

Penge Congregational Church



August 2025

Open House

I am opening my house for a BBQ for Penge Congregational members and attendees after the church service **Sunday 25th August**. Do join us!

Chris Parker

*Services in August and
notice of Maintenance Week are
on page 21*

Cover photo

from Jenny

Pretty blue Catananche
and the grass which is a Stipa,
sometimes known as Angel hair

A LINE A DAY ...

That's the title of a handy little book I bought (in a charity shop) which declares its purpose is to act as a personal "time capsule". I liked the idea that a penned word, sentence, thought or feeling could eventually result in 3 years of memories on which to reflect.

From the spine I could see the first owner had given up on day one and extracted the page before donating so it was hardly "pre-loved" when I got my hands on it on the 1st of January 2025.

For years I have kept a diary for which the current terminology appears to be "journalling". When and why did that name change happen I wonder? I still fill a page or so each day but its little companion provides a delightful challenge to capture one sentence or so to savour as special.

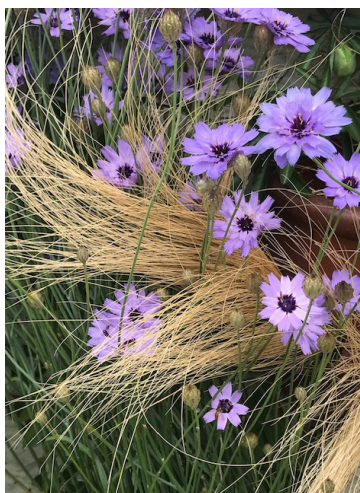
On a busy day I might seize on something to jot down that evening or, rarely, on "off" days I might be hard put to summon something up to record briefly. Be it a good or bad day, the quest is to write a few words about an event or encounter to cherish and be thankful for.

In looking back over the past six months to mention in this article I discovered so many entries I had already forgotten! A green woodpecker on the grass, a smile from an unknown baby on the bus, being delighted to see my favourite, friendly female driver on

the 194, poignant anniversaries of loved ones, kind comments from readers, coffees with friends, the joy of grandchildren spanning 4 to 20 years who, without our marriage 63 years ago would not be shining as a light in the world and delighting our sons! Unexpected and joyous encounters with friends, surprising coincidences, sobering thoughts on sad occasions of which rather too many this year already, and so on ...

Already entering the second half of a year that feels to be moving far too fast for comfort I will keep and enjoy my little book and hope to be able to make sense to its end. (As a proofreader I have just turned to the back page and see it offers “Congratulations on getting through five whole years and making a tonne of memories!” Whoever edited this Activity Journal couldn’t count obviously and reckoned without my beady eye!

Jenny Froude



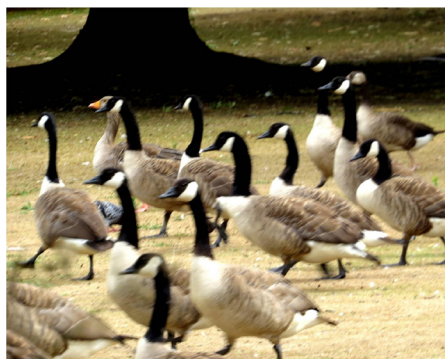
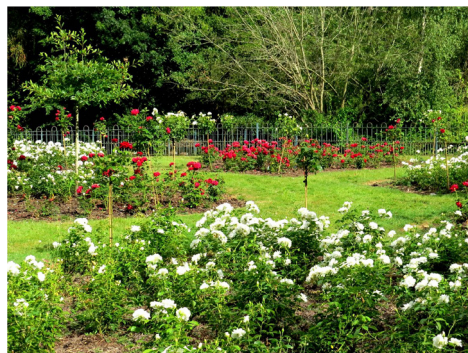
Candyfloss and Horses and much, much more...

By Peter Longley {from his blog}

Author of 'The Cedars of Beckenham' and 'When the Cows Come Home' www.peterlongley.com

What a difference a few days of summer make! Kelsey Park is now a blaze of colour. Two heatwaves in late June and early July have made the park bloom. Now, I should explain that the definition of a heatwave in the United Kingdom is a sequence of three or more days at 30 C. or more, which in Fahrenheit is 86 F. So, we can certainly say that in southeast England we have experienced a few days now in the upper 80s. Further warm days are forecast for July with days in the low 80s (actually my favourite zone as I spent many years of my life in the tropics often just a little cooler than the temperate.)

Finally, our summer gardens at the Beckenham entrance into Kelsey Park were planted out and look like they are now responding well to the sunshine. The same can be said for the annuals planted in the beds in front of our information centre. Close by is the new community garden where plants have grown to giants in just a few weeks--an interesting mix of flowers, vegetables and fruits. It is becoming a learning centre for many children as they see the fruits of their efforts. Opposite is our Birch Lawn that is now a no-mow lawn for wild growth, at this time of the year a sea of ragweed. Despite the invasive nature of ragweed (and



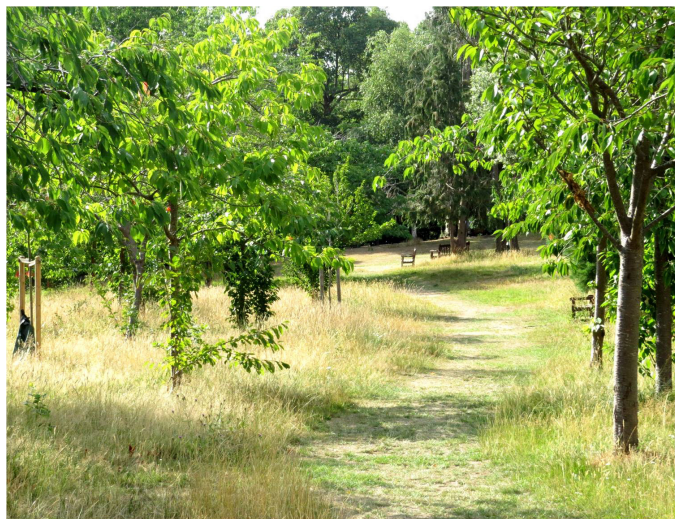
as I remember from the Ozarks, its danger to horses) it is at Kelsey Park very pretty at the present time--a sea of yellow. (We are not accustomed to seeing horses at Kelsey Park.) Guarding the entrance to the community garden is a fabulous smoke tree with beautiful almost candyfloss-like pink flowers.

I mentioned the herbaceous border quite a bit last month. It is looking magnificent at present, although the great lawn fronting it has suffered in the heat. Grass, however, always recovers after the first rainy day, so its dry, burnt-out look is of no great concern. Perhaps of more concern is the fact that ever since the very effective dredging of the lake last winter, large gaggles of geese have now made the Great Lawn their habitat. They also seem to be increasing greatly in numbers.

Last month I had a rant about the rose garden. Whatever, I am very pleased to see that it has now been weeded and has much improved in appearance. We did lose quite a lot of these new roses after planting, but overall the garden is at present a very colourful addition to the park. I also made reference last month to the disappearing face of our Cheshire cat sculpture in the miscanthus grass. I suppose he could be a lion, but at this time of the year pretty much everything but his smile disappears in the growing ornamental grasses. Several of you wanted a photo of the cat. So, this month I have included one before his smile disappears.

I love the dappled sunlight and shadows that form along our spacious paths at this time of the year, and despite the dried-out grass, those little vistas of the blue waters of our lakes glistening through the trees. For me, a few more mini heatwaves will be welcome as long as we get a little bit of rain in between, but then we can't all live in Camelot!





Updates from 4 other churches part of Churches Together in Beckenham

Elmers End Free Church

Talent Evening on 4th October in aid of ***Medecins Sans Frontieres***. Any one with particular gifts is invited to get in touch with **Nick Comfort**.

They already have some musical acts and tentatively a flamenco troupe, but we would like to showcase talent right across the board. Last time they had a vicar who was an escapologist!

Could anyone who is interested please get in touch, so we can start putting our programme together.

St John's Eden Park

St John's have the induction of their new minister **Rev Nicholas Jacques Pucenot** on **Monday 11th August at 7pm** - all are welcome but please RSVP to office@stjohnsbeckenham.org if attending.



**Beckenham Methodist Church,
Bromley Road, BR3 5JE**

Stay and Play Sessions:

Are delighted to announce TWO Stay and Play Sessions this Summer.

Tuesday 5th August 10am-12pm

Tuesday 19th August 10am-12pm

Registration is preferred and this can be done by emailing:

bmcstayandplay@gmail.com

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Avenue Road Baptist Church

Welcome to the **Reverend Mekeda Hewitt** who was inducted as the new Minister at Avenue Road Baptist Church on 19th July 2025. She is in the picture here with Andrew Jones, the previous minister.



Lynn and Chris

30th Wedding Anniversary



At the drums:
Mihn and Ewan

right:

Jonny, Jean Genie, Mihn,
Khadija and Alisha



above: Misty





above: Pam,
Julie, Janet
and Jean

right: Amy,
Lynn,
Sherelle and
Shenice



above:
Khadija
& Alisha



Thanks to everyone who made our 30th Wedding Anniversary such a wonderful time. Especially to Himalayan Kitchen who provided the food (Neel, Janaki, Achut, and Archana) Amy and Minh who provided the watermelon and took the photos.

The church who gave us lovely flowers

Music from Ewan and Alisha. Friends and family who joined together to celebrate.

Chris,
Lynn and
Siobhan.

Beyond
Chris is
Emmanuel
(the
husband
of a work
colleague of
Lynn)



Lynn and Debbie

below:
Some of
you will
remember
Debbie (and
her mother,
Barbara)
who were
part of PCC
some ten
years ago.



above:

Khadija is
sitting with Amy

right:

Chris & Lynn &
Misty



Misty Jade has started a project in the ‘Chapel of Youth’ called ‘Music that Lives’.

She writes

Our journey into historical sound practice began in July with the launch of our keyboard tuning and restoration workshop series. Led by our dedicated restorer **Cesar Hernandez**, the session introduced participants to the delicate art of voicing, regulation, and tuning using historical methods, all within the atmospheric setting of our future salon space. Work focused on three instruments from our collection: a T. R. C. Goff & J. C. Cobby clavichord (1949), a John Broadwood & Sons square piano (1818), and a John Broadwood & Sons bichorda fortepiano (1860). It was the first of many steps toward restoring these remarkable instruments to their authentic voice.

To read more go to

<https://musicthatlives.co.uk/about-us/>

The photos show **Ewan, Yvonne, and Cesar** at work on the instruments.





Hôtel-Dieu

On the 26th June this year, my sister took me on a voyage of discovery on the River Rhône in the south of France. We have cousins in this part of the world.

On one of the sweltering hot days, we visited Beaune and its famous Hôtel-Dieu. This magnificent building was built in **1443 by Nicholas Rolin** who was the Chancellor of Burgundy.

I am convinced that he was inspired by the words of **Psalms 113** for Nicolas Rolin was a man who knew his Bible well.

He built the Hôtel-Dieu to house the poor of the parish that 'they might live like princes' (psalm 113 v7 and 8).



continued over the page...



The sleeping quarters with the nun on duty

Hôtel-Dieu ‘Des hospices Civils de Beaune’ were designed and built by Nicholas Rolin and his wife **Guigone de Salins**. Both put a lot of themselves into this wonderful construction.

The building houses the Great Hall, the Doctors’ surgery, the Kitchens, a Pharmacy and a laboratory and various Chapels with the most beautiful stained glass windows showing stories from the Bible.

As we went from room to room, we could take in the details of the life of the nursing community of nuns and the residents of the fifteenth century and beyond.

The Hôtel-Dieu cared and served the poor until 1971 when a new hospital was opened. And thanks to the nursing community established at the Hôtel-Dieu,

the new hospital continues to function on the same principles of Christian care and love.



The founders of Hôtel-Dieu:
Nicholas Rolin and his wife,
Guigone de Salins

photos by Cherryl Andersen

the courtyard





left-right: Grant, Polina, Chris & Lynn, Yana, Max
Added to Lynn and Chris' **Church family** at their 30th
celebration were other members of their family!

Services in August

Services are on the theme of our relationships with each other and the community

3rd August Generous to everyone 2 Samuel 6:17-19

10th August Yes, you are my neighbour Luke 10:25-51

17th August No prejudice, no favourites James 2:8-17

24th August Meetings that do more harm than good!

1 Corinthians 11:17-26

31st August Cafe Church

18th to 22nd August - Maintenance Week

We are also holding our church maintenance week

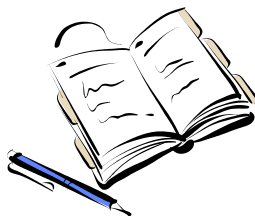
18th - 22nd August opening doors 09.30. Anyone wishing to help with painting, cleaning or other bibs and bobs can drop in and out as they please. Or you can help supply teas and coffees and enjoy a chat at the same time.

Thankyou, *Chris P*



Website:

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:**

pcclettings@outlook.com

Tel: 07999 296 686 (new number)

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

iona.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