

WELCOME TO



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NEWS

MINISTERS LETTER

From the Minister

During July we begin a six week worship theme on Jacob. Jacob of course was a very important figure in the history of the Jewish people. He it was whom God renamed Israel, and his 12 sons became the founders of the twelve tribes of Israel. But in many ways, he wasn't a particularly upstanding character and neither were some of the people around him. He and his twin brother Esau emerged from the womb locked in conflict; later Esau, the eldest and therefore his father Isaac's heir, sold Jacob his birthright (his rights as heir) for a dish of stew. Later still, Jacob tricked his by then blind father into blessing him as heir instead of his brother.

Eventually Isaac sent Jacob away to find a wife. Despite his somewhat dubious character, God saw something in Jacob because he promised him his love and protection and the inheritance of the Holy Land.

Jacob came across a man called Laban who had two daughters. Jacob fell in love with the younger one, Rachel, and Laban promised her to him if he would work his land for seven years. Jacob fulfilled this promise but Laban wasn't a very upright character either because he tricked Jacob into marrying the elder daughter, Leah. A week after the wedding, Laban promised Jacob Rachel also if he would work for another seven years (polygamy was acceptable in that culture at that time).

Because Jacob loved Rachel, and Leah was unloved, God gave Leah children but left Rachel childless.

Poor Leah. She had a son and named him Reuben, hoping that Jacob would now love her. She had a second son, Simeon, and a third, Levi; she said, “Surely now my husband will love me for I have given him three sons”. But there was no sign that Jacob did love her.

Finally, Leah had a fourth son, and she named him Judah, which means Praise, for, she said, “Now I will praise the Lord”, Leah, it seems, finally chose to give her affection to God rather than to Jacob. And, by doing so, she became part of God’s plan for his people because Judah was the ancestor of King David and, further down the line, of Jesus.

We can try to find our worth in many ways and things, but only in Jesus do we find our true identity as children of God, as co-heirs with Christ, and as those who will live eternally in the Kingdom of God. We have just finished a series of services on Philippians: we remember that in Philippians 3:8, Paul wrote, “I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”. Leah found her true worth when she focused on God rather than on trying to gain the affection of a man who didn’t value her.

Have you been focusing on the wrong thing? Let’s reflect on the ways in which faith in Jesus brings us to a true understanding of who we are! May God bless us as we find our true identity in him and not in the values of the world.

ANNUAL PENGE FESTIVAL ORGAN RECITAL, 2019

From flutes to trumpets, from jazz variations to Bach at his grandest, from the lyrical and delicate to a heavy rock pedal line ----- the fifth recital in the Penge Festival series was held on June 5th, when an enthusiastic audience heard several distinguished musicians demonstrating once again the vast resources of the Lewis organ.

Andrew Chadney began the recital with a vibrant and joyous rendition of Percy Fletcher's Festival Toccata. Christian Strover followed with jazz variations on the hymn tunes "A safe stronghold" --- a clashing, fierce battle between good and evil; "Now thank we all our God"; and a soft and lyrical "Angels from the realms of glory". Marilyn Nicholson played two Bach chorales, including "Jesus now be praised" from his Cantata for New Year's Day, 1725.

John Mitchell's organ arrangements are always a delight: this year a transcription of Respighi's 1923 orchestral arrangement of a 17th century lute tune by Gianoncelli --- a "Bergamasque" (country dance from northern Italy), with a rock bass line. (The melody was used as the signature tune for the radio show "Homeward Bound".) As a tribute to his 21 years working for Formula One racing, John's second offering was an improvisation on "Byth torri'r gadwyn". Jonathan and Sarah Holmes played a delightful duet by Prinz Johann Ernst von Sachsen Weimar, a prolific young composer who is said to have influenced JS Bach.

After the Interval we enjoyed an Andante in F by SS Wesley played by Ashley Valentine. Ashley is the Organist at St Giles Camberwell, where he plays the 1844 organ designed by Wesley. And John Webber played a Voluntary in D by the 18th century English composer William Boyce, and Belgian Flor Peeters' mysterious Adagio from the 1938 Suite Modale.

Jonathan Holmes concluded the recital with Bach's St Anne ("O God our help in ages past") Prelude and Fugue in E flat, BWV 552. The prelude is one of the two largest that Bach ever wrote, with three themes, suggesting the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The fugue also is in three sections to symbolize the Trinity.

Christopher Town, who provided a much enjoyed commentary to the evening's music, described the piece as "the ultimate test of an organist". Both organist and organ rose to the challenge, and the recital ended in triumph with the full power of the organ celebrating the Triune God.

It is a privilege to bring together organ, musicians and audience for an evening of charming, amusing, and inspiring music, all of which demonstrate the large capacities of our precious Lewis organ. And it is very gratifying to hear the appreciative comments of the organists --- their generous compliments to each other, their enthusiasm for the composers they choose, and their enjoyment in playing the organ.

Most grateful thanks to the church, to the audience, to the Festival Committee, and especially to the organists for their generosity in sharing their time and talents for the comfort and pleasure of the people and the greater glory of God.

Marilyn Nicholson

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

Many of you will know that I turned 60 this year. In my earlier years I was very sporty and took part in many sports, but cycling was not one of them, other than a short pedal on my bike locally. I intend to retire next year and have been connected to the Metropolitan Police from 1975 when I left school at 16 years old. Having joined as a Cadet, I then became a Constable in 1977, before an injury caused a medical retirement in 2000. I was offered a Police Staff post which is where I'm at now.

I felt I should undertake some challenge before retiring and so I have signed up to cycle 180 miles from Lambeth to Staffordshire in aid of Care of Police Survivors. This is a charity which helps families of police officers who have died in service.



The cycle takes place over two and a bit days, with some 150 setting off from London and other groups from different constabularies meeting up on the third day for a memorial service at the National Arboretum.

I have been training since January in the gym, and since Easter out on the road. Two full days of 80 miles a day is going to be tough, but hoping I've prepared well by 26th July. I will give a report in the September Newsletter and if you want to donate to the cause please go to my Just giving page, ChristopherParker Police Unity Ride 2019 or see me personally.

Christopher Parker



JULY AND AUGUST WORSHIP

THEME ON JACOB

On the first Sunday in July, Siobhan will round off our services on Philippians. Then, on the 14th, Douglas is coming all the way from Kendal to lead us in worship. So we begin our new theme, on Jacob, on 21st July, and it will run right through until the end of August.

Jacob's story in the Bible starts at Genesis 25: 19 and goes right through to Genesis 49. Reading it all would give you a good foundation for following through the six services. However, if you prefer just to read each "episode", here is the list of services:

1) Birthright and blessing. Genesis 25-27
21st July. Pam

2) Dream at Bethel. Genesis 28
28th July. Lynn

3) Leah and Rachel. Genesis 29-30
4th August. Pam

4) Wrestling with God. Genesis 32
11th August. Jannett

5) Making peace with Esau. Genesis 33
18th August. Chris M

6) Going to Egypt. Genesis 42-
25th August. Marilyn

ROSEMARIE AND JULIE VISIT THE QUEEN



2ND PENGE RAINBOW

UNIT

In January 2019, each of our Rainbows were given a tube of Smarties and told they could eat the Smarties. Then, when the tube was empty they were challenged to undertake small jobs at home for their parents or grandparents to try and raise 5p's and 20p's for three charities in the Greater London Kent (GLK) County up to the end of March (please see information on the following pages). The Rainbows needed no encouragement to eat the Smarties! This was one of the challenges which formed part of the GLK 50th Anniversary Challenge Badge. The Rainbows will complete their badge, providing they have done all the clauses, at a special GLK 50th Anniversary Event being held on Saturday 29th June at a school in Biggin Hill.

We are very pleased to announce that our Rainbows raised £106.50 which included some coins donated from Jean Sumner and a donation from our bank of £30.00. On the 29th June there will be a special presentation to the three charities of all the money raised by units in our GLK County which covers the boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. Many thanks to our Rainbows who worked hard to raise the money; their families who supported them; and others who gave donations.



Girlguiding
Greater
London Kent
50th Birthday
Challenge Badge



Bromley JusB

JusB is a community-based youth centre that works with young people during their journey to independence, helping them to make the most of their potential. Over the last ten years they have worked with thousands of young people through various projects. Their vision 'A Brighter future for young people in Bromley' is very relevant in today's environment, as many young people and families struggle to cope in difficult times.

Bexley Young Carers

Being a Young Carer can have negative impacts on a young person, such as low confidence and self-esteem, low educational attendance and attainment, and poor physical and mental health. It is Bexley Young Carers' aim to reduce the negative and highlight the positive impacts of being a carer, such as increased resilience, empathy, non-judgmental attitude, and a caring nature. Bexley Young Carers delivers a support service to anyone aged 8-18 living in Bexley who is taking on caring responsibilities for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health, or substance misuse issue. They enable young carers to receive some respite from their caring responsibilities, socialise with their peers, and receive tailored support and information.

Rett Syndrome Charity

Rett Syndrome is a neurological and developmental disorder which affects female patients nearly exclusively. The symptoms of this syndrome vary from person to person. However, there are some tell-tale signs that most doctors in the UK recognise almost immediately. They include slowed physical development, such as slowed head and brain growth in girls. It is also characterised by an inability to properly use one's hands, as well as problems walking. Intellectual disabilities occur as a result, and many people who have Rett Syndrome, also suffer from seizures.

Rainbow Sleepover 11th – 12th May 2019

This year we took 15 Rainbows, nearly all our unit, and 1 Brownie on our Rainbow Sleepover to the Radcliffe Centre, near Croydon. 13 girls stayed overnight and three came for the day up to 7 pm. Our Rainbows arrived at 10.30 am at the Radcliffe Centre and the theme this year was 'The Beach'. Activities were planned around this theme. The Rainbows made bracelets, ice cream magnets, colourful fish with woven colours of the Rainbow, decorated wooden treasure chests which were later filled with treasure (chocolate coins in silver paper) when they took them home, and had a beach quiz out of doors. They also had a wide game in the wildlife area and had a camp fire, not a bonfire as some of the Rainbows called it, plus toasted their marshmallows over the campfire while they sang campfire songs.

Yes we had some rain, but managed to do everything we planned. On Saturday we had fish fingers or sausages, chips and vegetables for dinner and of course rounded this off with ice cream in cones, as you would down by the seaside. A party tea finished off the meals on this day, followed by hot chocolate and cake. All too soon it was Sunday at 10.30 am and time for the Rainbows to go home.

We have already booked our Rainbow Sleepover for next year as we celebrate our Rainbow 5th birthday - 5 years since we first opened the Rainbow Unit - and Diane will be celebrating 40 years as a Leader in Girl Guiding.

My very grateful thanks to Caroline, Julie, Wendy, Martine and Celine who gave up their weekend to look after the Rainbows and especially to Caroline who came with me on the Friday night whilst we prepared the accommodation for the girls and helped me with all the planning for the Sleepover. Our Rainbows are only allowed to go away for 24 hours as per Girlguiding rules, we hope one day we may be allowed to take them for a bit longer as we feel the girls get such a lot out of living for a short time with their Rainbow friends and learning to look after themselves whilst having fun and taking part in Guiding activities.

Diane

WHAT'S ON!

Monday 19th-Friday 23rd

Maintenance Week. Volunteers please talk to Chris Parker if you can help with painting, cleaning etc. Many hands make light work, and it's good fun to work together!



Wednesday 10 July - 7pm
Penge Congregational Church

**Penge Chamber Choir
& Alexandra Junior Choir**

An Evening of Choral Favourites

**including Zadok the Priest
& Faure's Requiem**

Tickets £5

MEN IN SHEDS NEED A HELPING HAND



Men in Sheds



"It's better than going to the doctor or taking a pill. I've made friends and it keeps me active" Gordon. Aged 73

Join the campaign to save your local Men in Sheds

Visit: www.ageuk.org.uk/bromleyandgreenwich

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook @AgeUKBandG

You can give monthly - £3 a month could make the difference - or make a one off donation

Thank you for your support

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich is the trading name for Age Concern Bromley, Registered Charity No. 1060861

Men in Sheds is a lifeline for many older men at risk of social isolation after bereavement, illness or leaving work. Evidence shows that Sheds' projects boost physical and mental health. We run a Women in Sheds PILOT project now too and workshops for older frail men in residential homes – unique in the UK. By supporting Age UK Bromley and Greenwich's Sheds, you are helping all these vital projects.

All are now 'at risk' and need funding

Men in Sheds in Eltham, Penge and Woolwich enrich our neighbourhoods by doing community projects for schools, churches, community centres and parks. Help keep this life-line project going!



HOW TO SUPPORT THE SHEDS' CAMPAIGN

You can give monthly or make a one off donation...

Visit www.ageuk.org.uk/bromleyandgreenwich or call our Finance Team donation line with a Sheds' gift on 020 8315 1865. Or send a cheque to 'Sheds' Appeal', Age UK Bromley and Greenwich, Community House, South Street, Bromley, BR1 1RH. *Please note: We are an independent, local charity and need to raise funds locally to spend locally each year. Let us know if you are a UK taxpayer because Gift Aid can make your gift worth 25% more. Thank you!*

If you want to stage a fundraising event or have a business that could sponsor the Sheds, please contact our Fundraising Manager, Jerry Doyle at: fundraising@ageukbandg.org.uk

FLOWER ROTA FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

July:

7: Memory of Mollie Johnson

14: Jean Sumner

21: Friendship Club

28: Flower Fund

August:

4: Melanie Cogan

11: Margaret Collins

18: Flower Fund

25: Joyce Perry in memory of
Rex

September:

1: Melanie Cogan

8: Pam Owen

15: Joyce Perry

22: Flower Fund

29 (Harvest): Marilyn
Nicholson



CHURCH DIARY JULY-AUGUST

2019

Tuesday 3rd July:

9.30-11 am: Café Church

7pm: Praising God. The Church.

Sunday 7th July:

10.30 am: Philippians, putting it into practice, led by Siobhan.

6.30pm: Lord's Supper, led by Chris M.

Tuesday 10th July:

7pm: Praising God. The Church.

Wednesday 10th July:

10.30-noon: Friendship Club. The Vestry.

7pm: Penge Chamber Choir concert. The Church.

Sunday 14th July:

10.30am: Service led by Douglas Rathbone.

6.30pm: Bible discussion, led by Marilyn.

Thursday 18th July:

7.30pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Sunday 21st July:

10.30am: Jacob: birthright and blessing, including the Lord's Supper, led by the Minister. Church Meeting will follow the service, in the Snug.

6.30pm: Evening Service, led by the Minister.

Thursday 25th July:

7pm: Wedding rehearsal in the Church

Saturday 27th July:

1pm: Wedding of Marcia Bent and Winston Brown.

Sunday 28th July:

10.30am: Jacob: dream at Bethel, led by Lynn.

6.30pm: Taizé service, led by Callum.

Sunday 4th August:

10.30 am: Jacob: Leah and Rachel, led by the Minister.

6.30pm: Lord's Supper, led by Marilyn.

Sunday 11th August:

10.30am: Jacob: wrestling with God, led by Jannett

6.30pm: Bible discussion, led by Chris M.

Sunday 18th August:

10.30am: Jacob: making peace with Esau, led by Chris M.

6.30pm: Evening worship, led by the Minister.

Monday 19th-Friday 23rd is Maintenance Week. Volunteers please to Chris Parker if you can help with painting, cleaning etc. Many hands make light work, and it's good fun to work together!

Sunday 25th August:

10.30am: Jacob: going to Egypt, led by Marilyn.

6.30pm: Taizé service, led by Callum.

PENGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Church gathered May 1908

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