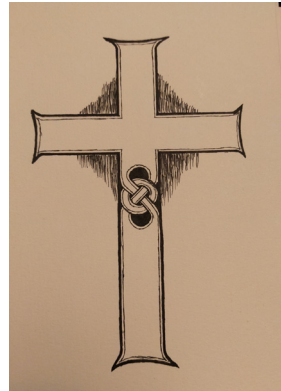


# *Penge Congregational Church*



*March 2024*



# ***Soul Food***

from Khadija

## **Spring Festival**

**A**t last, Spring is here. Yesterday, I watched my little daffodils dancing before my eyes in my neglected front garden. It made me think how fast we are moving ahead, while the memory of Christmas and New year is still fresh in our minds. Most of the year is dedicated to having diverse activities in the church. This includes music concerts, the children's space at the back of the church, not to mention our new Brunch party - introduced lately at every last Sunday of the month. All taking place quietly.



We would wish that all the congregation could attend but for whatever reason they are not all with us at this moment.

Jean Hurle has left to eternal life. "The Library broker" had a wonderful time at her departure Celebration.

Norma is improving, but still in hospital.

I had something in my mind to add when Pam left, which I did not have the opportunity to say. We have to admit, it all started with a book. The Library is the mother of all knowledge, where one can indulge in oceans of ideas, knowledge and mysteries. So

wonderful to have our female pastor, who had a special gift for narrating the Bible in a magical way. Among the things preached by Pam I still remember this: that Jesus was and still is "The Brother". We tend to forget the moments Christ had when He was with us sharing our struggles, fears and hopes. So, we were privileged to have Pam the Pastor passionately looking after our spiritual life.

Many things are here with us in the church which we cherish as Jesus asked us to. We are few, but many in God's eyes.

Now we look forward to the coming of Easter where the rebirth of the earth, the spring, coincides with the death and the resurrection of the Messiah. Let us celebrate all the moments we have and look forward to embrace what is to come with joy, with patience and in harmony with one another.

Peace be upon the earth and its dwellers.

*Khadija Ait Ammi*



# Jean Gladys Hurle

7th January 1932 – 18th December 2023



***On Friday 23rd February we gathered at Beckenham Crematorium to say our farewell to our friend Jean.***

So often when attending a funeral for someone in their 90s it can be a sparse attendance. Not so for Jean, someone who was obviously loved by so many. There were the close family with grandchildren and great grandchildren, friends from church and the 'Contact'

group she attended and a number from her Kenilworth Road home, which she had lived in all her married life with Eddy.

Jean arrived being carried in by family to the song

**'Here Comes the Sun'**

**by Joe Brown.**

It indeed was a lovely sunny morning, but I thought of Jean's sunny smile and cheekiness she had.

The service was led by our Pam and included 'All things bright and beautiful' followed by the eulogy, given by Jean's son, Mike.

Jean and Eddy's was a whirlwind courtship, I think, if I heard correctly - meeting only two months 'before **wedding bells on 4th July**' when Eddy commented he had lost his independence. They left for their honeymoon on Eddy's motorcycle, as he didn't want to learn to drive; that was something which Jean decided to do later on.

Jean worked in several local shops including Marlow Fish Bar and Fosdicks.

After a heart pulling number, 'Edelweiss' by Vince Hill, Carl Holmes read the poem 'Death is nothing at all'. The poem reminds us of how, when someone close passes away, we are not to be afraid to talk about them and to remember in fondness all that was good between us.

And then the last two verses,

***"Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?***

***I am but waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near, just round the corner.***

***All is well.***

***Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.***

***One brief moment and all will be as it was before.***

***How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when  
we meet again!"***

***Henry Scott-Holland.***

Indeed, this as Christians is our hope and faith that our Christian friend, Jean, is now waiting 'just around the corner' when we shall be joined again once more in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we will laugh together as we did before.

Till we meet again Jean.

*Chris Parker*

*(My apologies if some of the facts are not quite correct, but I write from pure recollection)*



At the Elm Tree Pub after the funeral of Jean Hurle,  
from left to right: Jean Sumner, Jannett Ashley, Pam  
Owen, Chris Parker and Rosemarie Baker,



# Forthcoming Services:

This is what we have planned for March 2024

## *3rd March*

**Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Revelation 22:1** The water of life and leaves for the healing of the nations

## *10th March*

John 4:1-26 Whoever drinks this water will never be thirsty again.

## *17th March*

John 7:25-44 Let whoever is thirsty come to me.

*24th March* Time of Praise and Free Brunch!

*Maundy Thursday* 28th March Communion Service at 6:30 pm John 13:1-17

Jesus washes his followers' feet

## *29th March Good Friday*

Walk of Witness in Beckenham with Churches Together in Beckenham starting at St Edmund's at 10:30am

Our next worship planning meeting is on

*Thursday 21st March at 7:30pm at Lynn's house*

(7pm for those who would like a bite of supper first)



PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS

# LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

TRIO CAVATINA

A celebration of poets and song

**23RD MARCH 2024  
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

# World Day of Prayer

Friday 1st March 2024

Anerley Methodist Church at 7:30pm.

**T**he service has been prepared by the **Christian Women of Palestine – these services are prepared 5 years in advance so it is amazing that right now** we will hear their words when there is such a **need to pray for Palestine and Israel.**

The theme is “**I beg you, bear with one another in love**”.

*Dorothea (CTiB rep.)*

I am hoping that we will have a report from one of our C.T.i.B. representatives in the April issue. (and, indeed, from anyone who attends any of the World Day of Prayer services.)

*Editor*



# Pottery and Embroidery



Dorothea writes:

A few pieces of the pottery and embroidery that my son, Christopher, brought back from Palestine all those years ago are to be on display at St Edmund's at their service for the World Day of Prayer.

The lettering on the little framed embroidery is very poignant now -

**“Made by the UNWRA Girls’ School, Gaza.”**

## LABOURS OF LOVE

Last month's newsletter featured patchwork quilts with a current story, one part of which the Editor kindly suggested might warrant enlarging as something of a local heritage. "Quilts, their traditions and transitions, reflect the history of the country; they are the windows through which we see our ancestors". (Words of Deborah Harding from "America's Glorious Quilts", 1987).

The NCT's Silver Jubilee quilt referred to last month has made its own local history although I don't imagine **Jo Blackmore** (who lived but a stone's throw from **Penge Congregational Church** as a child) thought that far ahead in the "nesting time" awaiting her second daughter, when she bravely suggested the idea of a king-sized quilt to celebrate the royal anniversary!

It was a newly published craft magazine, **Busy Hands**, which inspired Jo to tackle patchwork and quilting and to research the craft via visiting the **American Museum at Bath** in 1974 (something I had done the previous year when pregnant with my first son!)

With the support of her neighbours, other young mums and members of the Bromley NCT, a shared learning curve commenced as they hand stitched 1,000 mainly diamond and hexagon shapes of cotton fabric gleaned from jumble sales, pre-loved garments, dressmaking offcuts and, in particular, Laura Ashley pieces, all with a blend of blues.

Jo embroidered the Silver Jubilee emblem as the centre piece and also stitched a commemorative lozenge incorporating the names of the 14 or so makers and the date, to be attached on the reverse of the quilt. Finally the edges were crocheted and fringed by other talented stalwarts. Started in April 1977 and finished by December that same year, the nine months it took seemed very apt in the circumstances, and no less than three days after completion it was on show in the Bradford & Bingley Building Society in Bromley High Street, where their goodwill supported the National Childbirth Trust charity. The following August it was raffled during a fund-raising fair in Petts Wood and Esther Rantzen's first baby "drew" the winning ticket! Local papers recorded the event and it was also featured in the popular magazine Woman's Weekly.

In 2016 a no longer local NCT member who had worked on the project traced me via Google as she was in touch with the Quilters' Guild regarding an oral history project they were organising and needed to check details. Via emails we exchanged memories of that time and she wrote afterwards that "it has been a real bonus visiting the past, that I hadn't anticipated when I offered our quilt for the project".

Alas, as the quilt, it seems, no longer exists, Sheila was not interviewed for the project but, alongside Jo, she appeared on a paper in 2019 of The British Quilt Study Group and **The Quilter's Guild of the British Isles**, in a photograph credited to the **Kentish Times** in 1977, as they were doing the final stitches! Still a keen quilter

she is also **Young Quilter co-ordinator** for region two, Surrey, Sussex and Kent, runs occasional workshops for children and also helps on the textile desk at her local Repair cafe, both of which she finds rewarding and fun!



At a time when we are all conscious of recycling and the shame of tons of discarded clothes and textiles polluting the world, it is sobering to read, as I have just been doing, of the history of quilting and the wonderful life stories recalled, particularly from America, where quilting bees were enjoyed by nearly every class and race. This was “make do and mend” with a vengeance, and with truly amazing outcomes. Many quilts were made for economic reasons but some, judging by the photographs, were clearly destined to be masterpieces from the very first stitch!

Some were made for a “hope chest” before marriage, when a trousseau of no fewer than a dozen quilts was de rigeur and others, sadly, might be comforting memorial quilts. Churches used quilts as fundraisers; a “crazy” design lent itself to the embroidering of each donor’s names for a dime and then the finished quilt was auctioned!

As I wrote in Woman’s Weekly in 1978, “in true quilting bee style, friendships were cemented over that quilt, problems talked over, gossip exchanged.” We may not have had the large families of those pioneer women in USA, stitching quilts from cheesecloths, flour/ sugar / tobacco sacks, or ancient textiles but that one local quilt embodied the essence of support via craft and

communication, something that still emerges today amongst those of us who remain in touch and are now blessed to be grandmothers!

The Silver Jubilee quilt (seen below with the designer **Jo**) may be a thing of the past but the ethos and enthusiasm lives on and the legacy it has left is far-reaching and very precious.

*Jenny Froude*

*P.S. An apology from me about my error in February issue. It was the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Keith Onslow, who attended the 2023 Beckenham Quilter's exhibition. J.F.*





**PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS**  
**OPEN MONDAYS**

**15TH JANUARY**

**19TH FEBRUARY**

**18TH MARCH**

**Doors 7pm  
for 7.30pm  
start**

Performers please register by  
Friday before at  
[pengeopenmondays@gmail.com](mailto:pengeopenmondays@gmail.com)

Relaxed and informal  
atmosphere

**BYOB**

**Tickets £5  
audience and  
performers**

**Under 16s free**

**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**

**Cabrini (12A) is at Croydon's  
Purley Way Vue cinema on  
Friday 8th March at 6pm.**

**C**atholic missionary **Francesca Cabrini** arrives in New York from Italy in 1889 and manages to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing, healthcare and schooling for the city's destitute orphans.

Tickets are from just £8.99.

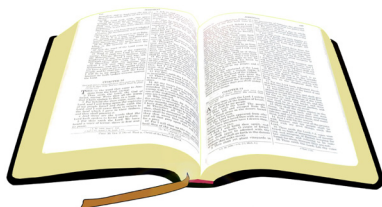
To view the trailer and to book go to:

[angel.com/cabrini](http://angel.com/cabrini)

Take a look at this review:

[youtube.com/watch?v=RxVjXEhgEHU](https://youtube.com/watch?v=RxVjXEhgEHU)

**If there are good advance bookings the cinema will probably put on extra showings - watch the cinema website...and please book!**



Have you ever experienced the feeling that you have been run over by a bus? This has happened to me several times when someone has tried to teach me a new skill. But recently, I went to learn something which, for years I had longed to do - and I found myself in the midst of another ‘Great Pottery Throw Down!’

It all took place under the guidance of **Canon Gordon Oliver**, who brought his wheel and clay (and apron) to St Mary’s Church in Bromley.

Pottery is just one of the ways in which Gordon takes the opportunity to teach from the Bible and to explore the Christian Faith. There is an obvious connection; you will remember that the **potter** is mentioned a number of times in the Bible. The most well-known being found in Isaiah 64:8 “We are the clay; you are the potter and all of us are the work of your hands.”



Chris was the first in the group to volunteer to ‘have a go!’

Brave fellow!

It looks as though he is enjoying the experience, which was an encouraging sign for all of us.

He is an artist, of course!

Gordon - demonstrating jugs and faith!

When we arrived, each of us had a ball of clay on the table in front of us - to play with! (and to get the feel of the clay).

Some of the shapes created, while we listened to Gordon speaking, were quite recognisable - cacti (from the prairies), cradles, boats and a very good rhino amongst other hand sculptured pieces.



I am not sure what the 'master potter' was thinking during this last effort - but I loved getting my hands in the clay on the wheel!

So enthusiastic was I afterwards, that I am now looking for a class to attend. But, unlike others around me, I am no artist!

*Editor*

## Do you like a bacon butty?

**L**ately we have been having bacon butties and croissants at the end of the service. This happens on the last Sunday of the month. It is a new *tradition* that we've decided to keep going for the next few months.

**T**his might be something you could invite a friend to come and join us for - no charge! We have had a few visitors who have come along to see what it's like.

**T**rinity Congregational church in Brixton have a monthly service called the **Members' service**. A time when everyone can share their ideas.

**I**n February, we have been thinking about faith; particularly how people in difficult circumstances managed to trust God. **Various heroes of the faith;** people mentioned **Nelson Mandela, Eric Liddell, Hilda Keywod (Jean's Sunday school teacher), Sister, a catholic nun, Dominee Geyser,** and Mark said if he'd been given a chance to talk, he would have said **Norma** - someone who *believes* in the face of all kinds of difficulty. Not everyone had a chance to share their example of a shining witness.

We all probably know someone personally who trusts in the Lord with their whole heart. You might want to write something for the newsletter about who it is you are thinking of. Just let *Lynn* know and scribble

something down. Or type it and send it by email directly to the newsletter editor, my wonderful mother, Margaret Tremeer.

It is so encouraging to know we are not alone.

As it is written in Hebrews 12:1-3

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

*Lynn McShane*







**Website:**

[www.pccweb.co.uk](http://www.pccweb.co.uk)



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

Lynn 07817 862 158

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

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**Deacons** at the moment are

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**Douglas Rathbone**

**Chris Parker**

**Lynn McShane** (treasurer)

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