



# roundabout



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

50p

Issue 515 September 2020

## Our Community

Over the last few months, we have learnt a couple of new expressions 'in these unprecedented times' and 'the new normal' and of course to a certain extent this is true, as none of us have experienced anything like this in our lifetime. Having to keep our distance from others especially family and friends goes against all our natural instinct even those that went through the rigours of WWII were able to socialise with family and friends. Therefore, if nothing else this pandemic has highlighted that inbuilt need for humanity to build friendships, to build community and to socially interact.

As Christians, I believe we are called to be central to what community is. In the bible we read *'not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.'* *Philippians 2: 4-7*

So this 'new normal' that we are about to enter perhaps gives us an opportunity to think afresh what we want community to look like, and already I think we have started to see the green shoots of a more caring society. This pandemic has caused hardship, anxiety, and grief, but with determination a life that is different can be better for the good of all people. Jesus teaches us that through his love, his compassion and his willingness to take the role of a servant that there is hope for the future. For that is what Jesus' death and resurrection (Easter) is all about - a new life, a new community founded in love.

Finally, I hope that despite all the difficulties, you have found some time over the summer to relax and recharge your batteries.

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.**



## Secret Agents Holiday Club

Holiday Club ran from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. This year we were secret agents uncovering the truth about Jesus. Helen even gave us invisible ink pens and mirror sunglasses!



Each day we had a big question to investigate. Through animations, Bible stories that Helen brought to life, and quizzes we answered them. There were also challenges that I really enjoyed and we learnt some amazing new songs. My favourite was 'If God made the sun', which filled me with energy and enthusiasm.

Through Holiday Club I learnt about the miracles Jesus did, the people he healed and, at the end, how he saved us all from sin. One of the big questions of the week was 'Who is Jesus – friend or enemy?' We learnt about Zacchaeus and how Jesus came to save the lost, and I came to the conclusion that Jesus is our friend.

I want to say a big thank you to Helen for making Holiday Club so much fun and for teaching me so much about Jesus. This summer has been an unusual one – keeping our distance from other people and using lots of hand sanitiser – but Holiday Club was amazing and something to look forward to each day.

Elizabeth Byford

## Youth House Group

Through out lockdown Helen Baker has done a weekly Zoom call with James Fairhurst and myself as part of Youth House Group. Ever since this started, I have loved Wednesdays so much because it is a nice way to end my day calmly.

We have had discussions, done quizzes, played games and Helen even had us dashing round the house looking for objects. It has been so much fun.

I can't express how thankful I am to Helen for running it; and to Hilary Chittock, Pam Poynter and Viv Emery for taking part too.

Jess Skinner

## Thank you Helen

Since Lockdown Helen has been busy with arts and crafts to keep us busy every day. Helen has displayed her amazing creativity in so many ways. Her art work is clever, Helen demonstrating as those watching are encouraged to draw along too. She even had me trying to make a pom pom for the first time in almost 40 years!

Thank you, Helen, for sharing your God given talents with us.



Week 2 Origami Heart Bunting

## Rachel Winn



*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20–21)*

Hello St Augustine's and St Luke's! I am just about to enter the most exciting - and nerve-wracking - stage of my life in full-time ministry with you all.

For almost thirty years, before studying at St Augustine's College of Theology, I was an Occupational Therapist working in Social Services Complex Care with people who have profound physical disabilities.

Adam and I have been married for 28 years and we have four children who all still live at home. Nathanael is the oldest, aged 23. The twins, Emma and Elliot, are 19 and Zach is 12 years old. I would describe our home as always busy, the kitchen is always being raided and it has been, er, 'challengingly cosy' during Lockdown!

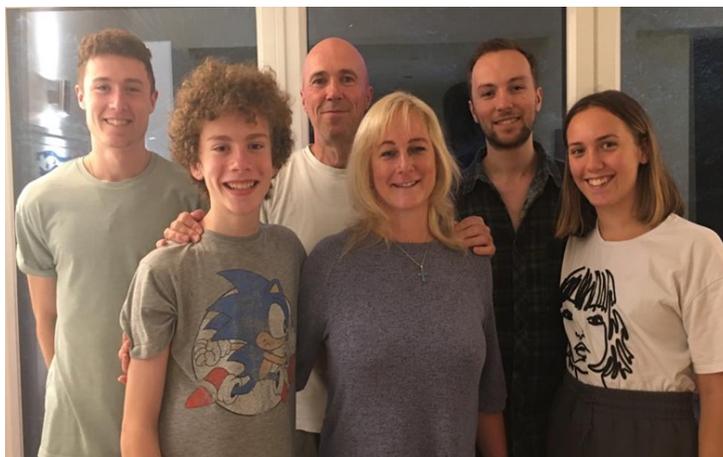
So how does someone like me end up training for the ministry?

In a nutshell, my own life has been radically transformed by Jesus Christ and I believe that if he can change *me*, he can change *anyone*! I believe God's plans are infinitely grander than our own. When I meet people often my first thoughts are, '*I wonder where are you with God right now - and is there any way I can help you get closer?*' It eventually became too difficult not to bring God into conversations in my work, especially as I think so often the deep things which most need transformation are beyond our human ability to change. A recent placement at Feltham prison Chaplaincy Team reminded me that everyone is precious and no-one is beyond the reach of God's incredible love and powerful works.

Three of our children are established and involved at St John's, Eden Park where we have worshipped for almost eighteen years. I gradually became involved in preaching, singing, leading and pastoral care. I had no intention of training to become a vicar, but God had other plans and I finally yielded to his way and not mine!

And so, Adam and I will be joining you in September. We are so excited to meet you, hopefully in person, and look forward to becoming a part of your church family and anticipating the '*immeasurably more*' that God is going to do among us.

Rachel



## SW19 - Then and Now

This has been a summer of nostalgia. Not as I expected because of sorting through family photos and papers (as per list of jobs to do during lockdown) but because of the BBC. As the Olympic Games, Wimbledon and other such events had to be cancelled, they have been delving into the archives to recall past competitions. I have had a brilliant time enjoying past sports victories and exciting Wimbledon finals.



When I first came to London I was in a hostel in Wimbledon. After a quick evening meal several of us would stroll down to the tennis, walk in - no queues - and enjoy an evening watching the tennis on the outside courts. If we were very lucky we would often be given a ticket for Centre or No 1 Court as people left for the evening.

Watching the replays on TV I became aware of how much has changed. Once there was a net judge sitting on his chair, peering along the top of the net; only ball boys no girls; no electronic statistics being floated up on the screen - how fast was the serve? How many aces? Was the ball in or out? - no Hawk-Eye to make the decision. Viewers were dependant on the very cultured tones of the commentators.

As I have a bad memory I couldn't remember all the winners, so was able to enjoy the agony and ecstasy of matches all over again. The crowds seemed more circumspect and there was no need for the military ushers to move onto the court and face the crowds during the breaks as they do now. A grim reminder of the times we live in.

Thank you BBC.

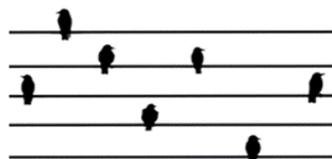
Ann Hanrahan

## 2makeit - Update

The lockdown meant that we had to pause our participatory work in prisons and adapt our support work in the community. Following consultation and close co-operation with senior prison staff we quickly developed new in-cell projects which could be sent into prisons to offer some creative respite to prisoners locked in their cells for 23 hours every day without visits.

**2makeit**  
creativity for rehabilitation

*Songbird* is a new songwriting project providing activities to guide the writing of lyrics which are then sent to 2makeit for one of our Music Makers to add music. Recordings are then sent into prison for the prisoners to listen to and send to families to maintain vital contacts with loved ones.



**Songbird**  
by 2makeit  
creativity for rehabilitation

Songbird has been very well received and is currently running in four prisons with plans to start the project in other establishments soon.

*"It is creative yet simple but powerful in its concept and outcome. The Songbird project sits perfectly to re-engage a sense of community and ambition whilst contributing towards a positive recovery post pandemic. It allows men to express their artistic creativity and builds confidence."* Senior Manager, HMP Grendon

We aim to continue our new work and to meet new needs. We will resume our paused projects as soon as possible, although it is unlikely that we will get back into prisons, physically, before the end of 2020. In the current emergency the needs of the vulnerable people we support in prison and in the community come into sharper focus and we intend to keep supporting them in as many ways as we can. We are incredibly grateful for your continuing support and interest in our work, now more vital than ever. Covid-19 crisis fundraising has been undertaken by trustees and beneficiaries alike. If you would like to add a donation please visit [www.justgiving.com/2makeit](http://www.justgiving.com/2makeit).

Philip Emery

## Macmillan Coffee Morning



As you know I have been hosting a Coffee Morning at my house for the last 13 years to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. This year will be very different. I have agreed to take part again this year as our money is needed more than ever in the current circumstances. Many cancer treatments have been postponed and the charity needs all the help we can give them to support people living with cancer.

I will not be able to have a coffee morning in my house but I may be able to have a few small gatherings in my garden, weather permitting. If you are interested in supporting this worthy cause please let me know on 07796213796. I'll be making cakes and biscuits and watching the weather forecasts over the next few weeks. Any donations would be very welcome. If you would like to donate online my personal fundraising code is <https://thyg.uk/BUU004063171>

Sue Goodger

### Goodbye

The Roundabout team send all good wishes to Sheela Thomas who will move to St John's Eden Park in September to continue her training.

We have appreciated her gifts in bringing the Word of God to life for us and challenging us to live the Word in our everyday world.

**Congratulations** to **Kenneth** and **Hazel Gill** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on July 9th. What a special day.

It is with sadness that we announce of the passing of **Alice Jones**, who passed away on June 24th. Please hold her family in your prayers at this time.

**Gordon Davie** who ran the chemist by the St Augustine's has also passed away.

We have also heard of the recent passing of **Barbra Cater-Haines**, an old friend of St Augustine's, whose funeral is on September 2nd. We send our condolences and prayers to her friends and family.

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## What is your Background?

This was a question often asked at a job interview. It referred to your family, previous jobs and experience. At present backgrounds are a topic of interest as we watch any recorded interview or take part in Zoom meetings. The favourite background for these online meetings seems to be a bookshelf or shelves. I strain to read the titles, judge the tidiness and enjoy some of the other objects they hold. Outside is interesting too as you can study people's gardens, admire their plants and garden furniture. Not surprisingly, cookery programmes seem to take place in people's kitchens. They are all so tidy and have so many empty worktops and no sign of washing up. Although visiting is not easy these days it is fun being able to nose around other people's homes.



Ann Hanrahan

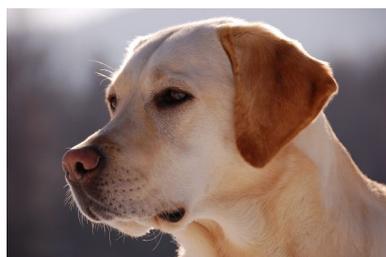
## Choosing a Dog

I've heard it said and so have you – undoubtedly it's very true  
That you must choose your dog with care, you really can't be unaware  
That many things are of concern – will he be bright and quick to learn?  
Will he behave when in the park? Or will he race around and bark?  
Will he enjoy a game of ball and come the moment that you call?  
Will you be ready with the scoop when he goes in next door to poop?  
Will he dig up your favourite rose, appearing back with muddy nose?



After his bath you can be sure he'll roll about in horse manure!  
Will he come in when he's been sick and want to give your face a lick?  
Will he rush headlong from the street and tear upstairs with muddy feet?  
If you've not had a dog before, you really must be very sure  
That you won't mind things turned around on introduction of a hound,  
It may well send you round the bend to live with a four-legged friend.

So, now we come to life indoors, will he obey your household laws?  
Or will he always jump on chairs, leaving behind his doggy hairs?  
And will he clamber on your lap? Then, if you scold him, will he snap?  
Will he make puddles on the floor? Or scratch at the unopened door?  
Now, if you get a larger breed, he'll no doubt cost a bomb to feed,  
Refusing the nice meals you make, he'd much prefer to eat rump steak!  
And if he should be taken ill, can you afford his doctor's bill?



Be sure he'll rule your every day if you  
once let him have his way.  
He may be nervy and uptight, depriving you of sleep at night.  
And, does he slobber? Does he drool? Is he as stubborn as a mule?  
Do check whether he'll sit when told – you want a pooch that's good as gold.  
He'll always know when he's been bad and driven you completely mad!  
Then, using his sixth doggy sense he'll gaze at you with eloquence;  
No matter how annoyed you felt, one look from him – your heart will melt.

You really should look through some books; it's most important how he looks.  
Should he have wavy hair or straight? What if he walks with rolling gait?  
Behind those big and friendly eyes is he a werewolf in disguise?  
And, just remember, if you please, that matted hair can harbour fleas!  
I've put before you, without fuss, some things you'd do well to discuss,  
But here's a point not touched on yet – what is the overall effect?  
For you can't take him back again, the dog you've purchased, if and when  
The consequential thought may strike - \*!?!\*  
**DOGS AND THEIR OWNERS GROW ALIKE!!!**

Sally Morris

<p>We have a <b>MAN WITH A DRILL</b> Would you like all those little household jobs done? We will put up your own Mirrors, Pictures, Towel rails, Shelves, Wall Cabinets, Smoke Detectors, Radiator Covers, and Medicine Cabinets. Also flat pack furniture assembly.</p> <p>If it's not listed, ask us! Evans of Petts Wood. 9, Chatsworth Parade, <b>01689 871359</b></p> 	 <p><b>Bishop Challoner School</b> A Catholic Independent School for Girls &amp; Boys 3-18 Years</p> <p>228 Bromley Road, Shortlands BR2 0BS Sue Long: <a href="mailto:admissions@bishopchallonerschool.com">admissions@bishopchallonerschool.com</a> <a href="http://www.bishopchallonerschool.com">www.bishopchallonerschool.com</a></p> <p><i>Welcoming all faiths</i></p>	<p><b>BITS &amp; JOBS</b> <b>Tom Smith - Handy Man</b></p> <p>No Job Too Small! Painting/Decorating General DIY Hedge Trimming Gardening Give me a call on <b>07792 314255</b></p>
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## Behind the Mask

Many of my creative friends have been making masks as they are now an essential part of every day living in the follow up to Covid-19. His is black, A Little Girl I Know has a pink one, and mine has owls on it. They seem to be the latest fashion statement. Everywhere you go you see people wearing them, it is impossible to go on public transport or enter a shop or church without one; failing to wear one in certain places will result in a heavy fine. You even needed one to enter your hairdressers or barbers for that long-awaited haircut.



A Little Girl I Know told me recently that there have been reports of dogs who were not obeying their owner's instructions when the people wore masks. It appears that the masks are muffling their voices, and the animals are not able to understand them. The wearing of them has meant a fall in the sales of lipstick! For me the difficulty has come in not being able to see a person's facial expression, or in some cases not being able to lipread them when the background noise is such that I cannot hear their spoken words.

We are getting used to putting on our masks, sanitising our hands, and dashing round the shops to get our essentials. No longer do we linger; rarely do we ponder over our purchases. We simply get our shopping done, pay, make for the exit and remove our masks. Oh, the relief of being able to take it off!

A Little Girl I Know like many of us has been hiding her true feelings behind an invisible mask for a while now. Lockdown has been difficult, cut off from her friends, home learning, and almost forgetting how to communicate with others outside her immediate family. She can smile, laugh and inside be crying her heart out. Now we face another hurdle; the return to school...

We are all guilty of wearing masks; often pretending to be something we are not. They cover our true feelings and emotions. We all need that good friend who is able to help us discard our invisible mask to help us to be the person we are meant to be.

For me I struggle at not being able to see people's smile or them mine behind the mask. For me the words of the Rev. Kate Bottley sum it up so well. 'I shall keep smiling even if my smile can't be seen'.

Keep smiling dear friends even at this crazy time!

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## Survival techniques

I don't know who to give credit to, but this is hilarious. So we're into our 5th month of defeating COVID-19. These words made me laugh but there's a lot of truth mixed in to consider.

- So let me get this straight, there's no cure for a virus that can be killed by sanitiser and hand soap?
- Is it too early to put up the Christmas tree yet? I have run out of things to do
- Another Saturday night in the house and I just realised the rubbish goes out more than me.
- Whoever decided a pub is more essential than a hair salon is obviously a bald-headed alcoholic.
- Remember when you were little and all your underwear had the days of the week on them. Those would be helpful right now.
- It may take a village to raise a child, but I swear it's going to take a whole vineyard to home school one.

*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](http://www.st-augustines.org.uk).

Our Vicar Steve Spencer can be contacted at [revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com](mailto:revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com)

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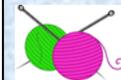
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