

# PCC Newsletter – April 2016



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## From The Minister

This year, in Lent, we read a daily passage from the Gospels or the Epistles together in fellowship. I know that some people at least stuck with this Lenten discipline and managed to follow the readings every day. In the hope that the habit has been established, I have worked out a list of daily readings to cover the Easter season; that is, the time between Easter Day, when Christ rose from the dead, and Pentecost, when Christ's followers received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This time round, rather than using the readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, I have chosen the readings myself. I have tried to arrange the Gospel readings so that we can see the narrative of what happened between Easter and Pentecost, and add in some of St Paul's writings from 1 Corinthians and Romans. I hope these will add to the Gospel narrative.

I pray that many of you will join me in finding time each day to read Scripture. It is something I have done myself for many years now. I always start the day in this way and I have found it over the years a way of getting to know the Bible better but, more importantly, also a way of ensuring that I start each day with my mind on God. I did my reading first thing because, in my pre-ministry existence, I had to leave for work at 7.30am, but of course others will find times which suit them better. The important thing is to find that time at some point during the day.

The first reading I have chosen, for Easter Monday, is the account of what happened on the Road to Emmaus later on that first Easter Day. Because it follows on from the account of the Resurrection, we sometimes don't give it the attention we should. We find two of Jesus' followers travelling away from Jerusalem; they are joined by a stranger whom they fail to recognise as Jesus himself. They recount the events of the crucifixion and the discovery of the empty tomb, but they are downcast because they have failed to understand. And so, as they walk along, this man they have not recognised explains to them all the Scriptures, starting with Moses and the prophets, have said about the Messiah. It is only when they sit down to supper afterwards and Jesus breaks the bread for them that they recognise him for who he really is. At this point, Jesus disappears, and they tell each other that their hearts were burning while Jesus opened the Scriptures to them on their journey.

It is so important for us to think too about the meaning of Easter. It isn't enough to know the story; we have to understand what it means. We can only do that by looking at the Scriptures that Jesus explained to the two disciples, but also by looking at the whole of the Gospel. By looking at the life of Jesus as well as at his death and resurrection.

May we, in our Scripture reading, also find our Emmaus Road moment, when we understand the meaning of Easter in relation to God's promise to us through his son, Jesus Christ.

*Pam Owen*

## **Mark 4: 39 "Peace be still"**

Be still my restless soul-  
Tossed on the sea of life.  
The wind is rising and today  
There's struggle and there's strife.

Be still my restless soul-  
Amid the tempest's roar.  
The skies are grey, the night is dark,  
And we are far from shore.

Be still my restless soul-  
As once on Galilee:  
Our Lord arose, rebuked the wind,  
And calmed the angry sea.

Be still my restless soul-  
Your Risen Master saves.  
Look deep into the eyes of God.  
Christ walks upon the waves.

Be still my restless soul-  
Death's shadows flee away.  
Step out into the sea of faith  
Into eternal day.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Penge Rainbow unit

The 2nd Penge Rainbow Unit celebrated their first Rainbow Unit's birthday on Tuesday 1st March 2016 with a beautiful cake made by Jenny, Caroline's daughter. The unit's first intake of nine girls aged between 5 – 7 years who wanted to be Rainbows was on the 3rd March 2015. Our Unit now has 18 Rainbows and quite a few waiting to join. In fact we could almost open another Rainbow Unit tomorrow if we had more adult leaders! The Rainbows have had a full and active year, visiting Kelsey Park on a very hot summer's day last June, a coach trip with our District units to London Zoo last September and the sun shone for this day as well and then a visit to a Pantomime in January 2016. The Rainbows have also enjoyed craft activities, badges, games, Promise Parties, skipping and ball games, designing badges to name just some of the many activities on offer throughout the year. Our next exciting activity is our first Sleepover during the Easter school holidays at a holiday house in Croydon. We are very grateful to Catherine and Rosemary Leaders of the 2nd Penge Guide Company and Marita Leader of the 8th Penge Brownie Pack, both units meet at PCC, who have kindly offered to help us run the Sleepover. I would also like to record my personal thanks to Caroline who as a Rainbow Leader shares the responsibility of running the Unit with me every week and to Shanice who has helped us as a Young Leader since September 2015. We all look forward to many more happy years as a unit.

*Diane pask*

**IF FAITH CAN MOVE A MOUNTAIN  
IT CAN MOVE A LITTLE HILL,  
AND YOUR PRAYERS WILL SOON BE ANSWERED  
IF YOU'RE CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL.  
IT MAY TAKE WEEKS OR MONTHS OR YEARS,  
IT MAY NOT TAKE THAT LONG,  
BUT FAITH CAN MOVE A MOUNTAIN  
IF THAT FAITH IS GOOD AND STRONG.**

***Thanks to Pam Owen, Diane Pask, Debbie Collins, and the congregation of Penge Congregational Church.***