



roundabout



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

Issue 525 September 2021

Time for change

The holiday season once again has not been plain sailing. For those who have ventured abroad PCR and Lateral Flow Tests have become the new requirements for travel and for those who have stayed closer to home, the British weather has once again tested our resolve. And for some a summer break has not been possible, as Covid continues to dominate all that we do.

With Covid in mind we are now entering a new period of time with society 'opening up'. That in itself will cause a lot of difficulties and anxiety, as our young people head back to schools, colleges and universities, as well as those who will be going back to the workplace. In this time of transition there will be many challenges as to how we keep one another safe and Covid free. Therefore, let us continue to be mindful and compassionate of those around us, who remain vulnerable to this pandemic.

At Church, we too are making arrangements to open up our buildings as we move back to in person Sunday Worship. Although we recognise for some this maybe not be feasible, but with the help of technology, we will be 'Live Streaming' our services where possible. Please look for the link on our website www.st-augustines.org.uk



Sadly, as we look around the world some things have not changed. The unfolding events in Afghanistan have been truly shocking. We hold that nation and its people in our prayers, praying that the Taliban will co-operate with governments around the world seeking peace and reconciliation.

As our seasons change from Summer to Autumn the landscape around us will once again feel different, as the nights get darker, and the wind gets colder. Yet we do look forward and pray that the world will be a better place, and that the coming joy of Christmas, (yes Christmas!) which will be upon us very soon, will bring light into the dark places of this world. The hope that a baby born in a manger two thousand years ago continues to be a wonderful and joyous gift from God, reminding us that God is ever present and hope is never far away.

Yours in Christ

Revd Steve Spencer -Vicar

These last 18 months have been very difficult for many people as we come to terms with those who have passed away. Therefore on **Sunday 7th November 2021** at 3.00pm in St Augustine's Church we will be holding a Memorial Service to remember our loved ones. Details of the service will be announced soon.



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



The Prayer Journey

On Thursday 1st July St Augustine's Church opened for a Journey of Prayer.

The intention was to give people space both to spend time with God on a personal level and to seek his vision for us as a church.

There were nine themed, sensory 'Prayer Stations,' where people were free to visit and spend time reflecting, praying and where they could 'just be' in the presence of God. Just over 50 people came, some from our congregation and others from elsewhere - even people who walked by and were curious to look in!

O Taste and See That the Lord is Good



The gentle sound of meditative music was playing, the aroma of frankincense and myrrh emanated from the incense station and there were sights and sounds to appeal to everyone; there was even an opportunity to taste at our 'Taste and See' table. Some people moved from station to station, enjoying the 'journey' in order, as shown in the photo images, whereas others felt drawn to stay with one or two particular themes.

He was Pierced for our Transgressions



Broken Vessels



In the evening many of us gathered for a Reflective prayer meeting as we sought to follow God's lead for St Augustine's with St Luke's in the future.

We hope to have other opportunities to experience God's presence and respond to his calling in the year ahead; we would love you to join us next time!

Revd Rachel Winn

Tom Manthorpe - 14 June 1928 to 23 August 2021

This is to let you know that our beloved father Tom Manthorpe died peacefully, at the age of 93, on 23rd August 2021.

His funeral will take place at Beckenham Crematorium at 1.15pm on Friday 10th September.

This will be followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30pm at St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bickley, Bromley BR2 8AT to which you are very welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Garden room and Scout HQ providing an opportunity to reminisce on Tom's life.

It is hoped that the Service of Thanksgiving will also be streamed online. Please let us know if you would like to watch the service online and we will provide details of the link nearer the time.

You may like to read a tribute via <https://23rdbromleyscouts.org/wordpress/tom-manthorpe-gone-home>

Donations in Tom's memory can be made to '23rd Bromley Scout Group' in their support of a Scout troop in Kenya for street children that provides the children with fresh hope and dignity in their lives. Donations may be sent to: W.Uden & Sons, 19 Chatsworth Parade, Petts Wood, BR5 1DF if you cannot be with us, please just think of us at this time.

Michael Manthorpe and Helen Smith



Walking in Friendship

A walk along the Pilgrim's Way to Canterbury, had been in our 'Call to Grow plan' for some time, so it was with great excitement that seven of our parish people met at Chilham, on a beautiful warm sunny day in July to walk the seven miles to Canterbury, following the footsteps of the Canterbury Pilgrims, who supposedly walked along this way to visit the shrine of Thomas Becket, the murdered priest, elevated to sainthood in the 12th century. The pace was steady as we climbed the hills and admired the views across the North Downs. We walked through fields of barley and flax and orchards of apples and hops. After a short stop for lunch, we journeyed on and wearily entered Canterbury, through the old city gate in the same way as the Pilgrims would have done so many years before. Like them, we came from many different backgrounds, but we walked and talked together and shared experiences.



In August we stayed closer to home, and fifteen of us took a leisurely hour and a half stroll from Norman Park, through the woodland, following the River Ravensbourne. We hope that these local walks will become a monthly occurrence, as not only do they provide gentle exercise in the company of others, but also the opportunity to reach out to a neighbour or someone you met on the Parish prayer walk and invite them to join us.

Our next walk is on Wednesday 15 September in Jubilee Park starting at 2pm. This will be suitable for prams and wheelchairs. Further details will be on the weekly newsletter.

If you would like to share your favourite 'local' walk with others please contact Hilary Chittock: 07884 195700



Summer Fun on the Green



Saturday 11 September 11am - 4pm

A barbecue, home-made cakes, an inflatable slide, face painting, swing-ball and a giant Connect 4 will all be on offer on the church lawn. Please come along and invite your friends and neighbours. We hope the sun will shine and it will be a fun day for all.

If you haven't yet volunteered but would like to it is not too late! Please contact Revd Steve Spencer at: revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com Tel: 020 8467 1351 or Revd Rachel Win at: curaterachel@yahoo.com Tel 07311330202

2nd Bromley Brownies (Friday Night)

Covid was not going to beat us!!!!

The thought of not seeing our girls every week was not a good thought, so we decided to set up Zoom meetings. We had a regular attendance of around 12 girls and 4 leaders, it was the highlight of the week for all of us. Activities included bingo, scavenger hunts, crafts, a favourite was always cooking. We celebrated Chinese New Year, VE day, Christmas, Easter, and Mother's Day when we invited Mum's to join us and baked lemonade scones and carried out some fun mother and daughter challenges. We also made Poppy jars with night lights and placed them in our windows. During another session, we went on an imaginary coach tour around the country, stopping off at different places to carry out different crafts and activities. We also had a fundraising event for Children in Need, when the children tried different exercises in each room for a set length of time.



We worked on 2 badges while on zoom, the Collectors and Aviation which all the girls passed with flying colours. We also had a big celebration, when one of our Brownies achieved her gold award, the first in the District. We had a couple of visitors join us on Zoom - one visitor showed us around her farm meeting all her animals, and the other visitor joined us with her guide dog and gave us a talk.

As we couldn't go away on Brownie holiday, we held two sleepovers to make up for it. I must say it was the only time I have had so much sleep when doing a Brownie event! On one of the sleepovers, we had an imaginary trip to London touring the sights on buses, underground and trains.



We managed to keep Zoom meetings going for about a year, with the support of our lovely parents and helpers and my son Matthew looking after all the technical aspects of which I am useless at! Following very strict guidelines and of course a very long Risk Assessment, we returned at Easter to face to face meetings. It was great to see all the Brownies again in person. We are hoping to be able to continue without any further lockdowns, have a fun day at the scout Hut once we return after the summer break and can enjoy being back together again.

We have booked a pack holiday for next year – so fingers crossed we will be able to get away.

Ruth Higginbottom.



Georgina James, daughter of **Mandy** and **Terry James**, married **James Lynch** at St. Augustine's Church on 3 July. They were married by our former Curate, Andy Hobbs. The reception was held at The Oak Tree Barn in Tonbridge. They were going to honeymoon in Bristol but they had to come home early as they were pinged on the Test and Trace app.

The bride and groom met at their secondary school. Georgina was one of the Leaders, with Helen Scothern, of St. Augustine's Rainbow Group for many years.

Where We've Come From

I was talking with editor, Sue Goodger, about a possible article on Hymns, but then decided to first provide some background, which may be unfamiliar to some.

As a result of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th Century, we came to have the Bible ('Authorised Version') and service book (Book of Common Prayer) in English, the spoken language of the time. These books continued in general use until the middle of the 20th Century, and dominated the language of worship, even though everyday speech was evolving into what we have today. The wording of hymns tended to be in the same style, and even at informal prayer meetings God would be addressed as 'Thou' and 'Thee'.



From the 1960s we have had new translations of the Bible, and new forms of service. In our book 'Hymns for Today's Church' (1982) the traditional hymns have been modernised. The old services are still used in cathedrals and some churches, and many churches are using the old hymns as first written.

(To be continued)

Rob Hutchings

Golden Box

During July and August we have been enjoying the hymns and songs chosen by the congregation.



Normally we put our requests in the Golden Box at the back of church but this summer we asked everyone to choose from the amazing 130 hymns and songs we have recorded for our services. You can find all of them on our YouTube channel (search for St Augustine's with St Luke's).

It was interesting that many of the choices were for the modern hymns we like to sing. Many of them are full of theological richness, telling God's story of salvation. *Tell out my Soul, In Christ Alone, Holy Spirit Living Breath of God* and *10,000 Reasons* were some of the most popular. There were a few lively folk-based ones *Come all you Vagabonds* and *See What a Morning*. We don't neglect the old favourites though, singing *O Jesus I have Promised* and *Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer*.

We thank all the musicians who have worked so hard to give us so many choices and look forward to the real Golden Box appearing again at the back of church next summer.

Verity Mitchell

I am hosting The World's Biggest Coffee Morning again this year in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It raised an amazing amount last year but it was an exceptional year and people were very generous.

It will be on Friday 24 September from 10.00 to 12.30 and 2.00 to 5.00 at 22 Sunningdale Road.

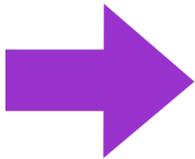
Please come and enjoy a friendly chat and of course home-made cakes. It will be lovely to meet up again.

Sue Goodger



Music... One Direction!

When A Little Girl I Know was at primary school one of the deputy heads was a huge music fan. She needed very little excuse to put on a CD and often encouraged the children to dance as they left the hall to return to their classrooms. Often A Little Girl I Know would come home singing part of a song and telling me that it was the best song ever. One group was frequently played and the 'Fletcher Effect' rubbed off. She loves that boy band and has amassed a large collection of their CDs mainly from charity shops, and other memorabilia from mugs to stickers. It is fair to say that she is mad on them. Their name – One Direction.



The name got me thinking as I sat down in front of my computer recently. You see at the time of writing there are 7.78 billion people in this world. Can you imagine what would happen if we all walked, drove or ran in the same direction all the time? The impact on Planet Earth would do it no good at all. It really doesn't bear spending time thinking about it, does it?

When A Little Girl I Know was small I had a book that according to a friend was the best book ever on child development. After almost a year of checking it regularly to see if she had made the milestone for each month since her birth, and often finding she hadn't quite got there I threw the book away. A friendly Health Visitor had told me something that still sticks in my mind many years later. She told me that when A Little Girl is older and maybe goes to college, or a job interview, she isn't going to be asked at what age did she walk, talk, stop wearing nappies at night. No, they will want to know about her academic performance, what she has obtained more recently. They will want to know what makes her different from any of the other people who also think that they are right for the job.

During the next few months, she will be guided through the process of deciding which subjects to study at GCSE level. That's seriously big stuff. I can assure you that we will be supporting her every step of the way as she makes these choices.



She might well be singing songs from One Direction for the foreseeable future, but she knows that God has a plan for her life; that little by little He is pointing her in the right direction for her life. She might go with the crowds, she might go the other way, but I hope and pray that she will always follow His direction for her life.

Congratulations to Iona Mitchell who has just graduated from City University with a first class degree in music. She is now embarking on a gap year from September with Christian outdoor charity Adventure Plus.

She will be trained (with 5 others) in different activities such as canoeing, rock climbing, and kayaking. Then she will be running Duke of Edinburgh outdoor groups and getting involved with local schools, running activity days for them, The course is also centred on progressing each leader's own Christian faith.

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Congratulations to: On the 2nd July, one of this year's hottest days, **Debbie Brockwell** married **Robert Tilly** in a beautiful outdoor ceremony at Nettlestead Place. Debbie, looking stunning in a cream lace dress, was given away by her Uncle John and attended by her friend Georgina. Robert wore his traditional Scottish tartan trousers. The marquee reception afterwards was much enjoyed by many friends and family



Debbie and Helen Manthorpe attended St Augustines' youth group together in the 1970's. On the 18th July 1981 Helen married her school sweetheart **Tom Smith** - they were married by Brian Ash, flowers by **Brian Westrop** and the flower guild and the 23rd Bromley Scout Group provided a Guard of Honour. Helen and Tom were delighted to celebrate with afternoon tea, on another scorching hot day, their 40th (Ruby) Wedding anniversary this year with family and friends on a rooftop in Westminster.

Helen Smith

Congratulations to

Phil Carter, son of **Liz and Alan** who married **Harriet Marsh** on 14 August at The West Reservoir Centre, Hackney. They have been together for ten years before getting married.

Pam and Len Holliday who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, 60 years of marriage on 19 August. (My thanks to **Helen Westrop** for this information.)

Elsie Cosedge – who was 99 years young on 8 August.

We remember before God the following people who have recently passed away –

David Symons

Tom Manthorpe (see page 2)

Sheila and Richard Humphries daughter **Romy's** husband **Rick**.

And **Martin Plummer** who sadly passed away on August 11. His funeral service was held on September 1 at the Bluebell Cemetery with very many friends and family members attending followed by a buffet tea at The Manor at Bickley.

*The Roundabout team send their love to **Mary** and her family.*

Keep your news coming to me, email me at jackysskinner@gmail.com. Thank you.

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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 in St Augustine's church. The service will also be live streamed on our YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/channel/UCR70BiHHimXOLZpMSXV44IQ>
- on Wednesday mornings 11.30 via Zoom and phone.

For more details of how to join and the new arrangements for returning to worship in church please ring 020 8467 1351

St. Augustine's Church Rooms and St. Luke's Hall have reopened for hire for activities which are permitted under the new rules.

Our vicar Steve Spencer can be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com or by phone on 0208 467 1351

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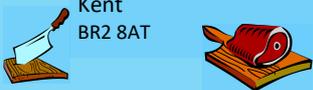
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