

Penge Congregational Church



March 2018 Newsletter

LENT GROUPS 2018



The Bible Through Art

5 Tuesdays in Lent:

20th February

27th February

6th March

13th March

20th March

We will meet in the Vestry from 7.30pm.

There will be about 20 minutes worship,
then Chris McShane will help us explore the
Bible through Art from 8pm until 9pm when
we will end in prayer together.

Please ring the bell at the Kenilworth Road side door!

From the Minister

The photo on the front of this month's Newsletter is a source at once of great joy and of great frustration to me!

This is the sight I am privileged to see each morning from my kitchen window when I first go downstairs. It is the cross on top of St Michael and All Angels Church in Ravenscroft Road. That is the great joy.

The great frustration is that the cross is just south of east from my window and at more or less the exact point where the sun first appears above the roof tops. So the sight I first see on a nice day is of the cross silhouetted against the rising sun. The symbol of the joy of Easter. And yet, because you can't point an ordinary little camera like mine straight at the sun, I can never capture the image!

So the photo you see is of the cross behind bare trees. Which is I suppose appropriate for Lent but, oh, I would love to have a photo of that cross against the sun rising in all its majesty!

I am writing this at the beginning of Lent but I am also conscious that, by the time you see our April Newsletter, Easter will be here. So this month I am really thinking of both Lent and Easter at once.

Lent is for Christians a time of preparation and of reflection just as it was for Jesus. The Gospel writers tell us of the baptism of Jesus, of God sending the Holy Spirit down on Jesus to commission him in the work he had been sent to do. Then Jesus went into the wilderness of Judea where he fasted for forty days and forty nights, and during which time he was repeatedly tempted by the devil to turn away from the task laid down by his Father.

Lent commemorates that forty day period. In days gone by, Christians didn't eat meat during that time, and they abstained from pleasurable pastimes. This is why, even today, people often give up something they enjoy during Lent. I have to admit I don't do this: I think it is more positive to do something extra for God, which is why I would encourage you to follow our daily Lent readings that you will find elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. Perhaps you could put some money aside each day to donate to Christian Aid. Or, if you really want to give something up, choose something that will benefit God's creation and stop using cotton buds with plastic stems, or non-recyclable disposable coffee cups.

When Jesus, having rejected the devil, came out of the wilderness, he was "filled with the power of the Spirit" and immediately began his ministry. We should emerge from Lent similarly filled with zeal and ready to do our work for the Kingdom of God. At the end of Lent comes Good Friday when we reflect on the Crucifixion: we feel subdued and sorrowful because of Jesus' suffering, but not downcast because, on the Cross, Jesus won the greatest victory of all. By giving himself as a willing sacrifice, he defeated the devil once and for all, and freed everyone who believes in him to live for all time in the Kingdom of God with Jesus as our King.

I once heard a preacher say, "We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world". I'm not sure I agree with that. Although Good Friday nowadays is very much as it was when Jesus walked the Via Dolorosa with his cross on his back- people going about their business pretty much oblivious of anything beyond their shopping and secular busy-ness- it is for Christians the day when Jesus won his victory. Easter Day, the Day of Resurrection, is a joyful and triumphant day for all Christians but the Resurrection was the proof that victory had been won on the Cross, not the victory in itself.

So our walk all through Lent, not just our Pilgrimage of Witness on Good Friday, is a time of preparation for us. It is a time when we reflect on what Jesus did for us, and on the magnitude of God's love for us, evidenced in the Cross.

And, on Easter Day, even though I can't capture it with my little camera, we will see in our minds eye, that most glorious image of all: the empty cross with the rising sun- the Rising SON- behind it. The cross that is empty because: HE IS RISEN, ALLELUIA!

Pam

Monday is Pam's day off. Please don't contact her unless your business is truly urgent! Please don't leave messages saying a reply can wait until Tuesday: if the reply can wait, so can the message!

Good Friday Pilgrimage of Witness

On Good Friday, 30th March, we will have our usual short service at PCC at 10 am. This will finish in time for us to travel to Beckenham and be at St Edmund's, Village Way, by 11 am. There we will join with other local churches for 15 minutes or so of worship, before assembling outside to walk to Beckenham Green.

This year, because of the continuing improvement work in the High Street, our Walk will be a silent Pilgrimage of Witness, crossing the High Street, then walking down The Drive, turning right into Church Avenue, crossing the High Street again at the St George's junction and entering the Green opposite Marks and Spencer. In case of rain, we will congregate inside St George's.

Once everyone is on the Green, we will have 30 minutes of worship. I am leading this, with representatives of other churches leading prayer, reading Scripture and delivering a short Good Friday message. We will sing 2 hymns, with Lynn and Chris from PCC accompanying and leading us.

If you would like to join in this act of witness but feel you can't manage the walk, please do join us at Beckenham Green; we estimate the service there will begin at approximately 11.25-11.30 am.



1st Penge & Beckenham North Cub Pack Celebrate 100 years

Our Cub Pack officially started on 12th February 1918. Britain was still at war and our Scout Troop (5th Beckenham) of about 45 boys, with about 12 over 16 years of age, was under pressure with few Scouters who changed continually, with some still on active service or leave of absence.

1916 had seen the official inauguration of Wolf Cubs as a junior section of the Scout Movement, and, like the Scouts, had their own publication *The Wolf Cub*, a monthly magazine consisting of ten pages stuffed with interesting features and costing 2d. The paper was enormously popular and heralded a clamouring for Scout Troops to start their own Wolf Cub Packs, but by whom? In 1916, the Editor of a journal called the *Woman's Magazine* had made an appeal on behalf of General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout "for girls of good education to offer their services.., adding that here was...a valuable outlet for the patriotic services of girls of the designated minimum age, who were precluded by circumstances from volunteering for uniformed and other full-time war work."

Hence, two ladies – Miss Gladys Widgery (fiancée of Scoutmaster, William R Landers) and Miss Vera Watling (sister of future Scoutmaster, Wilfred Watling), did just that and were presented with their Cubmasters' Warrants on 15 June 1918 by District Commissioner, Silver Wolf (Rev Robert Bren- also SM of 18th Beckenham, Holy Trinity Lennard Road).

A quote from the Kenilworth Magazine, August 1918, says: "The latest and most promising addition to the Scouts is the formation of a Wolf Pack under the dual leadership of the Misses Vera Watling and Gladys Widgery. They are as keen and lively a Pack as any Cubmaster may desire, and, though only a few months old, can march out to Beckenham Woods with full packs (mostly grub!) and appear on parade on the following morning as alert as if they had slept in the woods instead of their beds. They hope to win their Totem Pole when they are a little bit older, and wiser."



The September 1919 Scout Registration showed we had a total of 39 active Cubs with the same two joint Cubmasters, although Gladys Widgery was now Mrs W R Landers.

The Beckenham District Scout Association was so impressed with the 5th Beckenham Pack that they were chosen to represent the District at the 1920 First World Jamboree at Olympia, where 500 Cubs were present.

And they showed off their new Totem Pole, which had been made by a Scout Patrol Leader, Harold Davidson and presented to the Pack in May 1919.

And so the Pack continued, through the Depression and a second World War, but it has never closed and mostly due to the sponsorship of PCC and the Kenilworth Hall! At one time from 1973 – 1987 we had so many Cubs we had two Packs, the “Wallabies” and the “Wombats”. Now we are back to just one Pack under the guidance of Akela, Colin Denny (and, his Dad and Mum, Reg and Elsie Denny were successive Leaders of the “Wombats”!); and the Pack aims to celebrate their Centenary at a Cub Camp at Downe in May.

Peter Godwin

Flower Rota for the next three months

March

4: Jean Sumner
11: Lionel Sawkins, in memory of Maureen
18: Pat Clarke
25: Melanie Cogan

April:

1 (Easter): David Nye
8: In Memory of Heather (Jean S)
15: Melanie Cogan
22: Flower Fund
29: Pat Clarke

May

6: Joan Sole
13: Kathleen Sewter
20: Joyce Perry
27: Melanie Cogan

Lent Readings

Lent and Easter this year are not timed kindly for monthly Newsletters! Lent began on February 14th and Easter Day is 1st April. The April Newsletter will be published over the Easter weekend itself. However, here are our daily Lent readings for this year. You can either pick them up from the beginning of March, or go back and catch up from Ash Wednesday.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Ash Weds 14/2 Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	15/2 1 John 1: 3-10	16/2 2 Timothy 4: 1-5	17/2 Matthew 9: 2-13
18/2 Mark 1: 9-15	19/2 Ephesians 2: 1-10	20/2 1 Peter 3: 8-18a	21/2 Matthew 4: 1-11	22/2 Romans 3: 21-31	23/2 Romans 4: 1-12	24/2 Mark 8: 27-30
25/2 Mark 8: 31-38	26/2 Hebrews 1: 8-12	27/2 Hebrews 11: 1-3, 13-19	28/2 John 12: 35-43	1/3 1 Peter 2: 4-10	2/3 Acts 7: 30-40	3/3 Mark 9: 2-8
4/3 John 2: 13-22	5/3 1 Corinthians 3: 10-23	6/3 Hebrews 9: 23-28	7/3 Mark 11: 15-19	8/3 Ephesians 1: 3-6	9/3 Ephesians 1: 7-14	10/3 John 3: 1-13
11/3 John 3: 14-21	12/3 Hebrews 3: 1-6	13/3 1 Corinthians 10: 6-13	14/3 John 8: 12-20	15/3 Hebrews 4: 1-13	16/3 Hebrews 4: 14-5: 4	17/3 John 12: 1-11
18/3 John 12: 20-33	19/3 2 Corinthians 3: 4-11	20/3 Acts 2: 14-24	21/3 John 12: 34-50	22/3 Philippians 2: 1-11	23/3 Philippians 2: 12-18	24/3 Mark 10: 32-34, 46-52
Palm Sunday 25/3 Mark 11: 1-11	Holy Week 26/3 John 12: 1-11	Holy Week 27/3 John 12: 20-36	Holy Week 28/3 John 13: 21-32	Maundy Thurs 29/3 John 13: 1-17, 31b-35	Good Friday 30/3 John 18: 1-19: 37	Holy Saturday 31/3 John 19: 38-42

Daily readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. [17/3 **IS** the same as 26/3]

Church Diary March 2018

Friday 2nd:

7.30pm: Women's World Day of Prayer service at St John's Church,
High Street, Penge.

Sunday 4th:

10.30am: Renewal: our Church. Led by Marilyn Nicholson.
6.30pm: Lord's Supper, led by the Minister.

Tuesday 6th:

9.30am – 11am: Café Church.
7.30pm: Lent Group: The Bible through Art. The Vestry.

Thursday 8th:

7.30pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Sunday 11th:

10.30 am: Renewal: the community. Led by Jannett Ashley.
6.30pm: Bible Discussion, led by Lynn.

Tuesday 13th:

7.30pm: Lent Group: The Bible through Art. The Vestry.

Wednesday 14th:

10.30-noon: Friendship Club. The Vestry.

Sunday 18th:

10.30am: Renewal: the Earth, including the Lord's Supper, led by
Lynn McShane and the Minister.
6.30pm: Evening Service, led by the Minister.

Tuesday 20th:

7.30pm: Lent Group: The Bible through Art. The Vestry.

Sunday 25th: PALM SUNDAY

10.30am: Led by the Minister.
6.30pm: Taizé service, led by Lynn.

Thursday 29th: MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.00am: Commemoration of the Lord's Supper.

Friday 30th: GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am: Reflective Good Friday service, led by the Minister.
11.00am: Pilgrimage of Witness from St Edmund's, Village Way,
Beckenham to Beckenham Green, for a 30 minute united worship
service.
6.30pm: Good Friday music and readings at PCC.

Sunday 1st April: EASTER DAY
10.30am: Easter Family Service, including
communion. The Minister.
6.30pm: Easter Praise.

He is Risen, Alleluia!!

February Organ Recital, 2018

The Lewis organ in Penge Congregational Church is a symbol of generosity. In 1915, it was given by Alfred Feaver, one of the founders of the church: he had offered a two-manual instrument, but when the architect of the church, P Morley-Horder, designed an organ-case with frontages on both sides of the chancel, Mr Feaver increased his generosity to include a third department, with the choir pipes housed in a small chamber beside the stairs to the tower. For decades the church provided comfort, consolation and inspiration to the congregation in all the sorrowful and joyous moments of life, and to the wider community in times of celebration. For example, the 50th anniversary of the church was marked by a whole week of organ recitals, given by a dozen organists.

In 1984, when the organ was in need of repair, the Reverend John Travell sought the advice of Christopher Town who recommended that the organ be re-built and enlarged. Brian Bunting carried out the work in consultation Robert Cooper, who was then the Organist of the church, and who gave the rededication recital in 1985. Dr Travell and Mrs Travell provided the impetus and the perseverance to carry the project to completion, with the generous giving, covenanting, and lending of the members of the church; and when the church had no further resources Brian Bunting himself gave the trombone stop to the pedals.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church in 2008, a CD of organ music was compiled, with Robert Cooper, Martin Ball, and John Webber freely contributing their time and their talent to the project. Chris Traves enthusiastically and freely gave his expertise in recording and editing the CD, and Christopher Town produced the finished copies of *Now Rejoice*,

the title taken from a piece by HF Quehl, which was played on the recording by Marilyn Nicholson, the current organist of PCC. The jacket design was given by Alec Nicholson.

In 2009, it was suggested that a recital should be given to “launch” the CD, and on November 22nd, St Cecilia’s Day (patron saint of music), the first in the current series of recitals was held. Since then, the David Nicholson Memorial Recital has become an annual event; we are once again included in the activities of Penge Festival with an annual recital in June each year; the Bromley and Croydon organists’ association gave their annual composite recital at PCC several years ago; and The Southwark and South London Society of Organists have done us the honour of making our church and our organ the site of their annual composite recital for the past six years.

On February 3rd this year, the latest in these recitals by the SSLSO was held, with a dozen organists playing, one of them an 11-year-old boy who has been having organ lessons for only a few months, and other players having many years’ experience. The music ranged over five centuries, and from delicate flute sounds to the power of the full organ. And once again, as happens each time there is a recital, an insightful comment was made about the attributes of the organ: “The organ has such a character,” one organist said. And pointed out its capacity to sound Romantic, or equally to be convincing in the performance of early music, such as Buxtehude. The calendar of the church year was ignored as musicians played music, composed by Bach and Buxtehude, for the season of Christmas. The audience were delighted by Grieg’s lively “Norwegian Dance”; and the newest member of the Society gave a vivid account of a John Ireland *Capriccio*.

After the music, audience and players alike enjoyed the coffee and biscuits offered by the minister and members of the church.

It is a tribute to the fine qualities of the PCC organ that the Southwark and South London organists wish to return year by year. And, having been the recipients of much generosity, it is both humbling and a privilege for the church to share the beauty and integrity of a very special instrument with those who love to play it and those who love to hear it. Praise be to God.

Marilyn Nicholson

Deacons Reunited!

It is a couple of years now since Douglas moved lock stock and barrel up to the Lake District, where he and Sally now live at Oxenholme, on the outskirts of Kendal. Although he is very actively involved with Carver United Reformed Church in Windermere, Douglas still sees PCC as his church, and he remains a Deacon here- luckily in these days of electronic communication, he doesn't need to be physically present to make a contribution to the work of the Diaconate.

Over half term, Chris and Caroline Parker had a few days' break in Lakeland, and spent an afternoon with Douglas and Sally, including a brisk pull up one of the hills and an interesting descent through a patch of brambles!

And so here is a photo of our Deacons Reunited, against a backdrop of glorious Cumbrian landscape:



Penge Congregational Church

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Church gathered May 1908

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Mr Douglas Rathbone
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