



roundabout



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

1972 - 50th Anniversary Year - 2022

Issue 531 April 2022

Easter 2022

Over the last week, we as a Church have invited our local schools, before they break for the Easter holidays, to experience what that first Easter may have felt like. The journey they took was from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day, in effect a mini version of the Passion play was put together.

We asked them to put themselves into the picture and examine what their feelings might have been as they saw Jesus entering Jerusalem. They were given palm leaves to wave and encouraged to shout "Hosanna." Next they became part of the Temple crowd as Jesus turned over the tables of the money changers. They sat at the Last Supper as Jesus celebrated his final Passover Meal, the washing of the feet, breaking bread and the betrayal by Judas. They saw his heart breaking in the garden of Gethsemane, on his knees praying to his father in heaven, and saw him standing before Pilate to receive the death sentence of crucifixion on the cross. They finished their journey beside the empty tomb, witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus. For many of the children this could possibly have been the first time they have had the chance to fully engage with what Easter is truly about. Our prayer for them is that, as they grow, this experience will stay with them and inform their thinking and understanding of God's love reaching into this world through his son Jesus Christ.



The world we see today is marred by violence and destruction, the pain and sorrow in Ukraine is displayed on our TV screens nightly. Yet we also see love being displayed, as food, clothes and medical aid is given, and as refugees flood into neighbouring countries accommodation for families is offered freely. We know many people in this country and in our community are willing to be part of that.

For us as Christians, the Easter story is the bedrock of who and what we are. Through it we are brought into that place where we see Jesus fully human and fully divine, as he gives himself wholeheartedly as a sacrifice for our sin; and that through true repentance the world that so often seems a broken place can be different.

So, as we celebrate Easter, I pray, along with the children who journeyed along the road of Jesus's passion, that we might hold on to the hope that Jesus brings to each one of us today, that through faith in him we might find God's peace and God's love in our lives, not just at Easter but every day.

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.**



Hope

This year the World Day of Prayer Service was prepared by the women of England, Ireland and Wales. The theme was hope as expressed in Jeremiah Chapter 29 verse 11 - 'I know the plans I have for you.'



Seeds of 'hope' were given to those attending the service and seven candles were lit representing the seven regions of the world. Jeremiah was writing when the people of Israel were in exile and longing to return to their homeland.

It seemed the whole service was reflecting the current situation and was all the more meaningful for that.

Ann Hanrahan

A Concert to Remember

Members of St. Augustine's with St. Luke's enjoyed a concert at St. George's Church Bickley recently where the Bromley Philharmonic Choir, with an orchestra and four soloists, sang Handel's Messiah. The choir, of which I am a member, has been practising many of the choruses on and off for the last two years, as the original concert planned for 2020 had to be cancelled due to lockdown. The church was full, the acoustics were wonderful and the soloists were so expressive and full of passion. Everything went really well and it was lovely to be part of such a wonderful concert after all the restrictions.

Although I had learnt the choruses, I had never sung them in concert or even listened to the whole piece before. I found the experience very moving, as the familiar words from the Bible drew me into the story of Jesus's birth, death and resurrection.



Handel's Messiah is made up of three parts. Part the First takes the words from the Old Testament prophets, predicting the coming of the Messiah, also with quotes from Matthew and Luke's gospels confirming this. Part the Second tells how the Messiah will be scorned and wounded for our sins, with the words from the Psalms and the prophet Isaiah. It ends with the familiar Hallelujah Chorus from the book of Revelation. Part the Third celebrates Jesus's resurrection with words from 1 Corinthians and the book of Revelation.

Sue Goodger

A Wonderful Experience

Over 270 children from Bromley High, Southborough and Raglan Road Primary Schools visited St Augustine's church recently to 'Experience Easter'. The children aged between five and eight learnt all



about the last week of Jesus's life and the events of the first Easter, with the help of many volunteers, who brought the story to life with their acting skills and amazing props.

The children also enjoyed craft activities and refreshments before returning to school, each with a goody bag as a reminder of their day. For some children this was the first outing they had experienced since starting school a year and a half ago.

It was lovely to share their excitement in this new experience, as they all took home with them the message that 'Jesus is Alive'.

Sue Goodger

Give Campanology a Chance!

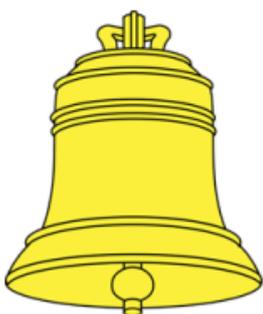
Stalwarts of St Augustine's; we need you!

The sound of church bells ringing out over town or country to welcome worshippers to service or to mark important State occasions is one to be treasured as part of the rich texture of life in Britain. Change ringing as we know it today was invented in this country, and practised by local bands of ringers at towers up and down the land since at least the sixteenth century.



For the congregation of St Augustine's, one of benefits of joining forces with St Luke's is access to the St Luke's bells, and all the tradition that brings with it. A gift to St Luke's, together with the fine spire that houses them, from a prominent Bromley family the Wheeler-Bennets, they are a ring of eight, cast by Taylors of Loughborough in 1910. Together with the Bromley Parish Church and St George's Bickley, St Luke's completes the 'golden triangle' of eight-bell towers in Bromley, quite a rarity in such close proximity, and of a quality much sought after by visiting bands of ringers.

But bells need ringers. Once basic bell-handling skills have been mastered, ringing is a 'team' activity requiring at least six people ringing together to learn and practise the rudiments of change ringing (the bells changing places on every stroke to describe a 'method' or 'tune'), and once mastered move on to ringing changes on 8, 10 and sometimes 12 bells together. Change ringing, as it is called, is both stimulating and fun but the ravages of lock-down, the passing of time and a dwindling congregation have between them reduced the numbers of the St Luke's Band to sub-critical levels, and the ringing you may hear on a Thursday evening or before Sunday evening services at St Luke's is generally achieved with the help of visiting ringers from neighbouring bands. We need to address this, not least to keep the skills alive for the next generation.



Which is where you come in. Like all skills requiring coordination and concentration, the earlier you start the easier it is to master. We practise on Thursday evenings, from about 7.30 - 9.15pm, but we can be flexible to accommodate different ages. Any age from ten to sixty is an ideal one at which to start, (other ages considered!) It is not physically demanding, yet wonderful therapy for the arms and shoulders, mentally stimulating, and the whole family can do it together! Though the object of learning is to ring for services, it's not all hard work. In the summer, outings to ring at groups of other towers in different parts of the country are arranged, usually attractive villages deep in the country with welcoming pubs or country rambles if the ringing palls.

Why don't you come and try, and bring a friend? Chris Lawrance (Tower Captain) and I would be very happy to 'show you the ropes' almost any Thursday evening, and then take it from there. Best to phone me or Chris first to arrange this and ensure ringing is taking place that evening.

Come on, pick up that phone!

Alastair Scott (Secretary)
07981 322689
Chris Lawrance (Captain)
07707 944299

FORGET ME NOT CAFE 

Memory cafe for anyone with dementia, their families, carers and friends.

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
or dianaepattison@gmail.com

23rd Bromley
(St. Augustine's) Scout
Group

TABLE SALE

Saturday 9th April 2022
10.00am - 12.00

Free Entry

Tables available £10
each
(set up 9.30am)

Contact Helen 07775
695 091

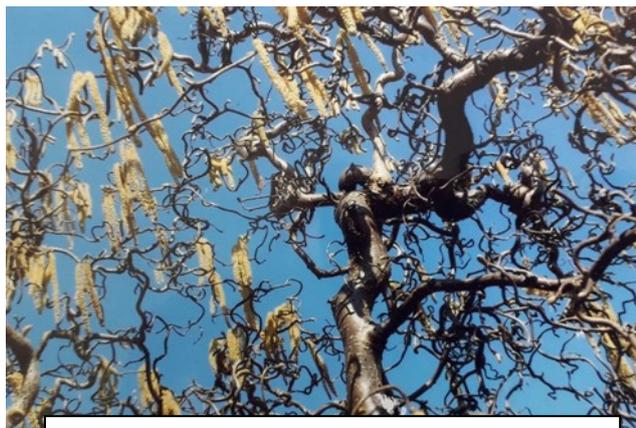
Scout HQ, Homestead
Road, BR2 8BB

Corylus Avellana Contorta

A poem and photograph by Sally Morris

Corylus avellana contorta,
whoever said you oughta
grow tall and straight like any other tree?
If you prefer to crinkle,
revealing every wrinkle,
that is, methinks, entirely up to thee.

And what could be more charming,
more tasteful and more calming,
than dainty catkins dancing in the breeze?
With bright blue sky above you,
who could not help but love you,
for me you are the delightfulest of trees.



A twisted Hazel tree in Betty Dawson's garden

A Very Special Lady



St Augustine's church was full for the first time in over two years. The cause of this was the celebration of the life of Betty Dawson – a very special lady.

Past vicars were present – Brian Ash and his family, Eric Heselwood and Katrina Barnes with her husband John. All of Betty's family took part in the service. Her daughter Madeleine wrote the eulogy which was read by her brothers Richard and Peter. Betty's brother read a Bible reading and her grandchildren were charming hosts at the reception afterwards.

It was a very moving service as we remembered and thanked God that we had been privileged to have known Betty.

Flower Gifts

We were blessed with beautiful weather again this year for our 'Daffodils on the Green' day before Mothering Sunday. The flower group and helpers arranged the daffodils, from Isis flowers, into posies and they offered them to anyone passing by. There were smiles all round!



Alan Mitchell, our Licensed Lay Minister has just been awarded a Master's degree with distinction in Fine Art. He has been studying at the Courtauld Institute in London and in the autumn will embark on a PhD at Cambridge University. Congratulations Alan.

Correction from last months Roundabout and apologies to **Revd. Andy Hobbs** who is currently Priest in Charge at St. Helen's, Cliffe near Rochester, and is moving to the Parish of St Michael's Cofton Hackett and St Andrew's Barnt Green in the Diocese of Birmingham, with wife Jill and their four children, James, Caleb, Annabelle and Lilyella.

Chop and Change

There is much talk in the media these days about the disappearance of ‘community’ from our neighbourhoods. Pubs are closing, de-consecrated churches appear on Grand Designs and vegetable shops are as rare as hens’ teeth. So why is our community in Bickley bucking the trend?

The Parade of shops on the Fairway has adapted slowly and maybe this is its recipe for success. The newest shop to open is also the oldest. In January when Rob and Alice took down the ‘M J Painter’ sign from above the butcher’s shop on the corner, they came across the original one, ‘Sperring’. Fifty years on, ‘Cleaver and Twine’ is the new name on the block - and already there is a website.

Rob is originally from Strood and trained for two years as a butcher straight from school. The prospect of running his own shop, however, seemed unaffordable, so he went back to college to study engineering instead and set up a garage doors business. It was while working in the engineering industry that, in 2018, he met Alice. They moved to Beckenham and their story during the following years is typical of that experienced by many



families. Covid hit and they decided that they could diversify and run their own business. So, they converted their garage into a catering work area and began producing and selling sausages made from an old family recipe.

Alice is Bromley born and bred. She went to Holy Trinity College, which closed in 2005, and then to Langley Girls school. Her uncle lives in Bickley and had owned the wine shop on the Parade before converting it into Ted’s café. When Rob and Alice heard that Mick Painter was retiring, they hit the ground running. They sourced new equipment, found a signwriter to construct their new ‘Cleaver and Twine’ board and have even found an original 1950s butcher’s artefact. Their own obsession is antique fairs and boot sales and Alice’s prize possession are three Venetian puppets. Now that the shop is open, keep your eyes out for ‘Mick, the puppet butcher’. We wish them well in their new venture.

Mary Plummer



New life

Christine Fisher encouraged anyone who can knit, to create cosies for Easter eggs. The response was amazing! Each small symbol of new life was put in a brightly covered cosy, placed in a basket and delivered to care homes in our parish. Happy Easter everyone.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Will be held on

Sunday 8 May at 11:30
after the morning church service

Further details will be published in the weekly newsletter.

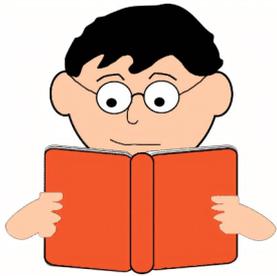
Keep your news coming, email me at jackysskinner@gmail.com. Thank you.

I Can See Clearly Now

At the start of January every year I wait for ‘that’ letter, the one that advises me that my annual eye test is coming up. In due course I found myself waiting for the series of tests to begin. As ever I was clockwatching as I had booked the appointment before work, and was anxious not to be late, as we were short staffed. Almost an hour later I walked out with a prescription in my hand ready to maybe invest in new frames at a later date.



A Little Girl I Know has seen her close family wearing glasses all of her life. She often used to say to me, ‘You’re not my Mummy’, if I went into her bedroom without my glasses on to wake her up, or got new ones. A day or so later she would tell me that she liked them and they made me look kind of ok! She also has eye checks on a regular basis and is meant to wear them for school work although I am not convinced that she does.



Before her first test we talked about what was likely to happen and with most things at that age she took this new experience in her stride. She asked me about when I first started wearing glasses, I recalled two embarrassing stories...

The first when I went with some friends from work to play golf at the end of busy day. I chose – with some help – the right golf club, put the ball on the tee and stood there ready to take aim. I was stopped in my tracks with my colleagues laughing. They asked me in which direction was I planning to hit the ball. I pointed then realised that I couldn’t see the flag on the green. Not only that but I was facing in totally the wrong direction. Later that week I was told that I was short-sighted and would need glasses especially for driving!



On another occasion I returned to a high street shop and asked for a particular style of frames. The lady serving me typed my details into the computer and said, ‘You bought a pair exactly the same just two weeks ago’. Ashamed I told her that they were at the bottom of the River Cam in Cambridge as when I was trying to move the punt I had fallen into the water. I came back up, my glasses sadly didn’t. She laughed and told me that the same thing had happened to her now husband at his Stag Do!

My new glasses were eventually ordered, and with a tweak of the lenses I can again see clearly, and I’m no longer seeing pound notes in front of my eyes but the wonderful, beautiful world that God has created for us all to enjoy. Thank God for the gift of sight.

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



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

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



ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH
SOUTHBOROUGH LANE, BICKLEY,
BROMLEY, BR2 8AT

Services and Events for April 2022

Weekly Events

Wednesdays 10-11:30 am	The Ark Toddlers (term time, pre-booking needed)
Wednesdays 12:00	Midweek service
Thursdays 2:30-4:00 pm	CAMEO Come and Meet Each Other

Special Events

Tue 5 Apr 10:30am	Merry Pilgrim walk. Meet at Rectory Lane Sidcup car park
Fri 15 Apr 10:00 - 12:00 noon	Messy Easter. St Luke's Church hall
Wed 27 Apr 7:45 pm	Bits and Pieces. St A's Church hall
Sat 30 Apr 6:30 pm	Youth Connect. St A's Church hall



Holy Week and Easter Services April 2022



Palm Sunday - 10 April

10:00 am at St Augustine's Church
5:30 pm at St Luke's Church
Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday - 14 April

7:30 pm at St Augustine's Church

Good Friday - 15 April

12:00 - 3:00 pm at St Augustine's Church
Come and join us at any time during our Reflective Vigil



Easter Sunday - 17 April

10:00 am at St Augustine's Church
Come and celebrate our Saviours resurrection



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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
Parish Office:	(Linda Spencer	020 8295 1550
(Mon - Fri 9:30 - 1:30)	(Victoria Bouwer	email: office@st-augustines.org.uk

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

Sun 3 Apr 10:00 am	St Augustine's Morning Worship
Sun 10 Apr 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion and Baptism
Sun 17 Apr 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion
Sun 24 Apr 10:00 am	St Augustine's Family Service

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

Contact details for all church and uniformed organisations are on our website www.st-augustines.org.uk

Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com

April Edition: Editor - Sue Goodger Layout - Karen Palmer

The May 2022 edition will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St. Luke's website

Editor - Mary Plummer maryaplummer@hotmail.com

Layout - Adrian King email: aandcking@waitrose.com

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