



roundabout



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

Issue 527 November 2021

Cop26

From 31 October until 12 November one of the most important international summits will be held in Glasgow. It is the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, or COP26 for short. Despite one or two deniers that climate change is taking place, the world by and large understands that there is a fundamental problem concerning greenhouse gases that needs to be addressed.

The industrial revolution of the 18th Century brought about a major economic transformation particularly for the western world. More recently other countries like China and India, have profited greatly from their ability to manufacture all sorts of desirables to meet the needs of consumers around the world. On one level this has lifted many people out of poverty, although it needs to be pointed out that this does not apply to everyone, as exploitation and corruption by some governments and corporations has pushed many others into desperate situations.

Like any summit there will be much rhetoric on what needs to be done and what can be done so that this planet can remain sustainable. The arguments about moving from fossil fuel based economies to a greener based economy and the time scale that is needed will ultimately come down to each country committing themselves to make this happen. Sir David Attenborough says "Act now or it will be too late."



All of this is a far cry away from when the world began. The Bible tells us in the book of Genesis how God brought each part of creation into existence and at the end of the sixth day it says in Genesis chapter 1 verse 31 'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.' Whether you believe that God created the world or not, what cannot be denied is that something needs to be done. We will never get back to the Garden of Eden, but we can take responsibility on how we treat this planet and hold our politicians to account to do the same.

*Heavenly Father,
You have taught us, through your servant St. Francis,
That all creation is your handiwork.
Grant us your grace that we may
Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth;
Tread lightly upon it;
And cherish its resources;
That our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations,
And your name be glorified through all that you have made.
Amen.*

Rt Revd David Walker Bishop of Manchester

Yours in Christ

Revd Steve Spencer

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 Tribute to Kenneth Gill

At retirement, Kenneth began a memoir which he entitled, 'My story – a fulfilled life.' I've been re-reading it and what shines through is a life-long sense of purpose and real determination.

Born in Skipton, Kenneth was Yorkshire through and through and his voice kept those Northern vowels till the end. His father was verger for the Parish Church, which meant all the family was committed to working for the church - everything from distributing hymnbooks to carrying the coal for the boiler. It also meant they knew all the clergy well and Kenneth recalls with gratitude a young Curate, and an older Lay Reader, who saw in him the signs of a vocation and encouraged it.

This calling, to serve the Church in the mission field, informed all his choices. He trained as a book-keeper and accountant, served two years in the RAF, worked actively in the local CMS. He heard at Keswick Conventions the personal call, 'Who will go for Me?', took up a post in Nigeria, met Hazel on a Scottish coach tour married her in 1960. After training as a couple, they left for Nigeria in 1961.

Everything was new. The country just independent, a new Diocese formed, a new Cathedral begun, a new language to learn, new financial systems to set up, new homes to live in – and in 1965 – a new baby, Mark Andrew.

However, all changed. Eastern Nigeria declared itself the independent state of Biafra, and a three year civil war ensued. Hazel and Mark were evacuated and for the next few months, news of Kenneth and other missionaries was sparse and unreliable. Kenneth got home in 1968 and the next eight years were spent back in Yorkshire where Kathryn was born.

Then in 1976 he was offered the job of Accountant at CMS Headquarters in London and the family moved south to Cloisters Avenue and joined St Augustine's Church under Brian Ash, another CMS member. I met Kenneth as a Pathfinder Leader, but he was later Church Treasurer for six years and actively supported the Parish commitment to 10% Away Giving. Later, in six years as Church Warden, he led many initiatives, including a Festival of Time and Talents. 2002 saw him complete twenty five years as Lay Reader. African connections were preserved by 'helping out' tours in Kenya and Uganda, and hospitality to Nigerians in London.

Then in 2010, he and Hazel celebrated their Golden Wedding in Skipton with family, friends and colleagues from all those years.

We used to sing songs in praise of the infinite variety of Saints. Kenneth had the most appropriate of birthdays, November 1st – All Saints Day.



Betty Dawson

Memorial and Remembrance services

Memorial Service Sunday 7 November at 3 pm

An opportunity for everyone to light a candle for our loved ones

Remembrance Day Thursday 11 November at 10.45 am

Observe the Armistice day, reading of the names on the green outside the church

Remembrance and Parade Service 14 November at 10.15 am

The services are at St Augustine's church, you are very welcome to join us



Psalm 23 in a Garden

I always enjoy watching the Chelsea Flower show. This year, it was interesting to see what difference the later season would have. The show gardens were, as usual, spectacular. I was intrigued when I saw that one of them was representing Psalm 23, as earlier in the year I had seen the psalm in a garden in Bognor Regis.

I was in Bognor for a reunion of school friends. We try to meet up every year and had missed 2020. After our get-together and the usual look at the school photo, I walked home with a friend. She invited me to see a neighbour's garden. It was a delightful mass of brightly coloured summer flowers. Then I was shown her Psalm 23 garden. In a little corner of the garden on a small patch of grass sat the sweetest model of a lamb. 'Still waters' filled a tiny pool whilst a teacup stood overflowing with water. There was a dark shadowy part and I was told it is still a work in progress. I was so touched by the idea and will always fondly remember the garden when I hear the Psalm. The Chelsea garden may have been so much bigger and grander but that special feeling wasn't there.



I am looking forward to next year when, hopefully, I can see how this special little garden in Bognor has developed.

Ann Hanrahan

Singing in Church – part three

No series on Hymns would be complete without reference to Choruses. These are one-verse hymns, perhaps a Bible verse set to music, or sometimes actually the chorus of a hymn. They may be sung singly, or in a group of half-a-dozen in place of a hymn. Popular for youth and children's meetings for most of the 20th Century, some may still be in use today. The only one I have sung recently, albeit with an additional verse, is 'Spirit of the Living God'.



The principal sources are the CSSM Chorus Books Nos 1, 2 and 3. They commenced publication in 1921 and are still available.

The Children's Special Service Mission came under Scripture Union in 1960. The S.U., the provider of Bible Reading Guides, is also much engaged in children's ministry, with leaders' aids, visits to schools and holiday activities.

Rob Hutchings



Our Harvest gifts for the Bromley Foodbank.

Sunday 17 October

Pictures:
Jacky Skinner



Merry Pilgrims

It was a will it rain or not sort of day. A high wind blew the clouds away so the Merry Pilgrims could walk through Coppice Woods. The wood is one of the oldest of its size in Greater London. The old oak trees were impressive and underneath sparkling white mushrooms looked tempting, but definitely not for picking.

I enjoyed this walk even more when I read that walking outdoors is a great way to boost your immune system and even better if you walk through woods. Come and join us next month and feel the benefit.

Ann Hanrahan



Since August 2020 Pam Poynter and I have met up each week to walk our local area. During these walks we have covered many miles, discovered new places, experienced changes in nature and spoken to many people

Knowing this, Hilary Chittock asked if we would lead the next Church walk. On 19 October a blustery sunny day, thirteen of us met up at the Astley Centre. We then walked through the Richmal Crompton fields, off Lower Gravel Road, to Scrubbs Farm and the site of the old Bromley and Beckenham Hospital, explaining about their history as we went. The hospital opened in 1885 as an isolation hospital and only closed in 1984 when it was sold for housing. Then, on our way into Crofton Woods, we saw the London skyline, including the Shard.

A good day was had by all. So look out for the next Church walk and come along to find out more about the local area, whilst enjoying the company of fellow walkers.

Tanya Wardley, picture by Jacky Skinner

Our next Merry Pilgrims walks are:

Monday 15 November

Meet at St. Mary's church, Downe at 11 am for a gentle 'hilly' walk across the fields from Downe to Cudham 3-4 miles.

Saturday 4 December

Very Merry Pilgrims walk – meet at the Crown, Bromley Common at 11 am for a gentle flat walk, woodland stroll to a local hostelry.

What is the Mothers' Union ?

Is it the best kept secret in the Church of England or, as described by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the heart and love of the Church? It could be said that both of these phrases describe the Mothers' Union. Within the Church of England, the Mothers' Union tends to be seen as a women's society, an alternative to the Women's Institute. However, the Mothers' Union is making a big difference nationally and in their local communities and could indeed be described in this way.



August 2021 was a special month as we celebrated 145 years of Mothers' Union and paid tribute to our founder, Mary Sumner, on the 100th anniversary of her death. As such it was an opportunity to commit ourselves afresh to the values and vision of the Mothers' Union and to speak up about what we do. It is amazing to think that an initiative set up by a modest rector's wife in the rectory sitting room in 1876 has grown into a worldwide movement with over 4 million members in 84 countries.



Mary Sumner's vision was to transform the home lives of parish families by helping women to support one another in raising their children. Today, in the 21st century, members continue to support women and families in their local communities. The Mothers' Union also acts as an advocate for change, fighting for social justice and working to build resilient, peaceful and safe communities.

However, and most important of all, at the heart of what we do is prayer. Members come together every day at midday to pray for our communities, fellow members and for those in need. We believe that the power of prayer is transformational and supports our work around the world. If the Mothers' Union is no longer to be the best kept secret in the Church of England, we need to let people know what we do and encourage more people to support us. Membership is no longer restricted to mothers – we are an inclusive organisation and anyone who has been baptised, including men, can become members. Those who are unable to be members can become Friends of the Mothers' Union. Finally, just as MU members pray for our local communities, parishes and clergy, so we also need your individual and corporate prayers and support.

Please speak to Liz Carter or Ann Hanrahan for more information.

Lesley Thompson

Update on The Catechist's House in Tanzania

The original budget was £8,000 (but without any contingency amounts). We sent out an initial £4,000 in the spring and having received progress pictures and receipts, have now sent out a further £4,000. The request from Jacob in the Diocese office was:

'As we approach the rainy season and agriculture, it would be good to do all the remaining work together, namely roofing, slab, canal, electrical installation and finishing according to the budget.'

So we can be hopeful that much of the rest of the work may be completed in the next three months and it is likely that we will need to send out further funds to complete the construction.

Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously to the project - amazingly we have raised over £11,000!

Nigel Pope



Slow Down, You Move Too Fast!

The Great Grandpa of A Little Girl I Know was an able communicator; he was able to speak a number of different languages. He often joked that he was able to order a pint of beer and the bill almost anywhere in the world.

I recall that when we used to visit him and his wife when they lived in Surrey we would go out for lunch to a local pub or restaurant; a rare treat in those days. Those delicious meals were often followed by a walk in the local park. Grandpa would take cine film of us dressed in our Sunday best outfits walking amongst the beautiful trees and flowers. His wife would frequently ask us to stop as she had spotted something that caught her eye, often an animal, and out of her bag would come her camera. 'Click' another photo to be added to the already full photo albums. If either of them wanted a photo of us we would be told where to stand, and then we would have to shout out 'Man, man, cheese!' Very strange I know, but it worked. She always took great photos.



A Little Girl I Know spent some time last term learning about photography at school. It was a subject she really enjoyed. Time away from the confines of the classroom, time exploring the extensive grounds taking photos on her mobile phone. When she showed me the pictures, I saw many parts of the school I had never seen before.

During the recent half term, I tried as far as possible to continue to go out for my daily walk around one of our



local parks. I love this time of year, the autumn with the changes in the colours of the leaves and watching them fall to the ground. What better sight than a sunset behind a tree with little or no leaves on it. A Little Girl I Know would sometimes accompany me on these trips. She would take photos using my mobile phone, because 'Your phone is so much better than mine' she'd say. It was good to be able to introduce her to the places I visit, and she could see first hand some of the wonderful scenery and the colourful birds and ducks. She took some really good pictures during these times. Often in my mind I could hear my Grandpa calling out 'Man, Man, cheese' as he got up close to a friendly squirrel.

As we drove home, I reminded her that God had made everything that she had seen that afternoon. Her response was simply. 'Wow, how clever!'

Maybe it is time that we learnt to slow down, stop for a moment and take in the beauty around us in nature and the people around us. All of these things made by a God who loves us so much.

Pictures by: A Little Girl I Know

<p>We have a MAN WITH A DRILL 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, 01689 871359</p> 	 <p>Bishop Challoner School A Catholic Independent School for Girls & Boys 3-18 Years</p> <p>228 Bromley Road, Shortlands BR2 0BS Sue Long: admissions@bishopchallonerschool.com www.bishopchallonerschool.com</p> <p><i>Welcoming all faiths</i></p>	<p>BITS & JOBS Tom Smith - Handy Man</p> <p>No Job Too Small! Painting/Decorating General DIY Hedge Trimming Gardening Give me a call on 07792 314255</p>
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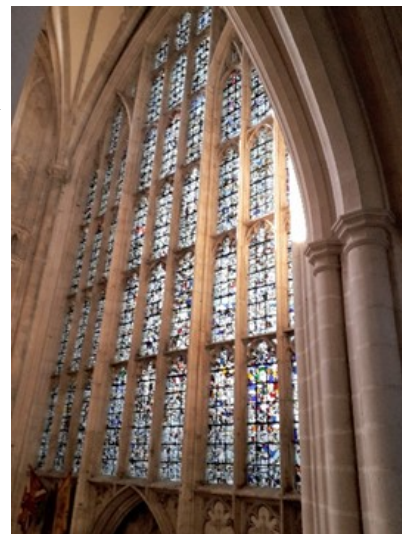
Winchester

During October half term I stayed with my family at an Airbnb in Hampshire. We were not far from Winchester and spent a day discovering its delights.

It was my first visit to the monumental cathedral and the welcomer asked me diffidently if I knew there was an entry charge of £9. The children zoomed off, trail in hand, pencils at the ready, while a series of knowledgeable guides painted verbal pictures of cathedral life in the 11th as well as the 21st centuries. When the children had found the resting place of St Swithun and the Fishermen's Chantry Chapel, we sauntered back towards the huge West window. No parables? Or Old Testament scenes?

The reason for this was the English Civil War. Winchester, a Royalist town, was stormed by Cromwell's troops. His cavalry rode into the cathedral destroying statues, images and stained glass windows – all considered by the Puritans to be sacrilegious. The magnificent West window was shattered into fragments.

The monarchy was restored in 1660 and it was discovered that many people had collected shards of the glass. By 1680, glaziers had enough to re-make the window – not a replica, but a whole new window of broken pieces: a mark of devotion from the people of Winchester.



Mary Plummer

Bromley Philharmonic Choir

Christmas Concert
4.00 pm Sunday 19 December

Hawes Lane Methodist Church
 West Wickham, BR4 9AA

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Carols for choir and other
 seasonal fayre

FORGET ME NOT CAFE 

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Where: The Garden Room
 St. Augustine's Church
 Southborough Lane
 Bromley BR2 8AT

When: Third Tuesday in the month
 between 1.30 – 3.30pm

Tea, coffee and cakes available
 (Payment by donation)


Contact – Diana Pattison on 020 8464 1151 or
 dianaepattison@gmail.com

THE PARISH OF
 ST AUGUSTINE'S WITH ST LUKE'S



CAMEO
 (Come And Meet Each Other)
 at our
Friendship Tea

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2.30pm-4.00pm in the
Garden Room
 at
St Augustine's Church
 ~ we would love you to join us!



ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH
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Keep your news coming, email me at jackysskinner@gmail.com.
 Thank you.

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Services and Events for November 2021

Services

Sun 7 Nov 3 - 4 pm	Memorial service
Thur 11 Nov 10.45 am	Remembrance Day
Sun 14 Nov 10.15 am	Remembrance Day - Parade Service
Sun 21 Nov 5.30 pm	Communion service at St Lukes's Church

Events

Thur 4 Nov 5.30 - 8pm	Teen's Film night pizza/popcorn and film (yr 7+)
Mon 15 Nov 11.00 am	Merry Pilgrims walk. Meet at St. Mary's church, Downe
Sun 28 Nov	An interactive Advent trail

You are welcome to worship with us:

- In person on Sunday mornings at 10 am in St. Augustine's church. The service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel
- on Wednesday mornings 11.30 via Zoom and phone.

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

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

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