

# CONTACT

*introduces and welcomes*  
**YOU**  
*to*

## **Penwortham United Reformed Church**

"You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. .... Live so that others will praise your Father in heaven."

Matt. 5 v14,16

International Children's Bible



## **JUNE 2026**

**Web Site : [www.penworthamurc.org.uk](http://www.penworthamurc.org.uk)  
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## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

June already feels like one of those months where everything speeds up. Summer plans are appearing in the diary, gardens are needing attention, and the calendar somehow seems to fill up with fêtes, gatherings, trips, and all sorts of events. It can all feel a little busy and chaotic at times.

In the middle of all that, Pentecost reminds us that God still meets people in the ordinary and unexpected moments of life. The disciples weren't sitting in perfect calm when the Holy Spirit arrived, they were unsure, waiting, and probably wondering what would happen next. Yet God met them there and gave them courage, hope, and a reminder that they were not alone.



As we move into summer, perhaps there's an invitation for all of us to slow down occasionally and notice where God might already be at work around us; in conversations, friendships, acts of kindness, or simply moments of peace in a busy week.

I hope June brings opportunities for rest, encouragement, and time together as a church family. Whether you're travelling, enjoying time with family, working, or simply trying to keep up with everything life throws at you, may you know God's presence with you in it all.

*Steven*

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWS



Linda C's husband, Kevin, sadly passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> May, so please keep Gillian P and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Hylda H came out of hospital briefly but was re-admitted. However, she is very positive and responding to treatment.

Martin O is now out of hospital and back at the Care home.

Brenda K has had her knee operation. This has gone well and she is making good progress.

Thank you to Anne H for another successful community social event on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

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.

A special update from our Scouts follows on Page 4.

Best wishes,

*Gillian A.*



## FAMILY & FRIENDS - 5TH PENWORTHAM SCOUT NEWS

*5<sup>th</sup> Penwortham Scout Group have been busy!*

The **Squirrels** enjoyed a day at Bibby's Farm for the 5th birthday of Squirrels. They enjoyed many activities including bouncy castles, welly throwing, soft axe throwing, grass sledging and decorating a woggle (the adults enjoyed this too).



**Dakota Beavers** had a visit to the Gujarat Society Hindu Temple where they learnt lots about the Hindu religion. They listened intently, asked lots of great questions and could name some of the Hindu Gods.

**Apollo Cubs** enjoyed navigating their way round Hurst Grange Park using maps and compasses. They did lots of walking, talking, and posing for photos! The highlight of the night was all rolling down the big hill together.

The **Scouts** have enjoyed a weekend at Waddecar with other Scouts from West Lancs for County Rally and, despite the weather, they all had fun.



## PENWORTHAM GALA 2026

**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. Procession to Hurst Grange Park starts 13th June 12:00 noon from Hill Road South via Marshall's Brow arriving 1:30pm; Stalls from 1pm and Stage events 1:30pm to 10pm. and on 14th June an open air **Ecumenical Sunday Service with Banks Brass Band starting at 11:00am.**

For up to date details + Stage Events see :

<https://www.facebook.com/penworthamtowncouncil>

## PURC & SPECIAL SERVICES FOR - JUNE & JULY 2026

07 Jun	Holy Communion	<b>15:00</b>	Rev'd Martin Whiffen*
14 Jun	Service at Penwortham Gala	11.00	Hurst Grange Park**
21 Jun	Family Worship	10:30	TBC
28 Jun	Family Worship	10:30	Junior Church

Notes \* **3.00pm Service**  
**\*\* Gala Service at 11am** (some chairs generally available but to be sure bring a folding one if you have it).  
**In the event of rain the service will be at PURC.**

05 July	Holy Communion	10:30	TBC
12 July	Parade Service	10:30	TBC
19 July	Family Worship	10:30	Rev'd Anton Muller
26 July	Family Worship	10:30	Nigel Pearce

*(Non T)*

Tiny Tots      See Article Page 9      Creative Connections



## PURC ROTAS FOR - JUNE & JULY 2026

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
07 June Margaret & Alan E	Viv	Kirsty & Alison
14 June Penwortham Gala	-	
21 June Alan & Gill T	Cath	Anne & Gloria
28 June Jean F	Gloria	
05 July Val T	Rita	Gemma, Joanne & Gillian
12 July Bill & Celia M	Celia	
19 July Basil & Hylda H	Debra	Joyce & Rita
26 July Rita T	Graham	
<i>(Jenny O)</i>	<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)**

## ELDERS' NOTICES

### **A.G.M. & Church Meeting.**

The Church's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026, chaired by Robert (Secretary). Thanks were expressed to all the church office holders, and others, for agreeing to stand for a further period of 12 months, and for ALL the work which they have carried out during the previous year. Reports were presented including those by Gill Turner (Treasurer) who asked us to review our giving to the church, and the Secretary who noted that many positive things had happened since April 2025, including the changes in our Missional Partnership and the future appointment of a further minister to the group, who would have particular care and oversight of the churches in Chorley, Leyland and Penwortham. The appointment of Katie, our Family Worker, had seen the start of a number of successful new projects, including Messy Church and the Choir, and Anne's Community Social Events continue to bring many people through our doors. Our fellowship looks forward with hope; hope of expanding our involvement in the local community, and in due course welcoming the two ministers already appointed to our enlarged missional partnership, together with a new minister to our area.

As a result of a church member's request to discuss the matter of Same Sex Marriages at the A.G.M., a Church Meeting was arranged for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Following the Proposal that "Same Sex Marriages be allowed at Penwortham URC", the vote resulted in those for: 30, and those against: 6. There were no abstentions. The process has now begun with N.W. Synod to obtain the necessary license.

*The Elders*

### **Mary L 1925 - 2026.**

On Monday 11th May, the service to celebrate the life of our much loved and respected member and friend was led by Revd. Martin Whiffen. Mary, (With her late husband Bert) regularly attended worship at Penwortham URC since moving to Much Hoole in 1969, during which time she has been a committed supporter of every missional, social and fund-raising event. In 1992 she was ordained as a URC Elder, taking her duties very seriously; Mary always remained a dedicated church member. A very kind and compassionate person, who was a friend to many, Mary was always sadly missed during recent years when ill health prevented her from attending church. On the occasion of her 100th birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Mary was thrilled to receive her card from the King, along with many others, and enjoyed a wonderful day with her family. Later, she stated that last Christmas was the best she'd ever had. Mary died peacefully on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026, after a long life, well lived. Please continue to remember her son Grant, and all her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

*Robert*

## ELDERS' NOTICES - CONTINUED

### Lancashire South East Missional Partnership.

On Tuesday 19th May, The Steering Group Meeting met at Kingsway URC in Blackburn, attended by Anne H, Gillian P and myself. The Commissioning Service for the new expanded Missional Partnership will be held at Westbury Gardens URC, Blackburn on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026 at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Following this, the matter of appointing a new minister can proceed. The Elders are currently reviewing our Pastorate Profile in preparation for the advertisement of the new post, which hopefully can begin around September. We also had the opportunity of meeting the existing ministers, Gilbert and Noma, together with other church representatives. We also met the newly appointed Moderator of North West Synod, Revd. Mike Thomason, who has now replaced Revd. Clare Downing. Mike spoke to everyone individually, and appeared to be very friendly and personable. He has already agreed to visit Penwortham at the earliest possible time, and we are currently trying to set a suitable date; either a Sunday service, or a social event. This is not going to be easy, as Mike's family are currently still in the south of England, and due to move north during the school summer holidays. We will of course advise you further in due course.

*Robert.*

## OTHER NOTICES/EVENTS

### FAMILY WORKER ACTIVITIES

<b>Junior Church</b>	28 Jun	10:30 -11:30 am
<b>Tiger Tots</b>	2 Jun	2.00 - 3.00 pm
<b>Messy Church</b>	11 Jul	2:30 - 4:00 pm
<b>Community Choir</b>		6:45 - 8.00 pm
<b>Creative Connections</b>	8 June	2.00 - 3.00 pm



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

### KESWICK CONVENTION

**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/>

### NW SYNOD INFORMATION LINKS

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

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

## NEXT COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON

As a result of the support given to these Social Events we are delighted that a further £100.00 has been donated to Christian Aid for the excellent work they do in supporting those in need across 29 countries through their local partnerships. Thank you all so much.

*Anne H*

### COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON *at*

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

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 2.00pm**



### *Mahmood "Mebs" Ahmed*

The author of "**PC Mebs - Finding Myself**" brings us the second of 3 inspiring talks about his experiences from life in rural Pakistan to finding his true vocation in England.

### *PC Mebs - Finding Myself: Part 2 - My Career with Lancashire Constabulary*



*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

After a successful interactive Easter Assembly at Whitefield primary school, we are currently working on a Christmas concert and visits from the pupils to the church.

We recently had a Jonah and the Whale themed Messy Church where children and adults helped to make a giant papier-mâché Whale as well as decorating cakes, making miniature Jonah's and peg puppets.

Tiger Tots Music Club has been running fortnightly and we've enjoyed welcoming families and carers into the church on Tuesdays for a lovely low-pressure toddler and baby group. We have been singing nursery rhymes and worship songs together with percussion instruments and actions. It's been great to see people joining and then bringing along neighbours and friends too and also seeing these families then come to other events at church such as Messy Church.

Our new art class, Creative Connections, has been very popular and it's been great to see such an inter-generational group creating art together. We've had visiting textile artists and illustrators kindly volunteering their time. At our next Creative Connections on the 8th of June, we will have Preston illustrator Georgia-Maia joining us, with her two-year-old, leading a creative class on illustrating and painting flowers. This means the age range will be from 2-103 - what a fantastic community event this will be!

We've been welcoming new members into our Community Choir, which runs monthly, and we now have over 25 members. It's been great to see members of our community choir attending other events at church such as volunteering at Messy Church and at Tiger Tots. We are hoping to have our choir perform at an exhibition evening for Creative Connections in summer.

Best wishes,

*Katie*

Other Photos-See Page 5



## A REFLECTION

### YOU'RE WALKING A 'PREPARED' PATH

*'Created...to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'*      *Ephesians 2:10 NIV*

The word 'prepared' derives from an ancient custom of sending servants ahead of a king to have things ready for his arrival. But the King of Kings goes in advance of His servants and prepares the road ahead of us. We don't know this in advance, so we have to overcome our fears, step out in faith, and follow Him. And as we look back, we can say, 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life' (Psalm 23:6 KJV).

In Ephesians 2:10, notice the words 'good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do'. When you follow God, you're walking a prepared path. It's important to keep this in mind. When you find yourself in difficult circumstances, you need to know that God is directing your footsteps (see Psalm 37:23). You have assurance because you know that God has considered every contingency in your life and that He always has your best interest at heart. The psalmist David wrote: 'I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking. You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight. You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence. I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too - your reassuring presence, coming and going...I can't take it all in!' (Psalm 139:1-6 MSG). If David, whom God called 'a man after My own heart' (Acts 13:22 NKJV), couldn't take it all in, you won't either. But God is not asking you to figure Him out; He is just asking you to trust Him

*with permission United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST64JF. Taken from UCB 'Word for Today' -free copies are available for the UK.*      *(Margaret E)*

**AFTER NO MOW MAY - MAKE HAY AS THE (MAY) SUN DID SHINE!!**

### Central Africa - **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).**

Please pray for all those affected by Ebola (Bundibugyo) haemorrhagic fever in the DRC (a country 10 times larger than England). Pray for all the families affected and those who have lost loved ones to the disease. Remember all the medical and other aid workers from DRC and many other countries who are seeking to contain the spread and help the victims. Some of these workers/volunteers have themselves contracted the disease. Pray for adequate border controls to inhibit spread to the neighbouring 9 countries of - Angola(+Cabinda); Republic of Congo; Central African Republic; South Sudan; Uganda; Rwanda; Burundi; Tanzania and Zambia and beyond. Particularly pray for the rapid development of a suitable vaccine to combat this strain of Ebola.

*This page also focuses on just a few of the world prayer articles on the website of [Global Connections](#) :*

**West Africa - Mali :** [WEC](#) Bambara in Mali: Living along the Niger River, this large, influential people (7.4 million, 91% Muslim, 0.3% Evangelical), many of whom are farmers and livestock owners, need better irrigation and agricultural advances to tackle drought and desertification. Islam spread after WWII along with rejection of French colonialism. Pray Bambara elders and family leaders have dreams of the risen Christ, drawing their hearts to him. [https://joshuaproject.net/people\\_groups/10617/ML](https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10617/ML)

**East Africa - Ethiopia:** [Global Care](#). We pray for our partners in Ethiopia and their work with marginalised communities. Please pray for:  
- the new classrooms at Walito Sodo, which are almost completed, giving thanks that the team could do more with the budget than originally envisioned - our successful Wells for Women Farmers initiative - pray an application to expand this project is successful - wisdom for our partners as they consider other ways they can support vulnerable children.

### **East Africa - Madagascar :** [Reach Beyond](#)

Pray for Radio Feon Janahary in Madagascar, that God would continue using its broadcasts to break fear, confront spiritual darkness, and draw many among the Betsimisaraka people to freedom in Christ. Ask the Lord to strengthen the radio team and provide all that's needed so the hope of Jesus keeps flowing into villages where fear once ruled

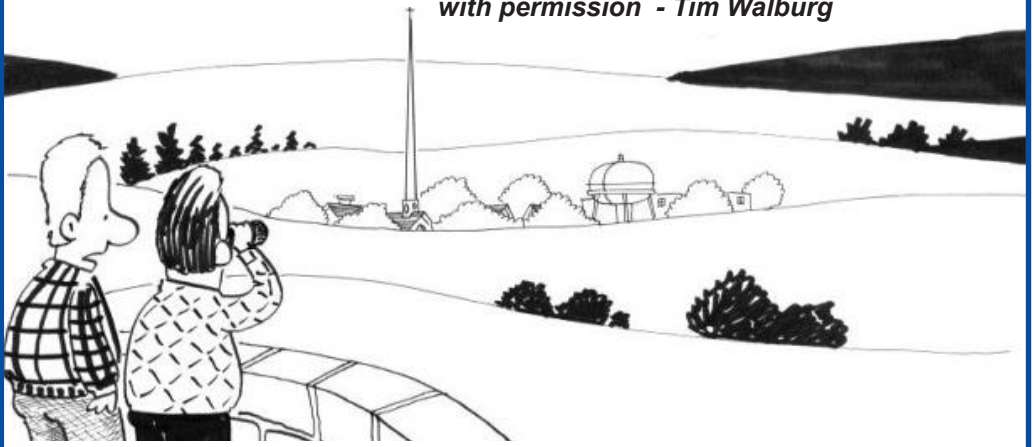
*above with the permission of Global Connections*

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

(Ed.)

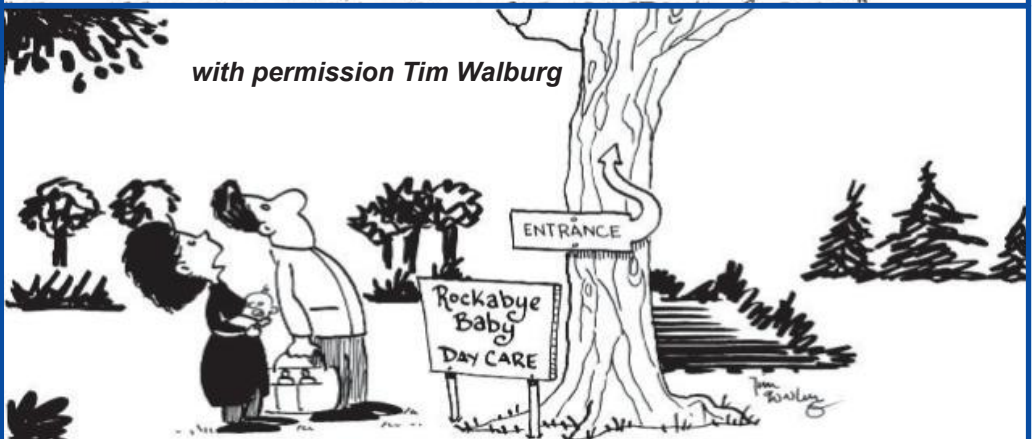
## CARTOONS AND COLOURING

with permission - Tim Walburg



"They are a small church with a large advertising budget."

with permission Tim Walburg



"I'm not impressed by this Church's daycare"

## "CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the **July/August** issue.

A version is 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](mailto:purcmagweb@talktalk.net) ;

Speak to Alan Edward or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be **Sunday 21 June 2026.**

Next issue date will be **Sunday 28 June 2026**