

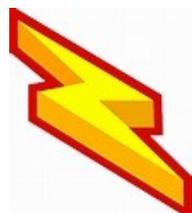


# roundabout



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

Issue 530 March 2022



## 'Thousands left without power'

Storms have been very much at the forefront of our minds recently. We have experienced powerful, violent winds which have caused mass destruction and impacted whole communities. Three people in the UK died and thousands of people were 'left without power' following the devastating winds which tore across the country.

Coincidentally, or 'God-incidentally', as I like to say, last Sunday our Bible reading was all about a windstorm on the Sea of Galilee and how the disciples who followed Jesus reacted in the middle of sudden danger, (*Luke, chapter 8 verses 22-25*). In church we considered that life will throw us all kinds of storms, not just the 'Dudley' and 'Eunice' kind, but trials and challenges which feel like a sudden tempest in our lives. Life's storms are indiscriminate and at *some point* each one of us will experience one: perhaps in the form of unexpected trauma or illness, the ending of a relationship, financial threat or losing a loved one. Life's personal 'storms' often threaten to overwhelm us and 'leave us without power.'

During challenging times we will always turn to something. Human nature often directs us to over-focus on the very thing which is overwhelming us ~ as we stare at the eye of the storm it usually generates more fear and anxiety.

Jesus' petrified followers are floundering in the storm and expecting the worst to happen; they seem to be 'left without power' and Jesus challenges them, "*Where is your faith?*" They have put their faith in the power of the storm rather than in the Lord who is right next to them.

If fear and faith stand at opposite ends of a long room, with us in the middle, how can we be focussing on the fear at the same time as looking towards the Lord of the universe? We will turn to face one or the other. It is easy to say we 'have faith in Jesus Christ' when life is comfy and secure, but as Christians our faith is primarily tested when we hit the storm and drag our eyes towards Christ and say, "*You are in charge here.*" This is by no means an easy response, but I challenge you to try this: each time a trial comes your way this month, turn your fear into a prayer and ask Christ to be the power in your situation.

... 'Do not fear, for I am with you,  
do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.' (Isaiah 41:10)



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

## Recollections of Betty Dawson

I first met Betty after Katrina had responded to an email from me asking for a retired English teacher who would be very ‘old school’ (that is what my Supervisor suggested) in order to check my work from a grammatical point of view. Well, I was not to be disappointed.

We are talking about 12 years ago, but I think even then Betty was ‘of an age’ but mentally and physically just fired up! I would see her fairly regularly and drop off the latest chapter in draft form for her comments and, not only did she check the grammar and spelling, she was also very good about sentence structure and style. My research was focussed on

clergy review/appraisal and I think she became quite interested in the topic. Towards the end, I would sometimes see her every couple of weeks, and she always made time for me. When I submitted my Doctoral Thesis, at my viva (where you are interviewed by an internal and external academic) both learned professors commented on the high quality of the grammar and punctuation – there was little that needed changing.

So a big thank you, Betty, and like many others, I am thinking if ever there was someone who was now resting in our Lord’s nearer presence due to her faith and service, it has got to be Betty.



Betty (right) with Viv Edgley

**Venerable Paul Wright**

Arriving in Bromley in 1976 we can’t remember when we first met Betty. However, it was clear that she was at the heart of every aspect of church family life. As someone recently said Betty was Mrs St. Augustine!

From the amazing dramatic productions at Christmas, and Easter; the musicals Greater than Gold, From Pharaoh to Freedom, Cinderella Revisited, Salad Days, The Davidson Affair, the list goes on. Each event fed the faith of so many; those exploring belief and discovering what it meant to be a Christian. Her involvement in Pathfinders, Family Service Choir and the Music Group led each group to incorporate the best of the new musical traditions with the finest of the conventional.

Betty was an encourager who saw potential in others both as a teacher at school and within the church. Subsequently, I was reluctantly persuaded to take on leadership of the music group when Betty decided that it was time for her to step aside. At that time I couldn’t read music but I did know the guitar chords... I was learning to play the piano at that time and Betty was so pleased that I went on to earn a distinction for my Grade 1 exam. The rest, as they say, is history.

Betty was one of the first people with whom I shared my sense of call to ordained ministry. She supported, challenged when necessary and was so pleased when my ministry grew and developed in many and diverse ways. One of John’s abiding memories is of a rehearsal in the Barnard Room of the Bernard Cribbins’ song: ‘Right said Fred’, it was for the next Harvest Supper. During one rehearsal Betty suggested repeating the action again, so John had to fall off the stepladder. After 5 repetitions of falling John suggested that his action did not need any further rehearsing and Betty apologetically agreed...

Whenever a fresh innovation came, Betty was there supporting and encouraging: ‘The Easter Experience,’ ‘The Christmas Journey,’ Betty saw the potential, supported each venture and persuaded others to recognise and welcome the vision – and more importantly to take the risk.

We know that many others can add to this story of a special person who touched the lives of so many. On behalf of all of those, young and old, Betty we thank God for you for your life and ministry among us.

**Canon Katrina Barnes**

## Marie Curie Cancer Care



From the beginning of March you will see people wearing large yellow hats and tabards collecting money for Marie Curie. This is the month when their Great Daffodil Appeal takes place. Or you might see people proudly wearing their daffodil badges, showing that a donation has been made to this wonderful charity. Last year they were unable to collect in March due to Covid, but an extra collection took place just before Christmas. This year as things get back to some sort of normality, the collectors will turn out again in force. I will be one of them.

Founded in 1948, Marie Curie now provides a variety of services for people diagnosed with cancer. They provide

- care for terminally ill people, helping them to stay at home until the end of their lives
- hospice care
- volunteers who offer companionship and emotional support by a chat on the phone or a regular visit
- bereavement support for families who have lost loved ones
- and a significant contribution towards research into cancer

Their National Day of Reflection on 23 March this year will enable communities to come together to pause, reflect and support each other during their toughest times, especially those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic.

So if you see a collector out in the community this month, please buy a daffodil and celebrate the valuable work that this charity does.

*Spring*

Thank you God, for signs of Spring!  
Thank you for the Joy they bring  
Forgive us when we turn away,  
and let our foolish footsteps stray.  
It's when we feel too weak to cope,  
your steadfast Love restores our hope.  
So thank you God, our Lord and King!  
We thank you God, for everything!

Sally Morris



Sue Goodger

23<sup>rd</sup> Bromley  
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## *The New Girl*



At the end of January I found out, how people who come into church for the first time, are feeling. We had been told that the next 10 am service would be café style. As well as some of the usual features of the service we would sit around tables with tea, coffee and pastries and a chance to chat.

I felt anxious. How would this work? What would the church look like? Where would I sit? Who else would be there? Those who follow our services on Zoom were asked to have a candle, a kitchen timer, toothpaste, scissors, pens and paper available. What was going to happen?



Sunday came and I walked into a very different looking church. Lots of tables were there laid up with bowls of fruit, pastries and the daunting items required.

We sang, then Helen gave us various team challenges, we listened to wise words from the leaders and of course prayed. It must be said that our efforts at writing with toothpaste would not have gone down well on Bake-Off!

The service had been different but I felt we had worshipped God.

In the evening I went to St. Luke's for a candlelit evening service to celebrate Candlemas. There were reflections and Taize chants. The church looked beautiful with fairy lights and the lovely columns in the choir floodlit in mauve.

Both services have been meaningful to me and God has been in the midst of both. We are very blessed to be able to experience different types of worship. Now I must take care to look out for anyone coming to church for the first time and make sure they feel welcome.

**Ann Hanrahan**



It was lovely to hear the church bells being rung for the Candlelight Service at St. Luke's recently. They were able to ring the full eight bells, with help from their friends at Bromley Parish Church and St. Mary's church, St. Mary Cray

## *Thirty Years old*



On the 10 March 1992 the first meeting of Ravensbourne Trefoil Guild was held. The Guild was formed by Joan Kemp, a valued member of St Augustine's church.

It started with sixteen members. As there was already a Guild in Bromley, it was decided to call this new Guild Ravensbourne, after the local telephone exchange and the river. There are now 26 members.

We enjoy meetings, outings, holidays and friendship. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.15 pm, in the Garden Room, St Augustine's Church. If you would like further information, please ring me on 020 8467 5629.

**Ann Hanrahan**

Words...

Words - we all speak them, write them, type them, and read them on a daily basis. A Little Girl I Know came home from school the other day saying that she had been set the task of writing an essay on a given subject that had to be several hundred words long. Instantly I was reminded of being charged with the same task when I was at school, I struggled with it to say the very least. A Little Girl finds it somewhat easier and getting her to stop is often more difficult. For a child with dyslexia, I find this amazing.

A recent essay subject was 'Last Words' something I thought difficult for someone so young. We talked about it as we drove home that evening. I told her that often the last words spoken by someone famous might be shared after they had passed away, as sometimes they are meaningful and inspiring for those left behind. They are ones that stick in the mind long after the event. I told her about my Great Aunt, who every time I visited her in the old peoples' home, where she spent her final years, would say to me, '... you don't want to get old'. Maybe she was right as only a few days before I felt myself getting quite upset when a colleague told me that I was now middle-aged. Sadly, as the mother of a young child, I find it difficult to believe that maybe my work friend was right.

A very special Christian friend recently told me, 'Things would get worse before they got better', referring to a challenging situation that we as a family are going through. Those words often come to mind and they encourage me to keep plodding along in the hope that she might be right.

A Little Girl I Know did some research and found some really good quotes from famous people whose last words had left a lasting impression after they passed away. She enjoyed looking through a note book where I have written down sayings that have made me laugh or cry over the years. A particularly special one was used at the funeral service of a friend of mine many years ago. It is to be found on a grave in Keston Parish Church, a special place that my friend and I had discovered when we were younger than A Little Girl I Know; I have never forgotten it.

*The life that I have  
Is all that I have  
And the life that I have  
Is yours*

*The love that I have  
Of the life that I have  
Is yours and yours and yours.*

*A sleep I shall have  
A rest I shall have  
Yet death will be but a pause.*

*For the peace of my years  
In the long green grass  
Will be yours and yours and yours.*

*Leo Marks*

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Our thoughts are with the family of **Betty Dawson**, who were with her in hospital when she passed away on 17 February. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

They are also with **David Allison** whose father **Derek** passed away in January, ten months after his mother **Maureen**. A celebration of Derek's life was held at Bluebell Cemetery and led by **Revd. Rachel Winn** on the windiest day for over 100 years

**Congratulations to Steve and Linda Spencer** on the birth of their third grandchild, a daughter for **Laura** and son-in-law **John**. **Phoebe Ella**, who was born on 28 January weighing 5lb 15oz is a sister for **Harvey and Abigail**



**Rev Andy Hobbs** was a Curate at St Augustine's and in 2017 moved to St. Mary's, Hoo to take up his first incumbency. In May **Andy, Jill** and their four children will be on the move again – this time to the parish of St Michael's Cofton Hackett and St Andrew's Barnt Green in the Diocese of Birmingham.

.....There is no need for **Canon Katrina Barnes** to to move house take up her next job. After retirement from full time ministry and following successful cancer treatment, in March she will be interim Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley pending the Bishop of Rochester's appointment of a

permanent successor to the Venerable Paul Wright.



Fifty years ago **Dickie Dawson** and a small team produced a magazine for the parish with the title '**Roundabout**'. It flourished and its success and continued production was down to two elements which **Dickie and Betty** held dear: people and words.

Editors, topics and technology have changed, but **Betty's** support has been ever present. We would get suggestions for contributions, encouraging words just when we needed them and all delivered, handwritten, in her beautiful script.

We love putting 'Roundabout' together, bringing God's love to those know Him and those who, as yet, do not. Words and people: thank you Betty and Dickie.



**The Roundabout Team**

Keep your news coming to me either by seeing me in church on Sunday morning or alternatively, you may like to email it to me at [jackysskinner@gmail.com](mailto:jackysskinner@gmail.com). Thank you.

## FORGET ME NOT CAFE



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**SPECIAL Dates for your diary**



**March 2022**

This diary runs alongside our regular 10am Sunday Services at St Augustine's Church

Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Tuesday 1st March	<b>Shrove Tuesday Pancakes in church</b>	St Augustine's Church	6.30pm 	Eat pancakes & watch <i>Les Misérables</i>
Wednesday 2nd March	<b>FREE!</b> 	St Augustine's Green	From 3.00pm	Free hot chocolate on the Green
Wednesday 2nd March	<b>Ash Wednesday ~ Holy Communion</b>	St Augustine's Church	7.30pm 	Begin Lent at our Ash Wednesday Service
<b>Commencing</b> Thursday 3rd March- <small>running over 6 weeks</small>	<b>Lent Course ~ based on the story of <i>Les Misérables</i></b>	In person: at St Augustines (AM) & online via zoom (PM)	10.00am & 7.30pm	Exploring Godly themes of: Grace, Justice, Love, Hope, Poverty & Revolution.
Saturday 5th March	<b>Youth Connect</b>	St Augustine's Church	6.30pm 	A relaxing evening for Year 7+
<b>Continuing-</b> Tuesday 8th March	<b>Lent Course ~ based on the story of <i>Les Misérables</i></b>	Online via zoom (PM) running for 6 weeks	7.30pm	Exploring Godly themes of: Grace, Justice, Love, Hope, Poverty & Revolution.
Sunday 20th March	<b>Holy Communion</b>	St Luke's Church	5.30pm 	Join us for Holy Communion at St Luke's, Bromley Common
Week of 21st-25th March	<b>"Easter Experience"</b>	St Augustine's Church		An Easter story interactive journey for schools (Yr 2)
Thursday 24th March	<b>CAMEO Special!</b>	Garden Room, St Augustine's	2.30pm-4.00pm	We make gift posies for loved ones in the Parish
Sunday 27th March	<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	St Augustine's Church	10.00am 	We celebrate those who care for us

Staff Contact Details		
Vicar	Rev Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351
Curate	Rev Rachel Winn	07311 330202
Youth and Schools	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Licensed Lay Minister	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
Churchwarden	Hilary Chittock	07884 195700
Parish Office: Mon-Fri 9.00 am - 1.00 pm	Linda Spencer Victoria Bouwer	020 8295 1550 <a href="mailto:office@st-augustines.org.uk">office@st-augustines.org.uk</a>

**You are welcome to worship with us, our regular Sunday Services for March are:**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sunday 6 March 10.00 am</b>  | <b>St. Augustine's Morning Worship</b> |
| <b>Sunday 13 March 10.00 am</b> | <b>St. Augustine's Holy Communion</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 20 March 10.00 am</b> | <b>St. Augustine's</b>                 |
| <b>Sunday 27 March 10.00 am</b> | <b>St. Augustine's Holy Communion</b>  |

The 10 am service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel.  
 St. Augustine's Church Rooms and St. Luke's Hall have reopened for hire for activities which are permitted under current rules, contact Liz Carter on 020 8467 8155  
 Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at [revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com](mailto:revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com)

**ROUNABOUT March issue: Editor Ann Hanrahan Layout Adrian King.**

The April 2022 issue will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St Luke's website.  
 Editor: Sue Goodger ([sue\\_goodger@ntlworld.com](mailto:sue_goodger@ntlworld.com)) Layout: Karen Palmer - [kajpal@live.com](mailto:kajpal@live.com)  
**Please send all articles in plain unformatted text and all photos separate from the text to be received by March 23**

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