

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church



APRIL 2026

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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

My husband, Steven, and I recently enjoyed a wonderful holiday in New Zealand. It is a stunning and beautiful country and, with a population of five million people, it felt so peaceful and calm. It is a place you can really switch off to the busy lives we lead here.



We arrived home at the beginning of March, and as we were leaving they were going into Autumn. It was still very warm in New Zealand, like a summer's day here, and it felt good to know that we were coming back to Spring. Shortly after we arrived home it was so lovely to be out in the garden, hear people mowing their lawns and see evidence of Spring all around. The daffodils were beautiful and the starlings were busy nesting. The sky was blue and the sun felt warm.

As Easter approaches, we can look forward to warmer, brighter days.

Spring is a season for renewal and hope. Just as we clear winter leaves and debris from our gardens and clean the outside of our houses ready for summer, we can also 'spring clean' our hearts. We can remove 'clutter' that makes us feel worried or anxious and prevents us taking time to appreciate and enjoy what it is good in our lives, and being thankful for all we have. As Robert suggested last month, being positive, doing good deeds and spending time supporting others and engaging with people, is beneficial to us all and both the giver and the receiver benefit greatly. As we celebrate Easter let this season bring new life to our souls and let us grow in faith and grace, and plant seeds of love and kindness. May the spirit of Easter shine in your heart today and always.

Wishing you all a joyful Easter filled with God's blessings.

Best wishes,

Gillian A



FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWS



I hope the warm sunny weather of last week cheered you up as we look forward to summer weather.

UPHOLD

Frank is finally settling down at home after coming out of hospital and rehabilitation. We do hope he continues to improve.

Robert and Anne visited Mary L and shared Communion with her. She chatted to them and enjoyed their visit, although she remains very poorly.

Stewart is hoping to visit Martin O in the near future.

It was lovely to welcome Barbara E back in church last Sunday. We are sad to learn that her brother David has recently died.

Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Linda C who lost her battle against Cancer and died last week.

Graham M has fallen and broken two ribs and it appears he is quite incapacitated.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the members of 5th Penwortham Scout Group who received badges at the recent Parade Service. It was lovely to see them all with their families.

OTHER NEWS

We had another very successful Messy Church in March when the hall was full of families enjoying making Rainbow inspired crafts and having fun. Thank you to Katie and her team for all their hard work.

Gill



Penwortham
United Reformed Church



PURC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As previously advised, we will be holding our A.G.M. on Sunday 3rd May as the concluding part of morning worship.

An Agenda will be issued prior to the meeting, but if you wish anything to be included, please ensure that this is submitted to me in writing no less than seven days before.

I will be contacting current office holders to ensure that they are willing to stand to a further period. I would also ask every Church Member to consider what they may be prepared to do for our fellowship; likewise non-members, who may also wish to consider joining as a Member.

This may include being added to the list of people willing to donate the flowers each Sunday; serving tea & coffee at the services; helping at Messy Church, the community social events or the choir, or as a door steward - welcoming people on Sunday mornings. The more people who are willing to do something, relieves the pressure placed upon the elders and those currently willing to assist.

One vital area where extra help is needed, is as a Serving Elder (As opposed to one who has retired or not currently serving). I fully appreciate that it is a responsibility, and many people think that they need to be "Worthy" or be good at so many different things.

This is not the case. We are all able to bring something to the table in order to work as a team. Please don't feel that you need to be asked. However, if you feel that someone would be suitable, please speak to them and offer encouragement. If you have already been asked, please think about it carefully. If you have doubts, please speak to me or any Elder.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on 3rd May 2026.

With all good wishes,

Robert

(Church Secretary)



PURC & SPECIAL SERVICES FOR - APRIL & MAY 2026

02 Apr Maundy Thurs. Worship ****19:00** James Mawdesley
 03 Apr Good Friday Walk of Witness - see below
 05 Apr Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 The Elders
 12 Apr Family Worship 10:30 George Grime
 19 Apr Family Worship 10:30 Margery Pitcher
 26 Apr Family Worship 10:30 Henry & Carol Rose

**** evening service 7pm**

03 May Holy Communion 10:30 The Elders
followed by the Annual General Meeting
 10 May Parade Service 10:30 Jennifer Liddell
 17 May Family Worship 10:30 TBC
 24 May Family Worship 10:30 Rev'd Brian Drury
 31 May Churches Together in Penwortham - details TBC

(Non T)



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENWORTHAM

The Good Friday Walk of Witness and Church Service will be from St Leonard's Church, Marshall's Brow starting at 10:00am. For full details see Page 7

PURC ROTAS FOR - APRIL & MAY 2026

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
05 Apr Margaret & Alan E	TBC	Gemma, Jo & Gillian
12 Apr Graham & Viv M	Viv	
19 Apr Sue T	Cath	Sue & Diane
26 Apr Christine & Ian W	Gloria	
03 May Kirsty M	Rita	Beverley & Jenny
10 May Alan & Beverley S	Celia	
17 May Jo H	Debra	Hilary, Pam, Linda
24 May Christine & Ian W	Graham	
31 May Alison M	Kirsty/Alison	
(Jenny O)	(Gillian P)	(Gillian P)

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

NW SYNOD INFORMATION

On 15th March, the Moderator, Revd. Clare Downing led our morning worship, and we are grateful to everyone who attended. We hope that this successfully concludes an unwelcome and stressful time in our relations with some at N.W. Synod. It is to be hoped that lessons have been learned, and that we can move forward in greater harmony.

Both our own five churches in Lancashire South Missional Partnership, and those of Lancashire East have voted to look at merging into one. Our respective Steering Groups will endeavour to engage in doing so, whilst looking for a replacement minister for Revd. Martin Whiffen, who retires in October 2026. We are hopeful that we will receive ministerial oversight in the not too distant future, and shall keep you informed as matters continue to progress.

The Elders.

SYNOD NEWS IS AVAILABLE AT

<https://www.nwsynod.org.uk/synod-eco-newsletter/>

<https://www.nwsynod.org.uk/north-western-synod-news>

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST DONATIONS

Your very generous and kind donations were delivered to the warehouse on the 19th March.

Julie told us that currently they are sending a full lorry to Ukraine every 2 weeks, so they are very grateful, as always, for donations.

There were knitted jumpers, hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, and toys, baby clothes, children's drawing books, and crayons.

Many toiletries, along with financial donations which, as requested, Rita spent on toiletries which were all sorted and boxed.

We also received spectacles, again, very much appreciated by International Aid.

It is a wonderful amount of help for those less fortunate, and very much appreciated. If you are able, please continue to support this amazing charity.

Thank you once again for all your donations,



Rita and Joyce

International
Aid Trust

Christian Compassion For A Hurting World



NOTICES

FAMILY WORKER ACTIVITIES

Junior Church	5 & 19 April	10:30 -11:30 am
	3 & 17 May	10:30 -11:30 am
Tiger Tots	TBA	
Messy Church	11 Apr & 9 May	2:30 - 4:00 pm
Community Choir	28 Apr & 26 May	6:45 - 8.00 pm
Creative Connections	13 Apr	2:00 - 3:30 pm



Creative Connections Only - April Booking Link with Artist & Illustrator Emily Charlesworth

For the latest information information see
our [Facebook](#) page or contact [Katie](#)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PENWORTHAM **Good Friday Walk of Witness – Friday 3rd April 2026**

Begin and end at St Leonard's C E Church, Marshall's Brow, PR1 9JA

10.00 - Meet at St Leonard's

10.10 – Depart on Walk

10 45 – [approx.] Return

11.00 – Worship service at St Leonard's

The route will be:

St Leonard's; turn left onto Marshall's brow (cross safely); turn right onto Leyland Road; turn right onto New Lane; turn left onto Studholme Crescent; turn right onto Mossacre Lane; turn left onto New Lane: cross over safely to St Leonard's.

During the walk, please keep on the footpaths and pavements.

When crossing any road please ensure it is safe to do so.

Marshals will be available during the walk.



JUNIOR CHURCH UPDATE



Join us for Junior Church @ Penwortham URC. A fun creative space for children to learn about God, make crafts, sing songs and play games with our Family Worker and Elders. Suitable for ages 2-16.

10:30-11:30am
Sunday 5th April
Sunday 19th April
Sunday 3rd May
Sunday 17th May

Adults are welcome to stay in the service during Junior Church
Any questions please contact Katie:
penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON at

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

Monday 20th April 2026 at 2.00pm

*Our April event features
a Representative from*

North West Blood Bikes Lancs and Lakes

*As a fully voluntary service they deliver
emergency blood, samples and urgent
medical supplies out of hours to
designated NHS locations*



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

The cost will be £4.00



Do come along and bring a friend

Biker Photo : CC By 2.0 - Dougie 409

A REFLECTION

BE CONTENT

‘May I never forget the good things he does for me.’

Psalm 103:2 *NLT*

A newspaper cartoon was drawn of two fields divided by a wire fence. Both were the same size, each with plenty of lush, green grass. Each field had a mule whose head stuck through the wire fence, eating grass from the other's pasture. Although each mule was surrounded by grass, the neighbouring field seemed more desirable - even though it was harder to reach. In the process the mules' heads became caught in the fence, and they panicked and brayed uncontrollably at being unable to free themselves. The cartoonist described the situation with one caption: 'DISCONTENT'. There is a lesson here for each of us. When we focus on what we don't have, or what someone else has, we become blinded to the blessings which surround us. David wrote: 'Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things' (vv. 2-5 *NLT*). Goal setting, achieving greater things, and desiring more than you have can be good things if :

- 1) you look to the Lord to help you bring it to pass: The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right' (Psalm 84:11 *NLT*), and
- 2) while God is working on it, you enjoy what He has already given you: 'Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5 *NKJV*). So, be content.

*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)

Middle East - Iran : [Serving in Mission UK](#)

Pray for comfort and provision for the many bereaved and displaced. Pray for peace and stability. Pray for leaders who are committed to justice, peace and righteousness, and for believers to share the light of Jesus in these dark times.

Cross-cultural Ministry - Europe : [Serving in Mission UK](#)

Praise God for the launch of a new semester at Quest Academy with 50 Iranian students from across Europe - a clear sign that God is opening doors among the Iranian diaspora and raising a new generation of committed disciples and leaders.

Middle East - Syria : [Global Care](#)

At the end of March, we pray for our partners in Syria, where CEO John White is visiting (22-27 March). Give thanks for the wonderful Hope Centre team! Please pray for: - blessing and continued protection for the Hope Centre team - effective action to heal trauma and increase resilience in children - stability and safety for families.

Asia - Singapore: [Langham Partnership UK & Ireland](#)

This is the second year of the collaboration with Discipleship Training Center (DTC). Students come here from across Asia for training as leaders before returning home again. A Level One seminar runs through the week, with 25-35 participants expected. Among them are 9 students from DTC, as well as people from Scripture Union and local Anglican, Baptist and Methodist churches. Please pray for the facilitators, Johnny McClean and Iljo de Keijzer, and that the church in Singapore – “where strong Bible teaching mixes with the prosperity gospel, bad preaching and a cult of personality preachers” – will be impacted as well.

Student Support - Worldwide : [Langham Partnership UK & Ireland](#)

The Langham Scholars programme currently has eleven staff members who are assigned as ‘Scholar Care Coordinators’ for current students around the world. These men and women perform a vital pastoral and spiritual role for Scholars. Please pray that these Care Coordinators will form good relationships and know the Lord’s help. The International Selection Committee also has its first review meeting this month, with some new members on board. Please pray for a smooth transition, and for the whole committee as they review and discuss the potential new Langham Scholars.

above with the permission of Global Connections

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

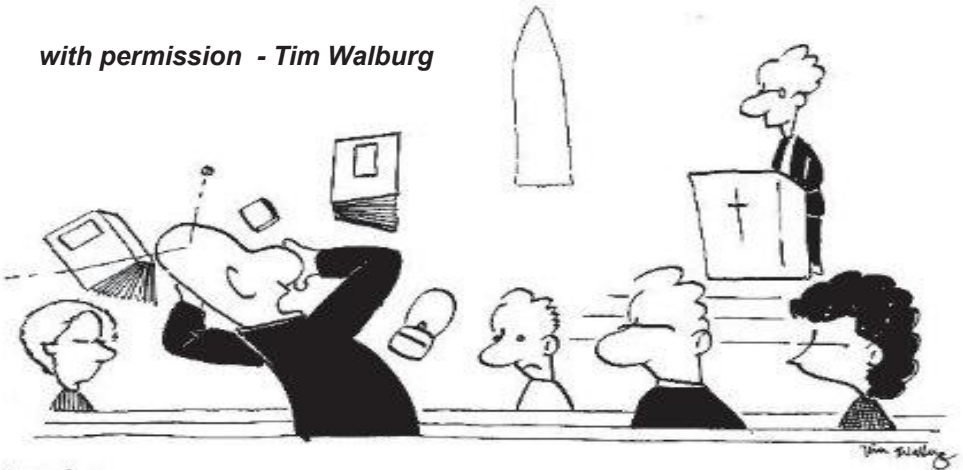
(Ed.)

CARTOONS AND COLOURING

with permission - Tim Walburg



with permission - Tim Walburg



After an hour & a half sermon, no one wants to hear a shout of "Encore"!!

"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 E or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be **Sunday 19 April 2026.**

Next issue date will be **Sunday 26 April 2026**