

Penge Congregational Church



'The only right that no branch of the Church has ever denied to women has been the right of confessing the faith by martyrdom'

Constance Coltman

October 2017 Newsletter

From the Minister

I have preached two sermons over the past few weeks about passages in the Acts of the Apostles that demonstrate the gradual acceptance in the early church that God really is a God of all; that He doesn't discriminate and the truth of what St Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12: "For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body- Jews or Greeks, slave or free- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." The passages were Acts 8, the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, who was recorded by Luke as the first Gentile- a black African eunuch- to be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit; and Acts 15, where the Council at Jerusalem debated whether, to become a Christian, a Gentile had first to become a Jew. In the latter passage, Paul and Barnabas told of the signs and wonders God had done through them as they taught Gentiles; Peter declared that both Jews and Gentiles will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus; and finally the decision was made by James, the brother of Jesus, that "we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God".

It has taken the church rather longer to accept that God doesn't discriminate in the matter of who can be called as a minister, and this is particularly so in the case of the ministry of women. Some churches still don't accept women in ministry, and the Church of England (sadly still not unanimously) only ordained its first woman priests in 1994. (See the quote from Constance Coltman on the front cover.)

Non-conformist denominations in this country have been a little more enlightened. It was a particular pleasure for me the other weekend to attend part of the centenary celebrations for two women who were pioneers within our own Congregational Way.

On September 16th, 1917, Maude Royden was appointed as a "preaching assistant" at City Temple. Her task was to preach several sermons each week to lighten the load for the minister, Joseph Newton. The appointment of a woman to preach the Word was so radical at the time that it was reported in the newspapers and a huge queue formed outside City Temple to witness this strange phenomenon!

But the very day after Maude Royden was appointed an even more radical event occurred, when Constance Mary Todd was ordained, alongside the man she was to marry the next day, Claud Coltman, at the King's Weigh Congregational Church in central London. Claud and Constance were to minister jointly at the daughter church, Derby Mission in the East End, being paid one stipend between them. Sadly this was to be the pattern for

women's ministry for many years: churches ordained women in order to gain two for the price of one. Constance and Claud could only afford to do this work, especially as they went on to have 3 children, because Constance was from a wealthy family.

Nevertheless, the fact was that, back in 1913, the male Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, had recognised Constance's call, and allowed her to train as a minister on equal terms with the men. And, in 1917, Constance was called along with Claud by a church with a male minister and a predominantly male Church Meeting.

The lecture I attended as part of the Constance Coltman Centenary was given by three women, two of them ministers and one of them an economist. At the end, questions were invited from the floor, and one lady asked this question: "How should children be brought up today to provide role models in the second half of the 21st century?" Revd. Patricia Sheeraton-Bismauth, the first woman to be ordained in Guyana, answered with this wise saying, "So much injustice is selfishness." Other suggestions included:

- Give them role models with a moral compass
- Teach them the second commandment (Love your neighbour as yourself)
- Teach them appreciation of others
- Give them confidence in who they are, not what is bought for them.

This is an important topic, especially for Christians, who have to live in the world even if they follow the principles of the Kingdom of God. May we all give thanks that our God is God of all, and remember the words of St Paul in Galatians 2: "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives within me".

Pam

Church Day

Church Day and Autumn Gift Day is 5th November. This year, we have a slightly different format in that, in the afternoon, we shall have the annual David Nicholson Memorial Recital, followed by tea.

Monday is Pam's day off. Please don't contact her on Mondays except in a case of real urgency.

Transforming Work

St John's Eden Park is running a course called Transforming Work. We would welcome members of other churches in the area to join us. The course is written by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and is designed for those in paid work – full or part-time, employed or self-employed. It consists of 8 evenings at approximately monthly intervals, with the intention that between the sessions you put what you have learnt into practice in your workplace.

Each evening will start at 7.30 with Pizza (or similar), we watch some short DVDs, and discuss what it means to be a Christian at work, finishing around 9.30. There is no cost to attend the course, but some of the material for between the sessions is accessed via an App or on a website with a one-off cost of about £5; in addition you are welcome to contribute toward the cost of the Pizza.

The first session will be Tuesday 17 October, 7.30 in the Lounge Hall at St John's Eden Park. If you would like further information, or to book a place (numbers needed for Pizza ordering) please contact:

John Segal – Tel: 07906 828262; email: john.segal1952@gmail.com

A prayer for peace in our communities

Gracious God,
We pray for peace in our communities this day.
We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,
And those who work to uphold law and justice.
We pray for an end to fear,
For comfort and support to those who suffer.
For calm in our streets and cities,
That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.
In your mercy, hear our prayers,
now and always. Amen

“LUTHER’S REVOLUTION – THEN AND NOW”

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL LECTURE OF THE GENERAL BODY OF
PROTESTANT DISSENTING DEPUTIES & MINISTERS

DATE: MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2017

TIME: 18:00

**VENUE: FREE CHURCHES HOUSE, 27 TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
LONDON, WC1H 9HH**

**Speaker: Rev Dr John Bradbury,
Minister of Emmanuel URC
Cambridge and Former Vice
Principal of Westminster College**



PLEASE RSVP TO SABINA WILLIAMS 02036518334

Sabina.williams@freechurches.org.uk

www.freechurches.org.uk

An Exceptional Concert
by the young Russian virtuoso pianist, Arina Lazgiiian
Future of Russia Scholar at the Royal College of Music, London



Penge Congregational Church

High Street, London, SE20 (near Sainsbury's)

Saturday 14 October 2017 at 8pm

Admission £10 including programme and interval refreshments

Arina Lazgiiian was a student for five years from 2010-2015 at the Moscow Conservatory under Vera Gornostayeva. She has performed in various concert halls in Moscow and St Petersburg, after winning the Open Regional Piano Competition, the Yevgeniy Mravinsky Piano Competition and the Arthur Rubinstein Piano Competition, all in St Petersburg. She has also performed in the Salle Cortot in Paris, in Salzburg, Austria and in Regensburg, Germany and won the Città di Barletta International Piano Competition, Italy. Arina Lazgiiian is now studying for a Master's degree in performance at the Royal College of Music under Vanessa Lata arche. Since arriving at the Royal College of Music in London, she has won the RCM Concerto Competition for 2017, playing Saint-Saens' Concerto no. 2

.
.

Autumn Gift Day, 5th November 2017

Congregational churches are independent and receive no funding from an outside body. Here at PCC, we depend entirely on the freewill offerings of our Church members and congregations, and on the income we derive from letting our rooms and halls. Our building is literally very high maintenance and we never have enough money to do all that is needed to keep it in good repair. Over the summer, we had some professional plastering done in the Church Hall, and in September we paid to have just one of the many areas of damp addressed. Most of what we achieved in August was done by volunteers: we managed to deep clean the kitchen; fit a new work top; seal and varnish the Kenilworth Hall floor; paint some of the Church Hall, Snug, Memorial Room, kitchen and Church Hall toilets; repaint the white lines on external steps; paint some of the external railings; restock the First Aid boxes.

As the winter approaches, we are painfully aware of a recent calculation that heating just one of the larger halls costs £11 per day. If you add in lighting, water, insurance, admin, cleaning, maintenance and repairs, you can perhaps understand why we are only just make ends meet. And of course, we've only mentioned the material, not what we really want to spend our time on, which is ministering to the community around us and serving the people in it.

If you benefit from our work and from the use of our building, we would ask you to donate to our Gift Day by contacting the Treasurer on 07817 862158. Thank you!

Flower Rota 2017

October

1st: **Harvest Festival:** Marilyn

Nicholson

8th: Kathleen Sewter

15th: Pat Clarke

22nd: Joyce Perry

29th: Melanie Cogan

November

5th: Joan Fairbrother

12th: Friendship Club

19th: Melanie Cogan

26th: Joyce Perry

December

3rd: East family in memory of
Edna

10th: Melanie Cogan

17th: Flower Fund

24th: Monica Sinclair

31st: Flower Fund

Church Diary October 2017

Sunday 1st: HARVEST FESTIVAL

10.30 am: Harvest Messy Parade service

6.30 pm: Harvest Praise, led by Marilyn.

Monday 2nd:

8.00pm: Womens' World Day of Prayer planning meeting. The Vestry.

Tuesday 3rd:

9.30am – 11am: Café Church.

Thursday 5th:

7.30pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Saturday 7th:

10.30 am: Congregational Federation SE Area Autumn Assembly. Belvedere and Erith CC.

Sunday 8th:

10.30 am:

6.30pm: Lord's Supper.

Wednesday 11th:

10.30am-noon: Friendship Club. The Vestry.

Saturday 14th:

8pm: Piano Concert in the Church. Tickets £10

Sunday 15th:

10.30am: Baptism of Lachlan Gifford, led by the Minister

6.30pm: Bible Discussion

Sunday 22nd:

10.30am: The Lord's Supper.

6.30pm:

Sunday 29th: BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS

10.30am:

6.30pm: Taizé service, led by Lynn

Penge Congregational Church

172 High Street
Penge
London
SE20 7QS

Church gathered May 1908

Minister

Reverend Pam Owen 020 8659 2010
Email pamjowen@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Mrs Lynn McShane 07817 862158
Email lynn.mcshane22@gmail.com

Room Bookings

Admin Manager: Mrs Bernie Hall 07900 518537
pcclettings@outlook.com

Maintenance for hall users

pccmaintain@outlook.com

Organist

Mrs Marilyn Nicholson 020 8778 5064

Archives

Mr Chris Doran
Email pengecong@chrisjdoran.plus.com

Webmaster

Callum McShane
Email callum.mcshane@googlemail.com

Website

www.pengegate.co.uk

Deacons

Reverend Pam Owen
Mr Chris Parker
Mrs Lynn McShane
Mr Douglas Rathbone
Ms Jannett Ashley

Church Accountants (payroll etc)

Edwards Chartered Accountants,
275B Croydon Road, Beckenham, Kent. BR3 3PS