

Penge Congregational Church



(World Day of Prayer 1st March 2019, devised by the Christian Women of Slovenia)

February 2019 Newsletter

LENT GROUPS 2019



United Groups at St John's Eden Park

7.30 pm - 9.15 pm

5 Tuesdays in Lent:

12th March

19th March

26th March

2nd April

9th April

There are 5 courses to choose from:

Course 1: Come and Sing Stainer's Crucifixion, led by David Storey.

Course 2: Lent Art, led by Chris McShane.

Course 3: Praying the Way of the Cross, led by Leon Carberry.

Course 4: The Bible in 4 weeks, led by Jef Foulger.

Course 5: Talking Jesus, led by Andrew Jones.

There are leaflets in the church: please choose your course and give your form to Pam by Sunday 17th February.

From the Minister

The last book of the Bible is the Revelation to St John: as the first verse says, it is a revelation from Jesus Christ presented to his servant John who faithfully reported everything he saw. The Revelation is the report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. So it is an incredibly important message from Jesus about the salvation that he promises. The book blesses all who reflect on it, and sternly warns not just those people who oppose Christ but also those who are shallow in their Christian walk. Towards the beginning of Revelation, we find the letters of Christ to the seven churches of Asia. In each, Christ demonstrates his knowledge of the church and gives advice or judgment. Each time, he emphasises the need for full attention to the Spirit's message to the churches.

The last message is to the church at Laodicea, a lukewarm and uncommitted church. It begins, "I know all the things that you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But, since you are like lukewarm water, I will spit you out of my mouth." It ends, "Be diligent and turn from your indifference. Look I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will share a meal together as friends".

So what does it mean to be a lukewarm church? I would suggest it means being a church that is going through the motions, a church that thinks spending an hour with God on a Sunday morning is sufficient. A church that thinks as long as you turn up every week, as long as you bow your head and close your eyes during the prayers, as long as you stand and sing the hymns, and sit quietly during the sermon, then you are doing all that God expects.

But remember that Jesus said the most important commandment is: to love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your strength and all your mind. And Love your neighbour as yourself.

We show our love of God and our commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ by worshipping him. Worshipping him from the heart, from the mind, from the soul and with all our strength. In church, we are not praying unless we are praying from the heart; we are not praising unless we sing and rejoice from the heart.

St Paul likens the Christian life to a race. He says we must run it with our eyes on the prize, not letting ourselves be diverted, and always putting in all our efforts. In his letter to the Colossians, he says this:

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

God sent Jesus to seal a new covenant between him and his people. He said this was to be a covenant written on people's hearts. So our praise must come from the heart; when we worship, we must do so, not with one eye on the clock, not going through the motions and worrying about what our eyes and heads are doing, but wholeheartedly. Let us not be a lukewarm church.

Pam

The Women's World Day of Prayer is now officially just the World Day of Prayer- but still devised each year by women!

Our Area WDP Rep is Julie Taylor and she has sent us through the following information:

Come - Everything is Ready!

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world, their hopes, concerns and prayers.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

Please join in the Day of Prayer at our service at Anerley Methodist Church on Friday 1st March at 7.30 p.m.

[For those of you who prefer the day time service, there is one at St James' Elmers End at 10.30 am]

Flower Rota

February

3: Caroline Parker

10: Joyce Perry

17: Melanie Cogan

24: Friendship Club

March

3: Jean Sumner

10: In memory of Maureen Sawkins

17: Pat Clarke

24: Melanie Cogan

April:

7: In memory of Heather Cragg (Jean S)

14: Melanie Cogan (for David Nye)

21: Easter. Flower Fund

28: Pat Clarke

Christmas Giving

£100 for Hospices of Hope, from the Candlelight service.

£100 for the Greater London Fund for the Blind, from the Christmas Eve service.

£24 from Christmas Post Box, for Living Well.



Our relationship
with God should
not just be a
Sunday event.

**“When God puts
love and compassion
in your heart toward
someone, He’s offering
you an opportunity to
make a difference in
that person’s life. You
must learn to follow
that love. Don’t ignore
it. Act on it. Somebody
needs what you have.”**

SPIRITUAL INSPIRATION

Sunny Morning at Waldo Road “Dump”

(Submitted by Joyce Perry, and reproduced with permission from the author who is a member of Orpington Baptist Church)

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at Waldo Road waste collection centre? Perhaps not but Kevin Dennis and I spent an interesting 2 hours being shown around by the Neighbourhood Officer. It's a very busy site, not just with householders making visits, but also all the vehicles bringing in loads from their rounds and then lorries taking separated materials to other sites. There are also tractors scooping up the waste and shifting it around. Noisy and a bit smelly!

As you can imagine, Waldo Road does get complaints from residents but it is an essential facility, whose location minimises waste vehicle movements, is convenient for car access, and where else could it be located? No one wants such a facility near their home. That's why all the material for recycling has to travel quite a way for processing as there are no nearer facilities.

So where does all the waste deposited at Waldo Road go? Glass, plastic and wood go to a recycling centre in Essex; paper and card to Charlton; garden waste to Sittingbourne for composting; food waste to Kingshill for anaerobic digestion to produce electricity. Nearly 60% of non-recyclable material goes to SELCHP, the energy recovery unit in south London with the residue to landfill sites in Essex.

It can seem strange to move material around the country but the Council looks for opportunities to gain increased value especially for the more specialist items. We asked if anything gets sent abroad, especially important now that China is not accepting waste from the UK. Occasionally there are opportunities to generate more money from exporting items such as paper. We saw 2 Dutch lorries; they had brought onions

to the UK and, rather than go back empty, they were taking a few tonnes of paper for recycling. Makes good business sense.

You will know that the recycling sites have different bins for various items and it is important that the correct ones are used. We saw someone putting cardboard in the general waste, which means it will go to landfill rather than being recycled. The manager told us that general waste going to landfill costs us, council tax payers, £183 per tonne, instead of making money by being recycled.

We asked why in Bromley we have to separate paper from other recyclables where other areas collect all recycling together. The answer is that this guarantees the paper is less contaminated and therefore attracts a higher price.

We are very impressed by the work the Council is doing on our behalf, at times thwarted by the lack of markets for many items of waste. On top of this, the public often blames the Council for anything that appears a failure. We did not feel that information was being hidden but it would be good if more information was available on the Bromley website. Better to publicise the good with the bad in order to generate good public relations.

I really think we should be more supportive of the Council waste management as everyone seems to have an opinion and the “not in my backyard” sentiment is a common cry.

Simon Lees

Church Diary February 2019

Sunday 3rd:

10.30 am: God's Holy Nation, led by the Minister.

6.30 pm: The Lord's Supper, led by the Minister.

Tuesday 5th:

9.30-11 am: Café Church

Thursday 7th:

7.30 pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Sunday 10th:

10.30 am: God's Peace-Isaiah 9:2-7, led by Marilyn.

6.30 pm: Bible discussion, led by Chris M.

Wednesday 13th:

10.30-Midday: Friendship Club: The Vestry.

Saturday 16th:

3 pm: SSLSO Organ Recital: The Church.

Sunday 17th:

10.30 am: God's Peace-the Fruits of the Spirit. Including the Lord's Supper. Led by Jannett.

6.30 pm: Evening Worship, led by Marilyn.

Sunday 24th:

10.30 am: God's Peace-Isaiah 55, led by the Minister.

6.30 pm: Taizé service, led by Callum.

Tuesday 26th:

7.30 pm: Worship Team meeting. The Vestry.

All welcome.

PENGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Church gathered May 1908

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