

Penge Congregational Church



Sketch by Chris McShane

June 2018 Newsletter

From the Minister

At the end of April/beginning of May, we had two services which focused on John 15: 1-17, where Jesus, teaching his disciples for the last time before going out to the Garden of Gethsemane, talks of the True Vine: "I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener... yes, I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit". In our first service, led by Chris Parker, we looked at what it means to remain in Christ. In our second, led by me, we thought about Jesus' command that we love one another, about the obstacles that make it difficult to love others, and about what we ought to ask God to help us with so that we can bear much fruit for him.

There is so much in these 17 verses that we could have done a much longer series of services on them. We didn't have time to do more than glance at verse 7: "If you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you wish, and it will be granted!"

This is about faith but we need to base that faith on God's word, on his promise to us: Jesus goes on, verse 8: "My true disciples bear much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father". We must be sure we base our faith on God's actual word, on the promise he has made, not on some wishful thinking on our part!

When Jesus said, "You may ask whatever you wish, and it will be granted", he didn't mean that God will pander to our every whim. He meant that God will respond to every longing we may have in our hearts for personal righteousness: what St Paul calls in Galatians 5 "the fruits of the Spirit". You may remember that these are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If we hunger and thirst for such attributes within ourselves, and ask God for them, he will begin to satisfy us. It doesn't happen all at once of course; we don't become saintly people over night! It takes time- spiritual growth just like physical growth is a gradual process. The main thing is to persist, to keep asking God to help you. In his time and at his pace, he will grant what we ask. God doesn't make promises he doesn't keep.

May God bless us as we seek to do the work of his kingdom!

Pam

Pam's day off is Monday. Please don't contact her on her day off unless you have a pastoral concern that is really urgent. As ever, issues concerning the building- bookings or maintenance- should be notified to Bernie on pcclettings@outlook.com or pccmaintain@outlook.com. If it is an urgent matter, please phone Bernie on 07900 518537

News of the wider church family

Joan Fairbrother, who has lived in Bexhill-on-Sea for some years, has broken her arm. We pray for her swift recovery.

We have heard from Kathleen Sewter. She and Morris live in Bury St Edmunds, and Kathleen tells us her church has recently started a Cafe Church on Sundays at 9am: breakfast is followed by informal worship in which her music group takes part.

At the end of 2016, we were very pleased to be contacted by Chris Scott who, with his wife Gerry, were members of PCC before moving away to be nearer family. Sadly, Chris passed away in January 2017 and Gerry went to live with her daughter Linda. Linda has recently informed us that Gerry passed peacefully away at home in April of this year. We offer our sincere condolences to Linda and the family, but are so pleased that we were able to re-establish contact with Chris and Gerry.



Joan Sole

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Joan Sole, who lived in Wales, died yesterday. She was a very dear friend.

Joan's eldest daughter Ann gave me this sad news. Joan had not been well for a number of weeks and I spoke to her on Tuesday 15th May; she had a chest infection and was very poorly. Joan was admitted to hospital on Wednesday 16th and died of pneumonia on the 19th May in hospital. She was aged 88.

I had known Joan for over 46 years. She was a Brownie Leader for many years and a District Assistant for the Penge and Anerley District. Joan was a church member and Deacon at PCC. Her youngest daughter Marion was at one time PCC caretaker and lived in the church flat. Joan used to live in Percy Road.

Below is a photo of Joan with her late husband, Ken.

Diane Pask



INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

**FRIDAY 8TH JUNE –
SATURDAY 9TH JUNE
2018**



UNION CHAPEL, ISLINGTON, LONDON

Friday 8th June

Join us for a short walking tour delivered by Christian Heritage London to see "where the world was changed by the Bible message". Start at 7pm at St Paul's Cathedral.

Saturday 9th June

Union Chapel, Islington, 19b Compton Terrace, N1 2UN

9.30 – 10.25am – Tea and Coffee will be served, **1pm** Lunch time, **4.15pm** Tea and Coffee will be served.

The church will be hosting us this year – at lunch time there is an option of ordering lunch through the church café run by homeless volunteers. Otherwise you can bring your own lunch or visit one of the local shops. There is a full hour for lunch to chat and catch up with friends old and new.

There is also a range of information and charity stands to browse around.

Directions.

By Car Post Code **N1 2UN** however we strongly encourage people to use public transport as parking in the vicinity is extremely limited. Union Chapel is outside the congestion zone.

The recommended car park is Upper Street Car Park - Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street,
London **N1 0PW**

By Train The nearest tube stop is **Highbury & Islington** station on the **Victoria line** and the **Overground** network. It is less than five minutes from Union Chapel – just turn right out of the station and you can see the red brick tower of the Chapel.

By Bus – The following Buses stop close 4, 19, 30, 43, 271, 277, 279, 393 but remember you will need an oyster card or contactless payment – buses in London don't accept cash.

Lunch is £5 and can be ordered as a picnic bag which will contain a Wrap, a bean salad, a piece of fruit and homemade cinnamon bun or brownie – you can also bring your own lunch.

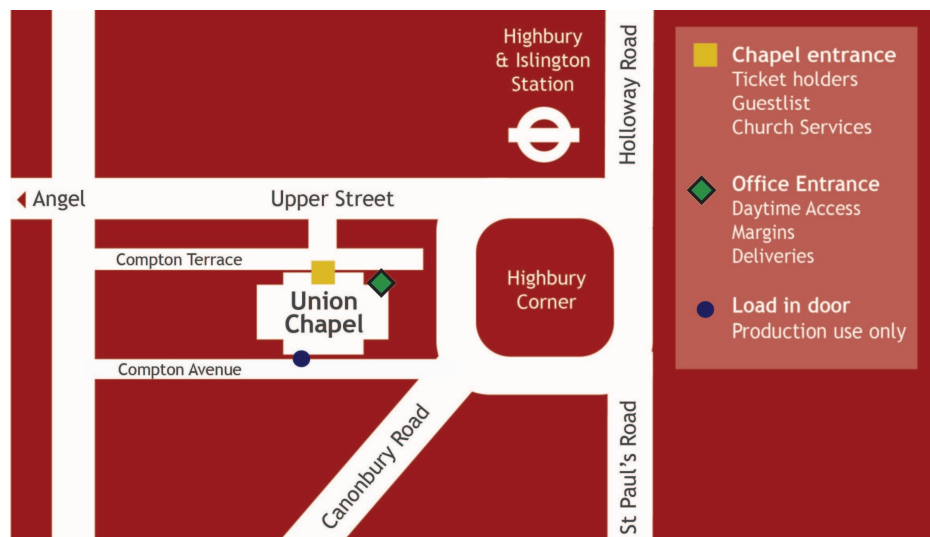
Children's work Joy Howell children's worker for the SW Midlands and Annette Dickenson children's worker for NW Area will lead the sessions and engage all children 10 and under in a programme based on the theme. We ask you to pre-register if possible for numbers.

Youth work Judith and Johnny our Church Support workers will launch the summer challenge and encourage our young people to be together, share fellowship and fun.

Saturday evening

We invite you to stay at Union Chapel for an open mic event, sit and relax, chat, sing, share a poem or a drama. Come prepared to contribute it will be a night to encourage one another.

The bar will be open and light refreshments available.



Flower Rota for the next three months

June

3: The Guides
10: Diane Pask
17: Jean and Rosemarie
24: Marilyn Nicholson

July

1: Pat Clarke
8: In memory of Mollie Johnson
15: Jean Sumner
22: Friendship Club
29: Pam Owen (Christina's wedding on the 28th)

August

5: Melanie Cogan
12: Margaret Collins
19: Lionel Sawkins in memory of Maureen
26: Joyce Perry in memory of Rex





Penge Festival time is upon us again! There are many events, something for everyone. You can see a full timetable by searching pengefestival.org, in the SE20 magazine or at Penge Library.

The Festival starts with the Fete on Royston Field on Saturday 2nd June and finishes on 23rd. As you may know, because we hosted it last year, there is always a Festival Thanksgiving Service and this year it is at St Anthony's RC Church in Padua Road at 9.30am on Sunday 10th June

A particularly appropriate event in this centenary year of the end of WW1 is a talk called "Home Front Penge- how we lived through the First World War"; on 12th June at 7pm, Melvin Hall, Melvin Road.

However, the most significant event, because we are hosting it, is the now annual Penge Festival Organ Recital at PCC at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th June. Entry is free although there will be a retiring collection for the Penge Festival charities (always local causes). Penge Partners will be serving interval refreshments and Marilyn tells us the music will be a programme of light hearted organ pieces.



The Coventry Cross of Nails, Berlin



On the night of 14-15 November 1940, Coventry Cathedral was destroyed by the Luftwaffe in an air raid. The next day, the Cathedral Provost had three large medieval nails from a wooden roof truss joined together to make a cross. He also had the words "Father, forgive" carved into the wall behind the altar. The Cross of Nails became a symbol of forgiveness and peace; and replicas were given in the post-war years to 200 war damaged places around the world. In January 1987, one such replica was taken to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (see photo below) in what was then West Berlin. This church was destroyed in an Allied air raid in November 1943; after the war the decision was taken to incorporate the ruined bell tower, the only bit still standing, into a new collection of buildings. Today it is the Hall of Remembrance, a monument to the folly of war and violence. Inside is the replica Coventry Cross of Nails standing next to the Icon Cross, given by the Russian Orthodox Church as a sign of reconciliation in 1988.

Each Friday at noon, a prayer written in 1959 is said in front of the original Cross of Nails in Coventry Cathedral. At the same time each week, it is said in German in front of the replica in Berlin.

Here is the Coventry Prayer of Reconciliation:

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class: Father forgive!

The covetous desire of people and nations to possess what is not their own: Father forgive!

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste to the earth: Father forgive!

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others: Father forgive!

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee: Father forgive!

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children: Father forgive!

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God: Father forgive!

Amen



Church Diary June 2018

Sunday 3rd:

10.30 am: Encounters with God: Job, led by Chris McShane

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

Tuesday 5th:

9.30-11 am: Café Church

7.30pm: Penge Festival Organ Recital, in the church.

Saturday 9th:

10.30 am-4.30pm: Cong Fed National Assembly, Union Chapel
Islington.

Sunday 10th:

10.30am: Encounters with God: The Oaks of Mamre, led by Chris
Parker.

6.30pm: Bible discussion, led by the Minister.

Monday 11th:

7.30pm: Worship Team Meeting. The Vestry.

Wednesday 13th:

10.30-noon: Friendship Club. The Vestry.

Thursday 14th:

7.30pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Sunday 17th:

10.30am: Encounters with God: Daniel, including the Lord's Supper,
led by the Minister.

2.00pm: Piano recital, by Alvin Moisey, in aid of the Alzheimer's
Society.

6.30pm: Evening Service, led by Chris McShane.

Sunday 24th:

10.30am: Encounters with God: Isaiah, led by Marilyn.

6.30pm: Evening service, led by the Minister.

Penge Congregational Church

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Church gathered May 1908

Minister

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