



roundabout



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

1972 - 50th Anniversary Year - 2022

Issue 529 February 2022

Living a Life of Integrity

Life is not always fair. How many times have you heard a child say 'but that's not fair'? Maybe you can remember a specific incident when you yourself said it (or at least thought it). You and I know that there will always be inequalities in this world, and more often than not, they are not fair. Even having a relationship with Jesus doesn't magically make life easy, but our faith should affect how we handle injustice, both happening to us and those around us.

In my devotions, I am currently reading through the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. It reads like a work of fiction, with twists and turns, difficult family dynamics, lies, corruption, jealousy and deception. Even before the main character enters the scene, we can see that he is being born into a dysfunctional family. His father, Jacob, cheated his twin Esau out of their dying father's special blessing and so had to flee from his furious brother. Jacob travelled to his uncle's home where he fell in love with Rachel. He worked for seven years as a shepherd to win his bride, but the cheater was cheated; Jacob found himself married to the plain older sister, Leah, before he could marry the beautiful Rachel. Sounds like a drama already, but worse was to follow. Leah was fruitful in bearing children, but Rachel was unable to conceive. Eventually, after a lot of desperation and heartache Rachel gave birth to Joseph.



Many of you will know the story of Joseph, famous for his Technicolour Dreamcoat and the drama and injustices that surrounds him. He is quite clearly his father's favourite child, making his brothers jealous. They become so mad and fed up with him that they attack him, put him in a pit, sell him into slavery and tell Jacob that he's dead. He is sold to be a slave for a captain of Pharaoh's guard and this spoilt youth has to grow up fast. The shock of his brothers' attack and the journey to Egypt, must have shaken him to the core. Such events can leave us traumatised, disabled, giving up hope. Or they can be used – as with Joseph – to bring new purpose, with a resolve to make the most of the circumstance. Of course that is not the end of the story for Joseph, who is promoted to 'head of staff', falsely accused of sleeping with the boss's wife and thrown into prison. Everything had been going so well and then bump! Everything was stripped away: his job, his home, his comfort, his responsibilities, his status.

We can all learn from the story of Joseph. Through all of his experiences and hardships, he completely trusted that God was with him. The injustices that he faced and the time in prison could have turned him into a very bitter man. He could have spent the time plotting his revenge for his brothers, but he doesn't. When he comes face to face with them years later he shows how much he has grown and forgives them, offering them a new start. Rather than using his past as a weapon, it becomes a tool of reconciliation. He didn't play the victim. He didn't resign himself to his base emotions and impulses. Instead he chose to live a life of integrity and that is something we can all try to remember. As C. S. Lewis put it, 'Integrity is doing the right thing. Even when no one is watching.'

Love and Hugs
Helen
Youth & School's Minister

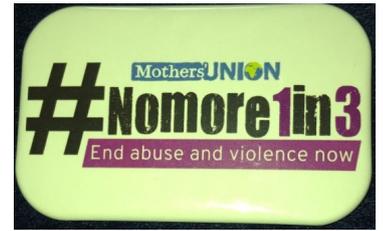


As members of St. Augustine's with St Luke's, we seek to follow Jesus' command—to share God's love with our community.



How I Became a Protester

For years the Mothers' Union has supported the United Nations' campaign against Gender Based Violence (GBV). Recently the focus has been on 'No More 1 in 3'. This highlights the fact that one in three women will be impacted by some form of violence in their life, a horrifying statistic!



This year, as we are able to meet together more, members were asked to come together in cathedrals around Britain for a simple service and a three minutes' silence at 1.03 pm. So I found myself with Liz Carter on a train to Rochester. Although we didn't march through Rochester High Street we walked together with other members to the cathedral wearing symbolic purple scarves.

After the three minutes' silence and the service led by the Precentor, we gathered outside to show our opposition to this dreadful abuse and violence. As I returned home I realised I was now a 'Protester'!

Ann Hanrahan

The Advent Trail



Many thanks to Christine Fisher, Hilary Chittock and Helen Baker for the hard work that was put in to make the Advent Trail so good this year. The pictures and story on each board were colourful and easy to read - just right for children. I had a board in my front garden and people would stop and read it as they went by. I took my neighbour's young son on part of the trail, which started at St Luke's Church and ended at St Augustine's. We had fun reading the story, writing down the letter hidden in each picture and trying to guess the finished sentence as we went along. Such a lovely way to tell the Christmas story to children. I hope those of you that took part in the Advent Trail this year had as much fun as we did.

Sue Goodger

Unexpected Blessings

On a foggy January morning, I arrived early at London Bridge for a meeting with friends. So I popped into Southwark Cathedral. What a fascinating hour followed.

In the cathedral precincts, just by the remains of the city wall was a small exhibition staged by the Union of Clay Workers on the theme of modern pilgrimage. The glass cases held ceramic representations of what the well-prepared pilgrim needs: sunspecs for protection, a reliquary for focus and a comb for personal care. Beautiful items crafted from London clay.

Then I went into the cathedral. It was empty except for two welcomers and three people at the statue of Shakespeare. One was playing a lute and in this quiet, sacred place rose the ethereal sound of John Dowland's dance music for Twelfth Night. A mum and toddler stood by and watched. Suddenly the little girl started dancing to the ancient tunes.

I came away from my hour in the cathedral feeling blessed.



Mary Plummer

Bickley Community Policing

On Saturday last week I experienced something for the first time: sitting in an interview room at Bromley Police station – but at my request! One Sunday morning in Advent we had two extra members in our socially distanced congregation. Police Constables Josh and Ellie were on duty and we were very pleased that they joined us for our morning worship.

The police contingent who look after the safety of our area are led by Ali, with Sergeant Cooper, PC’s Josh and Ellie and Community Support Officer Tracy. The area is about the same size as the Parish of St Augustine’s with St Luke’s – about 14,000 residents and businesses. It stretches from Widmore Road to Blackbrook and Southborough Lanes up to the Palace estate at Bromley South. Josh and Ellie visited us again on 23 January. Ellie read criminology at university and as part of the rotation system in the Met Police will soon be transferring to emergency response. She has found her work in Bickley community contact and post-incident work very interesting.



Community Support Officers were introduced 20 years ago and our local CSO, Tracy has been in the job for 16 years. She joined when her family were young and shift work – a requirement for police officers - would have been difficult. Keeping in touch with the public was a priority during Covid lockdowns and as a result Bromley residents are now encouraged to use the ‘Nextdoor’ website to keep up to date with community and local policing issues.

Contact details: SNMailboxBickleySNT@met.police.com or for emergencies, 101/999

Mary Plummer

Our Knitted Blankets – Update

Just before Christmas I took 14 knitted blankets to the church in Lee that runs a foodbank on Saturday mornings. They have been giving out our blankets for over a year now. St Peter’s Church is linked to the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lee, which was my grandmother’s church and my parents were married there. It is also special for Sheila Humphrey and her husband Richard, who met at the youth club there.

When I got there I was welcomed by someone I had not met before.

“Oh!” she said, “You are from the church that makes the blankets. How wonderful!” She said that the blankets were really colourful and that she could see that they were made with love. They are greatly appreciated by the families who have received them and that when they come to the foodbank many of them have them on their prams and buggies.

I took one double blanket, five single ones, two cot ones and six pram blankets this time. We have now given an amazing 80 blankets. So keep knitting the squares, so that we can send our love to these families who need so much.



The Church of the Good Shepherd

Sue Goodger

HOPEFUL FITNESS WITH MUCH FUN

Encouraging words from Chris Regas

As we reach Friday, Saturday, Sunday, we think: "Will we be fit for Monday?"
 For on that day, we Seniors rally for exercises led by Sally.
 But lest we should not find it fun, our day begins with joke or pun.
 Then on to work; no time for lingering, the music's on; we start with fingering.
 If that was all, t'would be a treat: but no, we go from hands to feet!
 "Now circle ankles, get those knees up; you don't want all those joints to seize up!
 Keep heads a-turning, not thrown back; your shoulders never should be slack;
 So get them moving - use some might". Right shrug says: "Can't do nothing right!"
 The other, - "Aint got nothing left"! Then lest we feel somewhat bereft,
 We shrug both shoulders - huffin', puffin' - that surely means, "We don't know nothin!"
 We twist and rock from front to back; Sally makes sure we're never slack!
 And as we lift each rump cheek up, we sing of 'Little Buttercup'!

The music changes: lilting, tasteful; we raise our arms in movements graceful.
 Had anyone looked in and seen us, they'd think we all were ballerinas!
 Music livens; lest we're caught napping, there follows a session of toe tapping.
 Our rhythmic footwork is relaxing - though some foot rocking could be taxing.
 To prove we don't do things by halves, next minute we are waving scarves.
 Right, left, figures of eight take course. Could we be signalling in morse?
 Then on our feet! Hold on to chairs; stand on tiptoe - let go, who dares?
 "Knees bend, tail out, then tummies in". Keep this up and we could get thin!
 We dance in circle, chain and line to 'Drink to me only' and 'Clementine'.

Our final enterprise? Oh whoops! Are we performing hula hoops?
 Not quite, just emulating driving - to use our wrists in pairs we're striving.
 We swing on 'A slow boat to China', swaying more than an ocean liner.
 At last, exhausted, we collapse! - for coffee, bics - several perhaps!
 Then homeward wend our weary ways; wondering through the following days
 As we stretch muscle, nerve and wit: "Will we be fit for next Get Fit?"

A New Class for 2022

During lockdown my Pilates class, which I had been attending for four years, had to close down. Pilates provides a good all round exercise that is suitable for all ages. It strengthens the core, improves posture and increases flexibility. I have found that Pilates has really helped with my arthritis and stiff joints.

Following a recommendation from one of our group I joined a new class last June. The teacher, Maria Watts, is lovely and very encouraging. She is aware of each member's specific problems or health issues and her lessons are tailored for all levels and abilities.

Maria is starting a new class on Monday mornings from 10 to 11 in the Barnard Room of St Augustine's Church starting on 31 January. She supplies all the equipment you will need – you only need to bring a large towel.

Would this be something new to try in 2022? For more details email sue_goodger@ntlworld.com.

7.30 pm Saturday
 5th March 2022
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Conductor: Robyn Sevastos
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A big birthday was celebrated in January by **John Blunden**. He was 60: ‘Oh no he wasn’t’: ‘Oh yes he was’ Happy birthday John.

Congratulations to **John and Sue Goodger** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on New Year’s Day. They were married by Rev John Barnard at St Augustine’s church and had their reception at the Bull’s Head in Chislehurst. They had a meal for two at the Bull’s Head on January 1 and a celebratory meal for all the family two weeks later



We send our condolences to **Elsie Cosedge** on the passing of her youngest son, Andrew

In Africa: There were also celebrations thousands of miles away in our link diocese of Kondoa. Our closest association is with the parish of Mwaikisabe, for which we were able to send enough donated funds to build a new Curate’s house. The diocese itself saw the completion last of year of a new cathedral, St Paul the Apostle, and Bishop Given expressed his joy at being able to celebrate the Christmas season with many existing and new Christians. The church in Kondoa is growing and now comprises 47 parishes, a church school, St Peter and St Paul, and 67 ordained priests.

The current challenges they are facing as a community, are the spread of Covid 19 and drought, which threatens their future, but also means that the price of maize has doubled.

In India: our Church Mission Society partners **Eric and Rhena Clouston** have not yet been able to plan a trip to England, but we hope that the work they have been doing online will be supported by personal worship as the pandemic allows.

‘I know the plans I have for you’

This year the World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme is based on the verse from Jeremiah 29 v 11 which is one of hope.

Local services will be held on 4 March in Bromley at The Salvation Army, Ethelbert Road at 10.30 am and in The Temple URC, St Mary Cray High Street at 7.30 pm.

Ann Hanrahan

The Best Meal Ever

I have had lunch on Concorde, enjoyed the finest champagne and caviar on board a luxury yacht in Monaco, dined with two princesses and eaten in 5 star Michelin restaurants but one of the best meals ever was during August last year.

Richard and I took our daughter and three grandchildren to Dymchurch and in the lovely summer sunshine we sat on the beach and ate fish and chips with our fingers. It was absolutely wonderful and just goes to show that, very often the simplest meals are the very best.

Remember that the next time you take Holy Communion



Sheila Griffin

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

The Post It Note

When Covid restrictions started to ease a bit last year I was able to meet a special friend for coffee. We had first met in the school playground when her son and A Little Girl I Know had started school. I had been looking around for a friendly face, maybe someone to chat to as I waited, she was doing the self-same thing. As we chatted in those early days, we realised that we actually had so much in common. We were somewhat older than most of the mums there and we were first time parents of only children. Little did I know then that we would stand together at pick up, whatever the weather, almost every day for the next seven years. As A Little Girl I Know and I walked home together that evening she told me that she had been playing with a boy in her class. She told me that his birthday was a day after hers, she said. 'He is almost my birthday twin'. I realised that he was the son of my new friend.



As my friend and I drank our coffee and chatted, she suddenly stopped and started laughing. She told me that she had been thinking about the children's Year 1 teacher, an eccentric lady approaching retirement age with a strange, to say the least, fashion sense. Dots and stripes together – Oh my goodness! I laughed as I recalled how she would reduce the parents to quivering wrecks every day.



She would often send the children out with a Yellow Post It Note, written on it, 'Please see me', and then her name. It was a good way into the term when A Little Girl I Know came out with one such note. My friends kept saying that she was so good that I would probably never get one. When she did, they told me that maybe she wanted to meet me, as I was the only parent she hadn't met so far. It appears that A Little Girl I Know had scraped her chair instead of lifting it under the table at the end of the day. Really! She did say sorry before we left the room but we laughed as we walked out of the gate, but I'll tell you she's never done it since.

It served as a daily reminder to me that I often need to say sorry to God for all the bad things I have done. Just as her teacher forgave her, so I know that God will forgive me. I need now to learn to be like A Little Girl I Know and try never to do that thing again. How wonderful it is to know that God loves me and forgives me every time.

The 23rd Bromley Scout Group received £1500.00 from Bromley Rotary club in thanks for their help with the Santa Sleigh collection.

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



CAMEO
(Come And Meet Each Other)
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Services and Events for February 2022

Special Services

Sun 30 Jan 6:00pm Candlelight reflections and Taize music St Luke's Church

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

Sat 29 Jan 5:30pm Youth Movie Night - St A's Church
Tues 1 Feb 10:30am Merry Pilgrim walk. Meet at Cudham campsite
Wed 2 Feb from 3:00pm Free Hot Chocolate for all on St A's green

Wishing all our Roundabout readers a happy and healthy 2022. Further to the questionnaire that we circulated with Roundabout in 2020 and the increase in the number of people reading the digital version of Roundabout during 2021, it has been agreed that in 2022 we will move to a free subscription model for all of our existing subscribers to the printed copy of Roundabout.

If you wish to make a voluntary donation to help meet the expenses of Roundabout which as a guide costs about £11 per year for 10 copies, please see details below of ways that you can do this. We will still ask those who have Roundabout posted to pay the postage in 2022 and information will be sent to you separately

Ways to donate:

- 1) By cash or cheque payable to St Augustine's with St Luke's– Your deliverer will call again with the March Roundabout
- 2) Send cheque to: Roundabout Donation, St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley, BR2 8AT
- 3) Go to www.st-augustines.org.uk/roundabout and click on the link to the donation page.
- 4) Scan the QR Code and click on the link to the donation page



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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 9-1)	Victoria Bouwer	

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

Sun 6 Feb 10:00 am	St Augustine's Morning Worship
Sun 13 Feb 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion
Sun 20 Feb 10:00 am	Parade service and baptism
Sun 27 Feb 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion

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

February Edition: Editor - Mary Plummer Layout - Karen Palmer

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