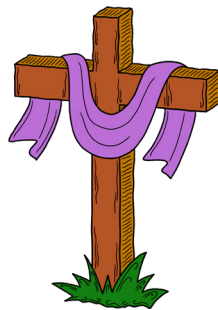
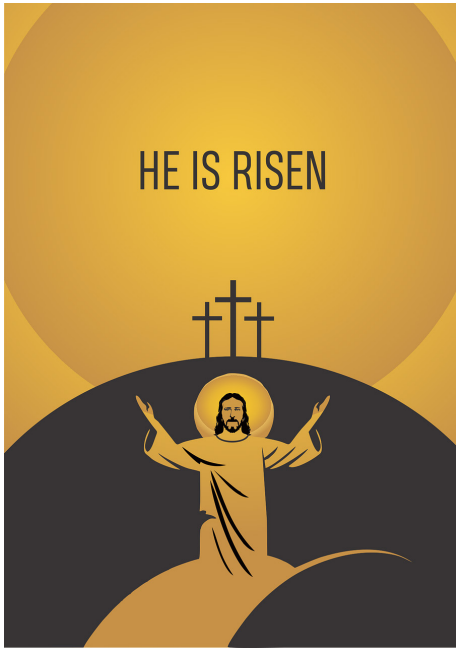


# Penge Congregational Church



**April 2023**



## From the Minister

**F**or five Tuesdays leading up to Holy Week, **Churches Together in Beckenham** have run a **Lent Group**. There were 4 courses to choose from (our own **Chris McShane** led an Art course) and the one I chose was called **Keeping the Earth**. The content included many truly terrifying facts and statistics about climate change (which the course leaders referred to as the Breakdown) and we were encouraged to think about ways in which individuals can play their part in combating it.



But all through everything was linked to the Bible, to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to our responsibility as his disciples. We were also repeatedly reminded of Jesus' gospel of justice for all: the people in our world who will be most affected by climate change are the ones who are most innocent of having created it. Social justice demands that the developed nations should make reparation to the innocent nations whose way of life and indeed whose very land is being put under threat by their actions.

What struck me repeatedly was a graphic the leaders used which, to simplify considerably, showed the

progression from the Creation, through the incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, to the New Creation.

Before the incarnation of Christ, we have Isaiah 65: 17-25 (sometimes known as the Isaiah Vision) which talks of the New Order, a new creation where justice and harmony triumph. The new order centres on the Lord as the great king in his holiness and glory, and on his people experiencing God's comfort, salvation, righteousness, peace, divine blessing and protection.

After the coming of Christ, we know as Christians that the resurrection has brought the kingdom of God to earth and that we have been reborn with Christ into the new creation. Our course leaders focused on Romans 8 and particularly on verses 21-22; "With eager hope the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay." And this reminds us that the new life gifted to us by Jesus isn't just for us. It is for all creation and Paul makes that clear. It is for us as Easter people, as the followers of Jesus Christ who have asked for his redemption and been given it as a gift of grace, to take responsibility for God's creation and to do all we can in our individual lives to look after his world.

So, as we experience once again the joy of Easter, as our hearts overflow with thankfulness to God for his great gift of grace, as we triumph over the victory of the cross and, above all, as we reflect on all that the resurrection means for us as Christians, let us remember that joy and triumph, wonder and

thankfulness are not all that is required of us. The resurrection shows us what was achieved on the cross and invites all who love Jesus into his new creation, into the new life of the kingdom of God. But, amid all the joy, let us not forget what St Paul says about the whole creation looking forward to joining God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay; let us not forget that the right to be the children of God brings with it the responsibility to look after his creation and work for it.



## Readings for April services

**G**od sent his son to sacrifice himself on the cross so that all who believe in him may become children of God and live in the kingdom of God, brought to earth. This act of incredible grace put right all that had gone wrong with creation when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. So the resurrection of Jesus ushered in a new creation to replace the old one. In April our Sunday service theme will be A New Creation.

### ***Maundy Thursday 6th April at 7.30pm:***

Prayer and Praise, and a Celebration of the Last Supper.

### ***Good Friday 7th April from 11am:***

Short service at St Edmund's, Village Way, Beckenham, followed by the **Walk of Witness** along Beckenham High Street and Service of Witness on Beckenham Green (inside St George's if wet) at about 11.40. This will be led by **Pam** this year.

At 6.30pm: Taizé service at PCC.

### ***Sunday 9th April. Easter Day service with Holy Communion.***

St John 20: 1-31. **The Day of Resurrection.**

### ***Sunday 16th April***

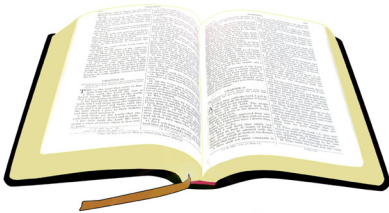
Isaiah 65: 17-25. The New Order

### ***Sunday 23rd April***

Romans 8: 14-30. All creation waits eagerly

### ***Sunday 30th April***

Revelation 21: 1-7; 22: 1-5. A new heaven and new earth



# **T**he Churches Together in Beckenham (CTiB) ran a Lent Event at St John's Church in Eden Park.

The theme that came out through the different groups was **Hope**. The best group (I'm not biased!) the Art Group led by **Chris McShane!**

The **hope of our salvation** was richly explored through the art work which was produced by all the artists involved.

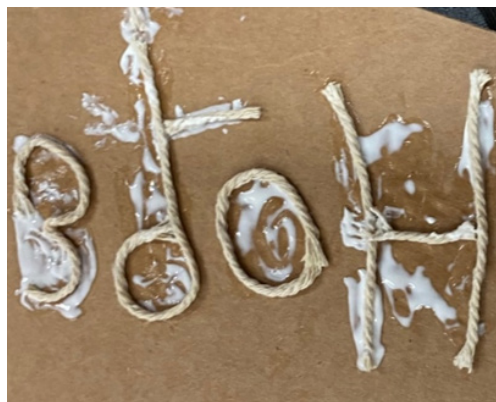
The pictures are expressions of the images that **Isaiah 35:1-10\*** awakened. We all experimented with "*string printing*". Some of the pictures here are of the string glued on cardboard, and some are the paintings that were made by doing a string print onto a painted background. It was harder than I expected to get what you wanted!



*\*The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*







***This all looks such an exciting way of illustrating your theme... and great fun too! Ed.***





Gladness  
and joy will  
overtake them,  
and sorrow and  
sighing will flee  
away.

The burning  
sands will  
become a pool,



the thirsty  
ground bubbling  
springs. In the  
haunts where  
jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds  
and papyrus will  
grow.

***TWO EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO SET UP,  
START AND GROW A BRAND NEW CHARITY SHOP.***

***CHARITY SHOP MANAGER, FULL TIME. 35 hours a week @ £15.00 an hour.***

***CHARITY ASSISTANT SHOP MANAGER, 18 hours a week @ £11.95 an hour***

Living Well Bromley is a small charity based in Penge, South East London, supporting the vulnerable in our local community. We are opening our FIRST charity shop and for this exciting venture, are looking for an enthusiastic, experienced and challenge loving shop manager and assistant shop manager.

The job will start by working with the Project Managers and newly recruited positions to get the shop equipped, stocked, volunteers trained and be ready to open for business.

From then on the focus will be to build a regular income stream, raise the profile of Living Well Bromley within the community and provide a welcoming, affordable and memorable charity shop experience on the high street.

For full details, application form and job descriptions please email [hello@livingwell.life](mailto:hello@livingwell.life)

Closing date: Monday 27th April.

We look forward to hearing from you.

A poem for Palm Sunday

**The Donkey by G. K. CHESTERTON**

When fishes flew and forests walked  
And figs grew upon thorn,  
Some moment when the moon was blood  
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry  
And ears like errant wings,  
The devil's walking parody  
On all four-footed things.



The tattered outlaw of the earth,  
Of ancient crooked will;  
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,  
I keep my secret still.



Fools! For I also had my hour;  
One far fierce hour and sweet:  
There was a shout about my ears,  
And palms before my feet.

## It never rains but it pours!

**W**e have been working on the Apex at the back of the church and on the church Tower. You may have seen the scaffolding that was up for a couple of weeks.

Now we have had to focus on what is down below!! You may not have known that there is a basement below the stage where many items of clothes are stored. These are taken by dedicated volunteers to Living Well when there is a need. Under the basement is a manhole which all of a sudden filled up and flooded the basement. We have had to keep a close eye on the organ motor and blower which is down below and Watson and Watkins have come out to inspect for damage.

The flood water is luckily clean but has taken hours of pumping to get it out. **Colin Denny** from the Scouts, and **Chris Parker**, have been stars and added their time to that of the professional plumbers. Many hours of labour!

*Lynn*

***Down  
into the  
depths...***

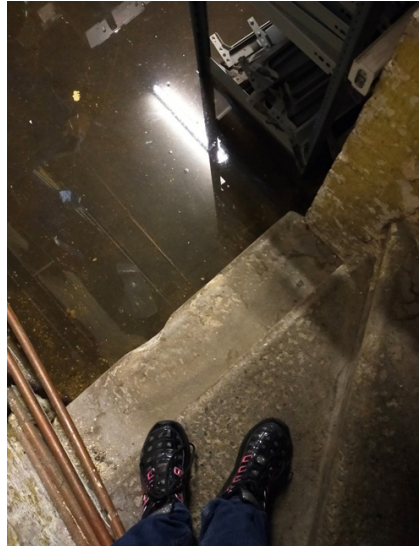




The motor for our organ.

It was not so long ago,  
there would have been a  
boy pumping the organ!

Looking down on  
the floodwater in the  
basement!



# Hymns and Songs of Praise

If my memory serves me right it was in 1987 that the BBC TV programme SONGS OF PRAISE centred on **ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPICE** and was filmed at St. George's, Beckenham. (Somewhere I have a video tape of it but I fear it would (a) take me ages to find it and (b) it might self-destruct if we tried to have it converted to a DVD)!

That was the service where I first became aware of the hymn which begins "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!" (J.S.B.Monsell\*, 1811 - 75). I have loved it ever since and its words "mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness" resound with me when I think back to the anguish of our youngest son's encounter with meningitis at only 5 months and the hopeless tears we shed seeing him suffer in an isolation ward for 3 weeks. Our special mornings of joy were the day 32 years later when he wed his deaf bride and then a year later when their beloved daughter was born.

In between, the hymn's words "Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be" were on my mind when we apprehensively took him to **Great**





**Ormond Street Hospital** at 15 years for a cochlear implant operation at his own request.

Suffice it to say, as I see the number on the hymn board or catch the opening music, my eyes are never dry by the time it ends and yet my heart is full of thankfulness.

*Jenny Froude*

Thank you, Jenny, for responding to Dorothea's article on favourite **Hymns and Songs of Praise** (page 14-16 of the March issue)

Does anyone else have a favourite hymn or praise song or poem?

\*The Rev. John Samuel Bewley Monsell was born on 2nd March, 1811, at St. Columb's, Londonderry, Ireland.

He wrote many lovely hymns and poems and was a faithful Anglican priest.

He died on the 9th April, 1875, and is buried in Guildford Cemetery, Guildford, Surrey.



St Mark's Players present  
"A Bond Adventure with Songs"



*"Shaken but only slightly stirred"*



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 8pm  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 2.30pm & 7.30pm

**St George's Hall**  
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All this, together with our Bar serving Beer & Wine - *not shaken but stirred* - will put you on an **All Time High**.

***After all, You Only Live Twice...We'll be expecting you...***

***Live Band \*\* Refreshments\*\* Fully Accessible \*\*  
Raffle Prizes \*\* Supporting local Charities***

# Stamp Quiz

1. In 2015, the Royal Mail released two first class adhesive stamps to mark the 175th anniversary of the adhesive postage stamp. One reproduced the famous “Penny Black’, while the other was a replica of which stamp released shortly afterwards?

- a. Two penny blue
- b. Four Pence Green
- c. Thruppenny Red
- d. Sixpence Yellow

2. A set of stamps released in 2010 featuring famous faces such as Robert Boyle, Sir Issac Newton and Benjamin Franklin celebrated the 350th anniversary of which British institution dedicated to the Sciences?

- a. University of Cambridge
- b. The British Museum
- c. The Royal Society
- d. The Royal Observatory

3. April 2012 saw the Royal Mail release 10 stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of an event involving which Royal Mail Ship?

- a. Lusitania
- b. Titanic
- c. Queen Mary
- d. Britannic

4. In 2013, the release of a set of four second class stamps, featuring a Cyberman, a Dalek, an Ood and a Weeping Angel, formed part of the Royal Mail’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of which British TV show?

- a. Blue Peter
- b. The Sky at Night
- c. Gardener’s World
- d. Doctor Who

5. On 28th July 2014, the centenary of the start of the First World War, the Royal Mail released six commemorative stamps. Which flower featured prominently on one of the first class stamps included in the set?

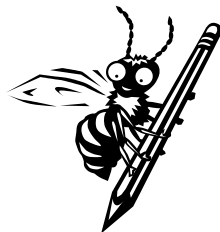
- a. Rose
- b. Forget-me-not
- c. Poppy
- d. Lily

6. Stamps featuring Spitfires, Hurricanes and a stately home named Bentley Priory were all part of a set released in 2015 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of which military campaign of the Second World War?

- a. Battle of Britain
- b. D-Day Landings
- c. Pearl Harbour Attack
- d. Battle of El Alamein

7. A set of 10 first class stamps released in 2016 that featured quotes such as “Love comforteth like sunshine after rain” and “To thine own self be true” marked a major anniversary of the death of which famous British writer?

- a. William Shakespeare
- b. Charles Dickens
- c. Jane Austen
- d. Charlotte Bronte



***We are still praying for Ukraine***



Ukrainian children with their teacher.

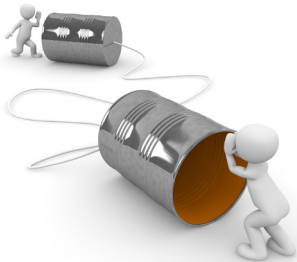
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kidsandartforukraine>

If you would like to support this initiative, the link is above. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development EBRD will triple your donation!

## ***Friends' News***



***Remember that Minister Pam no longer has a  
landline***



May I have articles for the **May issue** by the **20th April**, please?

Each month the **deadline date** for sending articles is the 20th., which means, please, start thinking about what you will write (or research, or draw) now.

***Nasty Editor***

**Website:**

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



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

**Pam Owen on:**

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

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

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

Tel: 07999 296 686 (new number)

For enquiries related to this website please contact  
**Callum McShane** on:

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

To submit articles for the monthly newsletter:

[margaret@ecoharmony.org](mailto:margaret@ecoharmony.org)

**Deacons** at the moment are

**Jannett Ashley**

**Douglas Rathbone**

**Chris Parker**

**Lynn McShane** (treasurer)

[lynn.mcshane22@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.mcshane22@gmail.com)