

Penge Congregational Church



September 2022



***Our cover photo was taken by Jean Bowden.
And you will find a 'pet quiz' somewhere
inside this issue!***

The answers are on page 2 - but no looking at the answers before trying the Quiz!!! So, read on, dear ones...

From the Minister

I lift up my eyes to the mountains -
where does my help come from?

2 *My help comes from the Lord,*
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip - he who
watches over you will not slumber;

***You will have recognised
the above words, as the first
three verses of Psalm 121.***



Perhaps you have something in your life that needs addressing? Perhaps you're lying awake at night trying to find a solution or at least a plan to deal with it? Perhaps you're looking for someone to help you, or at least support you in your dilemma?

I direct you to the first 2 verses of Psalm 121: the question is posed, "Where does my help come from?" If we're looking for answers, the psalmist only gives one solution: "My help comes from the Lord."

The Christian should surely live by this principle. Jesus echoes it when He is teaching His disciples prior to going out to the Garden of Gethsemane. In that wonderful image of Himself as the vine and us as the branches, He says this: "I am the vine; you are the

branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Sometimes even if we have brought our problem to the Lord in prayer, we might be tempted to create a back-up plan in case God doesn't answer us. But we have that promise that, **if we turn to the Lord, He will answer.** Help and provision come from Him alone - in whatever way He thinks best! We should rely on Him alone, because, in the words of the psalmist, “He will not let your foot slip...” All provision comes from the Maker of heaven and earth, and we will find we have all that we need when we keep our hope in Him alone.

Pam

Answers:

1. Pig 2. True 3. Jacobson's organ in the roof of the mouth. 4. no eyelids 5. Nana 6. True 7. Gnasher 8. Chihuahua 9. True 10. Cat

CRAFTING ON THE COAST!

Some months ago Rev'd Beverley, Assistant Curate at St. George's, Beckenham, started a Craft & Chat group (Mondays in the church, 11.30 a.m - 1.15 p.m. restarting 5th September after summer break) which has attracted a wide and fascinating diversity of people from the local community (some from CTiB!) with varying skills/interests or a wish to improve in knitting, crochet, patchwork and embroidery, etc. and others admitting to none but enjoying the friendly ambience!

Many tips and hints are shared and names/sources of suppliers of yarns or fabrics etc. locally or further afield, are disseminated alongside everyday, informal chat over tea or coffee served by talented young helpers with their own innovative take on creative crafts. (Spare yarns of any ply, kind or colour are always welcome as are other relevant craft items).



With rising fuel prices Rev'd Beverley is acutely aware of the need to donate handmade lap rugs or blankets for those who will find home heating a huge challenge in the months to come. A number of us in the group have been knitting shapes to be blended into blankets or crocheting grannie squares. I made this one on holiday in June and

photographed it on Bexhill beach alongside the Habitat carrier bag which inspired the shingle/surf/sky colour scheme. An item made **with** love on a hot summer week, ready for a chilly mortal in the midst of winter! (It could be called a Souvenir from Sussex - certainly kinder to the teeth than a stick of rock would have been!)

Jenny Froude (one of the CTiB reps)





Spotted and
photographed by
Jean Bowden
near her home in
Norfolk

Church Meeting

The September Church Meeting has been brought forward a week to:

Sunday 11th September

At about midday

(after Morning Worship)

All who are involved in our church are welcome. You have to be a Church Member to vote, should a vote be required, but attendance is open to all.

Church Meetings are not business meetings, although we do of course have to discuss practical matters. Just to remind everyone, here is the basis upon which Church Meetings are conducted, which goes to the very heart of the Congregational Way of being Church:

Congregationalists believe that Christ alone is head of His Church which He rules through the guidance of His Holy Spirit. The government of this church is based on this principle and in Church Meeting members come together to seek the mind of Christ and discover His will for His Church.



The Baptism of *Edward Dylan Joseph Brookes*

took place on the
24th July 2022

Photo below:

***Pam with Teddy's
parents, Christina
and Dan Brookes***

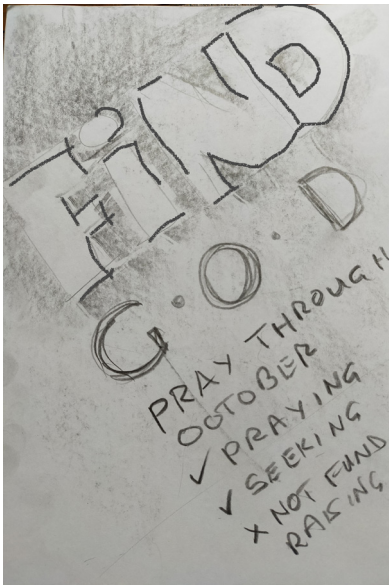


The Adventure of Prayer

How does God view our church? What is in His mind when He looks at us? There is one way to find out.

I thought of us all when I read this quote from "Prayer, the Great Adventure" by David Jeremiah:

"We don't need new programs; we don't need one more activity. But we do need to embark together on the great adventure of prayer."

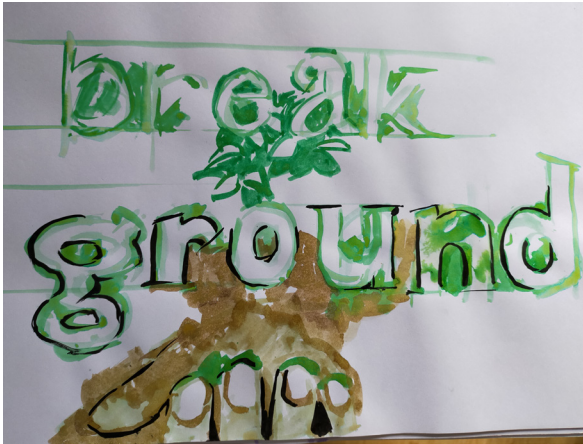


Let's join together in the great adventure of prayer. **October 2022** is going to be a month of prayer. We believe that God will do great things with us if we seek Him in prayer. We invite everyone to join us in the month of October **in prayer for Penge Congregational Church and the whole community of Penge.**

We need to put together a symphony of prayer with as many people who will support us as possible. Can you ask friends to pray for us? It doesn't matter where they live. It doesn't matter how young or old they are.

Next month we will share a word for each day of October as a starting point for your prayers.

Book the date of 2nd October for a special launch service. And book the 30th October for a Thanksgiving service.

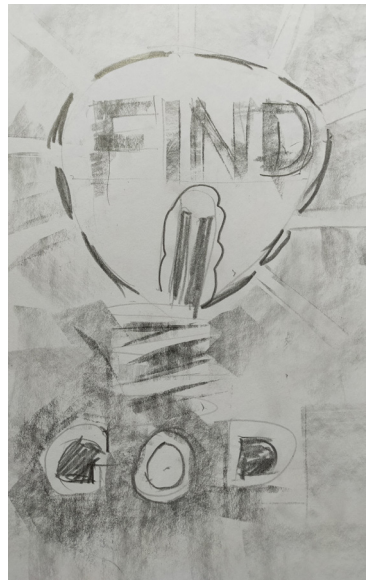


Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unending love, and break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD,

until He comes and showers His righteousness on you.

(Hosea 10:12)

Lynn



Joan Lee

December 1925 - August 2022

With great sadness, the members of the Friendship Club heard on 13th August of the death of Joan Lee, a long time member.

Joan was at school with Joyce Perry, and the two, born so close together, enjoyed a lifelong friendship. Joyce remembers that one or other of them was generally to be found standing outside the classroom door at Churchfields School, thinking about what they had done!

Joan lived locally all of her life and is fondly remembered as someone who was always busy and active. She had a large family and, even into her nineties, she could be encountered on her way to Sainsbury's to buy the ingredients for a large batch of cupcakes for a grandchild's birthday party.

In her final years, Joan's health deteriorated and she had to go into care, but, until the pandemic intervened, the members of the Friendship Club visited her regularly.

She leaves her large clan of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who will miss her greatly, as shall we.

Pam

Harvest Festival service at PCC

Our Harvest service will take place on Sunday 2nd October at 10.30a.m.

Our Harvest theme will be based around John 15: 1-17: Jesus the true vine.

As in recent years, we ask for Harvest gifts for the Food Bank at Living Well. In these difficult times, the Food Bank has seen greatly increased use and is desperately in need of practically all essential food items and also basic toiletries.

At the time of writing in August, this is the current list of urgently needed items:

- ☐ ***UHT milk; Tinned pulses; Tinned vegetables***
- ☐ ***Tinned meat; Tinned fruit; Tinned soup***
- ☐ ***Rice; Pasta; Tinned rice pudding and custard***
- ☐ ***Tinned tomatoes; Biscuits; Cereal***
- ☐ ***Toilet roll; Shower gel and shampoo***
- ☐ ***Sanitary towels; Pet food (dogs and cats)***



Wedding News

The church was transformed for the wedding of **Angela Good** and **Martin Kelly** on **30th July 2022**. It was a beautiful event. Congratulations to the couple and we pray for God's blessings on their life together.





Maintenance and Medley

We had our annual maintenance week led by **Chris Parker** who is a dab hand at everything he does. He was ably supported by **Jackie, Bernie, Pam, Chris M, Ewan and Lynn**. We have cleared away a lot of things which is not easy for those of us who hate decluttering. We have rediscovered some perfect artificial silk flowers and refreshed the linen in the chapel of youth.

Further **breaking news** was that we had a mini **break in**. Nothing was taken except some *Werther's* sweets which were near the piano!! They took out the window in the side door and climbed in. Forensics are puzzled.... We have replaced the lock in the entrance.

Medley of Song

On **Sunday, 14th August** we had a medley of song from **Ronald Kirby**. He has a beautiful voice and the songs are quite moving.

This was much enjoyed by church members and friends, and friends from St George's Church which Ron attends. Sadly, we didn't take any photos - maybe next time?

Flanagan and Allen were a singing and comedy double act. Even though we may not have been around during the time when Bud Flanagan and Chesney Allen were

at their most active, that is, during the 1930s and 1940s, we will know their names. Ron sang “Underneath the Arches” - one of their best known songs.

We joined Chris McShane at the piano, as he played and sang more Flanagan and Allen songs.

After the singing, we were all refreshed with drinks and a luncheon provided by members of the congregation.

All together, a most pleasant Sunday afternoon.

Ron has added one of their ‘church jokes’:

You will find the Preacher for next week hanging on the notice board outside the Church.



September services

Elsewhere in this issue, there is notice of our September Church Meeting (page 6) and we have been reminded of the Congregational principle that all we do is guided by the **Holy Spirit**, and we come together in the meeting to seek the mind of Christ and seek His will for His church. What does this mean?

And how does Christ indicate His will to us? Does He speak to the Minister? Or to the Deacons? Possibly. But as a gathered church, **we believe all are priests, all of us have a direct relationship with Christ, who is our Head.**

We seek Christ's will through **prayer**. Certainly through prayer together as a fellowship but also, so importantly, through our individual private prayer. Because Christ can and does speak to all of us. When we talk of seeking His will, everyone's prayer is important. So, throughout September, our services will focus on private prayer. This no doubt means something different to each of us. But we want to think about the difference between "saying our prayers" and having a real heart to heart with God.

Looking forward a bit, our service on 2nd October will be our Harvest service. We will be thinking about the **Vine and the Branches**, and also launching a month during which we ask all who have any connection with PCC to pray for us daily, and **seek the mind of Christ. More details elsewhere in this issue.**

Our September services focusing on individual prayer:

4th. Jesus teaches us how to pray. **Luke 11: 1-13.**

11th. The persistent widow. **Luke 18:1-8.**

18th. Jacob wrestles with God. **Genesis 32: 22-30.**

25th. Protected and ready for prayer.

Ephesians 6:10-19.



Alleluia!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian, involved in opposition to the Nazi regime from its earliest days.

He was imprisoned in 1943 and executed in a concentration camp in 1945. His writings from prison give an insight into his faith and character; the prayer below was written as part of a collection of "Prayers for Fellow-Prisoners" at Christmas 1943.

I Cannot Do This Alone

O God, early in the morning I cry to you.
Help me to pray

And to concentrate my thoughts on you;

I cannot do this alone.

In me there is darkness,

But with you there is light;

I am lonely, but you do not leave me;

I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help;

I am restless, but with you there is peace.

In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience;

I do not understand your ways,

But you know the way for me....

Restore me to liberty,

And enable me to live now

That I may answer before you and before men.

Lord, whatever this day may bring,

Your name be praised.

Amen

Submitted by Jean Bowden - now living in Norfolk.



Pet Quiz

by kind permission of **Elm Road Baptist Church** and passed on to us by **Helen**, who attends their wonderful activity group every Wednesday afternoon

1. What type of animal featured in the film 'Babe'?
2. The dog from the film 'Beethoven' was a St Bernard.

True or False?

3. What do snakes use to smell?
4. Why do goldfish sleep with their eyes open?
5. What is the name of the Darling family's dog in Peter Pan?
6. Rabbits are carnivores. **True or False?**
7. What is the name of Dennis the Menace's naughty pet dog?
8. What is the smallest breed of dog?
9. A lizard is able to grow its tail back if it is broken off.

True or False?

10. What type of animal featured in the film 'Garfield'?



16th Annual SE20 Art Group Exhibition.

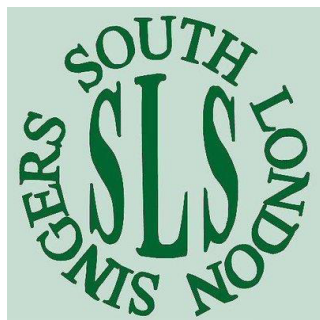
Penge Congregational Church and Kenilworth Hall
172 High Street SE20 7QS.

Original artwork for sale by up to 30 local artists.

Opens **Friday 9th September** 6pm till 9pm with drinks and nibbles.

Saturday 10th September 10am till 6pm

Sunday 11th September 12 noon till 5pm



**THE SOUTH LONDON SINGERS
CELEBRATE THEIR 40th ANNIVERSARY**
with a concert of favourite choral music and a buffet supper. The concert will be on **Saturday 15th October** at 7.45pm at **St George's Church, Beckenham** and will be conducted by **Nicholas Wibberley**.

Further information is on the choir website and more details will be available nearer the time.

Founded in 1982, the South London Singers is a friendly chamber choir singing a wide range of music from the last five centuries. We rehearse on Monday evenings at the Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road and prospective new members are warmly invited to any Monday evening rehearsal to try us out. Phone **Mary Jackson** to find out more 020 8656 2815

Website:

www.pccweb.co.uk



To arrange a marriage service, funeral, baptism or similar event, please contact the Minister:

Pam Owen on:

pamjowen@hotmail.com

To book any other events (concerts etc.), please contact
Bernie Hall:

pcclettings@outlook.com

Tel: 07900 518 537

For enquiries related to this website please contact
Callum McShane on:

callum.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