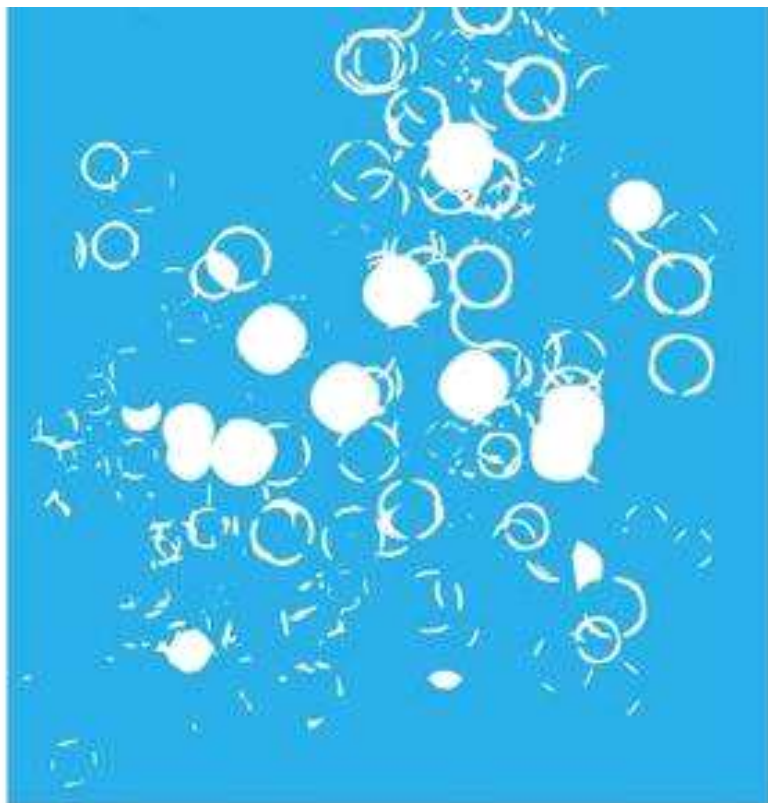


Penge Congregational Church



Living Well
Bromley

September 2019

Newsletter

From the Minister

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St Paul remarks that, when he first came to them, he didn't use lofty words and deep wisdom to tell them about Jesus. His message was told in plain language, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit rather than clever words. But, he goes on, when he is with mature believers he speaks with the wisdom revealed by an understanding of God's plan for his people.

The concept of being a mature believer is, I think, one we sometimes misunderstand. After all, once we have been born, we grow up and reach physical maturity in the fullness of time. We don't actually have to do anything to get there. So, in our minds, it might follow that, if you have been a believer for a long time, you might naturally have become a mature Christian. But, alas, *spiritual* maturity is something for which we do have to strive.

The writer to the Hebrews laments the spiritual immaturity of his audience. In Chapter 5, he remarks that he is still having to feed them like babies who need basic nourishment rather than deeper teaching. They have been believers long enough to be teaching others but they have become spiritually dull. The writer challenges them to move on to maturity so that he can present them with deeper truths of the faith. As with St Paul, the writer sees maturity as having to do with our ability to discern spiritual truth. In Ephesians (4), the body of Christ is seen as growing to maturity through the equipping of believers and by making an effort to grow in knowledge of Jesus. A community consisting of believers who *are* making that effort is a united community of faith in which love and trust further build up the Body of Christ.

Spiritual maturity isn't something that happens

automatically the longer we have been Christians. We achieve spiritual maturity by reading Scripture and reflecting on it, by speaking to God in prayer, by listening for his voice, by *longing* to discern his purpose for us.

This month, we have our Harvest Festival. Of course we are thinking of God's generous provision of the physical essentials of life. Of course it is right that we should be gathering gifts for the disadvantaged in our community. Giving to others is one of the basic duties of a Christian. But Jesus spoke of the harvest in rather different terms: as he went through the Galilee teaching and ministering, he remarked to his disciples that the harvest was great but the workers few. "So pray to the Lord of the harvest: ask him to send more workers into his fields".

The Kingdom of God needs all its workers to be spiritually sharp, to keep on making that effort to grow as Christians. The workers are few and no-one should think they don't need to keep on growing and maturing. Paul says that, if we keep striving to do Christ's work and build up his church, we will grow "in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head and body of his church". And "if every part of the body does its own special work, it helps the other parts to grow so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

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

25-28 September2019

Deacons are sending Pam on a course in London- 12 hour days- which means she will be unavailable on those days.

September Worship Theme on 1 Peter

We spent morning services during the Summer holiday period in the Old Testament looking at how God transformed Jacob from a manipulative deceiver into Israel, someone who had matured spiritually enough to trust himself and his future to God.

At Siobhan's suggestion, during September we are going to look at the first letter of Peter. Peter was another whose life was transformed. From the hot headed, impetuous Peter of the Gospels to the apostle who became the Rock upon which Jesus founded his church. Martin Luther said that Peter's first letter is "among the truest and noblest books of the New Testament and contains the true kernel and marrow of all the books". It calls on all Christians to exhibit faithfulness under the pressure arising from persecution. He calls on readers to respond to this pressure with a renewed commitment to live out the grace of God and to bear witness to it. For us, living in an increasingly secular world which is often ignorant of the Gospel and sometimes hostile to people of faith, this book should resonate.

We have four services:

1st September: Living Hope. Led by Marilyn.

8th September: Living Stones. Led by Chris M and Chris P.

15th September: Living Together. Led by Pam

22nd September: Living as Disciples. Led by Jannett.

Pam

Maintenance Week 2019

During one week in August a band of volunteers of a wide range of ages came together at the church to tackle several maintenance issues. Some redecorated the disabled toilet, those with a head for heights changed the lighting strips in the Kenilworth Hall to LED along with new starters. Others cleared out cupboards, swept, hoovered, gardened and painted. The carpet in the church was pulled back due to a noticeable unevenness. This unfortunately revealed floorboards perished from wet rot. Too big a job to tackle immediately so some inconvenience for a period of time is expected. Those who use the KH have been spoilt this year, with new boiler giving out more heat, sealed floor this time last year, new plumbing in the toilets and now a redecorated disabled toilet and new lighting. Anybody would think we are going soft on you. Those Church Hall users, we would hope to replace lighting to LED next summer.

There are many other jobs which need attending to, not least the constant leaks in roofs which are always expensive. We would ask that all users use the premises with respect so funds can be directed towards priority tasks.

Thanks to all who spared hours during the week to decorate, and those who fed and watered us with a smile. It was a great team effort.

If you have a skill which you think may be useful or your group would like to help with a project please contact me.

Chris Parker. (Chrisparker59@hotmail.com)

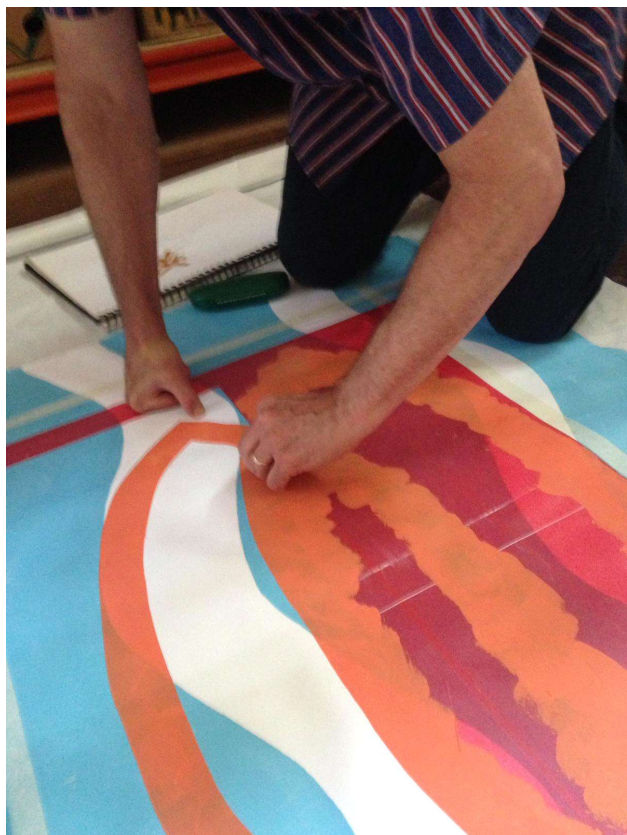
PS from Pam: Chris M spent the week starting the creation of a Welcome Banner for the front of the building!

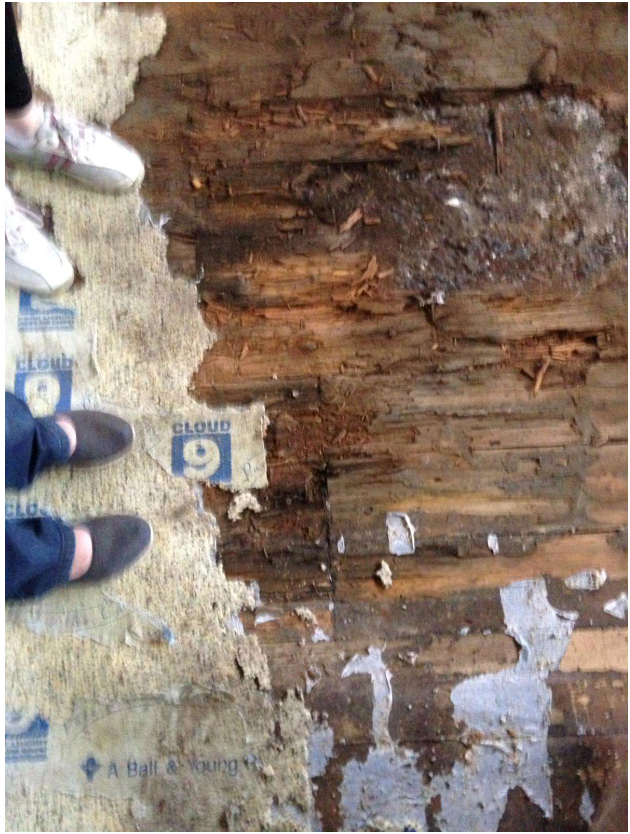
Maintenance Week Group Photos (We did more than drink tea! - and apologies to those people who weren't there that day!)





Maintenance Week- Hands and Feet





Peter Godwin

Peter Godwin, former Group Scout Leader and lifelong member of the 1st Penge and Beckenham North Scout Group, has died at the age of 80.

Peter joined the Cubs at Penge Congregational Church at the age of 8 and has been connected with the Group ever since.

In Scouts he earned his Queen's Scout badge in 1956 and then progressed through Senior Scouts and Rovers.

Because of his work pattern he was not able to take out a leader's warrant but continued to help at Group camps, with fund raising and as Group Quartermaster.

He was also Secretary of the BP Scout Guild until it was discontinued under the reorganisation of 1967.

In 1977 he was appointed Group Scout Leader, a position he held for 20 years. Finally he became Group Treasurer, in which role he continued until his death.

Peter was awarded the Chief Scout's 30 year and 40 year Service Awards and also the Silver Acorn in recognition of his "specially distinguished service to Scouting".

72 years of continuous service to Scouting in the local community is hard to beat, and Peter lived all those years according to the Scout Law and Promise.

Farewell and Good Hunting, Crested Eagle. Gone Home.

Ian Holder

Group Scout Leader

1st Penge and Beckenham North Scouts

Sherelle Appleby- a proud moment for us all

Sherelle has passed her Bar exams and is now working as an Assistant Advocate for a law firm in Birmingham.
Official Middle Temple photo below:



The Honourable Society of The Middle Temple

Sponsored Police Unity Ride 2019

Well the date has come and gone for when I was to take part in the Police cycle Unity Ride from Lambeth to Staffordshire. Having been training since January I was feeling confident on completing the 180 mile ride over two and a bit days. About ten days to the off I went down with a cold and this manifested itself into a gum infection which required antibiotics. This totally wiped me out and I had no energy to cover such a distance. I have been told I can hold over the sponsorship money till the ride in 2020. Thank you to my sponsors who collectively raised about £750. Here's to a healthy 2020!



Harvest Festival Donations to Living Well- Harvest this year is 29th September

Items most needed at this time are:

- Toilet Rolls - they have run out of toilet rolls so are in much need of this item please
- Tinned meat
- Tinned Veg (Not Pulses and not baked beans please)
- Soup (Not oxtail)

- Mash
- Tinned tuna
- Shower Gel
- UHT milk
- Rice
- Biscuits
-

Tins with ring pulls are always useful, as not everyone has access to a can opener. Please note they do not have any storage facilities for fresh or frozen goods. They are unable to accept food which has past its sell by or use by date.

Flower Rota for the next 3 months

September:

1: Melanie Cogan

8: Pam Owen

15: Joyce Perry

22: Flower Fund

29 (Harvest): Marilyn Nicholson

October:

6: Kathleen Sewter

13: Pat Clarke

20: Joyce Perry

27: Melanie Cogan

November:

3: Joan Fairbrother

10: Friendship Club

17: Melanie Cogan

24: Joyce Perry

Church Diary September 2019

Sunday 1st:

10.30 am: 1 Peter: Living Hope, led by Marilyn.

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

Tuesday 3rdth:

9.30-11 am: Café Church

7-8.00pm: Prayer and Praise

Thursday 5th:

7.30pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Sunday 8th:

10.30am: 1 Peter: Living Stones, led by Chris M and Chris P.

6.30pm: Bible Discussion, led by the Minister.

Tuesday 10th:

7-8.00pm: Prayer and Praise

Wednesday 11th:

10.30-noon: Friendship Club. The Vestry.

Sunday 15th:

10.30am: 1 Peter: Living Together, led by the Minister, including the Lord's Supper.

12.30pm: Church lunch

2pm: Church Meeting

6.30pm: Evening Service, led by Chris M.

Tuesday 17th:

7-8.00pm: Prayer and Praise

Sunday 22nd:

10.30am: 1 Peter: Living as Disciples, led by Jannett.

6.30pm: Taizé service, led by Callum.

Tuesday 24th:

7-8.00pm: Prayer and Praise

Sunday 29th: HARVEST FESTIVAL

10.30am: Harvest Family Service, led by Lynn and Mike Harrowing (Spinnaker Trust).

6.30pm: Harvest Praise, led by Marilyn.

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

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

Room Bookings

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

Maintenance for hall users

pccmaintain@outlook.com

Organist

Marilyn Nicholson 020 8778 5064

Archives

Chris Doran
Email pengecong@chrisjdoran.plus.com

Webmaster

Callum McShane
Email callum.mcshane@googlemail.com

Website

www.pccweb.co.uk

Deacons

Reverend Pam Owen
Chris Parker
Lynn McShane
Douglas Rathbone
Jannett Ashley

Church Accountants (payroll etc)

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