



# roundabout



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

Issue 522 May 2021

## A Fragile World

Sometimes it is good to reflect on the past before we can move to what the future may bring. The month of April saw two important events; first was the celebration of the most important event of the Christian year, Easter. Again, Covid restrictions curtailed the activities we would normally have held in Church. Therefore our main Easter Day service was held on Zoom, which still allowed us to celebrate the risen Christ. Maybe because of the ongoing struggles, we were able to reflect more deeply upon the Easter narrative, God's own son showing the world that it is possible to live where love, freedom and truth is at the heart of who we are. Through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the tomb Jesus invites us all to be part of it. I hope you were able to come and see the Easter tomb that was displayed in St Augustine's memorial garden.

The second important event in April was the sad news of the death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. His funeral at Windsor Castle - although not the state funeral that would have been expected - was from all accounts more in line with what he would have wanted. The most poignant moment in the service, in my opinion, was seeing Her Majesty the Queen sitting on her own with her head bowed; she cut a lonely figure and it epitomised what so many families have endured over the past year. As a Church and as a community we continue to pray for all who grieve, and we await the time when we can remember our loved ones in memorial services.

And so on to May, with the lighter evenings and we hope warmer days, we pray that May will become a turning point in the fight against Covid in this country. News from around the world is still terribly distressing with countries like India and Brazil particularly hard hit. It proves that there is a need for us to remain as vigilant as possible. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all nations to work together for the roll out of vaccinations, especially in the poorer parts of the world, to keep this dreadful disease at bay.

I started this article reflecting upon Easter, a moment in time when the earth stood still as God gave his one and only Son so that all people might know the reconciling love that Jesus brings to a broken world. Therefore, let us hold in our prayers this fragile world, continually asking for his Holy presence to guide and influence us in all our actions.

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 True Friend

I first met Chris many years ago when I was Vicar of Biggin Hill. Her sons James and Mark joined our youth club and so began a lovely ongoing family friendship. Not easy bringing up two sons as a single parent, but Chris had the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job, and with her Mum in the background, she did a brilliant job.

I remember Chris working at Nash House with the youngsters there, she was always cheerful and saw the positive side of every situation. When parish holidays were arranged, her name was always first on the list, and she later even found the energy to take over and organise a few. She put many of us to shame with her determination to overcome her frailties, taking time to telephone and even visit people. The Saturday morning after she died, I got an Easter card from her, written in advance and posted by her family. It said ‘Wishing you an Easter filled with love and happiness.’

Back with her parents and friends so special to her, her Easter will have been superb and she is waiting – for in God’s good time – we will meet again.

Rev Eric Heselwood



Photo by Jacky Skinner

Courage and tenacity  
Spiritual veracity  
shining as a beacon for all she met.  
No-one more courageous  
her cheerfulness contagious  
a lovely friend we'll none of us forget!

Sally Morris

Choosing where to go on holiday was always fun. We would gather in Christine’s bungalow and enjoy a splendid tea she had prepared, as we discussed that year’s options. We left still not sure of our destination as others still needed to be consulted. One thing we were sure of was the holiday would be enjoyable.

Nickie Streek remembers Christine as a great support to her, when Nickie was left as a young widow with two children. Christine was a willing babysitter and through her encouragement, Nickie was able to take a job she loved.

Ann Hanrahan



## The Royal British Legion



As a supporter of the Royal British Legion I recently received through the post a booklet celebrating 100 years of service. On the morning of Sunday 15 May 1921, four men laid a wreath at the base of the Cenotaph war memorial. Attached to it were the badges of four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves after the First World War: the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, the British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, the Comrades of The Great War and the Officers' Association. These four groups joined together to create the British Legion – a campaigning organisation that would fight for fair treatment of those who had given so much for their country.

The first ever Poppy Appeal was also held that year. Nine million poppies were made and sold to raise essential funds for the Armed Forces community. The poppies sold out almost immediately and raised over £106,000; a considerable amount at the time. This money was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing. Over six million men had served in the war. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. Then there were those who depended on those who had gone to war – the wives and children, widows, and orphans, as well as the parents who had lost sons in the war, on whom they were often financially dependent.



Today over 40 million poppies are made and worn with pride each year, helping to raise funds to support Service and ex-Service men and women and their families.

Recently, our Armed Forces have been helping on a scale not seen before in peacetime as part of the national COVID-19 response, by supporting the NHS as nurses, doctors and ambulance crews, by delivering PPE and vaccines or conducting testing nationally and internationally. The Armed Forces also remain committed to peacekeeping internationally.

In their centenary year, they are firmly focused on the future. By building on a century of work, they will make sure they are a charity fit for the next 100.

Sue Goodger

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**With every gift, we help people like Rose and stop this climate crisis** **Christian Aid Week**

In Kenya, extreme weather is making it harder and harder to survive. The coronavirus pandemic has only increased the urgent need for families to access a reliable source of water. The devastating climate crisis robs people of the water and food they need to live.

**10-16 May 2021**

Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit. Rose and her grandchildren shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop this climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice. This year please

- Give generously to help ensure people like Rose fight this climate crisis.
- Act as we call on the UK Prime Minister to lead the world with ambitious climate action that will also address inequality.
- Pray for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty.

**Together we stop this climate crisis. Join us at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)**

Rob Hutchings

## Easter Joy shared with our friends and neighbours

This year the preparations for Easter started early, with many people responding to the message in our weekly e-news inviting everyone to share the joy with their neighbours; giving a small gift, perhaps a personalised Easter Egg with a Bible verse or message on a label, maybe a book mark or an Easter card.

Many folk started to knit little egg-shaped holding bags to put a chocolate egg in, to be hung on or near a neighbour's front door. A total of 160 knitted egg bags were made. Christine Regas made and delivered 36 bookmarks and shared eggs with the Sovereign House residents. Easter baskets with eggs were delivered for the staff at Queen Elizabeth House and Ashglade, with book marks and cards for the residents. Christine Sanger ordered and donated 68 magnetic page markers from Eden Christian bookshop.



By Easter Sunday afternoon over 100 households had been visited and Easter Joy shared with 114 adults and 43 children, and possibly more that we didn't know about.

Hilary Chittock and the Outreach and Mission group

Hilary Chittock and the Outreach and Mission group

## Hoarder or chucker?

A few years ago we planned to have some building work done. It would involve knocking down the garage. Having lived in the house for nearly 40 years it had been my husband's bolt hole. Now it had to be emptied. I suspect that we are not so different from many other marrieds: one of us is a chucker and one is a hoarder – guess which is which! Martin bit the bullet and disappeared for hours on end with a heavy duty black sack. One day it was all the bits of wood perched on the rafters in the roof, another it was long-lasting light bulbs, old kettles – just in case - congealed pots of paint, and equipment awaiting repair. At last the skip was full: a good job. It made me feel guilty. What about all my fabrics in the loft, garnered from John Lewis remnant tubs and Laura Ashley sales? As I sorted through them, memories came flooding back. Liberty prints I had bought for a patchwork class I joined when our girls were small, odd lengths of purple and yellow check when they were at Crofton, scraps I had kept from ball dresses when they were at university – there were some which I really couldn't part with.



This year as the second lockdown dragged on, I had another go at it. I thumbed through back copies of the Women's Institute magazine and came across a pattern for a tote bag. I sorted out all the cotton fabrics, delved into the bottom of the linen cupboard for old cotton sheets as lining and shoved everything on a hot wash. My scraps ended up as scrubs bags for the NHS and Easter gifts for the care staff at Ashglade residential home. I did keep one back for myself, made from the material left over from sewing my bridesmaids' dresses 50 years ago.

Mary Plummer

### Update on Catechist House appeal for Mwaikisabe in Kondo, Tanzania

As readers may know, St Augustine's with St Luke's has been raising money to help fund the building of a house for the Catechist (assistant minister) Amani and his family.

We were targeting £8,000 plus a contingency for unforeseen costs. The great news is that due to the wonderful generosity of quite a number of donors, we have now raised just over £10,000.

Our friends in Tanzania are very grateful and send their love and pray for us regularly. We will provide updates on progress over the coming months.

Nigel Pope

## Labyrinth

Once, during a time of Creative Worship at Theology College, about ten students removed their shoes early one dewy morning and slowly walked the grass labyrinth in silence at West Malling Abbey.

I had been delayed and arrived at least ten minutes later than all the others. I was dismayed to realise how 'far behind' I was in walking the convoluted paths, which weaved and turned across the Abbey garden. What surprised me though, was that the nature of the paths meant they frequently turned back on themselves and wound around each other, so that no one appeared to be ahead of anyone else as we passed one another, each on our own journey.

The Christian walk is like the labyrinth we did together that day. We are all journeying through life and the point is not to reach the destination but to individually and collectively encounter God along the way, being present with and alongside each other with no-one obviously ahead of us.

Have you taken time to think about your journey with God? A walk anywhere is a good opportunity to think about where you are spiritually and how God is present in your situation. At times our spiritual lives dry up, at other times we flourish, but this pattern is typical of life - and God never stops working or loving us whatever stage we are at in the labyrinth of life.



Rev. Rachel Winn

## AWAY FROM IT ALL?

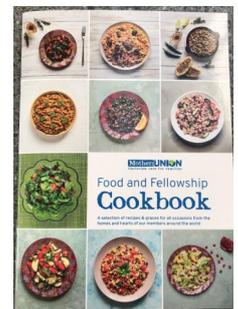
Many of us will be looking forward to a post-lockdown holiday, but what about individuals and families that cannot afford a holiday now, or at any time? The Mothers' Union can help!

Away From It All (AFIA) is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give the opportunity of a break to those who may be experiencing stress or difficulties in their family life. Families can spend time together away, engage in activities together and have fun. Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union participates in the scheme, enabling MU to offer a tangible service to diocesan and welfare organisations such as Welcare.

Mothers' Union can help fund part or the whole cost of a holiday or a day trip and cover a family's travel expenses. Holidays are provided to families and individuals regardless of faith, racial background, immigration or asylum status, marital status, gender, or disability. All requests for a holiday have to be supported by a professional referee.

Of course, these holidays need funding, and St Augustine's with St Luke's MU have held fundraising events for AFIA for many years. This year we are joining in with other members in the diocese trying out recipes from the new MU *Food and Fellowship Cook Book* which is full of recipes contributed by members from all over the world. When we can get together again, we will invite you to come and taste the results and contribute a small amount to AFIA.

Look out for your invitation!



Liz Carter

**Congratulations:** to **Richard Griffin**, who recently celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with Sheila and family.

**Confirmation:** Saturday 1 May will be an important date in the Christian life of six people who will be confirmed by **Bishop James**. Our prayers will be with **Christian Major, Iona Mitchell, Verity Mitchell, Pete Sme, Russell Speed** and **Sarah Speed**.

If you have any news you would like to appear on Parish People, please contact [jackysskinner@gmail.com](mailto:jackysskinner@gmail.com)

## Memories

As I drove to collect A Little Girl I Know from school the other day I had the radio on. I wanted to hear the news bulletin for an update on an item I had heard earlier in the day. Straight after it had finished came the song, 'Memories'. I am familiar with it and found myself singing along. A line in it stuck in my mind, 'Memories maybe beautiful and yet what's too painful to remember we simply choose to forget'.

It reminded me of an incident that previous week. I had been looking through some photos on my computer to find a specific one for A Little Girl I Know. Many memories came flooding back as I did this task and a range of emotions too; some I was expecting, others came as a complete surprise. There were many pictures of A Little Girl I Know, big brown eyes looking into the lens of the camera. Events we had been privileged to attend over the years. Many of family and friends, some no longer with us - the tears flowed. Some of the favourites bought back memories of trips out and holidays. Things taken for granted until last year when the global pandemic meant we had to stay at home.

Two partial photographs made me smile, one of A Little Girl I Know being held up at the Font in Brecon Cathedral in South Wales where her Grandma (my Mum) had been baptised as a baby. To me it was important to take a A Little Girl I Know to Wales for her first holiday. The second from a more recent holiday and a visit to Norwich Cathedral. The picture of the reflection of a modern stained-glass window on the ceiling of this beautiful building. Beautiful in its simplicity and clever use of colour. I recall A Little Girl I Know standing quietly during midday prayers looking at these windows whilst listening to the prayers from the centre of the church. The windows were installed in 2014 so were very new when we saw them. Each of the three panels representing the three persons of the Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to whom the cathedral is dedicated. They are just stunning.

I did eventually find the photo A Little Girl I Know needed for her school work. I had enjoyed a lovely time alone with my memories, many of which I chose to always to remember.

Remember when *God shines a light through a situation it becomes glorious, telling a story like stained glass.*



## Roundabout

We hope that you are enjoying Roundabout. We welcome contributions from our readers: just send them, unformatted, to one of the editors. If there are issues relating to the church or the parish which you would like to be covered, let us know that too.

The first six months of Roundabout in 2021 will be printed and delivered as well as online, and February – July editions will be free of charge. The new year will bring challenges, but we hope that Roundabout keeps you in touch with us at St Augustine's with St Luke's. Ed

We have a

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## St Luke's Bell Ringers

Although some churches have resumed weekly worship, one familiar part of our soundscape is absent as, apart from the odd exception, church bells remain silent.

Bellringers across the nation are patiently waiting to be given the go ahead to ring in the conventional sense by our governing body, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers in liaison with the Government. By that, I mean ring bells as a team in a confined area. At present social distancing rules apply resulting in, for example, only four of eight bells being rung depending on the size of the ringing room. In reality, most ringing rooms do not meet this criteria apart from large churches such as cathedrals. So our weekly practice and other ringing has not been possible due to the pandemic since March last year.



However, Alastair Scott has been making regular visits to check and ring each of our eight bells to ensure there is no deterioration to the various moving parts. This is important as with no ringing activity over the last year or so birds may have been tempted to enter gaps in the netting and nest around the bells as could bees and wasps. We also check for any debris that may have fallen into the mechanism due to high winds. The latter could cause damage of thousands of pounds to the bells.

Apart from maintenance visits, single bells have recently been tolled to mark the passing of Sarah Everard and HRH, Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh aged 99. On these occasions the bells were tolled 33 and 99 times respectively. This mark of respect was repeated nationwide. Alastair and I also rang a bell each to mark the anniversary of the reinstatement of bellringing at St Luke's in March 1981. In 'normal' times other ringers would have been involved.

The bellringing community have challenging times ahead. It cannot be assumed that all those ringing before the pandemic will all return. This could be due to a number of reasons. Indeed, one of our ringers has already indicated that they will no longer be rejoining our already depleted band.

If anyone from the congregation of St Augustine's would like to find out more about the art of bellringing they would be most welcome to attend our weekly practice (once reinstated) on a Thursday evening to meet the band and observe our ringing. If you plan to visit, please contact me first to check that we are practising. My contact number can be found on our notice placed in the front porch at St Luke's and (once reinstated) on the weekly pew sheet at St Luke's.

Chris Lawrance  
St Luke's Bellringers

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## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Saturday 8 May 10:30 am via zoom

## Ascension Day Service

Thursday 13 May 7:00 pm via zoom



*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 Sunday mornings at 12 pm Holy Communion in St Augustine's church.
- on Wednesday mornings 11.30 via Zoom and phone.

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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