

WELCOME TO



PENGE

CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH NEWS



## **From the Minister**

I'm sure most people have a memory of starting out in a new friendship, or a new relationship, and being in that awkward position of trying to figure out how best to please the other person. Should you take the lead and air your opinions or should you be quiet and deferential? Should you suggest going out to a fancy restaurant or for a drink, or would it be better to invite them round for a coffee? Above all, should you put on an act, or should you risk being yourself?

In such situations, I wonder how often the other person is prey to exactly the doubts and dilemmas as you are?

The Christian is often in a similar quandary. There are so many situations in life when we want desperately to know exactly what God wants us to do. Praying for guidance and reading the Bible don't reveal any specific answers. Sometimes we ask God for a certain outcome and we don't get it. Has he not answered our prayer? Or could it be that God knows better than us because he can see the whole picture and that outcome isn't what will be best for us in the long term?

The one thing we can be sure of is that we can always trust God, we can always "take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37).

God usually gives us a free choice- *if* we first seek to put his ways before our own. That means dropping choices that are plainly wrong and that wouldn't please God, choices that would hinder our relationship with him. If the remaining choices are pleasing to him, he will allow us to make our own decision. Our Father in heaven loves us and wants to give us the desires of our hearts. And, if our hearts truly belong to him, we will want to honour him in our decisions and life choices.

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act"

**Pam**

Pam will be on leave from Monday 25<sup>th</sup>-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November inclusive.  
Any pastoral issues to Lynn please.

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](mailto:pcclettings@outlook.com) or [pccmaintain@outlook.com](mailto:pccmaintain@outlook.com). If it is an urgent matter, please phone Bernie on 07900 518537

## Remembrance Sunday 2018



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November:**

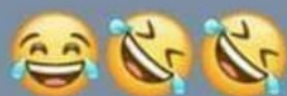
**10.30 am:**

**Parade Service, with the Act of Remembrance and two minute silence.**

**There will be an appropriate craft activity for children after the Act of Remembrance.**

## Poster found in a Church in France... (translated):

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."



## **Hospices for Hope**

I recently saw a presentation by someone from Hospices for Hope. This is a charity set up in 1992 by a man called Graham Perolls. His father had died in St Christopher's in 1980, and the amazing care he received inspired Graham to set up a hospice in his home town of Dartford. A friendship with a couple from Romania had led him to make several visits to that country during the communist era; a visit just as that era was ending in 1989 enabled him to see for himself the horrific conditions endured by the sick in hospitals, and by orphans in State orphanages. He asked his friends to take him to a cancer hospital where he was utterly shocked to see people dying in terrible pain with no palliative care. In 1992, Graham, with support from the Ellenor hospice in Dartford, founded a hospice in Romania. International fund raising enabled them to build a centre for the teaching of Palliative Care to medical professionals. Over the years since then, several hospices have been built, over 30,000 patients have been given end of life care, and over 20,000 health care professionals from Eastern and Central Europe have been trained. Today, over 90% of the funding comes from within Romania. Similar work has been done in Serbia and Moldova, and the charity is just beginning to fund raise for Albania.

I was utterly shocked during the presentation I saw to see images of the dreadful conditions in "medical centres" in rural Albania: dilapidated shed like buildings containing almost no facilities. It looked like something you would associate with the third world rather than a European country.

This year, our Christmas collections (apart from the traditional Christmas Eve and Christmas Day ones for the Greater London Fund for the Blind) will be for Hospices for Hope. There is literature about them at the back of the church, and their website is [hospicesofhope.co.uk](http://hospicesofhope.co.uk).

**Pam**

## **Christmas Services**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:**

**10.30 am: Toy Service.** Gifts of (unwrapped) toys, books etc for the Salvation Army to distribute to local children.



**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December:**

**10.30 am-12.30 pm:**

**Christmas Messy Church.** Family craft activities on a Christmas theme.



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December:**

**6.30 pm: Carols by Candlelight.**

Followed by seasonal refreshments in the Kenilworth Hall



**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Eve**

**11.30 pm:**

**Christmas Communion by Candlelight.**



**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day**

**10.30 am: Christmas Family Service.**



## **Bromley (North West) Night Shelter**

Churches in Bromley have been running a Night Shelter for homeless men and women for ten years. This winter, they are planning to trial a second shelter for this end of the Borough, opening from 30<sup>th</sup> December until the end of March. The shelter will provide 12 beds, (16 at a pinch if the Beast from the East revisits). It won't be a drop in: "guests" will have to be referred by community agencies, churches etc, and they will have to fill in a registration form and be briefly interviewed to ensure they understand the rules. These will be commonsense things concerning drugs, alcohol and behaviour. There is provision elsewhere for accommodating any "guests" who present on the evening with problem behaviour. Local police have been briefed and will be involved in the planning.

Unusually this project is well financed: they are not looking for any financial input from churches and there is no danger of the project being derailed from lack of funds. Living Well at Holy Trinity is training two advocates who will work with "guests" to try and get them proper accommodation. Bromley Council has a grant from the government to provide such accommodation and our councillors intend to make sure they spend it.

An evening meal will be provided each day in one of the local churches before the "guests" are escorted to the shelter for their sleepover. An exciting aspect of this whole project is that virtually all the churches in Penge as well as the ones on the Beckenham borders are involved. PCC will be the meal venue on Friday evenings, with guests eating in the Church Hall.

The Night Shelter is recruiting teams of volunteers to cover every aspect of the project. There is a **Volunteer Information morning at Christ Church Beckenham on Saturday 3rd November from 9.45 until 11.30**. They will be making up teams of volunteers for cooking, socialising with guests, escorting guests to the sleeping venue after the meal, spending the night supervising the sleepover. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness for Christ, and to work with other local Christians in unity. Please consider at least going along to the Information morning!



## **Join me in Taizé...**

Welcome to Taizé. This is an ecumenical monastic community of brothers from many Christian denominations and from all over the world who live together in the South of France. They open their doors year round to young people from every part of the globe, from all denominations, from every religious background and none. I visited for a week in August with my brothers. Join me now for a morning of that experience.

Day is just dawning in Taizé. I am asleep on a top bunk in a barrack shared by eight girls. In this barrack are representatives from Germany, the Netherlands, Ukraine, and myself from the UK. If you are female you are probably sleeping just below me, if you are male you will have to meet me in the quad in a few minutes, after leaving your own barrack.

*Ding ding ding!* My alarm clock goes off and I drag myself out of bed, groaning at how early it is. Normally the bells for morning prayer would wake us at 7:45 but today there is a Ukrainian Orthodox service at 7:30 in the village church. Come on, it's an experience you wouldn't want to miss out on.

The service is very different to what I am used to. Everything is sung and even though I don't understand the language I can tell that there is a lot of repetition. The Ukrainians wear their traditional dress of beautifully embroidered cotton shirts and sing together. It is wonderful to be here and share in a tradition that is alien to me but still of my inheritance in the God's family.

At 8:15 we all walk together to the main Taizé church. It is a sprawling building; concrete at the front but spreading into a wood panelled extension behind. Three thousand people gather here to pray three times a day this week. When the brothers realised how many young people were interested in coming to stay just a few years after the main church was built, they simply knocked down the back wall of the church and erected a tent to accommodate them. Everyone is welcome here and the brothers will move concrete to let them in!

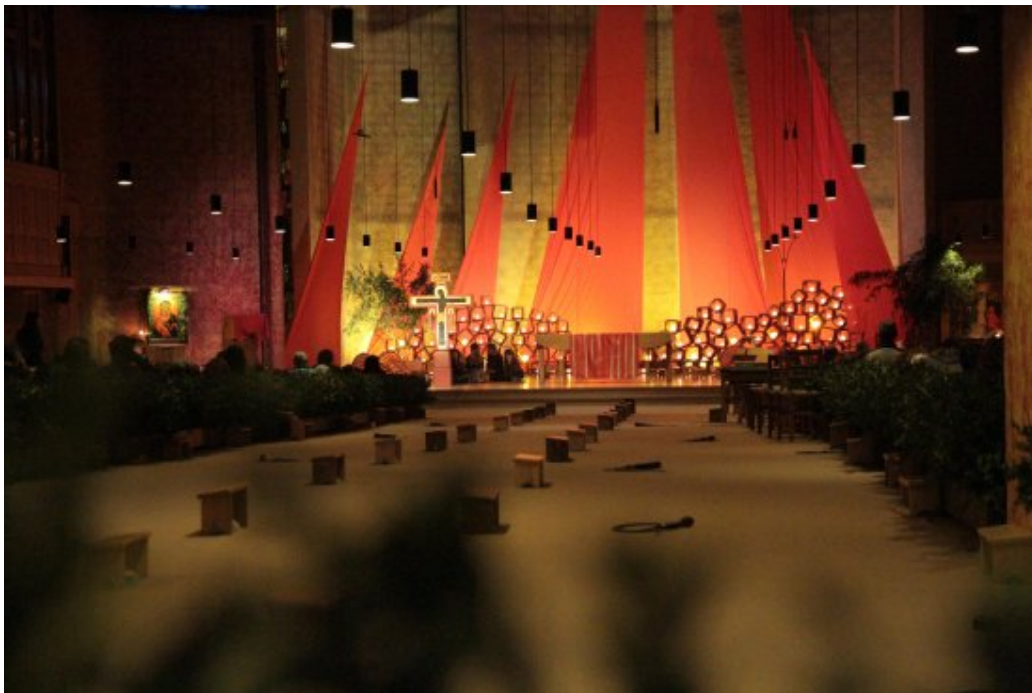
Taizé worship is also mostly sung. In the morning there is a reading and sometimes there are spoken prayers, but otherwise everybody simply praises God together in song. Today we start the day with this:

*Nimm alles von mir, was mich fernhält von dir. Gib alles mir, was mich hinführt zu dir. Mein Herr und mein Gott, nimm mich mir und gib mich ganz zu eigen dir.*

*Take everything from me that keeps me from you. Give everything to me that brings me near to you. My Lord and my God, take me away from myself and give me completely to you.*

In Taizé, God takes me out of myself and gives me his grace to share my life with strangers who don't act or worship in the same way as me, or even speak my language. By opening their doors to welcome everyone, the brothers in Taizé teach their guests to welcome each other, and to welcome Jesus.

### **Siobhan McShane**



*Taizé Community Church*

## **Flower Rota 2019**

If you take part in the ministry of flowers, please have a look at this proposed 2019 rota, and let Pam know *by 16<sup>th</sup> November* if you want me to make changes.

### January

6: Pat Clarke  
13: Jean Sumner  
20: Melanie Cogan  
27: Rosemarie Baker

### February

3: Caroline Parker  
10: Joyce Perry  
17: Melanie Cogan  
24: Friendship Club

### March

3: Jean Sumner  
10: Memory of Maureen  
Sawkins  
17: Pat Clarke  
24: Melanie Cogan  
31: David Nye

### April

7: Memory of Heather (Jean S)  
14: Melanie Cogan  
21 (Easter): Flower Fund  
28: Pat Clarke

### May

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

### June

2: Flower Fund  
9: Diane Pask  
16: Jean/Rosemarie  
23: Marilyn Nicholson  
30: Pat Clarke

### July

7: Memory of Mollie Johnson  
14: Jean Sumner  
21: Friendship Club  
28: Flower Fund

### August

4: Melanie Cogan  
11: Margaret Collins  
18: Flower Fund  
25: Joyce Perry in memory of  
Rex

### 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

### December

1: Memory of Edna East  
8: Melanie Cogan  
15: Penny Read  
22: Monica Sinclair  
29: Flower Fund

## **Flower Rota for the next two months**

### November

4: Joan Fairbrother

11: Friendship Club

18: Melanie Cogan

25: Joyce Perry

### December

2: In memory of Edna East

9: Melanie Cogan

16: Penny Read, in memory of Lily.

23: Monica Sinclair

30 Flower Fund

### **"Callum causes chaos in Kendal"**

**Our correspondent in Kendal has informed us that Storm Callum has knocked out the BT lines and interfered with the morning rides of the Kendal Cycle club. This has led to stiff muscles now the storm has past and many ruffled feathers.**

**We say "Douglas and Sally - come back to us in sunny London if the outback gets too wet and windy."**

## **Church Diary November 2018**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>: Church Day and Autumn Gift Day

10.30 am: Discovering God in one another, led by the Worship Team

3 pm: David Nicholson Memorial Recital, followed by tea

NO EVENING SERVICE

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>:

9.30-11 am: Café Church

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>:

7.30pm: Deacons' Meeting. The Vestry.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Sunday

10.30am: Parade Service, including the Act of Remembrance and 2 minute silence.

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

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>:

10.30-noon: Friendship Club. The Vestry.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>:

7 pm: Beckenham Junior Choir concert in the church

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>:

10.30am: The Lord's Supper; led by Marilyn.

Church Meeting will follow on from Morning Worship.

6.30pm: Bible discussion, led by the Minister.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>:

10.30am: Discovering God in daily life, led by Chris Parker.

6.30pm: Taizé service, led by Lynn.

### **Advance notice:**

The Toy Service will take place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.30 am. Gifts of toys for the Salvation Army to distribute to local children.

# PENGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

172 High Street  
Penge  
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Church gathered May 1908

## Contacts

### Minister

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### Treasurer

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### Organist

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

### Church Accountants (payroll etc)

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Accountants,  
275B Croydon Road,  
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