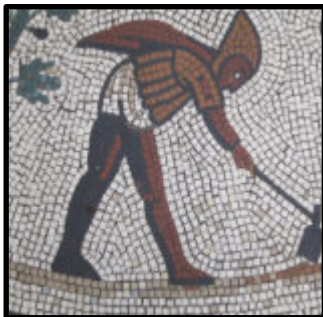
Security.

For some time now, we, along with many other churches and organisations, have been discussing church security in the wake of the terrible stabbings carried out in Southport last year. We have noted comments from church members who feel that during worship on Sunday mornings, the front door of the building should be locked after the start of the service, and the opposite view from people who do not. We are sure that none of us want to think that the church should be a place which is "Locked". But, given the background of this debate, we have decided that for the safety of all, we will ask the door stewards to lock the door perhaps five minutes after commencement of worship. The front door is easily opened by turning the internal handle from the inside. A bell push will be fitted to the side of the door, and the duty Elder will hold a box during the service which will flash if the bell is operated. We trust that everyone will understand the reasons for this course of action. The Elders

Winter Fuel Costs

We have recently been reviewing the hiring costs of our premises, and part of the exercise has required us to look closely at the use of power, electricity and gas etc. The costs of the heating and power currently stands at an average of £1,500 per month. With this in mind, a number of members have discussed the possibility of using the church Hall for certain services during the winter months, thereby saving the cost of heating the Worship Space for one hour. The heating needs to be switched on 24 hours before, in order to heat the space involved, whilst this is not required when simply heating the Hall.

We felt that this should be shared with you, and will advise you further in due course. The Elders



A REFLECTION

KEEP IT SIMPLE

‘Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.’

Mark 4:33 NIV

If you're serious about reaching and teaching people, there are two things you must try to do:

1) *Talk to them, not above them.* A primary schoolboy was eating an apple in the back of the car. ‘Daddy,’ he said, ‘why is my apple turning brown?’ His father explained: ‘Because after you assimilated the skin on the exterior, the core structure of the apple came into contact with the atmosphere, which caused it to oxidise, thus changing its molecular structure and transforming it into a different colour.’ After a long silence, the little boy replied, ‘Daddy, are you talking to *me*?’

Can the listener understand and apply what you're saying? Paul told the church at Corinth, ‘I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready. Indeed, you are still not ready’ (1 Corinthians 3:2 NIV).

Jesus made a point of tailoring His remarks so the people listening could grasp the message. The Bible says, ‘With...parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.’ Think about it: Jesus was God, and He could easily have awed us with His knowledge. But because His desire was to change our lives for the better, He stayed on our level and spoke in a language we understand. And you must learn to do the same.

2) *Say it over and over again.* The fundamental law of learning is repetition. It's been said that people have to hear something sixteen times before they believe it and really ‘get it’. The question that should concern you isn't, ‘What will I say?’ but, ‘What will people take away from it?’

*above 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
www.ucb.co.uk/read*

(Margaret E)

WORLD PRAYER NEWS

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

South Pacific: Various - [IFES](#)

A regional conference held in September is providing training for students from across the South Pacific. It will also, please join us in prayer, serve to inspire students from islands without existing Christian student ministry to start something - as similar conferences have in the past for students from the Solomon Islands and New Caledonia. Ask God to open doors that more students will hear the good news!

Secured: Secured - [Al Massirah](#)

Please pray for a precious group of new Followers of Jesus in a highly secure location. They are going through Al Massira /The Journey materials for the third time. The first time was as a group of Muslim seekers. The second time they came to faith in the Messiah! This time, they are journeying as children of the King with opened spiritual eyes. Please pray for them all. That their roots would be deep, as they grow in love and likeness of Christ. May they know in increasing measure, their union with Him and His people. To the glory of God

Africa: Uganda - [Mission Direct](#) Please pray For the Kumi Express team travelling out in September, for their preparation for the trip. For the ministry at Kumi Prison and for the message of hope to be delivered there. For the ministry with Kumi Mothers Union and the isolated and lonely elderly we are reaching with food and seeds and chicken to promote sustainability. For Ngora School for Deaf Children where they will return to the last term to find classrooms have been repaired and refurbished in the break. For the continuation of the building progress on the new homes at Wiggins Primary. For the P7 students at all the schools we support as they start their final term leading up to the PLE Exams in November. Please pray for Alex as he drives the team, for safety on the roads and reliable transport.

Europe: United Kingdom - [SASRA](#)

Pray for the initiatives that we are currently running to share the gospel behind the wire of Army and RAF bases, and for the interactions between our Scripture Readers and serving personnel. Pray that more Christians would feel moved to pray regularly for the work of SASRA, whether through using our resources or by joining our monthly prayer meetings.

above with the permission of Global Connections

<https://globalconnections.org.uk/>

CARTOON

with permission Tim Walburg



"WELL YOU'RE NOT ZACCHAEUS AND YOU DON'T NEED A BETTER VIEW."

CARTOON FOR COLOURING

with permission Tim Walburg



BUILDING A NEW PASTORS CHAIR WAS A JOINT SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECT.

"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

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

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be Sunday 26 October 2025.

Next issue date will be Sunday 02 November 2025