

# *Penge Congregational Church*



*May 2025*

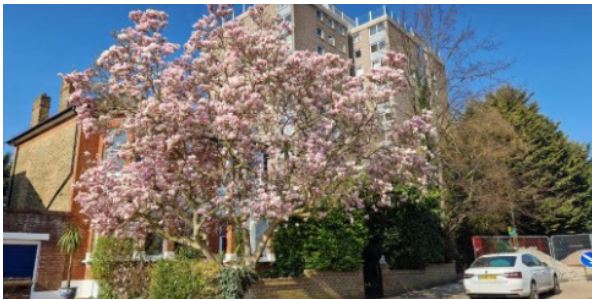
Cover Photo:

A photograph of the sketch made by George Montagu Rochfort Lord. (see the article by Chris P on page 7)

## Chris Parker writes:

I am hoping I have just caught the April publication as the pictures will have more meaning. (Unfortunately he didn't! but I think you will still be able to recognise the photos Ed.)

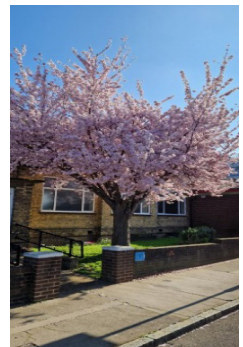
I listened to the morning weather forecast and the weekend was to be a bit more dour than it has been for all this last week, which has been full of bright blue skies and sunshine which could top some



of our summer weather. The chance of some wind this weekend had me thinking of the blossoms which have graced our streets this last week.

Having done my duty of the school drop off I raced around to find some of the spectacular trees in our local roads, dressed in their finery.

This last month (March) we have focused in our services on God's creation and the connection to nature along with how Adam and Eve's actions separated us from God. How we over time have done our best to destroy His marvellous creation. Spring gathers pace



from early snowdrops to crocus and then daffodils. Homes are brightened by vases of daffs and tulips and the waft of potted hyacinths.

There are many times in the Bible that bring flowers and plants into the passages to describe and give meaning to them. Matthew 6 v28-29 'And why do you worry about clothes? "See how the flowers of the field grow.

They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

This passage came to mind during one of Chris McShane's messages (yes, I was listening Chris) as I had a conversation the previous week with my 11-year-old grandson who was taking part in a debate at school on the for and against wearing uniform. Initially

he was against, however as we discussed it things came to light which he had not considered. What would pupils wear

instead? Some could afford to pay for latest fashions and trends and expensive fashion names. Others would have to settle for 'off the shelf' clothes as their parents were not so wealthy. Bullying and mocking may creep in causing divisions amongst peers.

No, I'm not suggesting we walk around naked but we all should consider what we need and not so much as what we



want. That's not just clothing but other material things which we strive to obtain and which, if we take a step back, we perhaps don't require.

God knows our needs and will provide if we trust in Him.

As a bit of fun, see if you can identify some of the locations of the photos. They are all in Penge and in roads south of the church.

*Chris Parker*

## **Upcoming services in May**

May 4th Hannah's prayer (praise) 1 Samuel 2:1-10

May 11th Daniel's prayer (forgiveness for the nations)  
Daniel 9:1-19

May 18th Abraham's prayer Genesis 18:16-33 (Praying for others)

May 25th Cafe Church

\*\*\*\*\*

Christian Aid fundraiser 12-1pm after brunch

*25th May Cafe Church* will be followed with a *fund raising event for Christian Aid*. This is instead of our street collection. Do you have a short item you can share? A song, a joke, a reading, a dance?

Let Lynn know if you have something to share or just jump in on the day.

## ***PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH***

**F**ollowing my article on charity shops in the April issue I found myself in the local one, discussing the beautiful weather with a familiar volunteer, when I spotted a wrist watch in the glass case under the counter.

A blue strap, exactly what I wanted, with Roman numerals and an easy to read face with, as yet, frozen hands! The little white label adjoining it was face down so I enquired the price. It was £2. The volunteer was as surprised as I was but decided the watch might be faulty to be thus priced. For the sake of the strap alone I was more than happy to give it a try as my husband usually has a small stash of watch batteries and the patient skill to get things ticking!

Result was a happy time-piece with a leather strap and when I revisited the shop a few days later I was at pains to show the same volunteer how delighted I was with the purchase and showed it working. He was pleased as, according to him, they usually only get to hear complaints or customers wanting to return or exchange items but rarely hear from the truly satisfied ones!

The two crisp notes I handed him as a realistic donation to express my delight went into the till and a receipt was produced. Now I can enjoy my watch with a clear conscience...although on a very busy day there are times when I wish it would slow down a little!

*Jenny Froude*



How I appreciated the article Green.... written by Jenny Froude in last month's issue of Penge congregational Church newsletter.

When my mother died, my sister and I took many of her beautiful, smart clothes to Charity Shops.

How broken hearted we would have been had we seen them 'sold for a song' ...

*Ed.*



***Jenny's photo of a Greater Spotted Woodpecker in her garden.***



***Penge Congregational Church in 1935***  
***Chris Parker writes about his meeting with***  
***Judith Garrett***



In the week leading up to the Easter weekend I met up with Judith GARRETT who had sent the church a photograph of the church from back in 1935. The reason for the meeting was because the photo had been taken from a sketch done by her father, George Montagu Rochfort LORD.

At the time he was attending the Grammar school (now Harris) opposite the church. George, was aged 17 when he drew the sketch. You may notice that the **Church Hall and Memorial Hall** do not feature. These were built c.1921 for those **servicemen who lost their lives in the First World War**. It is therefore strange why it does not feature but that may be because there is a large tree in the foreground, partly sketched, and blotting most of it out as George wanted to focus on the main part of the church.

There is also what appears to be a notice board along the front towards the left which no longer exists. There are however to this day a couple of angle irons cut off in the ground at about that point which, when cutting the grass, I have to remember are still there.

George became an engineer and sat on the **Beckenham Council** in various departments and **c.1952 was Deputy Mayor of Beckenham**. After a visit to America working for American Machinery and Foundry Company, **he had the idea to bring automatic tenpin bowling to England**.

American bases here at the time had bowling lanes but the pins were set up manually. The first commercially

operated public centre was opened at Stamford Hill London 20th January 1960. If you care to know more search Google. You can find a picture of George presenting a plaque to the **welfare officer of USAF Base Bentwaters Suffolk** who actually had the first automatic lanes installed.

Judith joined me for coffee in Penge High Street where we discussed her father and she was able to reminisce on her time being brought up in Crystal Palace Park Road in one of the houses backing onto the park. Her experience of shopping in the Maple Rd market, in Rogers department store and local butchers.

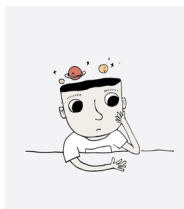
**Thankyou once again Judith** for considering our church for your father's sketch during your clearing out process. It has been placed on the wall in the side chapel for the present moment for all to see.

*Chris PARKER*

The Poster opposite is for 28th April.

The Poster on page 10 is for 19th May.

That's just in case you think the editor has gone batty.



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

An evening of acoustic performances  
by local musicians

**MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2025**  
**7.30 PM**

**£5 tickets for audience and performers**  
**Under 16s go free**

**Performance slots limited to 5 minutes**

**Performers please register by**  
**midday Friday before**

**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

**PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS**  
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An evening of acoustic performances  
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**MONDAY 19TH MAY 2025**  
**7.30 PM**

**£5 tickets for audience and performers**  
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**Performance slots limited to 5 minutes**

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## News to share

**W**e are sad to share the news that Rosemarie Baker passed away on Good Friday, 18th May 2025. **Her family joined us on Easter Day and we were able to share our thoughts and memories.**

I know that Rosemarie was singing the Easter hymns with us, and joining the angels and the saints who have gone before us.

**W**e will let everyone know of funeral arrangements in due course.

## NEW MEMBERS

**Three new members** will be offered the hand of fellowship and welcomed into membership this weekend. We welcome

**Anne Chalabi, and Jonny and Jean Genie Hayes.**

Formal membership is a choice and not necessary to being part of our community, but **it is a great opportunity to express our commitment to each other on this part of our Christian journey together.**

Hopefully a picture next newsletter?

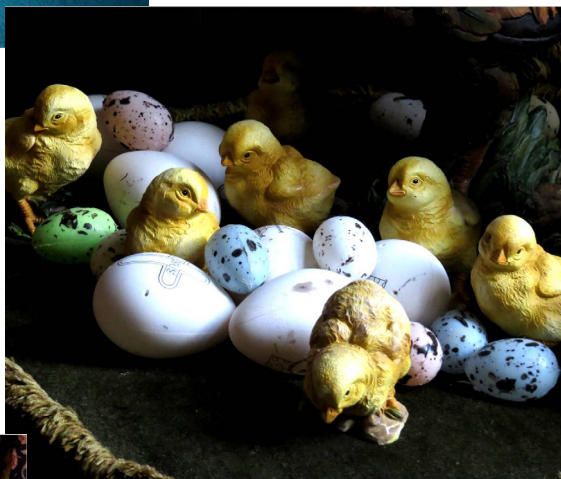
## ***Reflections sent in by Ann Chalabi***

- Commune with those who throw a comfortable shawl around your shoulders - not the bitter and dissatisfied who kick up the dust of controversy.
- Stand in a field of poppies, marvel at the soft breeze, the setting sun - for yours in the Glory!
- Give freely - be it a coin, crust or diamond! Your generosity will be multiplied and you will be the benefactor of a life well-lived.
- Do not judge harshly, lest you may have misunderstood. Wait until clarity emerges.
- If you are guilty of disturbing peace, go to a place of solitude, where streams and rivers will wash you clean.
- When we stand in the rain, letting it wash over us, we cleanse our souls of that which obstructs our journey.
- To engage with our children is to engage with self.
- Always think before jumping, lest the safety net has been removed.
- Always seek the places which inspire and comfort, for these are your reserved seats whereby it may be possible to decipher the path one should take.
- Never assume you will awake each morning, rather give thanks for the end of each day.



- A small child looks on, and in looking makes decisions even before mastering the power of speech. It would do well for us sometimes to follow these powers of infants, thus enhancing our own powers of observation.
- Birds nesting, balmy evenings, sunshine, kaleidoscopic colours, the silence of snow falling: marvel at these things which are your earthly inheritance.
- How beautiful it is to hold the hand of someone who understands.
- in dire and dangerous situations, help if you can, for your protection will be assured.
- Only when we are truly alone can we feel the throb and vibrancy of the whole of humanity.
- Tolerance is needed in bucketfuls, so when your buckets overflow, find a new one to fill!
- There may be days when it is difficult to perform the slightest task, but then come the days of light, sunshine, dancing and merry-making!
- He is always with us - we just need to listen for those quiet footsteps.

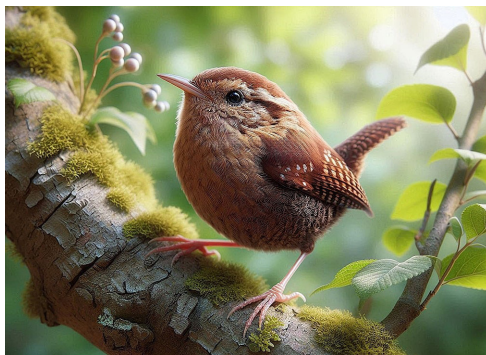






***Some photos of tiny chicks - ‘new life’ by Peter Longley. Thank you Peter for the joy.***

***As you know, Jesus’ Resurrection blesses us all with New Life***



## **Have you tried learning a new Language lately?**

I and a few other members of my family have been trying to learn various foreign languages for the past few years. We have been using Duolingo which is an exciting way of tackling the barrier of speaking to someone from another culture or language (those who know me well, will know that I enjoy speaking to people at the bus stop!)

It has made me aware of the difficulties anyone who is trying to learn to speak English experiences.

Years ago, there was a comedy on television called “Mind your Language”. I wonder if anyone remembers it?

Learning English, if you are not born into it is quite difficult!!

If you do not believe that, read the poem on the following page (you may know it already?)

We'll begin with a *box* and the plural is *boxes*,  
But the plural of *ox* is *oxen* not *oxes*.  
Then one fowl is a *goose*, but two are called *geese*,  
Yet the plural of *moose* should never be *meese*.

You find a lone *mouse* or a whole set of *mice*,  
Yet the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.  
If the plural of *man* is always called *men*,  
Why shouldn't the plural of *pan* be called *pen*?

If I speak of a *foot* and you show me your *feet*,  
And I give you a *boot*, would a pair be called *beet*?  
If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*,  
Why shouldn't the plural of *booth* be called *beeth*?

Then one may be *that*, and three would be *those*,  
Yet *hat* in the plural wouldn't be *hose*.  
We speak of a *brother* and also of *brethren*,  
But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.

Then the masculine pronouns are *he*, *his* and *him*,  
But imagine the feminine *she*, *shis* and *shim*.  
So English, I fancy you all will agree,  
Is the funniest language you ever did see!

(I don't know who wrote the above. If you know, please tell me,  
so that I can acknowledge it!)

## Literary Quiz 2

1. Who wrote “Plain Tales from the Hills”: “Kim”: and “Stalky and Co.”?
2. What is the name of Dorothy L. Sayers detective?
3. What is the name of the fabulous prince in Xanadu in the poem by Coleridge? (an extra point if you can spell his name correctly!)
4. (All varieties of the name ‘Elizabeth’)
  - a. Who wrote “Mary Barton” and “Cranford”?
  - b. Name of the flower girl who attracts Henry Higgins?
  - c. A girl who falls (eventually) for Mr. Darcy?
  - d. Heroine of “Our Mutual Friend”?
  - e. One of the ‘March’ girls in “Little Women”?
5. What was the family’s name in “The Darling Buds of May”?
6. What is “The Shell Seekers” in the book of the same name by Rosamunde Pilcher?
7. What sort of fantastic world does Terry Pratchett write about?
8. What is the name of the lawyer in “To Kill a Mocking Bird”?
9. Who wrote “A Town like Alice”?
10. The name of the principal male character in ‘Lolita’?



11. Which one of these authors do you NOT associate with crime or detective fiction? Agatha Christie, Michael Jecks, Sue Grafton, Minette Walters, Lynda la Plante, Danielle Steel, P.D. James, Ellis Peters?

12. Which novel begins with the words, “There was no possibility of taking a walk that day”?

13. A novel about Trench Warfare in the First World War by Sebastian Faulks is called?

14. Which lady dressed in pink and wrote a lot of romantic novels?

15. Who wrote these words: (as the start of a longer poem)

“You are old, Father William,” the young man said,

“And your hair has become very white;

And yet you incessantly stand on your head—

Do you think, at your age, it is right?”

“In my youth,” Father William replied to his son,

“I feared it might injure the brain;

But now that I’m perfectly sure I have none,

Why, I do it again and again.”

*Answers: over the page...*

If you have all the correct answers, your score should be 20

## **Answers to the Literary Quiz (on previous page)**

1. Rudyard Kipling
2. Lord Peter Wimsey
3. Kubla Khan (2 points if spelt correctly)
4. a. Elizabeth Gaskell  
b. Eliza Doolittle  
c. Elizabeth Bennet  
d. Lizzie Wexham  
e. Beth March
5. Larkins
6. A picture
7. Disc World
8. Aticus Finch
9. Neville Shute
10. Humbert Humbert
11. Danielle Steel
12. Jane Eyre
13. Birdsong
14. Barbara Cartland
15. Lewis Carroll

**PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS**

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**A programme combining jazz standards and  
arrangements of original compositions drawing  
on eclectic and diverse backgrounds in jazz,  
improvisation, classical and world music.**

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1PM**

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tea, coffee and biscuits served on arrival

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**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:**

[pcclettings@outlook.com](mailto:pcclettings@outlook.com)

Tel: 07999 296 686 (new number)

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[iona.mcshane@gmail.com](mailto:iona.mcshane@gmail.com)

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**Douglas Rathbone**

**Chris Parker**

**Lynn McShane** (treasurer)

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