



roundabout



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

50p

Issue 513 June 2020

In Our Time

As I reflect on the past month it could be quite easy to dismiss May all together, but I think that would be a sad thing to do. Despite the obvious problems and hardships that this pandemic is causing - not least the pain and grief of losing loved ones - there have been times when the true spirit of this country has come together. On Thursday evenings at 8pm the whole country stands as one to thank all NHS workers and care workers - in fact all people that daily put themselves on the front line to keep this nation going. Also, in spite of the restrictions our communities were able to come together and celebrate VE Day and others could enjoy the coverage on our TV screens.

In St Luke's parish, the war memorial was recognised by Historic England and was listed Grade 11 by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. And let's not forget those of you for whom Eurovision is the highlight of the year! We were able to enjoy the songs that have won in the past, and although it may not have given us a winner, this year at least we did not come last!

As we look to the future, although still profoundly serious, we hope and pray that the worst may be behind us. Countries around the world are starting to open shops, borders and travel; yet this must be sustainable as we continue to see a fall in those who are affected by Covid-19. As a Church we continue to pray for the sick, the grieving and the lonely.

Our community I believe continues to grow in love and generosity as neighbour helps neighbour. In the Bible Jesus is asked the question "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus replies by telling the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke chapter 10 verses 25-37). At its essence the story tells us that no matter what our differences, it's only by respect, love, generosity and kindness that we can fully appreciate what humanity really looks like, and today more than ever we see that in faces around us.

*"The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace."*

Yours in Christ

Revd Steve Spencer -Vicar



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



A Real Celebration

I was 15 when the war in Europe ended. My father was home after three years abroad fighting, so we were especially excited. Lovely to see my mother without the anxious face when the postman came. All the people in our road collected bunting and flags that had been saved from George VI's coronation. We were concerned about what we could wear. My mother sorted out an old bridesmaid's dress of mine, shortened it and made a passable dress. It was blue and I had a white Alice band. My sister wore white shorts, a red scarf round the middle and we looked quite good!



The day was spent in the Guides' hall in my road. My father helped carry tables from the local pub. People loaned bed sheets to cover them. The women in the road made sandwiches out of scant rations. Aunt Floss next door gave two eggs. She was a widow from the 1914 war and all through our war, I looked after her chickens. We sang God save the King and our local vicar from St Nicholas church said lovely prayers for those who would not come home. In a small road like ours everyone had someone to mourn. Mrs Sullivan belted out songs on the piano. We danced and sang. The young boys did not join in – they were too busy scoffing the food. Even two young widows who lost their pilot husbands in the Battle of Britain danced with their children in their arms. Everyone was kissing and cuddling.

My best friends Pam and Eileen and their families, had had lots of sleepless nights with us in the Air Raid shelters, but we were never late for school. Our old headmistress used to say at assembly "If our young men can fight for your freedom, you can manage without a night's sleep".

In these last few months people have been so kind and it's been like the war. With God's help we will all be enjoying his lovely world again soon.



Pam Spooner

St Luke's War Memorial

On the 6 May 2020 Historic England announced new listings for the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Amongst them was the war memorial outside St Luke's Church.



In a short ceremony on 7 May, our Vicar, Steve Spencer and the Pastor of Hope Church recited the wording which Historic England requires to confirm the importance of the site.

The memorial was built in about 1920 and is made from Portland stone with a bronze figure of Christ on it. The names of the 180 soldiers who died in the First World War are inscribed on a pillar inside the church. The name of 59 who died in the Second World are on a second pillar.

Historic England list two reasons for designation
Architectural interest: as an accomplished and well-executed composition comprising a Portland stone wheel-head cross with a bronze statue of Christ;

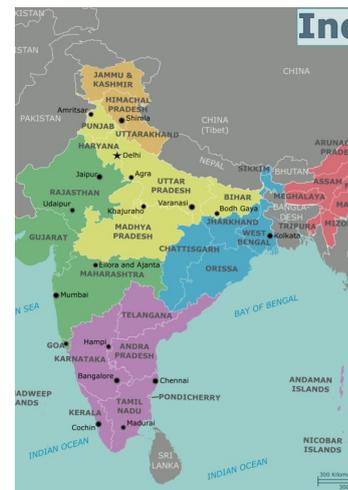
Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this community, and the sacrifices it has made in the conflicts of the 20th Century.

Karen Palmer

India - again!

Seven members of Battersea Park Rotary club landed at Kolkata airport at 7 am. We had last been in India on the polio vaccination project and the taxi ride through the streets refreshed my memory of sights and sounds: high rise flats, low rise huts with tarpaulin roofs, shopkeepers in their huddled cramped premises. The roads were choked with cars, taxis, buses, push carts and cyclists; the pavements, some worn, some new, full of people framing a symphony of noise.

By contrast, the hotel organised for us was set in extensive grounds a good quarter of a mile from the road and an oasis of peace and quiet. This time we were here for the Centennial celebrations of the Rotary Club of Calcutta, which were spread over three days. The Calcutta club had a programme planned for us; an overnight trip, entertainment and a finely tuned mixture of visits to humanitarian projects, interesting and inspiring speakers and discussions.



In the country we saw villages being provided with fresh water bore wells and toilets – hitherto there was only a trek to fetch water and a walk into the surrounding bush. The Calcutta Rotary had raised some of the funds, but my Rotary club had participated in the venture, so it was very rewarding to see the results. In the city we visited a hospital specialising in the prevention of childhood blindness and these are just the tip of an iceberg of needs being met over the years by dedicated Calcutta Rotarians. Its HQ is in the centre of town and – apart from their weekly meetings – it is used for community and teaching projects, including a programme to provide computers to schools through out city. The club had been preparing for the centenary for four years and it paid off in memorable events.



We enjoyed a banquet under the stars in the grounds of the hotel. It was a wonderland of fairy lights in bushes, of floodlights in trees, of bunting and streamers, stalls for drinking and stalls for food, dancers and a band. We were treated to lunch in the grounds of a colonial style house with an exhibition of beautifully maintained classic cars and our final entertainment was an International Evening. The opportunity to meet Rotarians from all over the world as well as from all over India was one of the many pleasing features celebrating 100 years of dedicated work and friendship.

The photo shows me presenting an engraved cricket bat to the Calcutta Rotary at the International Evening.

John Lee

Flower Power!

Beautiful and fragrant flowers are to be found abundantly in summertime and together with many types of foliage in diverse shades of harmonising green it is possible to fill your home with gorgeous arrangements. Garden flowers, particularly roses are our favourite choice at this time of year, simply displayed so that each exquisite bloom can be fully appreciated.

Try being inventive with containers, choosing the appropriate size of vase/bowl/dish to suit the flowers you wish to display. When arranging in a bowl, without the use of floral foam it is helpful to have a supportive grid to hold the flowers in place. As the photograph shows these grids can be made from adhesive pot tape, Sellotape, or even elastic bands. The best time to cut garden flowers is early in the morning when the flowers are well hydrated placing them directly into a container of water. Having given them a good drink the stems should be cut on the diagonal, to help with continuing uptake of water and to a suitable length for the container. Remove any leaves from the stem that are going to be under the waterline as this will help to extend the life of the flowers.



The bowl pictured (below) contains just three roses named 'Gertrude Jekyll', (a beautifully perfumed



variety) surrounded by contrasting leaves of heuchera 'Plum Pudding'. Small recycled containers such as these glass spice jars when grouped together can form an attractive display for roses (right) or more delicate flowers such as the cranesbill geranium (below right).



The longer glass vase pictured (below left) contains rose buds together with a variety of other small flowers and foliage making it ideal arrangement for a summer table centre.



When access to fresh flowers is difficult artificial flowers can be arranged and these have the advantage that they will not wilt or need watering! The plain tin container used in this picture (left) has been covered with recycled cardboard packaging to give a more rustic look.



Bringing garden flowers indoors to enjoy is one of summer's delights, their colours, perfume, textures, and shapes delight our senses and lift our spirits. Have fun with flowers!

'Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these'. Matthew 6:28-29

Cathy Fyfield, Anne Bond and Jane-Anne Riley
Members of St Augustine's Flower Guild

Spotlight on Christine Fisher

Along with many other people who were born immediately after the war my parents, Bert and Mary, and I lived with my father's parents in North London for two years and my mother's parents in Bromley until I was 4. Then along came Bill, my brother, and with that a new house in Hayes.



Somehow John Barnard, vicar of St. Augustine's in 1953, found out that my father had been involved in scouting and the 23rd Bromley Group needed a leader. As a family, we never looked back! I was a Brownie and Guide in Hayes until I was 16 when I became Rikki in the 23rd Bromley, Baloo Pack helping Sandra Stonham for two years.

After 7 years at Beckenham Grammar School (now Park Langley) I went to Teacher Training College in Hertford. In 1969 I started teaching in Whitehorse Manor Junior School in Thornton Heath but moved closer to home in 1972 when I joined the staff of Crofton Junior School, Orpington. In 1980, having gone from school to college and then into teaching I looked for a change. I was accepted by the League of Exchange for Commonwealth Teachers and spent a year teaching in a High School in Trois Rivieres in Quebec Province. The opportunities for travel were amazing and I went to James Bay in the north, to New York, Washington and Acapulco in the south, to Halifax and Prince Edward Island in the east and to Vancouver Island in the west.

Thanks to the teaching and people I have met at St Augustine's and the evangelical church I joined while I was at college my Christian faith has grown steadily over the years. Since St Augustine's joined with St Luke's I actually find myself living in the parish for the first time since 1952.

In 2006 I retired and am really grateful for my Freedom Pass. I love London and the UK as well as appreciating holidays abroad in term time. When I am at home I am usually knitting hats for Mission to Seafarers or baby blankets or squares for Kondo. My family sometimes put in requests and most years I knit something for Christmas and Easter.

Christine Fisher

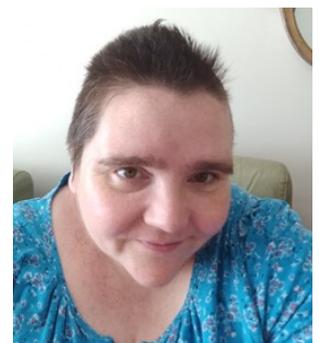
Hair Today

Laura Denton is a science teacher in Orpington. Along with other teachers in Bromley, she had noticed now many more families are using its eight food banks. The problem is that many regular donors are self-isolating and others are unable to purchase extra items with their usual shop. Laura decided she would fundraise for the Trussell Trust - with a JustGiving 'Head Shave' challenge!



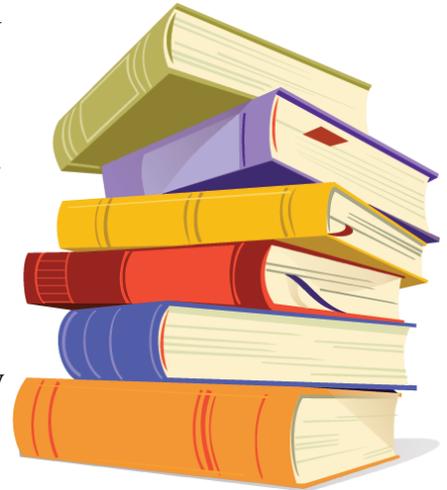
The Trussell Trust was founded by Carol and Paddy Henderson using a legacy left by Carol's mother Betty Trussell. It supports over 1200 food banks and provides practical support to people in crisis. Today it employs more than 120 people and is a major campaigning voice to change the structural issues that lock people into poverty. Laura has raised £2,200 so far.

Bromley Foodbank donation box is outside the Vicarage for contributions. Charities, particularly smaller ones, are finding their work particularly hard as their incomes have dropped drastically. If you support a charity, both your prayers and donations are needed more than ever.



A Slight Obsession!

One of the jobs I have managed to tick off my To Do List recently was to sort out my bookcase. A large number of books on a variety of different subjects, many well-read, others hardly opened. Before long there were three piles of books: to give to charity shops, others to pass onto friends and family and those to be put back on the shelves to be read or referred to another day. It ended up being a job well done; worth all the time and effort for sure.



As I put back on the shelves the books I had decided to keep, I noticed that I had a large number of map books and atlases. My mind wandered at that point. I recalled holidays from my childhood: two families of four in a large estate car with my friend's Dad driving, my Mum with a map open on her lap, the other parents chatting, and all four children sitting together in the back of the car. Happy days long gone, but certainly not forgotten.

I recalled the first holiday we had with A Little Girl I Know; South Wales, staying close the place her Grandma had been born. It was a proud moment for me when I was able to take her to the cathedral where Grandma had been baptised as a small baby. I opened the atlas and looked at the familiar names of places visited then. I felt sad for a moment thinking of what might have been this year had Covid-19 not got in the way. I guess we are fortunate that we hadn't got round to planning anything so nothing would be spoilt. I thought of our neighbours and their friends whose wedding in Austria had been cancelled.

In recent days I have been walking around our local area. Using one of my trusted map books I have discovered a number of footpaths, open spaces, a beauty spot that I previously didn't know existed. A Little Girl I Know has been looking at maps too for her school work. We have enjoyed some good times together talking about places that we have visited over the years.



I am grateful for my maps and a good sense of direction. I am happy knowing that one thing is for sure that I will never be lost to God. A Little Girl reminded me that every story from the Bible she had read about lost things, always ended up with the item being found again. Now where did I put my... We all do it don't we? May you find your lost item and keep your

faith strong at this time.

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The Jigsaw of Life

Eric Idle, of Monty Python fame, wrote a song which - I gather – has become a favourite at funerals. Its title is ‘Always look on the bright side of life’. I must admit I have found it hard to embrace his sentiments during the past few months. Can I bear to watch the news again? Figures have never been my strong point and I find it nearly impossible to interpret the statistics posted on our screens. And yet, there have been things which have been really enriching.



My neighbour of nearly 40 years and I greet one another every day at 11 am over the fence for coffee and a natter. She lost her husband to Covid-19 in April and we have had conversations which would never have taken place had it not been for lockdown. The ‘new’ (only 10 years!) neighbours on the other side are a busy young family, both parents working and boys with packed school and after-school lives. We never saw them. Audrey now asks for my Waitrose list once a fortnight and every Saturday we treat ourselves to a gin and tonic at sundown! The shape of life has changed and the roles we play are different. And sometimes this can be difficult.

I was a post-war baby, raised on a large council estate in Essex built after the war, which was a twin of St Paul’s Cray: the same layout, the same facilities. We were all displaced families, mostly from the East End. It was a new start with bulge numbers: in my primary school each year group had four classes of about 50 children, all in it together – until the 11 Plus. Four of us girls passed. Loughton High School was our destination where fellow pupils could already play an instrument or tennis, or were much-badged Brownies. We didn’t fit. At the end of the school day as we got off the bus, we took off our velour hats and blazers as we walked home through the estate. We didn’t fit.

When circumstances are unfamiliar and we have to look deeply into how we respond to them, the one constant is the love we know that God has for each of us.

Jesus said ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind’. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. Matthew 22 v 37-40

Mary Plummer

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

You are welcome to worship with us:

- on Sunday mornings at 10 am via Zoom and phone.
- on Wednesday mornings 11.30 For details of how to join ring 020 8467 1351

Our church office is closed until further notice and normal church activities and room bookings are suspended. For details about our church life please see the website: www.st-augustines.org.uk.

Our Vicar Steve Spencer can be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com

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Helping the Homeless

A few years ago I took my grandchildren to a children's concert in St Martin-in-the-Fields church in London and since then I have been on their mailing list. From the start of the lockdown they have been sending me emails about the work they are doing for the homeless in London.



Across Westminster, 350 rough sleepers have been supported into hotels and other accommodation to ensure they can self-isolate and stay safe and well. Staff at The Connection at St Martin's are providing a vital lifeline to people during the lockdown, delivering three meals a day to 300 people and making daily phone calls to check people are okay. Their Associate Vicar of Mission, Richard Carter and members of the congregation have been cycling to west London delivering meals to people and giving out bottled water so people are well hydrated.

Since 8 April, their emergency fund has been providing grants across the UK supporting homeless and vulnerable people through the Covid-19 crisis. They have provided 450 emergency grants worth £147,000, so people can receive basic essentials and support into accommodation. These grants are crucial. They can help people into housing so they can safely self-isolate or they can help someone buy a phone or tablet, technology that so many of us are relying on in these times. The majority of face-to-face homelessness services have ceased during the lockdown, so these phone calls could be the only contact many people have.

Despite the church doors being closed for the first time in their history, St Martin's congregational and public ministry are thriving. Tens of thousands are joining their online services and hundreds of thousands are enjoying their choral singing. It's just amazing what St Martin's has managed to do and for so many.

Sue Goodger

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