

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church



***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation
has come: the old has gone, the new is here!***
2 Cor. 5 v 17

MAY 2026

**Web Site : www.penworthamurc.org.uk
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FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD



Having been blessed with a back garden of a size to allow space for some flowers, raised beds and a greenhouse, May is a month that is full of promise. Like any garden, the areas of shade and light favour some plants over others so, in late April-early May the shade

loving perennial "Spotty Dotty" throws open its broad leaves to declare its presence and prepares to flower under the shaded protection of the leaves. In its native habitats, largely east Asia, it provides food for various animals and insects, attracting pollinators such as butterflies and bees, and the fruit, though toxic to humans, is a food source for some birds when it ripens. Smaller wildlife find excellent cover under the leaves so offering protection from predators. This plant has long been known for use in herbal medicine and in more recent times in the development of anti-cancer treatments.



In Genesis chapter 1 reference is made to God's creation of vegetation, seed bearing plants and trees bearing fruit. Whilst they are a pleasing part of the landscape that surrounds us, we can easily forget how vital they can be to our existence (edible or not).

"To everything there is a season" (Ecclesiastes 3 v 1) and the season of new growth at springtime assures us of God's provision for us - as long as we look after what God has provided. Sometimes our experience tells us that "knowing" does not necessarily translate into "doing" when it comes to our stewardship of all that God has provided for us to look after. "This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Cor 4 v 1-2). May God bless us as we act as His stewards for the sake of His creation, including our fellow human beings.

(Ed.)



UPHOLD

With sadness we advise the death of our member and friend, Mary L peacefully on 21st April at Meadow Bank Care Home. Please keep Mary's son Grant, her daughter-in-law Ruth, and the rest of her family and friends, in your thoughts and prayers.

Hylde H is in hospital after a fall and is very comfortable. We all send our love and wish her a speedy recovery.

Frank K is improving at home, now with the help of Brenda.

Brenda herself is to have a knee replacement at the end of this month and hopefully when you read this she will have had her operation and we do wish her well.

Peter O, Jenny's husband, has been unwell too, but we give thanks that he is now improving.

I went to see Jean F and she too is improving and is in good spirits.

GIVE THANKS

Whilst none of us are getting younger, we can take heart that we are all embraced by the loving arms of Jesus, whose presence with us is assured; who knows our circumstances and to whom we can always turn.

It has been good to see the youngsters with us for Junior Church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, which is an endeavour that we should also remember in our prayers and seek God's inspiration for Katie and her helpers in reaching out to the younger generation.



Anne



PURC & SPECIAL SERVICES FOR - MAY & JUNE 2026

03 May	Holy Communion <i>followed by the Annual General Meeting</i>	10:30 The Elders
10 May	Parade Service	10:30 Jennifer Liddell
17 May	Family Worship	10:30 Alan Edward
24 May	Family Worship	10:30 Rev'd Brian Drury
31 May	Churches Together in Penwortham - details TBC	
07 Jun	Holy Communion-Pentecost	15:00 Rev'd Martin Whiffen*
14 Jun	Service at Penwortham Gala, Hurst Grange Park**	
21 Jun	Family Worship	10:30 TBC
28 Jun	Family Worship	10:30 Junior Church
Notes	* 3.00pm Service	
	** Gala timing and inclement weather arrangements to be advised.	

(Non T)

[NW Synod News is available at](#)

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

see a range of links on the *Home Page* of our Website
<https://penworthamurc.org.uk/>

PURC ROTAS FOR - MAY & JUNE 2026

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
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	
07 June Margaret & Alan E	Viv	Kirsty & Alison
14 June Penwortham Gala	-	
21 June Alan & Gill T	Cath	Anne & Gloria
28 June Jean F <i>(Jenny O)</i>	Gloria <i>(Gillian P)</i>	<i>(Gillian P)</i>

Note: changes to Service and Rota details sometimes have to be made at short notice and are updated where possible in Sunday notices.
Thank you to all the volunteers! *(Ed)*

NOTICES

FAMILY WORKER ACTIVITIES

Junior Church	3 & 17 May	10:30 -11:30 am
Tiger Tots	19 May & 2Jun	2.00 - 3.00 pm
Messy Church	9 May	2:30 - 4:00 pm
Community Choir	26 May	6:45 - 8.00 pm



For the latest information information see our **Facebook** page or contact **Katie**

PURC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday Morning 03 May 2026. Please support the Elders in this important to review the past year and plan for the new.

SOME FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday 10th May 2026 @3pm - St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Egerton Rd, Ashton-on- Ribble, Preston, PR2 1AJ.

A welcome return for a 90 minute recital with interval, by Dominic Downs, playing works by Kabalevsky, Bach, Debussy, Chopin and Schubert on St. Michael's Bosendorfer grand piano. Tickets on the door or via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/piano-recital-tickets-1983864638538>

Saturday and Sunday 13th-14th June 2026 - Penwortham Gala featuring a Books & Authors themed parade recognising 100 years since A.A. Milne's first Winnie the Pooh book of 1926 followed by games, activities, fairground and refreshments and an open air Ecumenical Sunday Service.

Follow news on the Town Council Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/penworthamtowncouncil>

Saturday 18th July to Friday 7 August the Keswick Convention will focus on being "Strong in HIS Strength". Full details on the Convention website <https://keswickministries.org/convention2026/>



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (CAW) 10-16 MAY 2026

Christian Aid Week provides us in the United Kingdom and Ireland with an opportunity for Christians to come together in shared endeavour, whether individually, as families, within the community or as church fellowships to remember and support those living in poverty throughout the world. Operating through local partners in some 29 countries of the world, Christian Aid seeks to alleviate the effects of poverty and encourage people to develop ways to be more self-sufficient, depending upon their circumstances and their cultural and social background. CAW provides an excellent opportunity to support this vital work and expressing through it the love of Christ for us all. (Ed.)



Christian Aid is a key member of ACT Alliance. Eng and Wales charity no. 1105851 Scot charity no. SC039150 Company no. 5171525 Christian Aid Ireland: NI charity no. NIC101631 Company no. NI059154 and ROI charity no. 20014162

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CHRISTIAN AID PRAYER SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

- ***Communities in Kenya who are living in informal settlements and pushing back against extreme poverty.***
- ***Urban farmers using their skill and determination to grow crops in unlikely places.***
- ***Christian Aid's partner in Nairobi, Beacon of Hope.***
- ***Parents who are worried today about what their children will eat tomorrow.***
- ***Communities living in overcrowded or inadequate housing.***
- ***Communities who don't have reliable access to clean water and sanitation.***
- ***Action on the debt crisis, driven by unscrupulous private lenders, that is unjustly impacting countries like Kenya.***
- ***Governments and those with power. Pray that they may work for justice and prioritise tackling poverty.***
- ***The work of Christian Aid. Pray for all who support this work by giving, acting and praying together.***

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON at

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

Monday 18th May 2026 at 2.00pm

Jimmy O'Donnell

will be bringing us an interactive talk entitled

Preciousness of Memories

and how they can inspire, comfort and bring
joy to the present.



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

The cost will be £4.00

Do come along and bring a friend



KATIE'S FAMILY WORKER UPDATE

Whitefield Primary School - On the 28th of March Steven and I were invited back to Whitefield Primary School to lead their Easter Assembly. Our assembly was praised for being interactive, fun and engaging for the children - there were magic tricks, an informative video shown about the Easter story as well as leading the children in The Lord's Prayer which we all said together using Makaton sign language. We are hoping to get the school involved in some of our future church services as well as more visits to the school and hopefully arranging a school visit from them to the church.

Tiger Tots Music Club Toddler Group (TT)- This is our baby and toddler group which I set up last August. We have a regular group of attendees coming along with parents and grandparents and the feedback is very positive. People love the laid back, friendly nature of the group and the musical activities. We have also seen lots of families attending both TT and MCh and looking into our other groups from attending this. This is currently running fortnightly in term time. We have 3 regular volunteers for this activity too. I have applied for a Tesco Community Grant for this activity, it may take up to 12 months to hear back.

Community Choir (CoC)- The CoC performed brilliantly at PURC's Carol Service. We had around 21 members of CoC come along and sing. It was lovely to see them bring along their friends and families to the service. On the 19th of February the choir also performed at St Gregory's Community Social Evening which was also brilliant - we sang 'All You Need is Love' with some of the members of St Gregory's choir too. It was great to spend time with the community at St Gregory's. We are hoping to have a summer concert at PURC in which our choir can perform songs and we can also invite other musicians and local performers to take part too. It would be a fantastic opportunity to work with other Fellowships as well as open up PURC to the wider community. We have over 25 members in our community choir now and have a related WhatsApp group in which we can all keep in touch. The community choir is primarily focused on singing for our health and well-being and sense of community. I have been making sure that we don't focus on concerts at our practices and just have fun singing together - the concerts being an added bonus for those who do want to take part. We make sure to have a tea and coffee break together as well as taking part in community 'getting to know you' activities which has been really useful in setting the tone for the group. It's been lovely to hear testimonies from people in CoC about how it has made them feel less alone, helped them to make new friends and feel part of a community.

Messy Church (MCh)- This has been back up and running now for a year and is really developing well. At our Easter messy church in April we had 80 adults and children attend. It's great to see people really engaging with this group and the feedback has been really positive. I have noticed lots of new connections between parents and families being made at MCh. Steven and I will be looking into how we can run a communion MCh service. At the Easter MCh we all created an altar cloth together so this can be part of a future communion service. We have been saying the messy church prayer together after the children's liturgy as well as saying Grace before food too.

KATIE'S FAMILY WORKER UPDATE - cont'd

MCh cont'd: I have started a messy church WhatsApp group for families with 17 people already signed up. I think MCh is really developing a sense of community between local families as the same families keep coming back and bringing friends and neighbours along. It's been a privilege to get to know these families and I am hoping with this network of people we will be able to welcome them to other church activities and services.

Junior Church (JCh)- The number of children attending JCh is currently quite low but I have created some posters advertising JCh and what activities we get up to, to share on social media and send out to the MCh and Tiger Tots mailing lists. Once I have our MCh WhatsApp fully up and running I will be sharing JCh info on there too. With the development of MCh and JCh I am hoping to see the numbers increase.

Creative Connections (CrC)-Our first CrC took place on the 16th February with artist Joey Cobb leading a workshop looking at the artist Matisse and using collage to create artworks. The Creative Connections in April was also a great success with artist Emily Charlesworth leading a drawing class. What's been great about CrC is seeing such a diverse range of people attending including Stewart and Betty from the congregation as well as new people from the local community who we haven't seen in church before. The group is very friendly and laid back and we encourage connection by having a tea and coffee break where we go round the room and introduce ourselves and have a chat about the art we are making. We are hoping to hold an exhibition celebration evening for members of CrC later in the year. It would also be great to invite the choir to perform a few songs at this and invite the Mayor of Penwortham along too.

Katie

PHOTOS OF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES



A REFLECTION

HAVE YOU BEEN WRONGED? FORGIVE!

‘Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another.’

Colossians 3:13 NKJV

When you study the lives of those who were greatly used by God in the Bible, you see that they were not spared from hurt, disappointment, or even betrayal. The truth is, if you live long enough, you’ll be wronged by someone. The question is, how will you react?

The apostle Paul tells us how we should react: ‘Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.’

The Story is told of two friends who were walking through the desert when they got into an argument. One friend slapped the other in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt. But without saying anything, he wrote in the sand, ‘Today my best friend slapped me in the face.’

They kept walking until they found an oasis. Since they were thirsty, they stopped for water. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire, fell in, and started to drown. His friend then reached out and saved him. That night, he etched this in a stone: Today my best friend saved my life.’

The friend who had first slapped him and then saved him asked, ‘After I hurt you, you wrote in sand. And now you write on a stone. Why?’ He replied: ‘When someone hurts us, we should write it in sand, where the winds of forgiveness can blow and erase it. But when someone does something good for us, we should engrave it in stone where it will be long remembered.’ Mercy forgets wrongs and remembers rights!

*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)

Asia - Afghanistan : [Eurasia Education Foundation](#)

Praise God that donations for 72 looms are making widows in Afghanistan independent. Pray for them as they fellowship and serve the Lord.

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

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.

Africa - North Africa : [Pioneers UK & Ireland](#)

Praise God for his work of salvation! In 2025 more than 30 North Africans believed in and around the region where a team is based. Most have been baptised and are in regular fellowship. This is more new believers in one year than in the previous ten years combined! Pray for these new believers – that they would grow in faith, withstand inevitable persecution, form into new churches and share their faith courageously. Pray for the three key North African partners as they disciple these new believers and develop leaders.

Asia - Myanmar: [World Share](#)

Give thanks for God's faithful protection and provision for the children and staff, and for all the children who have completed their final examinations at Word of Hope Orphanage. Pray that they enjoy a meaningful and refreshing summer holiday. Give thanks too that work has begun on the new girls' dormitory, and pray for safe, steady progress and good workmanship until the three storeys are complete. Please also ask God to provide for a new bicycle to support daily needs and ministry tasks.

Student Support - Worldwide : [Al Massira](#) (AM)

Please pray for India, following the encouraging report from key Christian workers on the ground in the north. The AM discipleship curriculum has played a transformative role in strengthening the Believers from Muslim Backgrounds. Its culturally sensitive approach, visual storytelling, and step-by-step journey through the Biblical narrative have made it particularly effective among seekers and new believers. Al Massira is being used in more than 50 different groups across various regions and around 30 groups are meeting regularly. These groups include a mix of seekers, new believers, and emerging leaders - creating a healthy environment for growth and engagement.

above with the permission of Global Connections

[https://globalconnections.org.uk/](https://globalconnections.org.uk)

(Ed.)

CARTOONS AND COLOURING

with permission - Tim Walburg



When we build a church we always start with the steeple first

with permission Tim Walburg



No, they are here to try and resuscitate Pastor Joe's message

"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the **June** 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;

or speak to Alan Edward or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be **Sunday 24 May 2026.**

Next issue date will be **Sunday 31 May 2026**