

Penge Congregational Church



July/August 2023

From the Minister

We have been holding weekly Bible studies over Zoom since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Recently we have gained a couple of new participants and, my goodness, this has given us a new lease of life! Those of us who had become comfortable during those Sunday evening sessions have really been made to think!



Recently James chose Leviticus 20 for us to look at and asked the rest of us how we thought this long list of very intimidating “thou shalt nots” fitted in with what we believe today as Christians. We had a really good discussion and I’m not going to tell you exactly how we ended up - read it yourself and see what you think.

However, we did note that the Law of Moses was a rule for Jews who were heading out of exile in Egypt towards the Promised Land where they were going to encounter people who lived as pagans: there was a need for them to understand that they were to live in a holy manner because God is holy. The customs and practices of the people living in Canaan were not compatible with that holy living.

We also noted that the rules in Leviticus were framed as a list of prohibitions: you must not do these things. But the commandments of Jesus are positive: “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind and all your strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.” Matthew 7, part of the account of the Sermon on the Mount, recounts the Golden rule: “Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.”

This is so stunningly different from the “thou shalt nots” of Leviticus, and it is so because we as Christians live under the new covenant sealed by the death of Jesus on the cross, and we have the Holy Spirit within us guiding us in our thoughts and action.

But, here’s the thing: the “thou shalt nots” are a get out clause. As long as we don’t do the things that are forbidden, we can just sit on our sofas and relax. We don’t have to do anything; we just have to avoid certain things. HOWEVER, switch the negative to the positive and there is an imperative to be active. In order to do unto others as we would have others do to us, we have to act. If we see someone being treated unjustly, or hear someone being abused, the golden rule expects us to get up and do something about it.

Loving our neighbours is an active state. The Epistle of James tells us that those of us who want to live in Christ, who want to practise true and pure life in Jesus, must do as Scripture says including caring for those in need. Our faith in Christ prompts us to look

after the vulnerable and keep ourselves from negative influences. That's the true faith that God accepts.

Pam



I submitted the following letter to the Church Annual Meeting on 11th June. Deacons are meeting to consider the way forward and members of the church family are asked to reflect prayerfully over the summer ahead of the September church meeting.

Dear PCC family,

At the January 2019 Church meeting, I informed the church that I would end my ministry when I turned 70. This is to give you formal notice, therefore, that I shall retire on 31st December 2023, two days before my 70th birthday.

I became non-stipendiary Assistant Minister in June 2012 and Minister on 1st April 2015. As I was already

in my sixties, I accepted your Call in the knowledge that my ministry would hopefully offer a period of stability while the church reflected and sought the will of God about its longer term future. In some ways, it has been a difficult time: the church hasn't had a Church Secretary during my ministry and fulfilling that role too has been a burden. And then came COVID...

Although the lockdowns and trying to sustain my ministry while the church wasn't meeting in person was a challenge, I believe it also gave us a pause, an opportunity to look at our worship practices and reset. Although we are now a smaller Sunday congregation, I do believe we are a more Spirit-filled one; and that is something I am proud of.

I have been a member of this church for 30 years and you really are my family. I shall miss worshipping with you and I very much hope we can keep in touch on a personal basis. But it is time now for you to move on as a worshipping church. It is rarely a good thing for a minister to go on for too long: the only person whose personality should be stamped on a church is the Head, Jesus Christ. I will continue to pray for each one of you, and of course for the church as a worshipping family. I know you will continue as the Body of Christ to seek always to do what is honouring to God. Keep praying; keep worshipping joyfully; keep seeking ways to witness to Jesus Christ to those you meet!

And God bless you always!

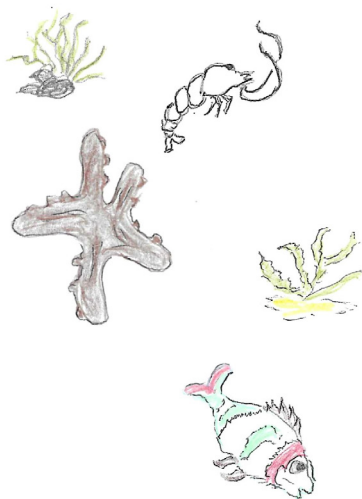
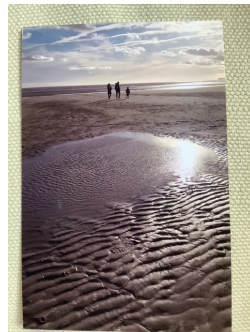
Pam

Summer has come...

with a puzzle from Jean Sumner

Solve the **Seaside** anagrams:

1. HFSI
2. NEZOO
3. ICFLF
4. OLOP
5. NDSA
6. EDESAWE
7. MIHPSR
8. CLMA
9. DIET
10. PKLE
11. SOCAT
12. NROCET
13. CHABE
14. DYED
15. UYBO
16. RPIE



Answers to the summertime quiz (previous page!)

1. FISH
2. OZONE
3. CLIFF
4. POOL
5. SAND
6. SEAWEED
7. SHRIMP
8. CLAM
9. TIDE
10. KELP
11. COAST
12. CORNET
13. BEACH
14. EDDY
15. BUOY
16. PIER



Service theme for July and August

We thought we would spend July and August looking at the 3 great Jewish patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Even with 9 Sundays to play with, we can only select a few highlights. If you want to go into the subject, we would recommend you to read the Book of Genesis beginning at Chapter 12 and reading to the end of the book.

2nd July: The covenant with Abraham confirmed.

Genesis 17: 1-14

9th July: Abraham intercedes for Sodom.

Genesis 18: 16-33

16th July: (Communion): Abraham's faith tested.

Genesis 22: 1-19.

23rd July: A wife for Isaac.

Genesis 24: 1-4; 9-27.



August readings over the page...

30th July: Isaac, Jacob and Esau.

Genesis 25: 19-34.

6th August: Jacob steals Esau's blessing.

Genesis 27: 1-10; 18-33

13th August: Jacob at Bethel, the blessing confirmed.

Genesis 28: 10-22

20th August: (Communion): Jacob returns home.

Genesis 32: 1-21

27th August: Jacob wrestles with God.

Genesis 32: 22-32.



**Read about Pam's September Church Meeting on
page 20**



Helping the People of Penge, meet the NEW SHOP ON THE HIGH STREET!

As befits a self-confessed charity shopaholic I was second in the queue of a dozen awaiting the opening of a fresh name in Penge shops on Saturday 17th June!

It was in the April 2023 issue (page 10) of PCC newsletter that I first read of the hope of LIVING WELL BROMLEY to open their first shop in Penge. Thanks to a lot of support from many sources, including St.Christopher's Hospice, that hope has now come to fruition at

**135
HIGH
STREET**



The very words - living well - are a concept to conjure with, something we all aspire to do whilst realising it is impossible for so many to achieve without a helping hand. It is thanks to the vision and volunteers of LIVING WELL BROMLEY that right now more people can find food and support that can change lives.

With a food bank, cafe, hot meals and advice provided FREE on specific days at Holy Trinity Church, 66 Lennard Road, SE20, everyone is welcome with no referral or voucher needed. The attractive shop will be a wonderful asset for raising additional funds as well, of course, as doing a worthy job of recycling pre-loved clothes, accessories, bric-a-brac etc.in the community. Good, saleable donated items will help to keep the shop buzzing, as it was on the opening morning and, if we

are honest, we often need to de-clutter from time to time!

(And did I make a purchase? Of course! As an ex fashion editor an Italian brown leather bag caught my eye and I still had change from a fiver! Next time I visit will be with items to replenish their stock!)



There is now even more we can do to support the charity (registered number 1157385) right on our doorstep, to accompany the food or money we may already set aside for LIVING WELL. I wish the staff and volunteers at 135 joy and satisfaction with their venture!

Jenny Froude

Back to Basics at our Church...

Each year we set aside a few days to do odd jobs around the church. Things like painting doors, minor repairs or anything you feel needs to be done! Also making tea to keep ourselves going.

Maintenance Week is going to be **7th to 10th August**. Please come along and lend a hand. Chris Parker will be able to find a task to suit everyone.



Dorothea writes:

Last summer I unexpectedly came across a new plant among the tangle of growth in one of my garden beds. Because of its leaves and thorny stems it looked very much like a rose. This was a mystery, as I had certainly not planted it, and it was too far away from any other rosebush to be a sucker.

All through that summer, and into the autumn and spring, I watched to keep this new plant clear of the sprawling luxuriance around it. And then, in May, its



buds opened into beautiful, deep pink blooms. I'm sure, from its colour and shape (and reference to my rose books!), that it is **Rosa Gallica Officinalis**, one of the oldest European roses, sometimes also called "The

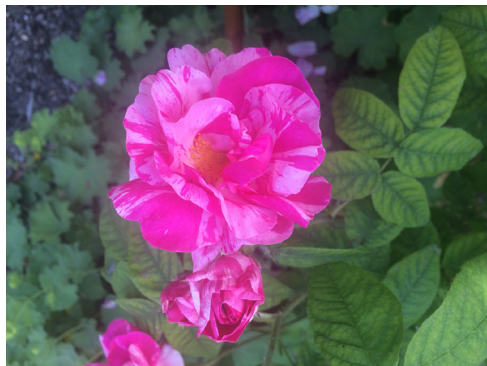
Apothecary's Rose", in those days the major source in Europe of medicine and rose oil. (During the Second World War, I think rose hip syrup was a valuable source of Vitamin C, when oranges were unobtainable).

At one point in its history, Gallica Officinalis "sported" and produced the beautiful striped rose Gallica Versicolour, better known as Rosa Mundi; named, it is said, after *Fair Rosamund*, mistress of King Henry II, which would date it from the mid-twelfth century. I have two bushes of Rosa Mundi in my garden: whether a

chance seed has been dropped by the wind or a bird in another part of my garden, and grown, reverting to its parent Rosa Gallica, is still a mystery. But what a lovely gift for me!

A former Rector of St.George's sometimes introduced prayer "O God of Surprises...."

O God of Surprises, thank You for Your gift of this beautiful rose.



and Rosa Mundi

AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Campfire Worship

Friday 7th Jul : 8.00-9.30pm



Warm your soul with some informal worship!

Bring your instruments, voices, a favourite song, reading or poem so we can make a joyful noise to the Lord. Refreshments provided.

Avenue Baptist Church,

Avenue Rd, Beckenham, BR3 4SA



@avenue.baptist.church

Contact general@steveking.org.uk for more info





Waste not - want not!

Thanks to Jean Hurle for sending the following:

A Southern Baptist Minister was completing a temperance sermon.

With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I would take it and pour it into the river." And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced, with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn number 365, "Shall we gather at the river."

.....

And now a Grandpa experience:

When my grandson asked how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."

"Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised. "Mine says I'm four to six."



8TH
JULY

2023

3pm

PENGE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

BIRDSONG

Beautiful music for choirs
and instruments inspired
by birds and the sky

PENGE CHAMBER CHOIR
PENGE JUNIOR VOICES

AND GUESTS

Tickets £10/£5

PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS
OPEN MONDAYS
MONDAY 15TH MAY

MONDAY 19TH JUNE

MONDAY 17TH JULY

£5 tickets for audience and performers

Under 16s go free

Doors 7pm Starts 7.30pm

Performers please register by

Friday before at

pengeopenmondays@gmail.com

Relaxed and informal atmosphere

BYOB...

Penge Congregational Church
172 High Street Penge, SE20 7QS
Tramlink: Beckenham Road tram stop
Nearby train stations: Kent House,
Penge East, Penge West, Clock House
Bus routes: 75, 176, 197, 356, 354,
358, 227, 194, N3
FREE PARKING at a
nearby multistorey carpark

Kenilworth Road Street Party



Can you see the Annual tug-of-war in the photo, with the Church tower in the background?.

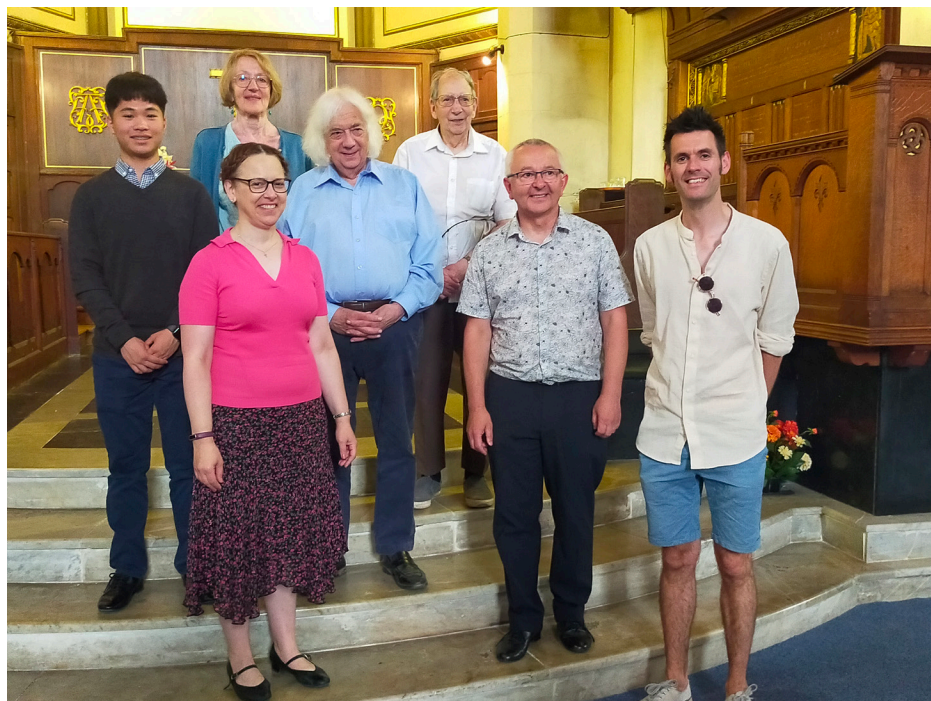
Odd houses versus even numbered houses were pretty evenly matched.

Pam had the onerous task of judging the baking competition. Brownies this year! Well done, Brownies!

Lots of fun meeting neighbours and the church members are welcomed as part of the street. Church chairs and tables make this event easy for everyone.

Tables were also used for the Festival in the Royston field and they are often borrowed for different events. This is all part of us **belonging to our local Penge community.**





The organists above are **Yoming Guo, Bridget West, Sarah Best, John Webber, Michael Cooke, Alan Langridge, and Niall Baxter.**

The Penge Festival concert was a lively event with joyful music. The church is becoming known as a centre for music of all kinds.

Watson and Watkins did a great job repairing the engine and returning it to the basement in good time for the concert. **Sheppard and Cross** tuned the pipes and found one organ pipe broken (through fatigue) which they removed as it needed repair in the workshop. The Great Trumpet 8' mid e pipe has now been replaced.

September Church Meeting

At the Church Annual Meeting on 11th June, we said there would be a Church Meeting in July, at which we would talk further about the way forward after the Minister retires at the end of the year. On reflection, Deacons think this is too soon: members of the church family need time to reflect and to pray over the summer. Deacons will meet together before the summer break and then we will all take time to seek the will of Christ for his church here at PCC.

At present we are looking at 17th September for the next Church Meeting but Deacons will confirm nearer the time. Chris Parker sometimes works at weekends and Jannett has caring responsibilities for her mother, so we will announce a firm date when we know that all Deacons can attend.

Nothing can happen without prayer, so please pray about this, fervently and persistently.

Pam



PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

WHIRLWIND ENSEMBLE

This virtuoso quartet will be performing light popular classics including works by Debussy, Walton and traditional English Folk Songs.

**22ND JULY 2023
1PM**

£5 entry on the door
cash and card taken
under 16s go free
tea, coffee and biscuits served on arrival

Penge Congregational Church
172 High Street Penge, SE20 7QS
Tramlink: Beckenham Road tram stop
Nearby train stations: Kent House,
Penge East, Penge West, Clock House
Bus routes: 75, 176, 197, 356, 354,
358, 227, 194, N3
FREE PARKING at a
nearby multistorey carpark



Website:

www.pccweb.co.uk



To arrange a marriage service, funeral, baptism or similar event, please contact the Minister:

Pam Owen on:

pccprayer@outlook.com

To book any other events (concerts etc.), please contact
Bernie Hall:

pcclettings@outlook.com

Tel: 07999 296 686 (new number)

For enquiries related to this website please contact
Callum McShane on:

callum.mcshane@gmail.com

To submit articles for the monthly newsletter:

margaret@ecoharmony.org

Deacons at the moment are

Jannett Ashley

Douglas Rathbone

Chris Parker

Lynn McShane (treasurer)

lynn.mcshane22@gmail.com