



roundabout



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

1972 - 50th Anniversary Year - 2022

Issue 538 December 2022

Worth Waiting For

A few weeks ago, heading home from Canterbury during a rail strike, I was stuck on the A2 in a huge traffic jam in a car full of priests (I *know*, what a nightmare!). It felt like a colossal waste of time as we spent four and a half hours, much of this time in stationary traffic, and all we could do was watch and wait. Eventually we stopped fretting and began to share our thoughts and fears about being parish priests. We encouraged each other with stories of our wonderful church congregations, we pigged-out on a stash of car-chocolate... and we laughed more than we had in all our years of training. When the car journey eventually ended, we all agreed this had been the most edifying time of 'formation' we had ever experienced together as curates.



'Advent' is a kind of interim time leading up to Christmas, when we watch and wait, with a dual sense of expectation and longing. Firstly Christians celebrate God incarnate breaking into the world to bring hope and salvation, and secondly we anticipate the glorious return of Jesus;

'...looking forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed' (Titus 2:11,13).

But what do some of us do in the weeks leading up to Christmas?

So often we are frantic in our preparations and get caught up in gift-buying and delightfully indulgent festivities and we do not stop to think about the first Christmas celebrations. When Jesus was born the rejoicing was magnificent: the angelic choir proclaimed God's glory and peace on earth, shepherds praised God for what they had seen and wise men fell down and worshipped him, because with Jesus' arrival came hope and salvation and a chance for the whole world to be changed.

Advent is a wonderful time to reflect and encounter God in a new way. Our priestly nightmare journey on the A2 turned out not to be just a waiting game but the best time to develop our relationships with each other and to be changed in the process. This season there is an opportunity for **you** to discover God, to find relationship through Jesus Christ and to be transformed.

May we at St Augustine's with St Luke's wish you all a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year. In the meantime, why not come to one (or all) of our special events and services where you will find a warm welcome and the Saviour, Jesus Christ ~ someone truly worth waiting for.

Rev Rachel Winn
Curate



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





DECEMBER 2022

These SPECIAL diary dates run alongside our regular programme of services: www.st-augustines.org.uk



Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Thursday 1st, 15th, 22nd & 29th	Warm Space &	St Augustine's Church Halls	10.30am ~ 4.00pm	A cozy space to keep warm, to meet others, enjoy soup and rolls and cake... wi-fi and work spaces available
Sunday 4th	Big Christmas Café~Style Church 	St Augustine's Church 	10.00am	Bring your instruments to this Nativity dress-up service: share breakfast and worship
Wednesday 7th	Hot Chocolate on the Green	St Augustine's Church Green 	From 3.00pm	Free hot chocolate to passers-by, (weather-dependant)
Saturday 10th	Christmas Together on The Green	St Augustine's Church Green (Churches Together in Bromley Common)	1.00pm ~ 3.00pm	Live music, free drinks & mince pies, nativity dress up, Christmas crafts ++
Saturday 17th	Christmas 'Crafternoon'	St Luke's Church Hall	2.00pm ~ 5.00pm	Drop in any time for an all-age fun afternoon with free art and craft activities and 50p 'all win' Tombola
Sunday 18th	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Augustine's Church	6.30pm	A traditional service taking us through the Christmas narrative
Tuesday 20th	Merry Pilgrims Walk 	Meet at Norman Park: (Free car park, via Hook Farm Rd)	10.30am	A gentle stroll ending at 'Regans' at the New Inn (opposite Hayes Station) BR2 7EA
Tuesday 20th	Forget Me Not Café Carol Service	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30pm ~ 3.30pm	
Wednesday 21st	Advent Mother's Union	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	2.00pm ~ 4.00pm	Come and hear Rev'd Rachel Winn's Advent Reflection
Wednesday 21st	Mindfulness for Christmas	St Augustine's Church Hall	7.30pm	A Christmas reflection for adults followed by a creative activity
Saturday 24th	Christingle 	St Augustine's Church	4.00pm	Join us in making a Christingle, celebrating Christ's birth
Saturday 24th	Christmas Eve Mass	St Luke's Church	8.00pm	
Sunday 25th	Christmas Day Celebration Service	St Augustine's Church	10.00am	

Merry Pilgrims Update

On a dry day in Autumn a small group of 'Merry Pilgrims' met near Beckenham Hill Station for a gentle stroll in Beckenham Place Park. The weather was very pleasant after a rainy night and early morning, so we struck lucky!!

Beckenham Place Park is maintained by Lewisham Council, and there are various trails which can be followed. We set off on the 'purple' trail which Hilary and Christine had discovered on an earlier 'recce'. This path led us past grassy areas with widely spaced trees into ancient woodlands, and then out past what had previously been the golf course. The Park has London's first purpose-built swimming lake, constructed in 2019, and there were people swimming when we walked past, as well as ducks and other wild fowl.

Hilary led us to a lovely small walled garden, part of which is a Community Garden where herbs, fruit and vegetables are grown. We had a very interesting walk around taking in all the ideas including growing rhubarb in vividly painted car tyres.



Our stroll finished when we reached the fine 18th Century Stable Block near the garden, which has been restored following a fire in 2011, part of which is now used as a take-away café. We had a jolly lunch in the sunshine with lots of chat.

Near to Christmas there will be a meet up on December 20 for a short local walk and then lunch in The New Inn, Hayes.

Anyone is welcome to join for friendship, fresh air, fitness and finding out more about the locality. There is a surprising amount to see and learn about the area just on our doorstep!

Carolyn Nield

Resources for Everyone to help us in 2023 to Grow in our Faith Journey each day

Bible Reading Fellowship is one of the Christian charities we support at St Augustine's with St Luke's. They are the charity responsible for Messy church and Anna Chaplaincy but they continue to offer a range of daily Bible readings and meditations.

I've been encouraged by using daily notes to read the Bible for many years. Not only do they provide daily inspiration to put life's joys and sorrows into perspective, it's amazing how many times the Bible verse and thought is exactly what is needed for the day. They are available on mobile phones so every morning it's there for me.

There are a range of notes designed for different tastes: Bible reflections, for older people is exactly what it says on the cover; 'Day by Day with God' is especially designed for ladies; 'New Daylight' is the series I use; and there is the wonderful the 'Upper Room' which has thoughts from ordinary Christians from around the world. Three million people worldwide read 'Upper Room' every day!

There is a short Bible passage and a very accessible thought. Notes are published in January, May and September so this is a perfect time to give it a go. If you want a spiritual lift, a word of encouragement every day of the week to feed you between Sundays this is it! There will be more information on one of the church noticeboards and please come and talk to me for more details. Along with breakfast, it's the best start to the day! For younger readers, Scripture Union have produced 'The Rooted Grow Journal' for 11-14 year olds which is designed to help young people grow in faith. A beautifully designed and produced cloth-bound book, this is something that will 'travel' with a young person in their journey with God. It encourages young people to delve into the Bible and respond to what God is saying to them while growing in their relationship with him. Each chapter includes Bible text, thoughts, questions, action points and space to think, pray and reflect.

Verity Mitchell

Thank you very much to all those from St Augustine's with St Luke's...

who magnificently donated chocolates, sweet treats and Christmas jumpers to Bromley Brighter Beginnings' hampers over just three Sundays in November. All contributions were taken to Keston Village Hall where 600 hampers were packed with these and other goodies for families to enjoy. They were distributed the next day by an enthusiastic band of BBB supporters.

Helen Scothern and Mary Plummer

And those...

who have contributed to our link parish of Mwaikisabe in Tanzania in 2022. Many of us met Bishop Given and Lilian during their summer visit to the diocese when he updated us on the progress with the new chapel. We now have photos of the finished project complete with stunning new roof! We send God's many blessings to our Mwaikisabe family this Christmastide.



Top of the Pew



While some watched the World Cup, we were watching an important local match – the final of Top of the Pew. It was the first time it had been played since 2019. It was hosted by Christ Church URC, Petts Wood in front of an enthusiastic audience.

St Augustine's with St Luke's were playing Christ Church, Chislehurst who were finalists for the first time. This was a special occasion as Sarah Bedells and her son Christie were the question masters. They are the daughter and grandson of John Bedells, who founded the competition. The first half was close,

as teams discovered their knowledge of film characters was better than biblical characters. It was a fun evening and Christ Church were worthy winners.

Over £900 has been raised during the whole competition for this year's charity – the Maypole Project for children and young people with complex needs, based in Green Street Green.

Our thanks to Liz, Helen, Andrew and Richard for getting us to the final again this year and we look forward to competing in 2023.

Ann Hanrahan

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Christmas Seen Through Flowers

Advent wreath

It is believed that fresh greenery, shaped or twisted into a circle began life as a token and reward for victory in Roman times. Some sources date the wreath to earlier Persia or Egypt. The familiar decoration which we see during the Christmas season today is believed to have originated in the 16th century and the old English word for twist is 'writhen' which morphed into wreath. In German States members of the Lutheran church took the circle to represent eternity and used evergreens, which symbolise eternal life and red berries for the blood of Christ. Today we often use an Advent wreath indoors with candles to mark each Sunday in Advent and the central one is lit on Christmas morning.



Christmas Rose



Garden Centres are full of these at the moment. The white hellebore known as the 'Christmas rose' has large, flat white flowers. The proper name is helleborus niger, which might refer to the black root, and they usually flower in early spring (or 6 January, which was Christmas Day in the old Julian calendar) although those in my garden are flowering already. It naturally grows in mountainous areas and one legend is that it sprouted in the snow from the tears of a young girl who had no gift to give the

Christ child in Bethlehem.

Poinsettia

Seen everywhere at Christmas and left a straggling shadow of former glory by February! Poinsettia is a member of the Euphorbia family, first found by plant hunters in Mexico at the beginning of the 19th century. It is said that the shape of the brightly coloured bracts – not flowers – resembled the Star of Bethlehem. Yellowing leaves are usually a sign that the plant is too dry and rather than watering and drowning the plant, regular misting will keep up humidity levels, which replicates its natural habitat.



Mary Plummer

Through the Lens

Congratulations to Jacky Skinner who has had 50 photographs of local wildlife and other scenes published in the NewsShopper.



On top of that, Jacky was informed by the Managing Editor that her photograph of an Orpington firework display was also published in one of their wider Group of newspapers.



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The Colours of Christmas

In the middle of November every year the father of A Little Girl I Know starts to get excited. Before long he has raided the loft and the Christmas tree, a box of decorations, and our nativity set are downstairs ready for the big debate of the year... what colour tinsel should be used to decorate the tree.

I guess I am probably a bit more traditional than him, my preference being red and gold, colours often used during my childhood, and I think give a festival warmth. He would be happy to use almost any of the variety of colours available in the shops these days. As we talked it over during dinner that evening A Little Girl I Know piped up, 'Have you thought about using all or some of the five colours of Christmas?' I have to admit I had never thought such a thing existed until then. She went on to explain that, Green represented the plants, holly, ivy and mistletoe, Red the blood that Jesus had shed when He died for us, Gold symbolising sun and light, a gift given by one of the Wise Men, Blue often thought of as being the colour worn by Mary and White to represent purity. She explained that she had learnt this at school a few years ago and had thought it was a lovely way to think about decorating the tree.



Eventually red and gold were chosen as it had been a while since we had used that colour combination. Then A Little Girl I Know and her father spent some time together dressing the tree. The result was so good. In the centre - as has been for many, many years now - a hand painted-bauble with a picture of the nativity scene on it.

Every time I see it, I am reminded of the young Rainbow from my group who almost twenty years ago gave it to me as she left the group that Christmas. The sweet child, who due to a medical condition, would often end our weekly meetings asleep on my lap. She so wanted to come and I for one was not going to turn her away. Every week she made me smile, a big broad smile especially when she nicknamed me 'Billy Silly!'.

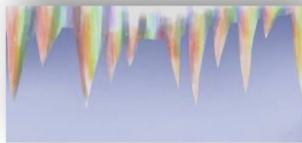
Whatever colours or how you decorate your tree this year, I pray that God's light will shine into your lives at this special, holy time.

*'A merry Christmas to us all, God bless everyone' **

**Quote from A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, spoken by Tiny Tim*

You are welcome to join us for Christmas season worship - our regular Sunday and Midweek Services for December are:

Sunday December 4th	2nd Sunday in Advent	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Big Christmas dress up Café-Style Church
Sunday 11th December	3rd Sunday in Advent	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Morning worship with Baptism
Wednesday 14th December	Midweek	12.00 Noon	St Augustine's Church Chapel ~ Midweek Holy Communion
Sunday 18th December	4th Sunday in Advent	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Holy Communion
Sunday 18th December	4th Sunday in Advent	6.30pm	St Augustine's Church ~ Nine Lessons and Carols
Saturday 24th December	Christmas Eve	4.00pm	St Augustine's Church ~ Christingle service
Saturday 24th December	Christmas Eve Mass	8.00pm	St Luke's Church ~ Holy Communion
Sunday 25th December	Christmas Day	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Christmas Day Celebration
Wednesday 28th December	Midweek	12.00 Noon	St Augustine's Church Chapel ~ Midweek Holy Communion
Sunday 1st January	Naming of Jesus	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Book of Common Prayer



JANUARY 2022

These SPECIAL diary dates run alongside our regular programme of services
Find out more at: www.st-augustines.org.uk



Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Wednesday 4th January	Hot Chocolate on the Green	St Augustine's Church Green	3.00pm 	Free hot chocolate to passers-by, (weather-dependant)
Thursdays from 5th and throughout January	Warm Space & C.A.M.E.O Friendship café	St Augustine's Church Halls	10.30am ~ 4.00pm	A cozy space to keep warm, to meet others, enjoy soup and rolls and cake... wi-fi and work spaces available
Wednesday 11th and 25th January	Midweek Holy Communion	St Augustine's Church, in the Chapel	12.00 Noon	
Saturday 14th January	Youth Connect 'Winter Wonderland'	St Augustine's Church	10.00am	Year 7+ get together for seasonal activities and hot chocolate
Tuesday 17th January	 Merry Pilgrims Walk	Scadbury Park	10.30am	Meet in the car park in Old Perry Street, Chislehurst, BR7 6PT
Tuesday 17th January	Forget Me Not Café	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30 ~ 3.30pm	
Wednesday 18th January	Mother's Union (ALL welcome)	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	2.00pm ~ 4.00pm	Mother's Union Annual General Meeting (TBC)
Wednesday 18th January	Bits and Pieces (Adult crafts)	St Augustine's Church Hall	7.30pm £5 per adult	Lace cut cards... make beautiful and stand out greeting cards with the 'Lacé' cut and weave technique
Saturday 28th January	Youth Connect 'Chip Shop Challenge'	Meet at St Augustine's Church	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Year 7+ Which local chippy has the best and longest chips? Come and find out!

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Staff Contact Details

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Curate:	Rev Rachel Winn	07311 330202
Youth and Schools Minister:	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 join us for New Year worship during Epiphany - our regular Sunday and Midweek Services for January are:

Sunday 1st January	Naming of Jesus	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Book of Common Prayer
Sunday 8th January	The Baptism of Christ	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Holy Communion
Wednesday 11th January	Midweek	12.00 noon	St Augustine's Church Chapel ~ Midweek Holy Communion
Sunday 15th January	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Morning Worship
Sunday 22nd January	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd January	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	5.30pm	St Luke's Church ~ Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th January	Midweek	12.00 noon	St Augustine's Church Chapel ~ Midweek Holy Communion
Sunday 29th January	4th Sun day of Epiphany	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ A service of Worship and Healing Service

The 10 am service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel, www.st-augustines.org.uk

St. Augustine's Church Rooms and St. Luke's Hall are available for hire. To book a room at St Augustine's, contact Liz Carter on 020 8467 8155. To book St Luke's Hall, contact the Church Office on 020 8295 1550

December Edition: Editor - Mary Plummer Layout - Tanya Wardley

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