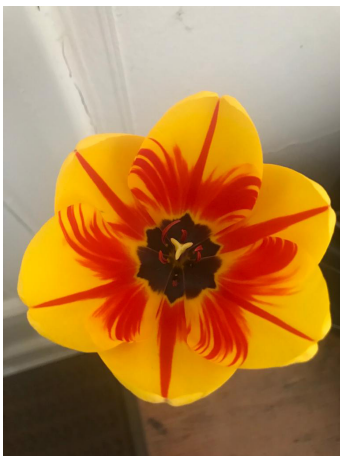


Penge Congregational Church



June 2024



A Train Journey at Pentecost

from the sermon delivered by
Chris Parker

on **Sunday, 20th May**

Before reading the article below, I want you to imagine that you are catching a train.

What emotions do you have as you set out from the front door of your house?



Now listen to this 3 year old's account.

“Grandma. Come on! We will be late and miss the train. Hurry! Grandma”.

Caleb pulls at her hand eager to get things moving.

“Have you got your ticket Grandma”? They walk on down towards the station with Caleb constantly tugging her hand to make quicker progress. They enter the platform and the regular adult commuters are standing around with their heads in their mobile phones, or a book, taking no interest in what's happening around them. They look bored.

Caleb is far from bored. He is waiting for the train in the very best spirit of waiting. His eyes are virtually popping out of his head. He's jigging up and down with

excitement, so much so that Grandma asks if he needs the toilet.

No, **his focus** is the approaching loco.

He says, “Here it comes Grandma”...

“Look how close it is to us”. Oh, my goodness. His mouth wide open when the train finally rolls into the station.

“Did you feel the rush of that wind as it went past us, Grandma?”

He is full of awe and wonder, and his enthusiasm not only makes you smile, but draws you into the array of emotions he is feeling.

These first moments, first experiences, in anyone’s life are precious, and they become etched into our memories **as significant events in our life**; but as we grow older, we sometimes forget how amazing these things were, and it can be the same in our faith.

As Christians, we all remember to celebrate **Christmas** and **Easter**, and society will go all out commercially to promote these two events in the Christian calendar with advertising those ‘must have’ presents and sugary eggs and bunnies.

But, whoever saw the shop windows decked with **flames of fire** or **tongues made of chocolate**? This **Pentecost Day** should be as important and as exciting as Christmas and Easter!

Remember the day you asked **Jesus** into your life and then waited in the anticipation of **being filled with the**

Holy Spirit?

Like the excited child who *then becomes the boring adult at the railway station*, **we must be careful not to lose that excitement.**

THIS IS THE DAY THE CHURCH WAS BORN.



“They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.”

The Acts of the Apostles chapter 2

4th Penge Guides Report 2023/24

In September, the Guides went on a weekend camp at **Blacklands Farm**. They had lots of adventures with many other guides. The Guides experienced many activities – outdoor climbing wall, high ropes, dancing, parachute games, camp fire, craft, wide games. They all had a great time.

In the autumn term, the Guides worked for their **Mixology badge**. They concocted lots of wonderful ‘**mocktails**’ mixing different fruit juices and soft drinks and adding umbrellas, fruit and sometimes squirty cream! They **named** their drinks and made menus. They invited their parents to join us for an evening when they served the mocktails to their parents.

The Guides made gingerbread houses and snow globes for Christmas.

We started the 2024 term with a **New Year party** of games and food. We learnt a new dragon game for Chinese New Year.



We decorated gingerbread people for Valentines/ Galentines and reminded each other how unique and special we all are.

For the leap year we had an evening of

jumping and bouncing and gained our **Bounce Badge**, which was a special badge designed for this leap year.

The Guides wrote a **murder mystery play**. They made props and learnt lines. All the Guides took part – some backstage changing scenes, some narrating and some acting. They performed their play for the parents at the end of the spring term. The Guides all worked so hard and were a great team and were awarded their **Teamwork badge**.

We started the spring term with a puzzle where they had to crack the code to find positive quotes about Spring. They then used these quotes to design a card to take home. Their pictures were really beautiful.

We had a Taskmaster evening when the Guides had various tasks to complete in groups. We had an evening learning new games – the Guides especially enjoyed the knitting game where there was a different action for terms in knitting.

We had a **Bake off evening** when the Guides worked in small groups to decorate a Victoria sponge – we had some wonderful creations – rainbows, flowers, donuts, unicorns, sun, moon and stars, and even a Taylor Swift cake!



The Guides are extremely committed and enjoy meeting together each week and taking part in all the activities.

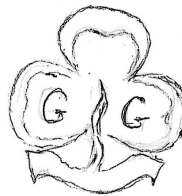
Our leaders have been volunteering for many years and it is their 24th year with the Guides.

Our leaders would like to retire and we are looking for leaders and volunteers.

We have had such wonderful times with the **Guides** and we hope that others will take up the baton and lead the next generation of Guides.

Julie Taylor

For **Scouts**: see pages 16-18



Praise Be!

Jenny writes: A few years ago, at a CTiB Lent course held at St.John's, Eden Park, I joined the group discussing the **Canticle of Praise** and wrote the following about the things in and from nature that gave me such pleasure.

I praise and thank the Lord for...

THE OPEN AIR:

- . The wild drifts of cow parsley
- . The carpet of bluebells
- . The tall grasses bending in the breeze
- . The pristine white bark of a silver birch
- . The hidden heart of a red cabbage
- . The intricate gills of an open mushroom
- . The compact head of a poppy
- . The furry bloom on a ripe quince
- . The perfectly packed seedhead of a sunflower
- . The complexity of a pine cone
- . The sheen on a newly fallen conker



THE SEASHORE:

- . Pebbles, shiny wet from waves or polished to lasting perfection
- . Stones, gravel-sized or mightily weighty
- . Seashells in mysteriously contorted shapes or sweetly simple, pilgrim style
- . Bleached driftwood with its hidden history



TEXTURES:

- . Of wood, gnarled and rustic, or polished to a tactile patina
- . Of smoothly well-trodden church floor tiles in mellow shades
- . Of cold marble slabs
- . Of rough-hewn slate and stone
- . Of crumbling, aged brickwork
- . Of weathered terra cotta pots with mossy decor
- . Of fungi in all its fascinating forms
- . Of straw, jute, hemp, rope, wicker and string
- . Of paper, brown and utilitarian, newsprint, vellum, parchment or handmade

NATURAL FABRICS

- . Soft silk, crisp cotton, slubbed linen
- . Patchwork that turns recycled materials into works of art with stories to tell
- . Rugged homespun wools, warm and light as a whisper alpaca, comforting cashmere

CRAFTS

- . For knitters wielding chunky yarns in natural tones or delicate baby wools for a newborn
- . For potters coaxing amazing items from humble clay
- . For weavers skilfully blending weft and warp into a myriad of shades
- . For embroiderers and seamstresses patiently stitching threads into awesome items.
- . For glass-blowers and their mysterious skills with heat and sand



COLOURS

- . From deepest indigo and rainbow hues to limpid pastels and subtle, soothing neutrals
- . From nature's million shades that make hearts sing in their seasons

All these, and more, are surely worth respect and, dare I say it, even reverence at times. I am sure readers will have their own list of things they might well want to add!

Jenny Froude

Morning Services in June

2nd June James 3:13-18 What are peace makers?

9th June Philippians 4:4-9 The peace of God

16th June Isaiah 32:14-20 The kingdom of righteousness

23rd June Ephesians 6:10-18 Put on the full armour of God

30th June Cafe Church

PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS
OPEN MONDAYS

20TH MAY

17TH JUNE

15TH JULY

**Doors 7pm
for 7.30pm
start**

Performers please register by
Friday before at
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
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358, 227, 194, N3
FREE PARKING AT A
NEARBY MULTISTOREY CARPARK**



St Mark's Players present an
"Out of this World" musical



Saturday 15th June 2024 - 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Friday 21st June 2024 - 8pm

Saturday 22nd June 2024 - 2.30pm & 7.30pm

St George's Hall

25-27 Albemarle Road, Beckenham, BR3 5HZ

£19 with Fish & Chips* £12 show only

*other food options available when booking

Table seating

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07422 516436 / 07973 408807



Emergency?

There's a sighting of an Alien in Beckenham!!
and it's heading for the pub! The locals are
in panic.

? Had the Alien come to wreck their world and cause
'Brain Damage' and 'Creep' the locals out - or has
this Alien come to rock their world with classics
such as 'Mr Blue Sky' and 'Life on Mars'?

The show is filled with rock-pop covers of Bowie,
Elton, Queen and Pink Floyd, to name a few, plus mad
scientists and other surprising characters - so come
along and be transported to outer space via 'Strange
Magic' as we ramp up the fun in this new musical show.

With Table Seating, Fish'n'Chips, Raffle Prizes and
Wine & Beer on offer ***what on earth*** are you waiting
for?

Fully accessible hall. Local parking. Close to all public
transport.

Family Film Night at PCC

We are going to show a Christian Film “**A man called Peter**” **on Thursday night 12th June** in the church at **7pm**. Do come and enjoy.

Popcorn will be provided!

Lynn

Have you considered the Psalms?

I have the dubious privilege of having to say the Psalms every day as part of Morning and Evening Prayer.

I only say 'dubious' because sometimes it is hard - I am feeling lost, or miserable, or hurt, or just plain bored.

What was the phrase I picked up during Confirmation preparation (many years ago) about saying prayers with a dull, dry, disinterested spirit? (I have forgotten the exact words)

But I press on and, more often than not, when I turn to the psalm/s for the day, I will find one of the following:

How long, Lord, will you utterly forget me, how long will you hide your face from me?

Psalm 13

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me, and are so far from my salvation, and from the words of my crying? I call out by day, and you do not answer, by night and I find no rest.

Psalm 22

Save me, O God, for the waters come in up to my soul... I have no foot hold

Psalm 69

And reading on, I realise I am not alone in my misery, fear or hurt.

The psalms were written somewhere between 1000 BC (when David was king) and 400 BC.; so many years before Jesus was born. Yet Jesus knew the psalms well and quoted them.

Some of the psalms are full of faith and thankfulness:

Lord, you have been my refuge, from one generation to another...a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday; they pass like a watch of the night. *Psalms 90*

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, and to make music to your name, O God Most High. *Psalms 92*

(Yes, the psalms were written to be sung)

Other psalms were written in **awe** and **wonder**:

The Lord is king! The peoples tremble: he has taken his seat above the cherubim, the earth is shaking.

The Heavens are telling the glory of God *Psalms 19*

The psalms, though written so long ago, cover every emotion that humans can experience - from fear, violent anger, joy, faith, abandonment, wonder and more..

Still others tell us to “wait upon God” - and instead of telling God what we want Him to do - how about listening in the silence for His voice - maybe using the words of *Psalms 40*

I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry.

Or hear about the wonder of ‘Stillness’ in *Psalms 62*:

For God alone my soul in silence waits; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation...

What is your favourite psalm? Please write.

Editor

1st Penge Scout Group during 2023-24:

Beavers

We have lost one Beaver Leader, but gained three more during the year, so the Beavers are probably better supported than ever before! Also, Beaver Scout Leader Dan completed his training and was awarded his Wood Badge. They have completed their gardener, collector, and sports badges, amongst others. They have held outdoor meetings in Cator Park, Royston Field and Winsford Gardens, and visited Beckenham Fire Station. Five Beavers achieved the highest award available in this section - the Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

Cubs

Our Cub Scout Leader Izzy is currently on maternity leave from Cubs having recently given birth to her first child, Oscar, but we look forward to welcoming her back later in the year. Cubs have completed lots of badges, including first aid, cycling, pioneering, the Coronation, backwoods cooking, global issues, world faith, naturalist, environmental conservation, digital maker, digital citizen, disability, communicator, as well as several of their Challenge badges - World, Teamwork, Adventure, and Outdoor. They visited Cator Park and invited guests such as a British sign language tutor, and a local paramedic.

They created a Code of Conduct, studied fair trade, food poverty, mental health, global warming, and bird

and butterfly identification. They made bird feeders and mini wind turbines, and two Cubs achieved the highest award available in this section - the Chief Scout's Silver Award.

Scouts

We welcomed a new Sectional Assistant, Cleo, who has been helping at several activities and events. Badges completed include environmental conservation, geocaching, athletics, fire safety, scientist, cycling, DIY, and emergency aid, as well as the Expedition Challenge. They had a joint summer camp with 1st Beckenham South Troop at Tolmer's Activity Centre in Hertfordshire, cooking all their own food, where activities included archery, aeroball, tunnels, air rifles, dash & grab, rock-climbing, and quoits. Invited guests included Winnie from SE20 Cycles, and a mental health & wellbeing coach, and they put on a talent show. They visited Bromley Games Workshop to play Warhammer, completed a Remembrance Day hike from Crystal Palace to Bromley, visiting 7 war memorials en route. They took part in the District Swimming Gala at Beckenham Spa and dragon boating at London Docks. They went on a chip shop hike around Penge, an Easter Egg hunt in Cator Park, and helped plant the Tiny Forest in Cator Park, as well as taking part in the Monopoly Live Run, around the streets of central London. One Scout achieved the highest possible award available in this section - the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

All sections attended a very wet and muddy St George's Day event at Fryland's Wood Campsite, but thoroughly enjoyed a selection of nearly fifty different activities. All sections also attended Group Camp, with the Beavers attending for the Saturday, but Cubs and Scouts camped for two nights at Broadstone Warren Campsite, enjoying abseiling, crate-stacking, tunnels, zipwire and a traditional campfire singsong. All sections attended a cold and wet Halloween Spooktacular activity day at Cudham Shaw's Campsite. All sections attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Penge War Memorial, and the pantomime Aladdin in Churchfields Halls.

Oh, yes they did!

***A successful and exciting year for all concerned!
Scouting is alive and well in Penge!***

Regards

Ian

And Ian (Holder) adds:

As previously, I'm looking for support in raising funds for the British Heart Foundation when I do the **London to Brighton Bike Ride for the 40th time on 16th June 2024.**

Please find my Just Giving Page here:

www.justgiving.com/page/ian-holder-1716731186155

Thank you for your support

PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

**ORGAN RECITAL by members of
SOUTHWARK & SOUTH LONDON
SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS**

AS PART OF PENGE FESTIVAL

**15TH JUNE 2024
1PM**

Admission free, donations invited for the
upkeep of the organ

Refreshments served before the concert

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

for June

PENGE MUSIC PRESENTS

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

PIANIST, ECHO ZOU

including works by Chopin and Schubert

**20TH JULY 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

for July



Beckenham Methodist Church

is seeking to appoint an **experienced** and **highly motivated**

Community Café Manager

This is an exciting new role for someone who is passionate about working in a popular, first-rate community café, who enjoys interacting with a wide variety of people and who has an understanding of, and empathy with, the Christian ethos of the café

Duties will include:

- Taking orders, food and drink preparation and delivery
- Managing the day-to-day activities of the café, including rotas, volunteer recruitment and retention and volunteer development (this includes volunteers from MENCAP)
- Ensuring a warm and welcoming environment for all customers
- Exploring options for the future development of café activities

The successful applicant will have a background in catering, preferably in the community sector, and will be positive, self-motivated, have excellent literacy and numeracy skills and be proficient in the use of Word and Excel

**Working hours: 25 hours per week Monday to Friday
40 weeks per year mainly during term time**

Salary: £18,000

Start Date: September 2024

For more information, an application pack and full job description, please email:

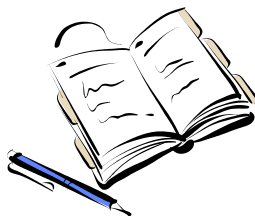
JKManagerapp@outlook.com

Closing date for applications: 23:59 on Sunday 2 June 2024

Interviews for short-listed candidates: Saturday 15 June 2024

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