

Penge Congregational Church



Street Party Fun

Minister Pam judging the desserts. Tug of War and 'framed'



July/August 2022



Walter's Art Studio
and below 'framed' Linda



We had the **Annual Kenilworth Road Street Party** at the beginning of June! Also celebrating the **Queen's platinum jubilee**.

Pam had the 'onerous' job of judging the **Queen of the puds**. Some wonderful puds were available! The winning pudding was awarded a voucher to the **Himalayan Kitchen** from our wonderful previous tenants to the manse, who have now moved out of the road to their own home.

We took people who were brave enough up to the tower. They enjoyed seeing **Walter's art studio** while they waited to climb the final steps outside.

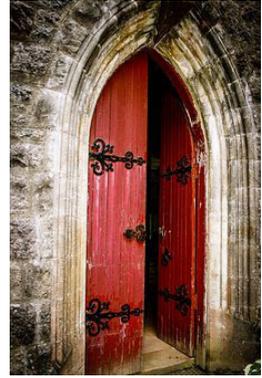
The **annual Tug of War** was won by the **even side of the road** this time. Good luck to the odds next year!

Lynn and Chris

From the Minister

At the beginning of June we had the four day Platinum Jubilee weekend. There were national events to mark this, and I think even those who are emphatically not monarchists were affected by the historical nature of a celebration of a 70 year reign. You actually have to be well over 70 even to be able to remember a time when the Queen wasn't there. In a world where the past couple of years or so have emphasised the speed at which our lives can change out of all recognition, most of us find her steady presence there at the summit of national life a reassurance. But, even at 96 the Queen is capable of showing us an unexpected side! Back in 2012 we were amazed to see her apparently jumping out of a helicopter with James Bond. On Jubilee Saturday, we were enchanted to see her entertaining Paddington Bear to tea and revealing that she keeps a marmalade sandwich in her handbag!

Jubilee weekend included Pentecost Sunday, where we commemorated the coming of the Holy Spirit to the believers in Jerusalem. In church we wondered exactly what the disciples were expecting: they knew, because Jesus had told them, that they were to wait in Jerusalem until the promised Holy Spirit came to them; but did they anticipate it happening as it did? It certainly wasn't a solemn occasion! The Holy Spirit came noisily, ostentatiously, in a manner that couldn't have been



less like the carefully inconspicuous way in which the disciples had been living.

What with the noise like a rushing wind, the tongues of fire and the clamour of all the believers speaking in different languages, the arrival of the Spirit didn't escape the notice of anyone in the vicinity. Of course many jumped inevitably to the most discreditable conclusion and assumed the disciples were drunk. But Peter stood up and addressed the crowd, testifying to the truth and the power of the Gospel. And, the Scripture tells us, many who were there to hear him came to belief in Jesus Christ.

Earlier I remarked on the Queen with her quiet, steady presence; and on two occasions when she just threw that off and showed us a side of her personality we have hardly seen. What an impact that marmalade sandwich had! I think the coming of the Holy Spirit was a similar occasion: the might, power and majesty of God, which makes us feel reverent and wondering, suddenly manifesting itself in chaotic energy. Almost literally lighting a fire in the believers, a fire which set off a chain reaction which is still going, still growing ever greater.

Would it have had the same effect if the Spirit had just arrived quietly? Perhaps on the disciples themselves, who already believed. But that dramatic entrance grabbed the attention of all the many Jews there in Jerusalem for the festival, and Peter, energised by the Spirit, was able to use it to proclaim the Gospel in a way that so many found irresistible.

Sometimes we need shaking out of our comfortable assumptions. We need to remember that the Holy Spirit which dwells inside every believer, isn't just there to be our Comforter and guide. It's there as a channel of God's glory, God's power, God's might. If we are open to its energy, we too can be the means by which that chain reaction keeps on growing!

Pam

Medley of Song
Kenilworth Hall on 10th July
12.30 for 1pm

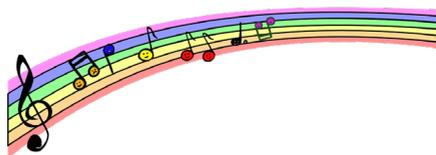
Come and join us for a light lunch and
a medley of songs.

Lead Singer: Ronald Kirby.

Songs by

Flannaghan and Allen, Flanders and Swann etc.

Not to be missed event - with friends from
St George's and Penge Congregational Church.



Ahab, and how God dealt with the unfaithfulness of his chosen people.

When we were discussing ideas for August's service theme, I said, being a bit frivolous, "How about looking at baddies in the Bible?" This set Chris M thinking, and he suggested that we should use the story of one bad person to illustrate what went wrong with the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, why there had to be an Exile, and why God sent the Good Shepherd to put things right forever.

When God chose the children of Israel to be his special people, he set out their relationship in the form of a covenant made through Moses. A covenant is a binding agreement between two parties that is sealed by promises, usually on both sides. In his covenant through Moses, God promised the Israelites that they would be his chosen people, his Holy Nation, his Royal Priesthood and the people undertook to follow the Law he gave them, what we call the Law of Moses.

Later on, after the people had asked God to give them a king like all the other nations, God made another covenant, this time with David. He promised David that the Kingdom of God would come through a descendant of David and that, therefore, the line of David would last forever. And again the promise on the other side was that the people would be faithful to God.

The undoing of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah was unfaithfulness. Again and again through the history of the kings of Israel and Judah, we read that many of

them “did evil in the sight of the Lord”, in other words that they were unfaithful to him. At the dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem under Solomon, Solomon’s prayer included words from God: “Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore the land.” The unfaithfulness of the kings and of their peoples caused the Exile: the culmination of years of Israel and Judah turning away from God, and violating the clear precepts laid down in the Law and spoken through the prophets. The peoples’ rejection of God resulted in judgement.

But God loved his people too much, and so he found a way back for them, a new covenant to be made in the hearts of his people and sealed in the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of David.

So, in our August services, we shall be looking at the deeds of the 8th king of Israel, Ahab, who under the influence of his wife, Jezebel, began to worship the pagan god Baal instead of the One True God. Ahab betrayed God and he exploited his people; Jezebel was the daughter of the king of Sidon, where, if a king wanted something, he just took it. So God sent Elijah to deliver a death sentence on Ahab, and Ahab died “just as the Lord had promised.”

The book of Kings was written during the Exile to explain to God’s people why they were where they were; one major line of argument was that the kings had been judged for not keeping God’s instructions.

Ahab was a prime example of a king who had done evil in the sight of the Lord.

Pam

Christian Aid



Total collection from the street and church offerings for Christian aid was

£161.47 and our e-envelope made £197.50 (that is with gift aid added).

Maybe next year we can put on an event to raise a bit more.



drawn by Chris Mc

Scripture Readings for Services in July and August 2022

July Sunday services, excepting the 24th, will follow a theme of **The Miracles of Jesus**.

- * 3rd July: The Wedding at Cana. John 2: 1-11.
- * 10th July: A Miraculous Catch of Fish. Luke 5: 1-11.
- * 17th July: The Healing of a Paralytic. Mark 2: 1-12.
- * 24th July: **Teddy's Service - the Baptism of Edward Dylan Joseph Brookes**.

Tea and light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Kenilworth Hall.

- * 31st July: The raising of Jairus' Daughter. Luke 8: 40-56.

August Sunday services will be about King Ahab of Israel, and how God's plans addressed the problem of unfaithfulness among his chosen people.

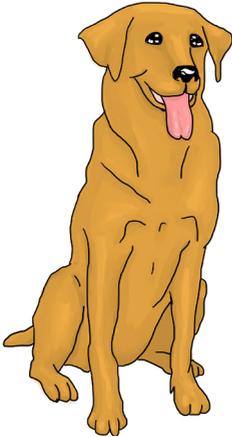
- * 7th August: Ahab turns the people away from the One True God. 1 Kings 16: 29-34.
- * 14th August: The People suffer Injustice at the Hands of Sunday 28th August: The Lord gathers his Scattered Sheep. Ezekiel 34Ahab. 1 Kings 21: 1-25.
- * 21st August: God turns away from Ahab and the People of Israel. 1 Kings 22: 1-28.: 1-16.
- * 28th August: The Lord gathers his Scattered Sheep. Ezekiel 34: 1-16.

A Tale (wagging) from Carolyn

In our travels from Bournemouth to Christchurch recently, we went to an organ recital in the Priory (that is Christchurch Priory Church)

The recital was given by David Davies, the organist from Buckfast Abbey.

Each time the organist finished a piece and everyone applauded, there were also a couple of sharp barks



from a dog; presumably an assistance dog of some sort which had been taught to 'speak' to order. Anyway, it brought a smile to everyone's face.

So good was the recital that there was an encore - which started with the Sailor's Hornpipe, and encompassed some Bach and part of the Widor Toccata woven in, in the manner in which Joseph Cooper used to do with melodies on the piano.

Carolyn Dunnett

I wonder if you know anyone who is able to weave musical melodies in such a way?

Carolyn's father was able to do that sort of thing!

Time given to Reflect

As I write this I am well on the road to recovery from foot surgery which was on, then off, then on again, the surgery that is, not my foot. My thanks to the NHS for fitting me in when all seemed lost. When I found out it was cancelled for the second time many of you prayed for me and within 24 hours a phone call out of the blue calling me in. Some may say coincidence, I say power of prayer. God is good all the time. The first few weeks I've had hours with my foot up and between nodding off due to strong pain killers I have been reading and watching films.

Both have given me time to reflect on life a little. I normally get inspiration for this when on my allotment amongst the birds, digging and planting, unfortunately the allotment has seen very little of me for a number of weeks and the birds and squirrels have taken advantage of a bumper crop of strawberries and gooseberries to devour. The snails and slugs have also been able to keep cool in the damp fast growing weeds and grass, coming out in the darkness to have their own bounty.

Paul the apostle was no doubt a man of faith but backed it up by action and as a result put himself in much danger, eventually resulting in execution. One individual who showed such positive action is portrayed in the film '**Sabina**'. She is one of many examples when Christians go forward with nothing else but faith to go on. Sabina was a Jew in Romania and fell in love and

married a non-practising Jewish man who became a Christian just before WW2 and the forthcoming influence of Nazi Germany. They were the Wurmbrand family.

Her husband became a pastor and during the war they hid, sheltered and helped many Jewish girls escape from being sent to concentration camps. They themselves were arrested five times between them, tortured, but always, somehow released. Her Jewish family were all sent to a concentration camp where they died at the hands of the Romanian Iron Guard. Sabina helped bring neighbours to know the Lord and even a brutal guard stationed at the concentration camp where her family had been held, possibly the murderer of her own family. She professed once that she had only ever kissed two men, her husband and the man who probably killed her family. That is surely forgiveness to its heights.

When Russia swept into Romania towards the end of the war, causing the Germans to flee, the couple took in Germans, those who had once persecuted and beaten them, now to help them escape. Whilst in their care the couple took the opportunity of telling them of Jesus love. 'When your enemy is hungry, feed them, when they are thirsty, give them a drink'. Could you or I be so forgiving.

After the war you would think they would have taken things on that were likely to be a bit less dramatic. No. Her husband Richard was later imprisoned for 14 years

by the following communist government of Romania for standing by his beliefs.

We have recently been having church service themes on Paul, including the time in prison with Silas when an earthquake broke open the prison doors. Even when the two were in prison they continued to praise and speak about Jesus and His love for everyone. It embarrasses me when I think of the beatings they took in the name of Jesus when I at times don't speak up when people around me scoff at the thought that God even exists. May the Holy Spirit give us all the confidence and the words to be bold and strong.

The book that I have read during this period is about a Police Officer, Graham Bailey who took part in several Isle of Man TT races in the 1970s. This is *two weeks of road motorcycle racing* on what is considered the most dangerous circuit in the world. It is rare for the weeks to pass without a fatality, in fact I believe this year saw 5.

It interested me because Graham was brought up as a child post war just off Bromley Common and then moved somewhere near Church Road in Crystal Palace.

It was here that he got the bug to ride motorcycles.



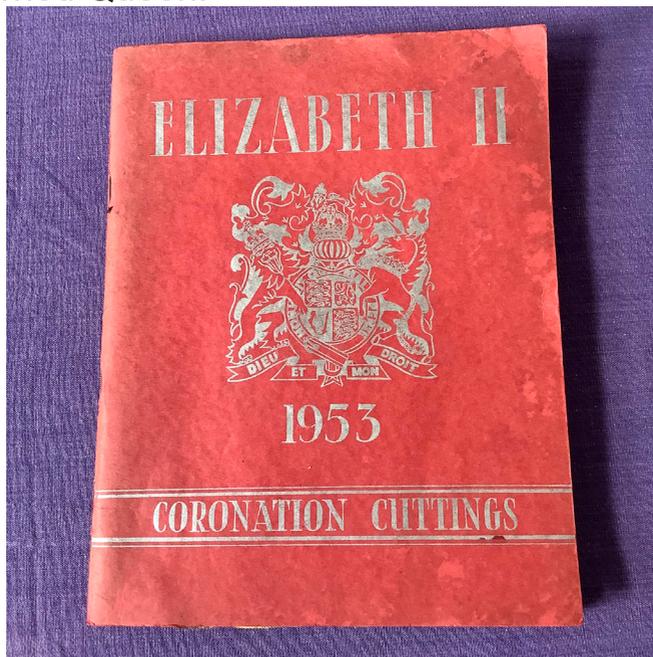
...continued on page 16 and 17

AN HISTORIC DAY

It is the 2nd of June, 2022. I am sitting in our sunny garden, surrounded by four of our grandchildren (the eldest, alas, prioritising urgent homework, even though I had thought the promise of my Coronation chicken would prove irresistible!)

His 14-year-old sibling and younger cousins are cartwheeling on the grass and playing hide-and-seek while the “baby” stands before me, beseeching me for more ice cream in the little bowl he bears!

Such joy to be sweltering in the sun on this special day, when my mind (when I can take some time out!) goes back to this very date, 69 years ago, when I was standing patiently in The Mall to catch a glimpse of our newly crowned Queen.



What a Godsend are diaries! My pages of that day are secured in an Elizabeth 11, 1953 Coronation Cuttings album, bearing witness to the neat handwriting instilled by the convent school in Hastings I attended, and a few corrections from the teacher nuns!

Aged 13 years, my schoolfriend and I stayed in Ealing with her uncle and he it was who escorted us to Buckingham Palace the night before the Coronation. We snatched a couple of hours' sleep in St. James's Park before selecting a standing space by 2.30 a.m. The time dragged by until 8.30 when a few cars arrived, eventually followed by glass coaches bearing the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, the Duke of Kent and his family and Sir Winston and Lady Churchill. Lovely, larger-than-life Queen Salote braved the wet weather and beamed at the crowds from her open carriage.

Then came what I described as "the wonderful moment arrived ... as our young and lovely Queen was borne to the Abbey". Giddy with excitement we retreated to the park to hear the service over loudspeakers and I noted that, as we stood there, with the rain pouring down, "probably one of the greatest events in the Queen's life, and the nation's history, was taking place".

Back in The Mall, we waited another 4 hours (oh the stamina of the young!) for the even longer procession to pass by. This time the Crown was on the Queen's head and the Orb and Sceptre were in her hands. "She looked lovelier still and was smiling radiantly".

I observed: “Nowhere else in the world could equal London for its pageantry, pomp and splendour”.

Fascinated at seeing the paper boys selling tomorrow’s newspapers, we made our way back to Ealing to listen to the Queen’s broadcast and it was only many years later (thanks to the BBC Dimbleby film “The People’s Coronation”) that I learned that a very young photographer I had known since his schooldays had boldly taken an iconic photo of the royal couple in the golden coach which appeared on the cover of an evening paper! He went on to become famous!

Later that week there was one more wait for us intrepid schoolgirls when, after an hour, we were rewarded by seeing the Queen, clad in tulle and wearing a sparkling tiara, appear one evening on the floodlit Palace balcony, aside the Duke of Edinburgh in scarlet uniform. A wonderful picture imprinted on our memory and the perfect end to our Coronation week. The royal film in colour was to follow later but I ended my diary with “nothing can compare with our view of her. GOD SAVE OUR QUEEN.”

All these years later I admit to feeling quite emotional as I read the diary again. The grandchildren were relatively underwhelmed by it but a dear friend from our NCT days was suitably impressed by the album of words and pictures. It has been heartwarming to see and hear the reaction of today’s pupils towards this Jubilee and Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage’s moving

words in his beautiful poem Queenhood refer to the constancy of Her Majesty and the act of anointing during the Coronation service as “too sacred by far for the camera to see”.

How precious it is that some things remain unseen but that by her Christian life and her Platinum Jubilee our Monarch has enriched the lives of so many in different ways and brought people together to celebrate. I feel very blessed to be able to remember that June day so long ago

Jenny Froude



And another
Kenilworth Road
Street Party
framing - a
lovely, smiling
Pam

Time given to Reflect - continued from page 11

One Sunday morning he was out walking and was intrigued by a strange smell in the air. Following this it led him to the Crystal Palace car and motorcycle circuit. He also mentions in his book 'One Man's Mountain' other venues locally, like a motorcycle shop run by the famous John Surtees and his brother... in West Wickham, Duckhams and Dunstalls who also had premises locally. There is a part in the book which shows how we must be ready to listen to God when He wants to lead you.

Graham was on police motorcycle duty when a young lady stopped in a car to ask directions. Having instructed her she drove off. From the moment she left his presence, he had a nagging voice telling him to make sure she got to her destination. Eventually he got on his motorcycle and tracked her down. She had made the route successfully but what followed was a friendship which blossomed into a God led marriage which has stood the time to this day. May we too be ready to hear God speak and follow His instructions.

Graham was himself subject to a very serious accident whilst racing at the IOM TT. He was later involved in helping in a Christian event held on the Island during the two weeks of racing. This saw many visitors and racing personnel come to know Jesus as their Saviour. Lesson from this is that God always has a role for you

to play even if you think your skills have run out of steam or taken from you.

Being off work for these couple of months has given me a feel of what retirement may be like and perhaps this time next year I may consider that option. What I do know is that God will know when the time is right but will be ready to use me, perhaps in a different way or direction to further His Kingdom.

Have a great month listening and acting on God's call and 'Keep those knees in the breeze'. A motorcycle term. Chris PARKER



When I needed a neighbour

No Borders, no nations – Stop Deportations!

This cry filled the air outside the **Home Office on Monday 13th June**. It was the day before our government planned to send their first flight of asylum seekers to Rwanda. I stood in a crowd of protestors that filled the street and felt a sense of desperation as we shouted to let the government know that we wouldn't accept them passing their responsibilities for vulnerable people who had asked for our help to a country whose human rights record was condemned just last year by the UK.

Speakers talked about a protest at the detention centre where those intended to be on the flight the next day were being held. They spoke of the companionship and hope brought to those behind the fences by seeing and speaking to the protestors. I remembered the song we often sing ***'When I needed a neighbour were you there? And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter were you there?'*** The UK government is refusing to act as a neighbour to victims of war, torture, and other persecution – but that is not the stance that everyone in this country wants to take and we were there to show it.

The next day brought good news. Intervention from the European Court of Human Rights meant that the flight to Rwanda did not take off. However, news in the following days cut short my relief. The government is attempting to pass a new Bill of Rights which will

divorce the UK from the European Convention of Human Rights, undoing decades of work to ensure that everyone in this country is treated with respect. Our MP for Lewisham West and Penge, **Ellie Reeves**, has spoken out against the bill but there is much more to be done to stop it.

With the Rwanda deportations on hold for the moment (but by no means forever) the government has announced another scheme to tag all migrants arriving by irregular routes as if they are criminals. The harm this is likely to do to people who are escaping repressive regimes where they have been constantly spied on and at risk of sudden arrest and torture is enormous. People who arrive by irregular routes often do so because they have faced government persecution that denies them access to travel documents that might allow them to enter the UK legally. Others come from countries at war, in such a state of crisis that obtaining travel documents or waiting for our government to approach them with a 'safe and legal' offer to come to the UK is a ludicrous thought. They do not choose to break the law and they should not face further state persecution from a country they hope is safe for them.

There is a lot more to do to ensure that we can be true neighbours to those in need. If you want to get involved have a look at some of the following organisations: Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), Freedom from Torture, Refugee Council, the Red Cross, and locally in Streatham the South London Refugee Association.

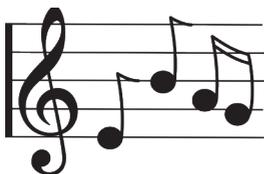
Siobhan McShane

We have been enjoying the ***Penge Festival through out June and had two Penge Festival organ recitals.*** These were wonderful events. **Alan Langridge** was a key mover in getting organists involved from the **Southwark and South London Society of Organists.**

We had **five** organists on a Tuesday evening which was a lovely relaxed event. We had **nine** organists on Saturday afternoon. The youngest player is 13 years old, Neheda. Here they all are.



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

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Tel: 07900 518 537

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