



# roundabout



Parish Magazine of St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane with St. Luke's Church, Bromley Common

50p

Issue 499 February 2019

## Welcome

Some words make their meaning very clear and 'Welcome' is one of them. Since we issued the last edition of Roundabout in December the church has been very busy welcoming people.

Over 200 school children came to 'Christmas Journey' to learn that Christmas is not just about presents. More children came to share their Carol Concerts with us and to take part in the Christingle service on Christmas Eve.

At our Sunday services we welcomed back friends who had moved away and were making Christmas visits. We enjoyed parties to welcome in the New Year. Through the vacancy we have welcomed priests from other churches as they helped us celebrate Holy Communion.

Now we are set to welcome our new vicar, Steve Spencer and his wife Linda. We wish them a long and happy time with us.

What we must remember is that the warmest welcome of all is the one we will receive when we turn to God.

Ann Hanrahan



Institution of Rev Stephen Spencer as vicar of  
St Augustine's with St Luke's

Saturday 2 February 2019 4pm

Please do come and join us in welcoming our  
new Vicar.

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- Editor** Ann Hanrahan  
**Layout** Karen Palmer



As members of St. Augustine's with St Luke's, we seek to follow  
Jesus' command—to share God's love with our community.



Following on from Phil's article about this charity in our October edition of Roundabout, Phil has sent us this update.

# 2makeit

Last month we heard that along with our partner social enterprise, Insider Access, 2makeit had been taken forward into the public voting round for a grant from the Nat West Skills and Opportunities Fund to support a community rehabilitation project for ex-offenders.

GREAT NEWS! We have been awarded funding for the project! This is a great breakthrough for two small organisations working in an area that is not usually the most popular of causes. Also thank you to everyone who voted for us and who encouraged friends and colleagues to support us. In addition to the actual grant it will be a very good opportunity to raise our profile in a very positive way and increase our chances of further pro bono corporate support and interest.

Phil Emery

## A few questions and answers about Traidcraft

### Is Traidcraft still relevant now with fair trade goods in the shops?

This is just one of the many questions that was raised when Traidcraft announced in November that it may have to close if a new way of trading was not found, after one of the largest losses in its history. Since then it has been looking for a new trading model and it announced in early December that a viable one has been found. This will mean a large reduction of the craft on sale in the catalogues, a large number of staff at the head office being made redundant, and contracting out of most of the services including the warehouse and distribution side.



The new catalogue will not be available until March. It will have mainly food with only a few craft items, if any, and fewer cards, as they drop from about 2,000 items to about 200. This has affected the producers greatly and the charitable trust, a separate body, is helping them to find new markets.

### Why was it considered essential for Traidcraft to try and continue?

Traidcraft's role is still crucial (40 years this year). As an organisation dedicated to fighting poverty through trade, the money earned by Traidcraft is invested in existing fair trade producers and in developing new ones. It gives hope to the three billion people living on under \$2 a day, as it works to bring the benefits of trade to those who need it most.

### Why can I buy fair trade products cheaper in supermarkets?

Supermarkets sell high volumes so they can afford to make very little profit on each item. In fact, supermarkets and other food producers would not have access to fair trade products if organisations like Traidcraft did not exist.

Traidcraft stalls are the backbone of everything the trading arm does, so please continue to support ours.

Mark Gill

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Dear all at St Augustine's with St Luke's

The start of a new year is always an exciting time as we anticipate what the future may hold for us. For me and my family that is especially true of 2019, for we are the 'new people' in St Augustine's Vicarage. In October 2018 it was announced that I would be joining you as your new vicar, with the formal service of Induction by the Bishop of Rochester on Saturday 2 February 2019 at 4pm, to which all are invited.

So, let me introduce who we are. First Linda my wife; we have been married for 33 years and first started dating while working for the same bank in the City and have never looked back. We have three children - Laura married to Jon, Emma and James and two grandchildren, Harvey and Abigail. As for me I spent 27 years working in the City, before God called me to a different path and I was ordained in June 2008. For the past seven years I have been vicar of St Laurence and All Saints, Southend.

Over the past few months I have been learning something of the story of St Augustine's with St Luke's. I earnestly believe that as the body of Christ in this community we have an important part to play in both the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the people of Bromley Common. My prayer is that together, as we seek the will of God, his transcending presence will unite us as a community, enabling us to tell the story of God's amazing love. As a family, God has blessed us greatly through all the ups and downs of life, so, over the next days, weeks and months I look forward to meeting with you all and exploring God's grace in all our lives.

Yours in Christ  
Rev Steve Spencer



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## Diary of a First Time Mother - Tidying Up Again!

As the Mother of A Little Girl I Know clearing up and putting things away is a regular part of my weekly routine. When she was small it was so much easier than it is now. Getting toys out and putting them away could be made into a game. A recent birthday and Christmas meant that a bit of a sort out was needed to make room for the new bits. As we worked together we sorted items into four piles; tip, keep, give to others and charity shop. It seemed like an endless task, but we found many items we had long since given up on, thinking they were lost for ever and other more useful items returned to their proper place. Many hours passed, we both lost enthusiasm, we needed to stop for a bit, then with energy levels topped up started again. When we had finished her room looked great. I smiled to myself knowing that she would be happy with her gifts and I knew that there were places for them to be stored.

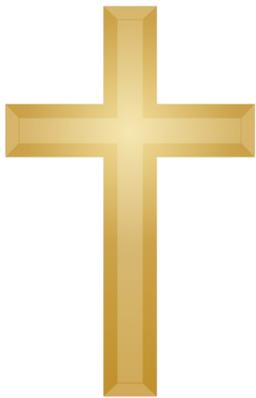


The following day A Little Girl I Know found me tidying the kitchen. She asked if I ever stopped sorting things out. I felt tempted to say, 'Not whilst you and your father live in the house'. Instead I told her that it was part of being a mother. She walked towards me and gave me a big cuddle. She thanked me for my help in sorting out her room, then asked if it was time to deal with the other three piles from her bedroom. Before long we had dropped off some books to a couple of friends, and taken some bags to a local charity shop. Then on to, for me, the most satisfying part of a tidy up, The Tip! The relief and satisfaction of throwing the bags into the skips there, and the release from that rubbish – wonderful.

As we continue to go through 2019 maybe it is time to remove the rubbish from our lives; things that prevent us from discovering what God has in store for us this coming year.

*A happy and blessed New Year to us all*

## Friday Faith Fellowship



Many moons ago, when we had recently built the new extension to St. Augustine's Church, Brian Ash was very keen that our new facilities should be used to host a daytime Ecumenical Lent Group for the Bromley Common Group of Churches. Brian was looking for someone to lead these sessions. I had recently completed studies in 'Pastoral Care and Counselling' with Canon Leslie Virgo, and had embarked on a Diocesan Course on 'Faith and Ministry', so I offered myself as leader. It was held on Friday mornings in our lovely new Garden Room.

When the Lent Course came to an end, many members wanted to continue to meet on a regular basis for Bible Study and Prayer. So, in 1987, all those years ago, the Friday Morning Group was formed. We have met fortnightly ever since, during term time. For a few years, I had to relinquish the role as leader due to pressing personal commitments. David Cosedge very kindly stepped in to fill the breach. Then David developed Parkinson's disease, by which time I was able to take back the reins.

There were always between 14 – 18 people coming regularly to the meetings, and it was thought by some that these numbers were too many for a House Group, and that maybe we should divide. None of the Group was at all in favour of this idea, so we prayed about it, and decided to re-name ourselves the 'Friday Faith Fellowship'.

Now the time has come for me to hand over to another leader, and I am absolutely delighted that Jenny Warrington is taking over!

*'God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything.'* I John 3:20

Sally Morris

## Santorini

*Editor's note. We are including this article in February to brighten up a winter's day. Enjoy!*

Tom and I recently visited the beautiful, tiny Greek Island of Santorini, renowned for its spectacular sunsets. It has a population of approx. 10,500 and approx. 250 churches, mostly painted white with a bright blue domed roof.

We visited the capital city Fira with its narrow, cobbled streets and hundreds of little shops and restaurants perched high on the edge of the mountain. The Catholic Cathedral (not as big as St. Augustine's church) with the Bishop's house next door are there at the top with glorious views across the sea to the volcano and other smaller islands. This breath-taking view, God's beautiful creation, must surely make Islanders and visitors alike realise just how volatile life is.



Hundreds of visitors call in to the Cathedral every day – there is such a warm welcome for everyone. There are handouts for all in a dozen different languages with the words of St. Francis “Make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred – let me sow Love” and the bible reading encouraging Love in Action from Romans chapter 12 verses 9-21 ‘Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good’.

In the silence guests are encouraged with these words to light a candle:

‘I may not know how to pray...  
 I may not know what to say...  
 Maybe I do not have the time now to be here in this place...  
 The light of this candle represents everything I am thanking You for  
 And everything I am asking You for ...  
 It represents my time...  
 It represents a part of myself that I leave before You Lord  
 The light that shines is the symbol of my prayer  
 My unbroken union with you God of Love, Joyful and Merciful Father...  
 A union that will be with me forever’.

It may be that you have never prayed before, do not know where or how to start to pray, or it may be that you just don't have the words right now – you don't need a cathedral – find a quiet place in your home, light a candle to represent Jesus the light of the world, still your mind and leave the rest to the Lord.

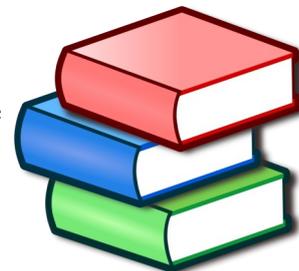
Helen Smith



## The Unshakable Truth by J & S McDowell

A mature Christian observed a little while ago that the antidote to doubt is faith. She possibly meant that in following her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour, such doubts dissipate.

But what about those who have never had faith, those from a different faith background, those who have been convinced by humanism, or those who just see the apparently archaic structures of the organised church and decide they want none of it? Or those of us who want to understand our faith in the light of the startling scientific discoveries, including in cosmological and particle physics and in genetics in today's world? In this time of great changes in communication and social media, of fake news and attempted subversion of democracy, never has it been more important for the message and truth of Jesus to be relevant to the next generation.



If you are looking for something that places the fundamental truths of Christianity on a logical evidential basis in a readable way, with illustrations and nuggets of both knowledge and humour, then the book 'The Unshakable Truth' by Josh and Sean McDowell might be worth considering. It also comes in the form of a study guide for individual or group study.

The book seeks to help develop the reader's faith by focussing on the principles of the Nicene Creed, agreed in 325 AD and adopted by the entire Christian world. Included is looking at the evidence for God's existence, evidence that the Bible is accurate and reliable, evidence for Jesus, that he became human, that he was God's perfect sacrifice and that he rose again. The meaning of the Trinity and the evidence for and purpose of the Holy Spirit are examined.

The book also includes evidence for life after death, where the authors show how recent scientific knowledge, far from disproving such notions, actually makes them plausible. We now know that the matter and energy in our known universe is only a small fraction of that which exists, the rest being called 'dark matter and dark energy'. Most of what exists, in a world created by a God who is outside space and time, is hidden from us!

You may be excited or repelled by such musings 'beyond our ken' so be assured that much of this book is aimed at helping the reader to develop a faith as a personal relationship with God: '... we pray that you will come to know God more deeply, understand your place within him and the world more clearly. And above all, we pray that God will empower you more fully to live out your biblical worldview so that you can more effectively impart the living truth of Jesus Christ to your family and those around you.'

David Allan

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## Parish People

### Congratulations:

To **Pam Spooner** on becoming a great-grandmother. Her granddaughter **Kate** gave birth to George Arthur on 2 January.

To **Viviane Edgley** who has also become a great-grandmother. Her granddaughter **Lauren**, who is her son **Anthony's** daughter, gave birth to a boy **Rafe**, who weighed 8lb 1oz on 4 December. She also has a new great-nephew, **Edward**, who is to be known as Teddy. He was born on 10 December and weighed 9lb.

To **Hilary Chittock** and **Sheila Humphrey**, who celebrated 'Big 0' birthdays. Hilary celebrated hers in Venice with friends.

To **Thomas Pope** and **Rachel Senior** on their engagement. We look forward to hearing more as the big day approaches.

### Where are they now?

**Tim** and **Barbara Oakley** continue to live a busy life juggling parish life in Church Stretton with being grandparents to three girls and three boys. Barbara is due to have major back surgery in February with a long recovery period, so the pace may have to slow a bit and Tim becomes cook in charge.

Newly retired **Richard Arding** has moved back to Tunbridge Wells and anyone who is passing is very welcome to call in. Address details with editorial team.

**Eric Heselwood**, after two years 'minding' the parish of Keston, is now back to retirement. He says "the family wrap me in cotton wool and wouldn't let the wind blow on me if it was possible".

### Remembering:

We give thanks for the lives of **Barry Last** and **Barbara Linehan**, both involved in the life of our church some years back. We hold in mind their children, Barry's sons, **Peter** and **Trevor** and their families, and Barbara's daughter **Heather** and son **John**, and their families.



Thank you for celebrating Christingle with us, together we raised a fantastic £442.40 for the Children's Society. They help support vulnerable children and young people in this country who are facing poverty, abuse and neglect.

*From the Parish Register*

#### **Baptisms**

We welcome into the church family

Blake Miles BRILLIANT-DENNIS

Keep your news coming to me either by seeing me in church on Sunday morning or at The Three Cs on a Tuesday morning. Alternatively you may like to email it to me at [jackysskinner@gmail.com](mailto:jackysskinner@gmail.com). Thank you.

## Church Directory

Dates for Your Diary		
Feb 9	Messy Church	3 - 5 pm
Feb 12	Trefoil - AGM	8 pm
Feb 19	Forget Me Not Cafe	1.30 - 3.30 pm
Feb 20	Mothers' Union AGM	2.00 pm
Feb 20	Bits and Pieces	7.45 pm
Mar 1	World Day of Prayer Service – Petts Wood Methodist Church	2 pm

Children and Youth Activities		
Club JC	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Parent and Toddler	Helen Scothern Victoria Bouwer	07909 824099 07779 009064

Scouts & Guides		
Joint Group Scout Leaders	Jenny Owens Sandra Goodwin	020 8467 4702 01689 831654
Beavers' waiting list	Ellie Howard	07923 507995
Brownies	Ruth Higginbottom	01689 818104
Rainbows	Helen Scothern	07909 824099
Visit the Scout website— <a href="http://www.23rdbromlevscouts.org">www.23rdbromlevscouts.org</a>		

Church Activities		
Mothers' Union	Linda Wanniaratchy	0776 1853653
Church Rooms	Liz Carter	020 8467 8155
The Three Cs	Jacky Skinner	07812 714803
Roundabout Manager	Lorna Murray	020 8467 0536

Worship with us on Sundays	
8am Holy Communion	St Luke's Every Week
10am Morning Worship	St Augustine's 1st and 5th Sunday
10am Holy Communion	St Augustine's 2nd and 4th Sunday
10am Family Service	St Augustine's 3rd Sunday
6pm Holy Communion	St Luke's 1st Sunday
6pm Evening Worship	St Luke's every week except 1st Sunday
6.30pm Holy Communion	St Augustine's 3rd Sunday

Join us during the week	
Mon 9.15 am	Morning Prayer
Wed 11.45 am	Holy Communion
Tues 10.00 am	The Three Cs
Wed 10.00 am	Parent and Toddler
Thurs 10.30 am	Sally's Exercise Class

Church Staff		
Vicar	Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351
Youth & Schools Minister	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Ordinand in training	Jenny Warrington	01689 834375
Reader Emeritus	Kenneth Gil	020 8467 1260
Reader	Brian Kendall	01689 832304
Churchwarden	Pam Poynter	020 8402 9008
Churchwarden	Viv Emery	01689 861929
Treasurer	David Wardley	07952 736491
P.C.C. Secretary	Johanna Gurney	020 8467 9587
Children's Officer	Helen Scothern	07909 824099
Safeguarding Officer	Helen Baker	07576 233119

Church Office	
Parish Administrator	020 8295 1550

We welcome your emails at: [office@st-augustines.org.uk](mailto:office@st-augustines.org.uk)  
 You can also find out about more recent and future events in our church by visiting :  
[www.st-augustines.org.uk](http://www.st-augustines.org.uk)

## roundabout

**MARCH 2019**

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All items by email to the church office by 8 February

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