

Penge Congregational Church



March 2019 Newsletter

LENT GROUPS 2019



United Groups at St John's Eden Park

7.30 pm - 9.15 pm

5 Tuesdays in Lent:

12th March

19th March

26th March

2nd April

9th April

There are 5 courses to choose from:

Course 1: Come and Sing Stainer's Crucifixion, led by David Storey.

Course 2: Lent Art, led by Chris McShane.

Course 3: Praying the Way of the Cross, led by Leon Carberry.

Course 4: The Bible in 4 weeks, led by Jef Foulger.

Course 5: Talking Jesus, led by Andrew Jones.

From the Minister

When I was a student (the first time, when I left school, not the second time when I rather naively embarked on the Federation training course while holding down a full-time job, fulfilling family commitments and being Church Secretary!), at the end of one Autumn term, we decided to have a pre-Christmas meal before going home. It was settled that each of us would contribute some aspect of the meal. But there was one friend for whom money was exceptionally tight: she really wanted to take part but she couldn't afford to buy food for several people. So, instead she went out to Jesmond Dene (a wild woodland valley just outside of the centre of Newcastle-on-Tyne, which is where we studied) and cut some foliage to make a winter table decoration to grace our meal.

She would have been welcome at the meal if she had come empty handed- everyone understood her situation- but she looked at what she could offer, her time and her artistic skill, and brought something beautiful to enhance our gathering.

Paul's second letter to the Corinthians is written to Christians who had accepted the Gospel message but among whom there was strife and disagreement about some aspects of it. Nevertheless, they were eager to give help to fellow Christians but didn't know how to go about it. In chapters 8-9, Paul writes at length about generous giving, emphasising that those who are at odds with one another need to remember the needs of others, especially the poverty-stricken believers in Jerusalem. He talks in chapter 8 of the "gracious act of giving": "You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich". We have received salvation through no merit of our own, now we give sacrificially in response to this "gift too wonderful for words".

Paul commends the Corinthian church for their willingness, and points out that it is your motivation that makes any gift acceptable: "Whatever you give is acceptable if you give eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have".

We're often quick to compare what we give (and I'm not talking about money here) to that of others, especially when we are aware that we aren't able to do as much as we would like. But God views our giving differently: it's our willingness to give what we have that he loves. God loves wholehearted giving, in whatever form it comes.

As we enter the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday is the 6th March this year), let's focus our minds, not on what we can give up for Lent. But on what positive thing we can do to help us grow as Christians. Let's focus on what we can give God. True giving is a joy and springs from a generous heart full of love and praise for God!

Pam

Pam's day off is Monday. Please don't contact her on her day off unless you have a pastoral concern that is really urgent. As ever, issues concerning the building- bookings or maintenance- should be notified to Bernie on pcclettings@outlook.com or pccmaintain@outlook.com. If it is an urgent matter, please phone Bernie on 07900 518537

A message from Living Well at Holy Trinity.

Our foodbank is really short on some items. The items we are running low in are -

Tinned vegetables (not pulses)

Mash

Rice

Long Life Milk

Shower gel

Toilet rolls

Washing-up liquid

Ways to donate -

Drop off at our supermarket collection points -

Sainsburys Penge
Waitrose Bromley South

Drop into Holy Trinity Penge -
Tues 3 - 4 p.m.
Fri 12.30 - 3 p.m.
Sats 10.30 - 12 noon

Or you can order & send groceries to us online

Thank you



Lent Daily Readings 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Frid | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | Ash Weds 6/3 Matt 6: 1-6,16-21 | 7/3 Acts 7: 30-34 | 8/3 Acts 7: 35-42 | 9/3 John 12: 27-36 |
| 10/3 Luke 4: 1-13 | 11/3 1 John 2: 1-6 | 12/3 2 Peter 2: 4-21 | 13/3 Luke 21:34-22:6 | 14/3 Philippian s 3:2-12 | 15/3 Philippian s 3:17-20 | 16/3 Matt 23:37-39 |
| 17/3 Luke 9: 28-36 | 18/3 Romans 4:1-12 | 19/3 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 | 20/3 Luke 13:22-31 | 21/3 Revelation 2:8-11 | 22/3 Revelation 3:1-6 | 23/3 Luke 6:43-45 |
| 24/3 Luke 13:1-9 | 25/3 Romans 2:1-11 | 26/3 Romans 2:1 2-16 | 27/3 Luke 13:18-21 | 28/3 2 Corinthian s 4:16-5:5 | 29/3 2 Corinthian s 5:6-15 | 30/3 Luke 15:1-10 |
| 31/3 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 | 1/4 Revelat ion 19:1-8 | 2/4 Revelation 19:9-10 | 3/4 Luke 9:10-17 | 4/4 Philippian s 2:19-24 | 5/4 Philippian s 2:25-3:1 | 6/4 John 11:45-57 |
| 7/4 John 12:1-8 | 8/4 Hebrew s 10:19-25 | 9/4 1 John 2:18-28 | 10/4 Luke 18: 31-34 | 11/4 Hebrews 2: 1-9 | 12/4 Hebrews 2: 10-18 | 13/4 Luke 22:1-13 |
| Palm Sunday 14/4 Luke 19:28-40 | Holy Week 15/4 John 12: | Holy Week 16/4 John 12: 20-36 | Holy Week 17/4 John 13: | Maundy Thurs 18/4 John 13: 1-17, | Good Friday 19/4 John 18: 1- 19: 42 | Holy Saturday 20/4 Matt 27: 57-66 |

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|--|-------------|--|--------------|---------------|--|--|
| | 1-11 | | 21-32 | 31b-35 | | |
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Daily readings from the Revised Common Lectionary.

Fruits of the Spirit Prayer Stations

On 17th February, Jannett led a service in which we thought about the Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5). She laid out some prayer stations with plates of various food stuffs representing the various gifts, and a prayerful paragraph relating to each. We haven't got the food stuffs here, but the prayers are well worth looking at and reflecting upon.

The power bars on the table represents discipline. Take a piece and eat it. As you do, pray that God will fill you with strength and self-control, that you will be changed into a person with discipline.

Think about how the food you are eating becomes a part of you, giving you energy and strength and imagine how the Holy Spirit will do the same, changing you into a person with discipline.

The apple wedges on the table represent honesty. Take a piece and eat it. As you do, pray that God will change your habits, that you will be changed into an honest person.

Just as the food you are eating becomes a part of you, giving you energy and strength, imagine how the Holy Spirit will do the same, changing you into a person of integrity.

The candy hearts on the table represent love. Take one and eat it. As you do, pray that God will fill you with love for others.

Just as the candy tastes good and becomes a part of you, giving you energy, imagine how the Holy Spirit does the same with you, filling you with love for others.

The oats on the table represent humility. Take a handful and eat. As you do, pray that God will give you opportunities to serve and that you will be bold enough to do so.

Think about how the oats you are eating becomes a part of you, giving you energy and strength, and then imagine how the Holy Spirit does the same with you, changing you into a humble person.

The Pepperami on the table represents patience. Take a piece and eat it. As you do, pray that God will change you and fill you with patience.

Think about how the food you are eating becomes a part of you, giving you energy and strength, and then imagine how the Holy Spirit is doing the same with you, filling you with patience for others.

The orange on the table represent kindness. Take a one and eat it. As you do, pray that God will give you opportunities to show kindness to others and that you will not be too busy to do so.

Just as the orange tastes good and becomes a part of you, giving you energy, imagine how the Holy Spirit does the same with you, changing you into a person of kindness.

The bread on the table represents compassion. Take a piece and eat it. As you do, pray that God will help you see those who need compassion, and that you will not be too busy to show some.

Just as the bread you are eating becomes a part of you, giving you energy and strength, imagine how the Holy Spirit will do the same, changing you into a person of compassion.

The chocolate on the table represent grace. Take a piece and eat it. As you do, pray that God will help you see those moments when you should show grace to others and that you will not be to prideful to do so.

Just as the chocolate tastes good and becomes a part of you, giving you energy, imagine how the Holy Spirit does the same with you, changing you into a person of grace.



A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

February Recital

There is a 15th century Christmas hymn whose final verse urges, "Let the organ thunder... and rend the air asunder." * Almost two months after the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Lewis organ at Penge Congregational Church certainly thundered and rent the air at the annual recital of the Southwark and South London Organists' Association! Thirteen players, in the presence of an appreciative audience of about 50, demonstrated the wide variety of sound and mood and colour of which our organ is capable. The recital began with five talented young organ pupils playing an assortment of preludes, fugues, a toccata and a couple of sarabandes. Then the older members of the Society displayed their own capabilities and those of the organ: Peter Smith playing a March of his own composition and Robert Bowles an Ode by the composer Kenneth Leighton.

Sarah Best delighted us as always with her choices: a Meditation on Laudes Organi by Wolfgang Linder, and Toccata for Flutes by Pietro Yon, an Italian-American composer. Andrew Chadney's pieces were by Theophil Forchhammer, and John Webber played the 1st Movement of a Vivaldi Concerto transcribed by Bach. Martin Callingham and Marilyn Nicholson made a contrast with the large demanding full-organ works performed by others by playing respectively the delicate Dubois "Communion" (on only 2 stops), and Brahms' gentle "Schmucke dich" (on one flute stop). Marilyn Harper concluded the recital with Peter Smith's Variations on Three Merry Men of Kent, a charming work of 8 variations which displayed to great effect the versatility of the organ. Richard Pilliner, the secretary of the Association, provided a helpful commentary. And the afternoon was concluded with eager conversations, and tea and biscuits served by the Minister, Pam Owen, and members of the church.

Many thanks to the church for making this annual recital possible.

* "Unto us a boy is born", Latin, 15th century, translated Percy Dearmer

Marilyn Nicholson
Flower Rota

March

3: Jean Sumner
10: In memory of Maureen Sawkins
17: Pat Clarke
24: Melanie Cogan

April:

7: In memory of Heather Cragg (Jean S)
14: Melanie Cogan (for David Nye)
21: Easter. Flower Fund
28: Pat Clarke

May

5: In memory of Joan Sole
12: Kathleen Sewter
19: Joyce Perry
26: Melanie Cogan



Church Diary March 2019

Sunday 3rd:

10.30 am: Walking humbly with God, led by Marilyn.

6.30 pm: The Lord's Supper, led by Siobhan.

Tuesday 5th:

9.30-11 am: Café Church

Sunday 10th:

10.30 am: Peace I give to you, led by Jannett.

6.30 pm: Bible discussion, led by Marilyn.

Tuesday 12th:

7.30pm: United Lent Courses. St John's Eden Park.

Wednesday 13th:

10.30-Midday: Friendship Club: The Vestry.

Thursday 14th:

7.30 pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Sunday 17th:

10.30 am: Let Justice roll down, led by the Minister and Chris McShane.

6.30 pm: Evening Worship, led by the Minister.

Tuesday 19th:

7.30pm: United Lent Courses. St John's Eden Park.

Sunday 24th:

10.30 am: Justified by faith, led by Lynn.

6.30 pm: Evening Worship led by Chris McShane.

Tuesday 26th:

7.30pm: United Lent Courses. St John's Eden Park.

Sunday 31st:

10.30 am: In me, you may have peace, led by the Minister.

6.30 pm: Taizé service, led by Callum.

PENGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Church gathered May 1908

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