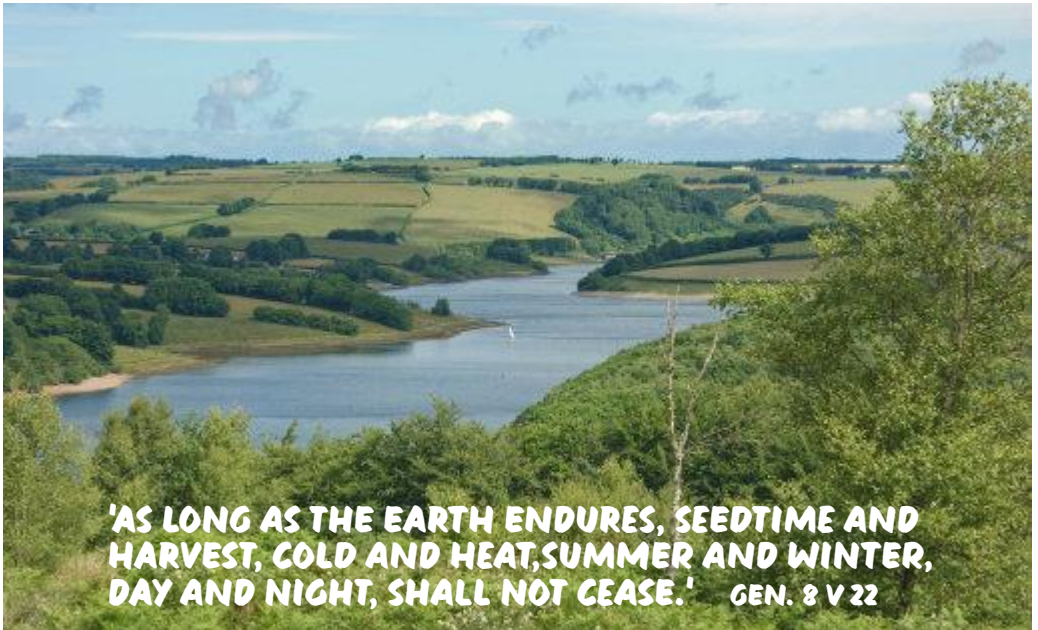


# CONTACT

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

## **Penwortham United Reformed Church**



**'AS LONG AS THE EARTH ENDURES, SEEDTIME AND HARVEST, COLD AND HEAT, SUMMER AND WINTER, DAY AND NIGHT, SHALL NOT CEASE.'** GEN. 8 V 22

# JULY/AUGUST 2026

**Web Site : [www.penworthamurc.org.uk](http://www.penworthamurc.org.uk)  
E-mail: [penworthamurc@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurc@gmail.com)  
Telephone - 07716129719**

## FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

As we move into the summer months many of us are looking forward to holidays or back on our experiences.

In May, Allen and I travelled up the west coast of Scotland to stay for a week on the isle of Lewis. We stayed on the west coast of the island which was very isolated and barren. Our cottage was 6 miles up a single-track road and although there were a few houses near us there were no shops and the school was closed. Sundays were still a special day with everything closed. It was so lovely and peaceful there, all we could hear was the wind (which never dropped) and the birds. I don't think I would want to live there, it must be a way of life that you get used to, but many young people are moving away, and perhaps coming back to retire.

However, people had lived there for the last 4,000 years. There were stone circles everywhere. The best was complete, every stone upright! There were also a number of remains of Iron Age villages. One had "appeared" on a beach at the end of the last century after a storm. It had been examined and the experts had learnt all they could from it, then it had been covered by sand again to preserve it. However, they had built a replica nearby which we visited. It was a lovely place to live, nestled down in a small bay, and the house wouldn't have been too bad! The walls were a double thickness of stones and there were doors at opposite ends so they could always go out away from the wind. But, although it was warm and dry, it was dark and smoky (there were no windows or fireplace). People had a good life but hard, farming much as crofters do today with a few animals, crops and fish.

But as today there was a strong community. A few families lived there so all the jobs could be done, but not too many to feed on what they could grow. The modern-day islanders work together to form communities, working together in community shops and cafes, which were well used by islanders and visitors. Perhaps we can learn something from their community spirit?



*Gill T*



## FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWS



It is with sadness that we have lost 2 members of our congregation in recent weeks. Peter Edmondson passed suddenly but peacefully on the 6th June and Martin Oppenheim also passed peacefully at Royal Blackburn hospital later in the month. Please keep Barbara, Kathryn, Stuart and family and Martin's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Several members continue to struggle with their health. Hylda Hurst remained, at the time of writing, in hospital awaiting transfer to a local nursing home for recuperation. We pray that anyone currently suffering with illness or pain makes as speedy a recovery as possible. Please speak to an Elder if you, or anyone you know who is unable to attend Church for any reason, would like to receive Communion.

There are numerous birthdays and anniversaries over the summer months and we hope everyone celebrating has an enjoyable day. A special congratulations to Viv and Graham Moore who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 24th July and Christine and Ian Ward who will also celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary later in the summer on the 5th August, Belated congratulations to Paul Martin who celebrated his 23rd of June birthday in style with a Baltic cruise accompanied by Khine (carer) and Robert.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we would like to wish all the children an enjoyable summer holiday and every success as they move into the next year at school. We also hope that all the congregation has the opportunity to make the most of the summer weather and enjoy any holidays, day trips or family gatherings they have planned.

Best wishes,  
The Elders



## PURC & SPECIAL SERVICES FOR - 05 JUL to 13 SEP 2026

05 July	Holy Communion	10:30	Jim Wilson
12 July	Parade Service	10:30	Gillian Price & Robert Bulloch
19 July	Family Worship	10:30	TBC
26 July	Family Worship	10:30	Nigel Pearce
02 Aug	Holy Communion	10:30	Margery Pitcher
09 Aug	Family Worship	10:30	TBC
16 Aug	Family Worship	10:30	Robert Bulloch
23 Aug	Family Worship	15:00	Rev'd Martin Whiffen **
30 Aug	Family Worship	10:30	TBC
06 Sep	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury
13 Sep	Harvest Festival	10:30	The Elders

Note: \*\* **Afternoon 3pm service**

(Non T)

### NW SYNOD INFORMATION LINKS

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

**Website** : <https://www.nwsynod.org.uk/>

## PURC ROTAS FOR - 05 JUL to 13 SEP 2026

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
05 July Val T	Rita	Gemma, Joanne & Gillian
12 July Bill & Celia McC	Celia	
19 July Basil & Hylda H	Debra	Joyce & Rita
26 July Rita T	Graham	
02 Aug Betty C		Sue & Diane
09 Aug Val T	Viv	
16 Aug Andrew D	Cath	Hilary, Pam, Linda
23 Aug Jenny O	Gloria	
30 Aug Margaret & Alan E	Kirsty/Alison	
06 Sep Bill & Celia McC	Rita	Beverley & Jenny
13 Sep Jemma O <i>(Jenny O)</i>	Celia <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	05 Jul/19 Jul	10:30 -11:30 am
Tiger Tots	14 & 28 Jul/11Aug	2.00 - 3.00 pm
Messy Church	11 Jul	2:30 - 4:00 pm
Community Choir	21 Jul/18 Aug	6:45 - 8.00 pm
Creative Connections	20 Jul	2.00 - 3.30pm
Creative Connections Art Exhibition	8 Aug	2.00 - 4.00 pm

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

**Messy Church** will be making **Bug Hotels** so if you have any of the following, could you please bring them to church and we will collect them : empty and clean plastic bottles or cardboard milk cartons; pine cones twigs and leaves; cardboard toilet roll tubes; pebbles and rocks. Kind regards. The Elders.

A colorful, hand-drawn style poster for a church event. At the top, a green banner reads 'Messy Church GOES WILD'. The background is filled with various nature elements like trees, flowers, and insects. The text is centered and reads: 'Messy Church Goes Wild @Penwortham URC Saturday 11th July 2:30pm-4:30pm'. Below this, it says 'Join us for an afternoon of fun, nature eco crafts, outdoor treasure hunt and celebration of nature and earth. We will be making kites, bird feeders, bug hotels, planet earth biscuits and more. All ages welcome to attend. Children must be accompanied by an adult.' At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'for more info contact Katie: penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com'.

**Messy Church**  
**Goes Wild**  
**@Penwortham URC**  
**Saturday 11th July**  
**2:30pm-4:30pm**

Join us for an afternoon of fun, nature eco crafts, outdoor treasure hunt and celebration of nature and earth. We will be making kites, bird feeders, bug hotels, planet earth biscuits and more. All ages welcome to attend. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

for more info contact Katie:  
penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com

## FAMILY WORKER'S ACTIVITIES - CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

### Overview

Fun, friendly art club for adults welcoming all abilities encouraging friendship and community.

### Creative Connections ([from Eventbrite](#))

**Monday 20th July 2:00pm-3:30pm**

Suggested Donation £5 (to help cover materials and refreshments)

With guest artist and illustrator Georgia-Maia. We're so excited to have guest artist and illustrator Georgia-Maia returning to lead a workshop on drawing people and exploring portraiture. Georgia will help participants build confidence in their drawing skills while encouraging them to develop their own individual illustrative style.

All abilities are welcome to attend and you do not need to have any prior artistic experience. This is fun social group where we will be getting to know each other and there will be free refreshments provided. We hope to see you there. If you have any questions please email Katie at

[penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com)

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT - CREATIVITY IN REALITY

### ***Psalm 19:1***

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

### ***1 Kings 6:29***

“Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.

### ***Psalm 150:3-5***

“Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals!”

### ***Exodus 35:35***

“He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver—those who do every work and those who design artistic works.”

# **Creative Connections Art Exhibition**

**at Penwortham URC**

**Saturday 8th August**

**2-4pm**

**Free Entry**

**With special guest  
performance from**

**Penwortham Community  
Choir**

**Join us for a celebration of the  
artists who are part of our  
community group Creative  
Connections, which promotes  
community, friendship and health  
and well-being through making art.**

**for more info contact Katie:  
[penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com](mailto:penworthamurcfamilyworker@gmail.com)**

## OTHER NOTICES

### **Central Lancashire Community Concert Band**

***Saturday 4th July 7pm, All Saints Church, New Longton***

The Central Lancashire Community Concert Band are returning for another year on Saturday 4th July. Join us at 7pm for a concert in church. Tickets are £10 and can be bought in church or online at

**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-new-longton](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-new-longton)**

### **Lancashire Royal Agricultural Show 2026** - Ribchester

The show is being held on **Fri 3rd, Sat 4th and Sun 5th July**

Salesbury Hall, Salesbury Hall Road, Ribchester, Preston PR3 3XU

**<https://www.royallancashireshow.co.uk/>**

### **Keswick Convention 2026** - 18th July to 7th August - Keswick

Join with thousands of Christian believers in the beautiful Lake District to explore what it means to be “Strong in his strength”, able to live boldly for Christ in the days he’s given us.

**<https://keswickministries.org/>**

### **Picnic Brass** – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July - Hurst Grange Park

Featuring **Rivington and Adlington Brass Band**, bring your picnic and place your blanket on the ground to enjoy live traditional brass band sounds in Hurst Grange Park, Hill Road, Penwortham -

2 sets: 1:30pm and 3 pm - **<https://discoversouthribble.co.uk/>**

**[events/event/102/parks-alive-2026](https://discoversouthribble.co.uk/events/event/102/parks-alive-2026)**

### **Christian Retreats**

**Online and In-Situ Christian Retreats led by Donna Worthington**

For bookings, please see the website or contact Donna Worthington:

**[www.christianretreats.live](http://www.christianretreats.live)**

**[drworthington@live.co.uk](mailto:drworthington@live.co.uk)**



## TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED?

One day a boy refused to obey his mother. Angrily he ran to a ravine and cried, "I hate you!" Suddenly the words came echoing back, "I hate you!" Frightened, the boy ran to his mother and said, "There's a bad man in the woods. I heard him say, "I hate you."

Knowing what had happened she said, "Go back and say, "I love you." The little boy called out, "I love you." And the same words came back to him. "Son," she said, "this is a law of life, what you give, you get. What you say, you hear."

The Bible says "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap" (Galatians 6:7). (Bulletin Digest Article 2008)

Henry Ward Beecher, the famous pulpit orator, once had to be absent and his brother was invited to speak for him. The church was crowded, but when it became evident that the eloquent Henry Beecher was not going to appear, many started to leave. Beecher's brother was not disturbed. He stood up before the murmuring crowd, called for silence and said, "All who came this morning to worship Henry W. Beecher may now leave. The rest will remain and worship God."

Some, like the Athenians, come only to hear the preacher say something (Acts 17:20-21). Some come for the singing, the prayers, or the friendliness of the congregation.

Why do we gather for worship?

Those who need strength in carrying their crosses know the value of worship. Worship has nothing to do with the song leader or the talent of the preacher. It has to do with us and our God.

(Adapted from a Norman Easter reflection 2017)



## A REFLECTION

### 'JUST PLAY YOUR PART

*'Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them' Romans 12:6 NKJV*

If you study famous musicians, you'll often find that they learned their craft by playing in a band or orchestra. That's because certain skills - learning to blend with other instruments, keeping tempo, learning to play louder or softer, following the conductor's lead - can only be learned by playing with others. And what's true of a band or orchestra is even truer of a community of believers. Jesus illustrated this in His famous parable of the talents (see Matthew 25:14-30). One man was given five talents and ended up with ten. Another man was given two talents and ended up with four. A third man was given one talent, and he buried it. In a sense, Jesus was talking about people playing their parts and how important that is to God's kingdom. Not everyone plays the same instrument, and not everyone has the same part. Some instruments are louder than others, and some parts are bigger than others. It's not how much you have that matters to Jesus; it's what you do with what you have that matters to Him. There are no insignificant talents in God's kingdom. Our talents may differ in amount, but they all come from the same source. All Christ wants you to do is play your part. He does not expect the same results, but He does expect the same effort. He never compares you with anyone else. He compares you only with you. He doesn't look at what you have,- He looks at what you do with what you have. So just play your part.'  
(which may well change with time and place; circumstance and age - God will gift and guide you).

*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)*



## WORLD PRAYER NEWS

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

### **Europe - France - [France Mission](#) .**

Please pray for the bilingual camps run by InterAction in France and Belgium in August. Over 3 weeks, the teams will work with young people aged 9-18, mostly from evangelical homes, but there will also be friends with other/no faith backgrounds..

### **Asia - China - [Chinese Church Support Ministries \(CCSM\)](#)**

Pray for Chinese pastors arrested on charges of fraud for receiving church offerings. Pray for courage, endurance, and protection, that they be released and that all attempts to hinder the growth of the Church will come to nothing.

### **Asia - Japan - [Reach Beyond](#)**

Pray for the team at the Yodobashi Church in Tokyo as they continue reaching out through their radio ministry. Praise God for the number of people who have been drawn to the Lord in Japan over 60+ years of this work.

### **Africa - Uganda and South Sudan : [Church Mission Society](#)**

Pray for God to make a way for CMS partners to expand their discipleship work among South Sudanese young people in refugee camps in northern Uganda. Pray for this generation, who have spent half their lives living in refugee camps.

Earlier this year at Al Sabbah Hospital in South Sudan, there was a complete change of all the hospital's medical staff. Please pray for the new team to become a consistent, reliable team providing a high standard of healthcare for local babies.

*above with the permission of Global Connections*

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

### **Africa - Democratic Republic of the Congo : (from multiple sources but not Global Connections).**

Continue to pray for the very difficult situation in the DRC following the Ebola outbreak, now thought to be the 3rd largest known thus far with over 1000 cases (@ 21/06) and over 250 deaths reported from over 20 health zones including nearly 20 cases reported in neighbouring Uganda. Please pray for effective contact tracing which remains low at below 60% and also for more effective containment. Prayers are also needed for improvements in surveillance and testing capabilities.

Remember all the volunteers working hard with local staff to aid the suffering in very difficult circumstances. On 3 Jun the UK issued urgent public health guidance to the NHS and other Health providers. (Ed.)

## CARTOONS AND COLOURING

with permission Tim Walburg



"Pastor Luke's sermon illustration caused the service to last longer than intended"

with permission Tim Walburg



"I love this church I really feel I fit in here!"

## "CONTACT" PUBLICATION

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

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be **Sunday 23 August 2026.**

Next issue date will be **Sunday 30 August 2026**