

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church

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For the grace of God
has appeared,
bringing salvation for
all people Titus 2:11

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May the peace and blessings of
Christmas be yours, and may the
coming year be filled with God's grace.



CHRISTMAS

DEC 2025-JAN 2026

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

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD



As we reach the end of November, it already feels like Christmas is peeking around the corner. Advent begins this weekend, a season of waiting, hoping and preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. In all the busyness, Advent gently reminds us to slow down, breathe and make a bit of space for the light of Christ to shine in our lives.

This year we're really excited to be running a Christingle service for the very first time. It's something new for us and a lovely opportunity to gather all ages together as we explore what it means that Jesus is the light of the world. I'm really looking forward to seeing how it comes together and sharing that moment with you all.

Tiger Tots will also be getting into the festive spirit with their special Christmas event, which is sure to be full of fun, laughter and tiny bursts of energy. And for the first time, we'll be joined by the community choir at our carol service. It's a real joy to welcome them, and I can already imagine how special it will feel to hear those familiar carols sung with such warmth and harmony.

As we step into Advent together, may we hold onto that hope. Even in the chaos of shopping lists, various events and tangled Christmas lights, God is with us. Let's make room for joy, for peace and for the child born in a stable who came to bring light to the world.

Wishing you a blessed and meaningful Advent.



Steven

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

What a lovely and well thought out Service on Sunday (23/11/25). A big thanks to Robert and the team for making a special Service to remember the seven members who past away this year. I'm afraid I was in tears most of the Service remembering my wife Pat who was 1 of the 7. Also the memoirs of the other six, some I knew well and have happy memoirs of. The passing of Lynda hit me hard, as I remembered her being so vocal - both in the talks she gave on books, and also during the service. Her passing was out of the blue. I would also like to thank those around me who gave me comfort during and after the Service. It just goes to show what a good Church we are with the Members there to give you the support you need.

THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART - Derek P.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY



On Sunday 2nd November we welcomed Janet R, Paul M and Christine & Ian W into membership of our Church.



Always Remembered

On Remembrance Sunday Robert attended the service at St Leonard's Church and then walked with Sarah, Oliver and the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels to the War memorial at Penwortham Hill. Gloria M joined them and laid the wreath, to represent our Church and 5th Penwortham Scout group.

On Sunday 23rd November, as part of the service, we remembered seven members of our Church who have passed away in the last 12 months. It was lovely to see a full church and the families of the friends we have lost.



Messy Church was very successful again this month. Thirty children and their families attended and had a lovely afternoon of craft and fellowship. Thank you to all our Church members who are supporting Katie in this

Anne H's community social afternoon on Monday 24th November, when the Strummers and Warblers ukulele band provided an afternoon of musical entertainment, was very well attended.



Thank you, Anne, for providing these events each month.

With our Very Best Wishes

Martin Ois still recuperating at the home in Accrington. Stewart visited him recently and found him in good spirits.

Happy Birthday to Mary L who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on 17th December.



If anyone, who is unable to attend Church for any reason, would like to receive Communion at home, please speak to your Elder.

To our members and friends who are unwell or cannot join us in Church, and all those who are sad, we send our love and best wishes, and want you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Best wishes,
Gillian A

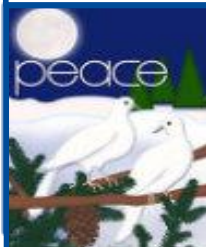
PURC SERVICES FOR - DECEMBER 2025 & JAN/FEB 2026

07 Dec	Christingle Service*	10:30	The Elders
14 Dec	Parade and Toy Service	10:30	Rev'd Anton Muller
21 Dec	Carol Service	15:00	Carol Service** (see Page 5)
25 Dec	Christmas Day Service	10:30	Robert Bulloch (see Page 5)
28 Dec	No Service		

(Notes: Dec.07 *No Holy Communion ; ** Afternoon Service at 3.00pm)

04 Jan	Holy Communion	10:30	Gill Turner
11 Jan	Parade Service	10:30	The Elders
18 Jan	Family Worship	10:30	Margery Pitcher
25 Jan	Family Worship	10:30	Steven Mitchell
01 Feb	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Daleen Ten Cate
08 Feb	Parade Service	10:30	Gillian Price
15 Feb	Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury
22 Feb	Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Frank Kendall

(Non)



PURC ROTAS FOR DECEMBER 2025 & JAN/FEB 2026

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
07 Dec Christine & Ian W	TBC	Anne & Gloria
14 Dec Robert B	Viv	
21 Dec Robert B	Cath	Joyce & Rita
25 Dec "	Celia	
28 Dec Cath A	Rita	
04 Jan Bill & Sue B-W	Door	
11 Jan Margaret & Alan E	& Refreshment	
18 Jan Graham & Viv M	rotas for 2026	
25 Jan Anne L	to be advised	
01 Feb Stewart T		
08 Feb Jemma O		
(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

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Sunday 14th December will include our annual **Toy Service**, and we appeal for the donation of new toys. These will be taken to the **Salvation Army** the following day. Any offers of help to transport the toys to central Preston would be gratefully received. Please speak to any Elder if you can assist. Thank you.

Wednesday 17th December we will have a **Christmas Social Gathering** at which tea, coffee & mince pies will be served from 2.00 to 3.30pm. Just an opportunity for a chat and to spend time together. Please come along and join us. Everyone is more than welcome. If anyone is able to help on the afternoon, please speak to Anne or any Elder.

21st/25th Dec. Carol and Christmas Day Services We will as in previous years donate our collections to Charity. This year we are to divide the collection between the **Rosemere Centre at Royal Preston Hospital, and St Catherine's Hospice**. I am certain that we will give generously to help support their vital work for our community.



INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST 2025 CHRISTMAS DONATIONS



Your very generous and kind donations were delivered to the warehouse **on the 17th November**.

The covered, and filled shoe boxes were wonderful, as were the numerous toys, games, cuddly toys, stationery, toiletries and filled toiletry bags. Along with the many beautiful, knitted jumpers, hats, scarves, blankets, clothes, and money donations, it really was a wonderful amount of help for those less fortunate.



It was all very much appreciated by the staff and volunteers at the warehouse.

If you are able, please continue to support this amazing charity.
Thank you once again for all your donations,



Rita and Joyce



(Many thanks to Rita and Joyce for their year round commitment to organising us all and collecting and transporting items for this worthy cause)

A New Program of Community Events led by our Family Worker

Over the last 10 months Penwortham URC has seen a significant increase in community involvement and participation with their new community events organised and led by their Family Worker - Katie D, with lots of help from the Elders, congregation and volunteers.

We have started a new musical themed baby and toddler group. At 'Tiger Tots Music Club' we sing nursery rhymes, popular songs and hymns. Children are taught and encouraged to play simple rhythms and sing along. Adults are also encouraged to sing along too. With over 54 people attending the first session we have seen there is a demand for a welcoming, community driven group where we put kindness first. We have created a great community atmosphere for young families and their carers.



Messy Church has also grown in numbers since the relaunch began in April 2025. We had over 80 people attend our Messy Church in September. It was amazing to see the church full during worship and song. We have also seen that people who have attended Tiger Tots have then attended Messy Church and want to join in at other events at our church.



PENWORTHAM URC - FAMILY WORKER REPORT Cont'd

We have lots of exciting events planned over the Christmas period including a Christmas Wreath making workshop, a Christmas Fair and coffee morning, a Christingle Service and a Carol Service featuring a performance from our new Community Choir - ran by our Family worker.



The Community Choir started in February and was one of the first activities organised by our Family Worker. We have seen the numbers increase to now over 23 members with an age range of 27-82. Our choir is free of charge and we make sure to provide refreshments. The aim of our choir is to focus on the health benefits of singing. Community group singing is proven to reduce loneliness and foster and encourage friendships - already we have testimonies from our members who have felt less alone since joining our group and have also now started attending other events at our church.

Katie

ECO CHURCH NEWS

Gillian A

News!



TreeCycle with us

We'll recycle your real Christmas tree for a small fee and reuse it as fertiliser in our grounds. Collections (booking required) or drop off dates available.



Find out more at
[stcatherines.co.uk/
events](http://stcatherines.co.uk/events)



Tuesday 2nd of December 7:00-8:15pm

Tuesday 16th December 7:00-8:15pm

United Reformed Church Penwortham

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

Penwortham
United Reformed Church

NOTICES CONT'D

CHRISTMAS SLEIGHS £4 EACH – PRE-ORDER NOW!!



Building on her last 2 year's success – Charlotte is making chocolate sleighs again. All profits will be donated to Rosemere Cancer Foundation. Over £350 raised to date. To order please speak to Gillian, Charlotte or contact 07870 287548. Sleighs can be delivered to church, or home if local, **from 16th November**. Extra-large sleighs can be ordered on request, please ask for details!

Gillian P

**One Voice
At Christmas**

Come and celebrate with
One Voice Community Choir

December 13th
7.00pm

Bamber Bridge Methodist Church
Station Road, PR5 6ED

Tickets £10
Under 16s Free
Scan the QR code to book

VOICE
Community Choir

ADVANCE NOTICE COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

The next event will take place on
Monday 22nd February 2026 2pm
as **Jemma O** tells us

"How to Move Well with Arthritis"

Look out for details in February's
"Contact" Newsletter.

Your generous support to the events enabled us in October to donate £50 each to both St. Catherine's Hospice and to Derian House & in November £500 to church funds which helps to defray some of the running costs over the year.

Thank you to everyone and to all our helpers.

Happy Christmas - Anne H

PRESTON EVENTS

Local choir **Company of Voyces** are holding a fundraising Christmas concert to raise funds for **Preston Street Pastors**. This free to attend evening is open to all and donations can be made on the night, or by texting (see poster). Tickets from: <https://StreetPastorVoyces.eventbrite.com>
Venue: Central Methodist Church
Friday 12th December 7:30pm.

PENWORTHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET CAROLS

Monday - December 1st
7.00pm

Black Bull - Pope Lane

Wednesday- Dec. 10th
7.00pm

Christmas Tree
Liverpool Road

A CAROL FOR CHRISTMAS



The birth of a baby
Can kindle just maybe
A spark of compassion for all humankind.
At Christmas we wonder,
Amazed as we ponder
sight that stirs love in our heart and our mind.



A babe so dependent,
A human descendant,
So fragile and helpless gives strength to the weak;
When love is wide open
To outcast and broken,
The baby is present for all those who seek.

Perhaps we could venture
To join an adventure
Of singing the chorus already begun;
Its mercy is tender;
True justice its splendour;



This chorus when sung gives great strength to each one.
But better than singing
Are actions when bringing
This Good News of peace and acceptance and grace;
With love so beguiling
The baby is smiling;
The heart of the chorus is here to embrace.



The story enduring
Of love re-assuring
May raise in our hearts what we know to be good.

It urges a question
And prompts the suggestion
To make this world gentle. If only we could!
For Christmas is telling
With hope overwhelming
Of one man's endeavour to let God's love sing.
He showed by his living
And by his forgiving
That love is eternal. Let Christmas bells ring



Words : Graham Stuart - Australia

Tune: The Ash Grove

(Ed.)

A REFLECTION

PASS IT ON!

***Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding.’ Proverbs 4:7 NKJV***

Mentor Graham was so absorbed in evaluating the assignments he had given his students that he failed to notice the youthful giant who slouched into his Illinois classroom one day after school.

After his eyes had adjusted to the brightness of the late afternoon sunshine, causing the husky young man to be in silhouette before him, he recognised the youth as a newcomer to the community. The lad already had a reputation for ‘whipping the living daylights’ out of all the local toughs. Graham would have been justified in thinking, ‘What does he want here? Am I in danger?’

Rather, he looked up and down the six foot, four inches of muscle and ignorance before him and offered to help the lad with his reading and studies. When the young man left the classroom an hour later, he had several books under his arm - on loan from Mentor Graham with a promise of more in the future. There is a good chance that you have never heard of Mentor Graham, right? He was a quiet man, simply willing to do his best for any student who came his way.

His pupil, however, became more famous. His name? Abraham Lincoln! Graham recognised in Lincoln a hunger for knowledge and a desire to learn, and took the time to invest in him. And as a result, Lincoln helped change history. The greatest investment you can make is in people. Solomon wrote, ‘Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.’ And when you get it, do not keep it to yourself - pass it on.



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/)

Africa - Democratic Republic of the Congo: [Mission Assist](#)

HEAL Africa runs a medical ministry in the war-torn region of Eastern DR Congo, which members of Mission Assist have supported this year. Give thanks for the surgery and care provided there for women like Uwimana who arrived after years of heartbreak, rejection and isolation, and is now preparing to return home, restored and hopeful. <https://worldshare.org.uk/stories/restoring-dignity-uwimanas-journey-from-rejection-to-healing>

Europe- Ukraine - [Langham Partnership UK & Ireland](#)

Lift to the Lord our brother Roman Soloviy, a regional Commissioning Editor who is faithfully serving God in Ukraine. Pray for the impact of recent release 'Beatitudes and Terror', co-edited by Roman, which revisits the Sermon on the Mount in light of the current war in Ukraine. Langham has published the English translation of this book.

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

Please pray for the Church in China which is experiencing increased persecution, religious suppression and control. Pray for courage, endurance, wisdom and protection, as they navigate this very challenging time. Pray for the advance of God's Kingdom in spite of the enemy's attempts to thwart God's purposes.

South America: Guatemala - [Global Care](#)

This week, pray for our work in Santa Faz, a slum in Guatemala City, the subject of our Christmas Appeal. Please pray for 1) safety for Frank, Paula and the SKD Guatemala team as they work in this dangerous slum 2) continued protection from gangs, that they would continue to leave the project and activities alone 3) safety and progress for the children, at high risk from the temptations of street / gang life 4) a positive response to our Christmas Appeal, aiming to extend this project to help more children

Middle East: Lebanon - [BMS World Mission](#)

Pray that the current and future hopes of the Lebanese people will be focus on the Prince of Peace. Pray that the Lebanese Church will be always ready to share the good news of the gospel.

above with the permission of Global Connections

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

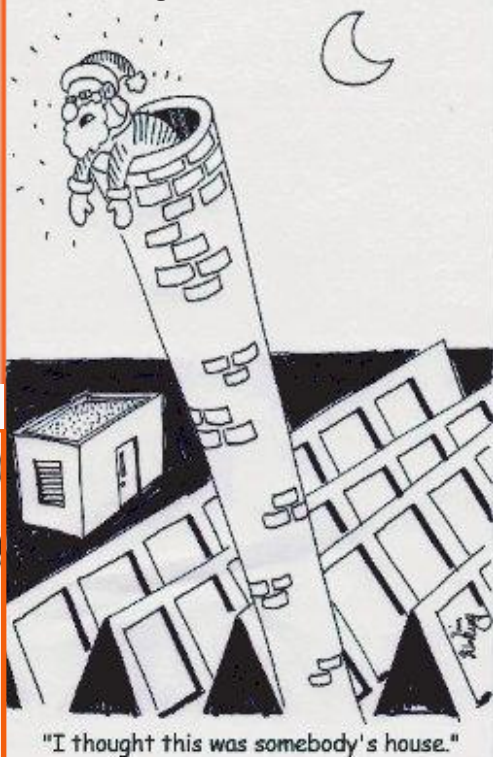
(Ed.)

CARTOONS AND COLOURING

all with permission - Tim Walburg



"No it's Hark the Herald Angels Sing. Harold"



"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the February 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 25 January 2026.

Next issue date will be Sunday 01 February 2026