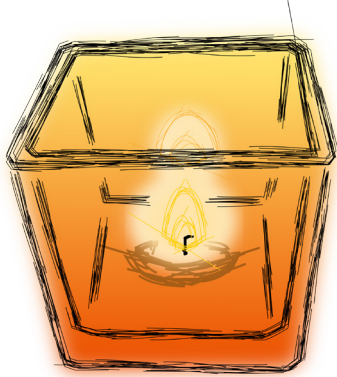


Penge Congregational Church



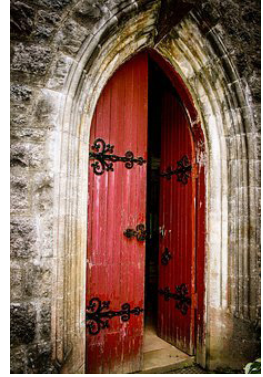
Apostles touched by the fire of the Spirit

June 2022



Minister's Letter

The first Sunday in June this year is **Pentecost**. Nowadays I suspect that word means little to most people. Even the alternative English word for it, Whitsun, has gone by the board. In this secular age, we have Late Spring Bank Holiday instead.



If you go back and read the Old Testament, you will discover that Pentecost was one of the Jewish feast days. Only they didn't call it Pentecost. That's the Greek name. The Jews called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. It was a harvest festival: in that hot climate, there were two harvests a year and Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of our month of May or sometimes in early June.

Modern Christians observe Pentecost as a special day, not to celebrate a wheat harvest, but to remember the Pentecost festival after the Crucifixion and Resurrection when the Holy Spirit came down on the believers in Jerusalem and the church was born. During that great block of teaching that Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper, he promised that, when he had left them and gone into heaven, he would send the Holy Spirit to them. When the 12 apostles were filled with the **Spirit**,

it gave them a greater understanding of the Gospel and the ability to take it out into the world.

If you read Acts 2, the account of that Day of Pentecost, you will see that, immediately he was filled with the Spirit, Peter stood up and preached to a great crowd of people, and many hundreds of them became followers of Christ. Up to then, Peter was someone who often got things wrong, often put his foot in his mouth. But, because of grace and mercy, he was chosen to be the one who stood up in front of this throng, to proclaim the great truth of Jesus as Lord.

This is often what happens in the Kingdom of God whose values are opposite to those of the world; where the least are the most important and the greatest the least. This somewhat blundering man who often used his mouth before he had engaged his brain indeed became the Rock on which the church was built, just as Jesus had promised him.

And so it has been ever since. The Holy Spirit falls where it will. It fell on that day of Pentecost on a group of believers in Jerusalem. And it grew from that group of believers who followed a Jewish rabbi from Nazareth who died and rose again, and suddenly the church broke out into the world. Suddenly it became that unstoppable force that it still is today, even in our secular world. Pentecost has taken on a new significance for us. Pentecost is the living reality of the moment that the Spirit of God burst forth, and flowed out into our world, and all of us, everyone whom it

touches, can proclaim the Gospel just as Peter did in Jerusalem all those years ago.



Church Annual Meeting

The Church's constitution requires us to hold an Annual Meeting to receive reports from the Minister and the Treasurer, as well as a summary of the state of the building and what's going on with hall bookings.

This year's meeting will take place on **Sunday 12th June** after morning service at the back of the church. We aim to start at 11.45 and it will be quite short!

Theme and readings for June 2022

The first Sunday of June is Pentecost, when we think about the “birthday of the church”, the day the Holy Spirit came upon the believers in Jerusalem. On the subsequent three Sundays we shall look at the working of the **Spirit as narrated in the Acts of the Apostles**. Obviously that’s what the whole book is about, but we are choosing three different signs or miracles to reflect different aspects of the Holy Spirit at work.

Sunday 5th June. Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-21 and John 14: 8-17.

Sunday 12th June.

Acts 3:1-10. Peter and John heal a lame man.

Sunday 19th June.

Acts 9: 32-43. Peter heals Aeneas and raises Dorcas.

Sunday 26th June.

Acts 16: 25-34. Paul and Silas in prison.

Beckenham Chorale's Platinum Jubilee Concert

Saturday 11th June 2022, 6 p.m. at St. George's Church, High Street, Beckenham.

A celebratory concert of music by Handel including the four famous Anthems composed for the Coronation of George II in 1727: Zadok the Priest, My heart is inditing, Let thy hand be strengthened, and The King shall rejoice. Also the orchestra, St. Paul's Sinfonia, will play The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (from the Oratorio 'Solomon').

The concert will last approximately one hour and we invite you to join us afterwards to enjoy a glass of wine or juice which together with your programme is included in the price of the ticket.

Tickets will be available on the door (card or cash) or online at www.beckenhamchorale.org.uk

Turn to page 18 to see the beautiful poster advertising the concert.



Living Well Bromley

Our local community project, at Holy Trinity Church in Lennard Road, helps people with issues including alcohol and drug addiction, debt management, managing money, writing CVs, laundering and repairing clothes, and much more. But we probably know it best for its community lunches and its food bank, which, unlike some other food banks, doesn't require a referral but is freely available to all in need. The food bank relies entirely on the generosity of local people in donating money, food and essential toiletries. The people of Penge are generous, but we have a cost of living crisis and inflation nudging double digits, so everyone is feeling the pinch to some extent. Inevitably donations to Living Well are dropping at just the time when demand is rising.

In the first week of May, Living Well handed out a record 215 food parcels - many to adults with children. So you can see they have a problem. By the end of the following week, the food bank had almost completely run out of tinned food. So extra help is desperately needed.

We can all donate food in Sainsbury's Penge - there is a box behind the check-outs. But, if we are able, we are

asked to donate financially. A one-off payment of course is very welcome but a monthly donation is even better because it helps Living Well know what resources it will have over a longer period. You can give as little as £2 a month: that amount will fund a hot meal for one person at the community lunch. £10 provides 4 bags of food for one person. £20 buys an hour of counselling.

Times are hard for all of us right now, but, if you can support this truly local project and help it support our Penge community, please do!



We found Barbara a couple of Sundays ago - working away in the church garden after Morning Service.

What a joy to see her again!



Linda

Here is Linda Pearson with her **Easter bonnet**. It has been wonderful to have her back regularly at church. She is living closer to Penge than she was for the past 10 years. Linda's favourite hymn is number 200 in Mission Praise. ***Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with thee.***

It is amazing to know that God doesn't change. His love for us is forever. We can always call on him.

Linda likes to do **cross stitch** which she learned at school. We made some of her squares into a cover for the piano in the hall about 5 years ago. This is what it looks like.





This should bring back a few memories!

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were children in the 60's, 70's and early 80's probably shouldn't have survived, because...

Our baby cots were covered with brightly-coloured lead-based paint, which was promptly chewed and licked.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, or latches on doors or cabinets and it was fine to play with pans.

When we rode our bikes, we wore no helmets, just flip flops and fluorescent 'clackers' on our wheels.

As children we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the passenger seat was a treat.



We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle - tasted the same.

We ate dripping sandwiches, bread and butter pudding and drank fizzy pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

We shared one drink with four friends, from one bottle or can and no one actually died from this.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps, and then went top speed down the hill, only to find we

forgot about brakes. After running into stinging nettles a couple of times we learned to solve this problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back before it got dark. No one was able to reach us all day and no one minded.

We did not have Play Stations or X-boxes, no video games at all. No 99 channels on TV, no video tape films, no 'surround' sound, no mobile 'phones, no personal computers, no Internet chat rooms. We had friends; we went outside and found them.

We played 'elastics' and street rounders, and sometimes that ball really hurt.

We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits. They were accidents. We learnt not to do the same thing again.

We had fights, punched each other hard and got black and blue. We learned to get over it.

We walked to friends' homes.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate live stuff, and although we were told it would happen, we did not have many eyes out, nor did the live stuff live inside us forever.

We rode bikes in packs of seven and wore our coats by only the hood. Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the Law was unheard of. They actually sided with the Law. Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors ever. The past fifty years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you are one of them. Congratulations!

Pass this on to others who have had the luck to grow up as real kids, before lawyers and government regulated our lives.... *for our own good.*

*This was sent in by **Jean (Sumner)***

Thanks so much, Jean, brought back lots of memories to me and I remember playing 'conkers' too!





organ

recitals

**Penge Congregational Church
during the Penge Festival**

Tuesday 14 June 7.30pm, and Saturday 25 June 4pm.
Southwark & South London Society of Organists

The Answers to the Quiz

When I was given the **St George's Day Quiz** by **Helen**, I agreed with her that it was rather difficult - in fact, I could not answer a single one of the original TEN questions. I should say firstly that Helen received the challenge when visiting the **Elm Road Baptist Church**.

I added the eleventh question so that there is at least ONE that everyone could answer - when do **we** celebrate St George - the Patron Saint of England?

Maybe you didn't get that far?

I must say that the very first question intrigued me! I had never heard of the Holy Helpers! Years ago, I would have gone to the **public library** and looked up 'Holy Helpers' in the **Encyclopaedia Britannica**, but now I have the **Internet** - and there they were displayed, all **14** of them. And St George, indeed, is one of them!

So, let's explore:

St George's Day Quiz

Question 1.

St George is one of the so-called "Fourteen Holy Helpers". Name **four** more of the "Fourteen Holy Helpers"

(None are Biblical but all are **followers of Jesus** and have served Him in the centuries following His Incarnation; see how many you recognise)

In alphabetical order:

Agathius

Barbara; Blaise;

Christopher; Catherine of Alexandria; Cyriacus;

Denis;

Erasmus; Eustace;

George; Giles;

Margaret of Antioch;

Pantaleon;

Vitus.



All of these people have dedicated their lives to the Lord and have been ‘marked out’ as being ‘helpers’ in certain of their strengths.

Starting with the last - Vitus - any memory conjured up?

For me, I remember my very dear grandmother who, when I couldn’t sit still (for whatever reason) would say:

“Be still, or you’ll get **St Vitus’ Dance!**”

Thus, Vitus is a helper for those with Epilepsy.

And imagine my surprise when I passed through the ‘maze’ of the Civic Centre in Bromley last week, and I saw a notice, **St Blaise** pointing to one of the many halls.

I leave it to you, to follow up on any of the other Holy Helpers.

What did you know of the rest of the questions?

Qu.2 The next one involved **William Shakespeare** 1564 - 1616; I knew he died on St George's Day in Stratford upon Avon;

What if Rupert Brooke also died on the 23rd April? Yes, he was born in 1887 and died on that date in 1915. And the corner 'that is for ever England' is in Greece where he is buried.

Qu.3 George is certainly the patron Saint of the Scouts. Robert Baden-Powell would have seen to that!

Qu.4 The Red Cross is the flag of England (and there are plenty of those around at the moment!) - it is the cross of St George, and since he was a martyr, it could also be known as the Martyrs' cross. The 8th century historian, Bede, named George as among the martyrs.

Qu.5 George is believed to have died in the year 303. This is based on the fact that there was a large scale persecution of Christians in the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian in 303 AD

Qu.6 If under Diocletian, George would have been de-capitated.

Qu.7 Which group of people brought the legend of George and the Dragon to England? Crusaders of the 12th century.

Qu. 8 The modern day country in which the slaying of the dragon supposedly took place is Libya.

Qu.9 Why is St George's Day celebrated on **6th May** in Georgia and many other Eastern countries that hold George as their Patron Saint?

The **Gregorian** Calendar came into existence in **October 1582**. It was introduced by Pope **Gregory XIII** as a replacement for the **Julian** Calendar - in an attempt to stop the drift of the calendar with respect to the Equinoxes.

The average year in the Julian Calendar is reckoned as 365.25 days whereas the average year in the Gregorian Calendar is 365.2425 days - very slightly shorter.

So back in October 1582, people realised that Christmas would come TEN days quicker that year!!

The Eastern Orthodox Church still calculates on the Julian Calendar, which is why the dates for Easter each year do not always agree with our dates AND why St George's Day in our country is on 23rd April rather than 6th May in Georgia. (Now 13 days apart)

After that, the answer to Question 10 is shorter: In which country is St George thought to have been born?



Turkey, possibly in the area of Cappadocia.

I hope you enjoyed that?

I did. *Editor*



Beckenham
Chorale

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Christian Aid

It is that time of the year again when we risk our fingers being bitten by the letter boxes in people's doors!! Yes, it is Christian Aid week.

We have an e-envelope this year which shows how much we have collected. A target of £500. We have dropped reminder (paper) envelopes in some roads - but not as many as in the past. The team is a bit small to go knocking on doors but hopefully people will still be generous. Please give if you can, and help families around the world to live better. You can go to our website <http://pccweb.co.uk> or use the QR code *right* (if you have a fancy phone). Or just send us a cheque or cash and we can forward it to Christian Aid.



Lynn



Hail the day that sees him rise! Alleluia

There is an apocryphal story about the period of earthly time between Ascension and Pentecost, the period when Jesus has ascended to the Father but the Spirit has yet to descend.

When Jesus arrives in heaven, the angels welcome him and take care of him.

After a while one of the angels says to Jesus, “So, my Lord, you did a great job down there, but now you are back up here. We were just wondering, what provision have you made for the continuation of your ministry, the proclamation of the Gospel and the saving of humankind?”

To which Jesus replies, “Well, I have left a dozen or so of my **friends** to take care of things.”

“Right”, says the angel, “And what will you do if they fail, or give up? What other provision have you made?”

And Jesus answers, “I have made no other provision.”

In the Gospel of St John, we read these words:

“This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

“You are my **friends**, if you do what I command you.”

St John 15:12-14



***It will be forty days from
Easter on Thursday 26th May -
Ascension Day.***

***Another ten days and it will be
Pentecost!***

Website:

www.pccweb.co.uk



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

Pam Owen on:

pamjowen@hotmail.com

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

pcclettings@outlook.com

Tel: 07900 518 537

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