

PCC Newsletter – March 2016



Table of Contents

<i>Article</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Page</i>
From The Minister	Pam Owen	2 – 3
Organ Recital, February 2016	Marilyn Nicholson	3
I Said A Prayer	Anon	4

Edited by Debbie Collins
Adjusted for web by Callum Mcshane

From The Minister

THIS YEAR, in Lent, we are reading a daily passage from the Gospels or the Epistles together in fellowship. The Gospel passages, mostly from St Luke, tell us of episodes from Jesus' life and teaching, and the Epistle passages seek to illuminate our faith, giving us, for example, the vivid, sometimes startlingly forthright views of St Paul, and the gentle fatherly writings of St John. These commentaries on the ministry of Christ are so important for our understanding; it isn't always easy for us to grasp the Gospel message. I have already had a lively discussion about one of the readings with someone who rang up and declared firmly that it didn't make any sense! Such discussions are good, and I hope next year that we will be able to join with other churches in the area for a weekly Lent course.

At any rate, the discipline of reading a daily passage of Scripture through Lent is a constructive one, and I would encourage everyone to continue this as a daily habit throughout the year. I would be happy to help anyone who would like to do so.

I hope that grounding our walk through Lent in Scripture will focus our hearts and minds on the meaning of Easter. We all know what happened in that first Holy Week: the Last Supper; the Garden of Gethsemane; the trial of Jesus; the decision of Pilate; the walk to Calvary and the Crucifixion. Then the visit of the women to the tomb and the news of the Resurrection. But our focus should be on what it means. The amazing love and grace of God in sending us his Son to live as a human being and to die to pay for the wrongdoing of humanity. The obedience of Jesus to God's plan, and his humility in carrying it out. The significance of what happened on Good Friday at the moment of Jesus' death, when the curtain of the sanctuary in the Temple was torn in two, and there was no longer to be anything to separate God from his people. And, above all, what it means for all believers that Jesus, rising from the dead, brings us new life in the Kingdom of God.

As we approach Easter, I hope our daily readings will help us to see the bigger picture. Instead of thinking of that last week of Jesus' human life and the day of resurrection in episodes, I hope we can understand that this was the culmination of God's purpose, as it had been planned since the world began. Remember those wonderful first verses from St John's Gospel that we read at Christmas? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning". What we celebrate at Easter is the moment in time when the Word, sent to us as Jesus, fulfilled God's purpose and gave us all new life, the moment when the Kingdom of God came to earth and all who asked became part of it.

May we all feel moved and humbled as we reflect on the message of the Cross and the Good News of the Resurrection. May we all embrace the new life we have been gifted, by loving and praising God, and throwing ourselves into the work he wants us to do in his Kingdom.

Pam Owen

Organ Recital February, 2016

Martin Luther wrote that 'God has given the precious gift of music to humanity that they might remind themselves that they have been created for the express purpose of praising and extolling God.'

God was praised on a chilly day in mid-February through the medium of the Lewis organ when, for the fourth consecutive year, members of the Southwark and South London Society of Organists gave their annual composite recital in our church. Twelve organists were featured, and the season of Lent was marked by the performance of several chorale preludes from the 17th century by both Bach and Buxtehude. Music from the 19th and 20th century included French composers Salomé and Demessieux, and a work by the Ukrainian Valeri Kitka. Dubois was represented in two contrasting pieces, a quiet delicate Communion, and the exciting and invigorating Toccata in G. Once again, the organ itself delighted both performers and their audience, demonstrating its capacity to provide both the softest of tones and gentlest of moods, as well as the grandeur of full organ with trumpets. Gratifyingly, several organists from the Bromley and Croydon Society were also in attendance. Following the recital, the party of nearly 40 enjoyed the warmth of tea, served by the Minister and choir members, and the pleasures of conversation and good will resulting from a most enjoyable afternoon of splendid music on a beautiful instrument. To hear excerpts from the afternoon, go to the Society's website at <http://sslso.org.uk> and follow the link to "past events".

Marilyn Nicholson

I said A Prayer

I said a prayer for you today and know God must have heard.

I felt the answer in my heart, although HE spoke not a word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame, (I knew you wouldn't mind).

I asked for priceless treasures rare, of a more lasting kind.

I prayed that He'd be near to you, at the start of each new day.

To grant you health and blessings fair, and friends to share your way.

I asked for happiness for you, in all things great and small.

But that you'd know His loving care, I prayed the most of all.

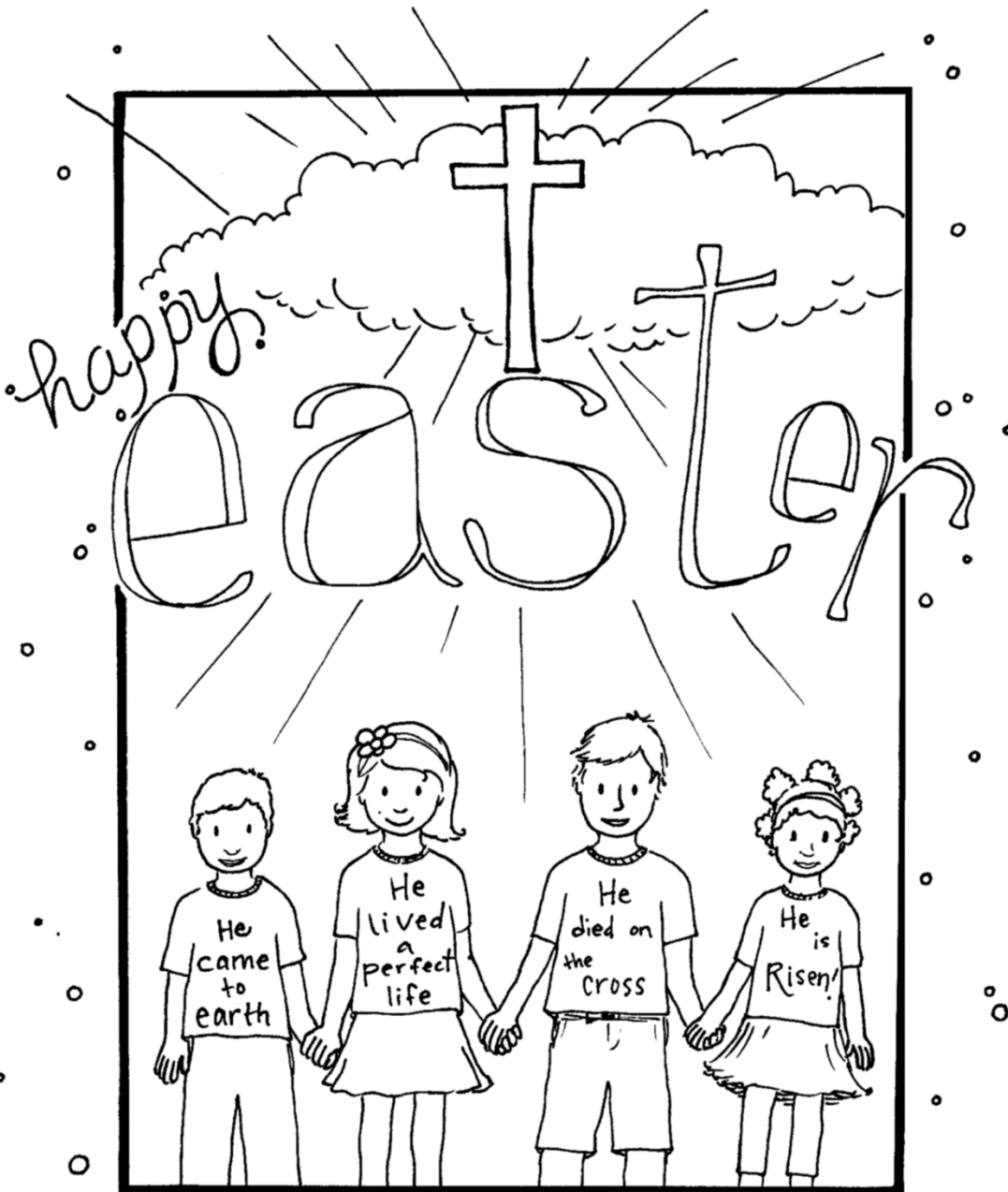
Anon

*Lord Jesus, set our hearts on fire with Your love,
that with joy and thankfulness we may set out
inspired by the message of the Cross and the joy
of Easter Day.*

***Thanks to Pam Owen, Marilyn Nicholson, Debbie Collins, and the congregation of
Penge Congregational Church.***

Happy Easter

A picture for the children to colour:



Mandy Groce '12

ministry-to-children.com