

CONTACT

introduces and welcomes
YOU
to

Penwortham United Reformed Church



**FOR THE
HARVEST**

**GIVE
THANKS
TO GOD**



**"... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."
2 Peter 3:18**



**GOD
IS THE
GIVER**

**WE
ARE THE
STEWARDS**



SEPTEMBER 2026

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

FELLOWSHIP FOREWORD

Dear Friends

I don't know where this year has gone. Soon the leaves will start to turn and we settle into a new season. Autumn always brings a sense of fresh beginning, a return to routine after summer travels and a chance look ahead with renewed purpose.

It will soon be "Harvest" and it will make us think about our climate as the produce will not be as fruitful this year, due to the heat and shortage of water. We should never take things for granted. We need to think

how to change our lives for the future generations. We have

taken things for granted for far too long and I am sure this year has made us all think differently.

On a happier note, I am sure we have all enjoyed the warmer weather and I hope you have managed to get away for a few days to recharge the batteries.

God bless

Anne H

A MESSAGE FROM BASIL AND HYLDA

Basil and Hylda H would like to thank people at Church for all the kindness shown during the weeks Hylda has been unwell and in various hospitals.

Gloria has been very kind in offering books of short stories, easier on my brain than longer books.

The Chaplain at Blackpool Victoria Hospital is "Jim" the minister at St. Annes on Sea URC who has visited and given Basil and me Communion.

So thanks to all for kindness shown, for prayers and for flowers.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWS



We look forward to welcoming the children back to Church in September. The Scouts, Beavers, Cubs and Squirrels will be back in Church for parade, and Junior Church will resume on 6th September. We wish them all well as they start a new school year.

5th Penwortham Scouts are planning to Celebrate 75 years in scouting on Sunday 11th October at Church. Everyone is welcome, and they are also inviting all former Scouts and leaders to join them for refreshments and displays to celebrate their incredible journey.

Joey C (the partner of Katie, our family worker) who is a music tutor and Adam D, a drum teacher, ran two successful summer drum school days in the Church Hall during the holidays and they plan to run regular sessions on a monthly basis.

Martin Whiffen led our afternoon service on Sunday 23rd August. Although this was his last service with us as a serving minister, we will see him again at Penwortham in the future. His 'retirement' service will take place on Sunday 4th October at Chorley.

Betty C has had a fall and is staying with her nephew for a few days.

Hylda H has been home for a few weeks and is making steady progress.

Alison M is now home from hospital and beginning her rehabilitation. After a recent fall she needed an operation to put a rod into her leg! She would like to thank everyone for their kindness and has received calls, visits, presents and cards which she has really appreciated.

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWS CONTINUED

THANK YOU - FROM BRENDA

I would like to thank all the people who offered me lifts when I had my knee replaced. It was good to know there was someone if I had needed it.

In fact, things worked out very well. I bought a box of ready meals for Frank. I had 4 deliveries from Sainsbury's. I had arranged 4 single hours of help - basically to change the bed and get the sheets hung up. The pharmacy delivered as needed. And I only needed to call for 1 lift. And I was far more mobile than I expected.

The new knee is absolutely fine. The only reason I am still using a crutch is that I have a torn muscle on the other hip. It is a nuisance, but it isn't stopping me from doing most of what I want to do.

Thank you again.

Brenda

MARTIN OPPENHEIM

On Friday 26th June Stewart Taylor and I attended Martin Oppenheim's funeral at Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium. We learned so much about Martin, before his illness, from the Eulogy. Martin was born in Israel on 3rd March 1967. His parents lived there at that time, as his father was a geologist working there. The family moved back to London when Martin was four, shortly before his brother Matthew was born.

Martin was successful at school and continued on to further and higher education. He started a degree in Astrophysics at Leicester but sadly did not finish it

Martin was an accomplished musician and played the cello, piano and electric guitar. Music at his service included Beethoven's Piano Sonata No.8, Op.13 (Pathetique) and Bach's Cello Suite No.2 in D minor. These were two of his favourite pieces of music. He loved to listen to and play classical music. He was also a fan of heavy metal and Nothing Else Matters by Metallica was played at the service.



before he became ill. He was also a fan of heavy metal and Nothing Else Matters by Metallica was played at the service.

Martin loved his family. He enjoyed visiting them and was always concerned about their welfare, rather than his own. His brother told me that no matter how ill he was he always asked after his brother and his sister-in-law, as soon as they started talking. Martin also attended Quaker meetings and members of the Quaker society were at his service. As we know, Martin had a deep faith in God and had been a member of our congregation for many years. His faith gave him comfort and he died with his Bible in his hands. Martin made a big impression on many people and will be sadly missed.

Gillian A

PURC & SPECIAL SERVICES FOR - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

06 Sep	Holy Communion	10:30	Rev'd Brian Drury
13 Sep	Harvest Festival	10:30	The Elders
20 Sep	Family Worship	10:30	Jennifer Liddell
27 Sep	Family Worship	10:30	To be confirmed
04 Oct	Holy Communion	10:30	To be confirmed
11 Oct	Parade Service	10:30	To be confirmed
18 Oct	Family Worship	10:30	Alan Edward
25 Oct	Family Worship	10:30	George Grime

(Non T)

NW SYNOD INFORMATION LINKS

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

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



PURC ROTAS FOR - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

FLOWERS	DOOR	REFRESHMENTS
06 Sep Bill & Celia McC	Rita	Beverley & Jenny
13 Sep HARVEST	Celia	
20 Sep Jo H	Debra	Kirsty & Alison
27 Sep Bill & Sue B-W	Graham	
04 Oct Jack & Margaret T		Anne & Gloria
11 Oct Jemma O	Viv	
18 Oct Margaret & Alan E	Cath	Joyce & Rita
25 Oct Rita T	Gloria	
(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.

Thank you to all our volunteers who lead and support our worship time! (Ed)

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

CHURCH FINANCE

You will recall that at the last Church AGM I reported that the church giving either on a Sunday or through the bank, was down substantially due to the sad passing of a number of our church family. You are also aware that we have had some major items of expenditure during the last three years which have greatly improved the building and covered all concerning items raised in the last Quinquennial report. The next one is due to be carried out in 2027, and we don't expect any shocks to come from it. We need to keep on top of repairs to look after the building, but the money has come from our long term investments which have reduced considerably.

This then brings me to the current state of the church finances, which the Elders feel need to be underlined and re-stated. As detailed in the church accounts supplied at the AGM we are currently spending in the region of £1500 per month in excess of our income. You will appreciate this is unsustainable in the long term. Many of the church expenses are what they are, and it is difficult to see how they might be reduced further. If fund raising is to be carried out, the elders would be grateful of any ideas from people who are willing to organise them. We would all I'm sure be grateful for everyone to consider their weekly / monthly giving, and if you are able to Gift Aid as a UK tax payer, this increases the amount the church receives by 25%, from the Government without any cost to yourself.

I am sure that we will all give this matter our prayerful consideration.

Gill T on behalf of the Elders

FAMILY WORKER ACTIVITIES

Junior Church	05,19 Sep & 04,18 Oct	10:30 -11:30 am
Tiger Tots	08, 22 Sep / 6, 20 Oct	2:00 - 3:00 pm
Messy Church	5 Sep /	2:30 - 4:00 pm
Community Choir	15 Sep / 13 Oct	6:45 - 8:00 pm
Creative Connections	TBA	2:00 - 3:30 pm

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

*We are in the running for a Tesco Grant with an award of £1500.00 for first place but this relies on a public vote in the period from August to November 2026. Blue Voting tokens can be collected from the Token Bowls at the checkouts and placed in the Voting Rack on the right on your way out, or speak to checkout staff if unsure. **See also Page 8***

NOTICES & INFORMATION cont'd

INTERNATIONAL AID TRUST

Please consider donating items for our annual autumn collection which helps people survive in dreadful circumstances.

Suitable items needed are: toiletries of any sort, (NOT aerosol cans), face cloths, socks and gloves /scarves(any size), pens, notebook, small toys, hair brushes, combs, hair 'bobbles' or clips, new packs of underwear. If you prefer to make a cash donation please speak to Rita. Your knitted items are also warmly received and appreciated.



There are some shoeboxes available to fill for the Christmas appeal, just ask Joyce or Rita, a virtual shoebox can be found on the website for [International Aid Trust](#), which gives a chance to see what this organisation does each and every year.



Your donation will make a difference to someone who is struggling to maintain a decent and dignified life in circumstances beyond their control.

Thank you from Joyce and Rita.

Lancashire Encounter - see you there? Churches are being encouraged to take part in this years' Lancashire Encounter Torchlight Procession on Saturday September 19th. Building upon the popular procession of the last few years this years Encounter will be bigger than ever before. So, start thinking about how you might make your light shine this September as we show the church - on the streets of Preston! Or perhaps support by being one of the onlookers. Details and registration information to follow. See website below.

<https://www.lancsencounter.co.uk/>

David the Film released from 21 August - an animated musical reflecting the life of David, now available to see at Cinemas in Preston. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15678738/>

Online and In-Situ Christian Retreats led by Donna Worthington

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

drworthington@live.co.uk

www.christianretreats.live

TESCO

Tiger Tots
Music Club



VOTE FOR US

We're excited to be in the running for a Tesco Fruit and Veg grant. Please vote for us at your local Tesco including Penwortham Tesco with your blue tokens.

Our grant funds will be used to continue running our musical baby and toddler group at Penwortham URC free of charge, providing healthy snacks, new toys, musical instruments and kitchen equipment.



PLEASE TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

COMMUNITY SOCIAL AFTERNOON
at

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

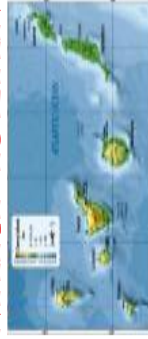
Monday 21st September 2026 at 2.00pm

We meet once again

David Marsh

*who will present a talk
about the*

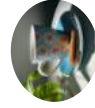
CANARY ISLANDS



*for his charity
the Blood Bikers*



*The event will be followed by
Tea, Coffee and Biscuits
The cost will be £4.00*



Do come along and bring a friend

Map Author : Oona Räisänen (Mysid at English Wikipedia)

ACROSS THE SANDS - WITH HILARY S

On Sunday 26th July 2026 my friend Dinah M and I completed the walk from Arnside to Grange across Morecambe Bay to raise money for the Rosemere Cancer Foundation. This charity had recently supported William M , Dinah's husband, and we wanted to repay their kindness and help them continue to support others in the future. The weather in the weeks leading up to the walk had been extremely warm. However, on that day we woke up to cooler temperatures and rain, which was a blessing. By the time it came for us to set off from Arnside the rain had stopped and the conditions were perfect for us and the 400 others who were crossing the bay with us. After being given safety instructions the company of walkers all set off. It was quite a sight and it was uplifting to be part of the event. There were a number of quite deep crossings of waters to wade through. At one point at the widest and deepest crossing we all had to line up along the water's edge, no more than 6 persons deep as the sand was sinking sand and our weight had to be spread out. We waited to be told when we could all walk across as one. At this moment it felt quite biblical and likened it to Moses and the parting of the Red Sea.



The sand wasn't easy to walk on as some parts were a bit like a trampoline and others parts were very hard ridges. But, we did it and arrived at Grange 3 and a half hours later and got our medals and certificate. I raised a total of £550 and would like to thank everyone at the church who supported us. Dinah and I we're both happy that we completed the event but I don't think we will be doing it again. But never say never.

Many thanks

Hilary



EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE EACH DAY

'My Presence will go with you'

Exodus 33:14 NKJV

Nicholas Herman was a cook in a monastery. He worried about whether or not he was truly saved. One day while looking at a tree, he realised the truth of the psalmist's words - that it had to be rooted in something other and deeper than itself (see Psalm 1:1-3). That day, he decided to make his life an experiment in what he called a 'habitual, silent, secret conversation of the soul with God'.

He's known today by the new name given to him by his friends: Brother Lawrence. He remained obscure throughout his life and spent the rest of his days in the monastery kitchen. But the people around him found that rivers of living water flowed out of him that made them want to know God the way he did. 'The good brother found God everywhere', one of them wrote, 'as much while he was repairing shoes as while he was praying with the community.'

After Brother Lawrence died, his friends put together a book of his letters and conversations. It is called ***The Practice of the Presence of God***, and it is thought to be one of the most widely read books of the last four centuries. This short-order cook has outsold many popular contemporary novelists, and his book is still on best-seller lists.

Brother Lawrence said: The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with Him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in any way.'

***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](#) :

Europe - North Macedonia - [World Share](#) .

Give thanks with the Evangelical Church in North Macedonia for the believers baptised after completing Alpha, including the young Albanian believer. Pray that all who were baptised this summer will be protected, strengthened and rooted in Christ.

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

Recently, Pastor Ezra Jin, founder of Zion Church in Beijing, was released after 9 months of imprisonment and returned to his family in the US, following 8 years of separation. Pray for the release of other pastors who are still imprisoned.

Europe - United Kingdom - [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#)

Give thanks for the completion of Mark's Gospel in British Sign Language (BSL). Pray the finished work reaches its intended audience, and that God speaks powerfully to the Deaf community through his word, making it a rich blessing to all.

Africa - Liberia : [Langham Partnership UK & Ireland](#)

Please pray for training in Paynesville this month for 40 women coordinating ushirikas/ preaching groups in Liberia. Pray for growth in the preaching movement, for faithful preachers and teachers of the Word, and for effectiveness and productivity..

above with the permission of Global Connections

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

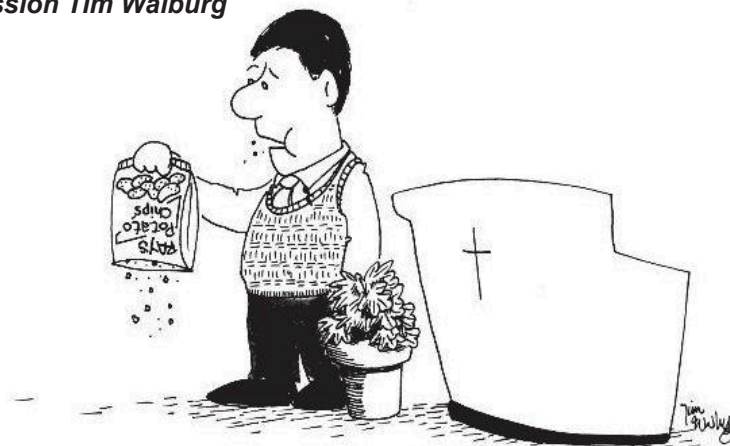
Africa - Democratic Republic of the Congo : (from multiple sources but not Global Connections).

Continue to pray for the DRC which is still battling the Ebola outbreak in that country amid a lot of internal conflict. Since last reported in Contact as at 21 Jun, the number of cases has risen from over 1000 to 5535, with the death toll rising from 250 to over 2644 @ 24 Aug. Contact tracing remains a significant problem as does public trust in the healthcare system and violence towards health workers. Many of those affected are slow to seek help. The Oxford Vaccine Group is still recruiting volunteers for testing of a newly developed vaccine for its efficacy but it will take some time for results to emerge. Meanwhile no vaccine for the Bundibugyo Ebola Virus (BD-Ebov) is available. Please continue to pray for all those working to combat Ebola in the DRC and Uganda, particularly the patient facing staff putting their own lives at potential risk. The UK's urgent public health guidance to the NHS and other Health providers remains in force.

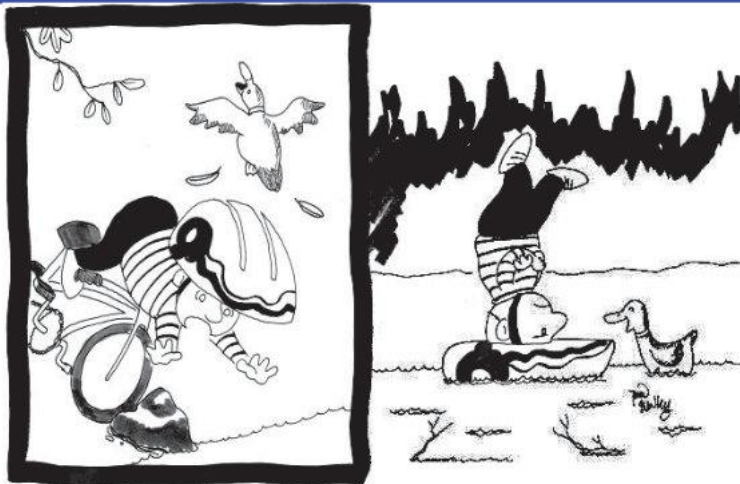
(Ed.)

CARTOONS AND COLOURING

with permission Tim Walburg



"My sermon this morning was going to be on "RESTRAINT"
but it seems I have eaten all my illustration"



"CONTACT" PUBLICATION

The next "CONTACT" will be the October 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 ;
speak to Alan Edward or deliver to 27 Hazel Close

Thank you for your contributions

Next submission date will be **Sunday 20 September 2026.**

Next issue date will be **Sunday 27 September 2026**