



roundabout



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

1972 - 50th Anniversary Year - 2022

Issue 533 June 2022

A World of Contradictions!

The world in which we live is often a place of contradictions. The continuing war in Ukraine shows one country trying to exert its dominance over another, and yet this is affecting almost every country in the world. We have come to realise how interdependent we are on one another through grain exports, oil and gas and other things that we take for granted. This, along with the ongoing pressures of the pandemic, is causing a major cost of living crisis that's impacting all economies around the world.

Likewise, I have just watched a news clip of the former Afghan finance minister working as a cab driver in the USA trying to make ends meet. Although some of the difficulties the world faces might have been foreseen, there are others that seem to come out of the blue, that catch us off guard.

Yet, there is more to the world in which we live, for there is love, there is beauty, there is compassion, there is tenderness, there is creativity. And the great thing is, it is not hidden, but in plain sight for all to see. For I believe we can see this in the faces of those around us. For humanity is the creation of God, our Father in heaven, and through the teachings of his son Jesus Christ, he has given us the tools to make our world a better place. On Pentecost Sunday 5th June we celebrate Jesus's promise that God is as active in the world as ever through the power of the Holy Spirit and that through the Holy Spirit lives can be changed. Therefore, as Christians our calling is to reflect God's love, God's passion for His creation so that the beauty of the world shines through.



In the next few days, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is an ideal opportunity to think about beauty and celebration. On the green at St Augustine's Church on Saturday the 4th of June we will be joining with the rest of the country in celebrating Her Majesty's great achievement. Please do join us from 1pm as we mark this historic occasion.

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.



APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on Sunday 8 May. For the first time since 2019 we were able to meet in person in the Garden Room at St Augustine's Church which was much appreciated. The APCM looks back over the previous year with reports on different aspects of life at St Augustine with St Luke, including finances.

Looking back, 2021 was a year of transition, moving from the restrictions of lockdown to more normal patterns of worship and community activity, with great relief and thankfulness. In September 2021 we were able to resume in-person services at St Augustine's once again, with monthly evening services at St Luke's following. The popular parent and toddler group which meets at St Augustine's Church on a Wednesday morning opened again in September under its new name, ARK (Augustine's Reaching Kids). There is a friendship tea (CAMEO) on a Thursday afternoon to welcome members of the community with tea, cake and chat. There is not room here to mention all the community activities which are flourishing at St Augustine with St Luke but the APCM was a good opportunity to give thanks for all of them and for the fantastic church staff and volunteers who enable these events to happen, taking the love of God out into our community.

Johanna Gurney

Editor's Note: The PCC welcomes Quinton Bower, Richard Jones and Christian Major as new members this year.



Special Pillar Boxes

On the way to Crofton Junior School I pass a pillar box which is decorated with crochet and knitting. The first time I saw it last November I was so surprised and excited that I took a photo of it. It had a label attached saying ‘It is here to make people smile and enjoy - Facebook random acts of crochet kindness.’ It certainly did that and since then it has changed from sea creatures to spring flowers and then to Easter chicks and cakes.

Imagine my surprise when driving through West Wickham recently I saw the



most amazing pillar box decorated for the Queen’s Jubilee. It has a queen sitting in the middle holding an orb and sceptre, surrounded by flowers, tea plates and cakes, a guardsman and even a corgi. The whole thing has red, white and blue bunting hanging from it.



This art is called yarn bombing and it originated in America in the early 2000s. Yarn bombing is a type of street art but yarn is used instead of using paint, by covering everyday objects in the street like lampposts or bollards with colourful creations, for everyone to see.

If you spot any amazing yarn bombing please take a photo and send it to us at Roundabout.

Sue Goodger

Leaves

On a beautiful day in May I visited Rochester, somewhere I had not been to for many years, except for a visit to the Christmas market. Our first stop was the cathedral. While walking round I glimpsed, what looked like a pile of leaves near the steps to the altar, decided I must be seeing things and carried on. When I got closer there were in fact 5000 leaves made from steel, each one stamped with the word ‘Hope’. The work was by sculptor Peter Walker and was called ‘The Leaves of The Trees’.



The installation had been designed to represent those who died during the coronavirus pandemic and ‘to allow us to take a moment out to contemplate what we have been through both collectively and individually’.



The sycamore maple leaf traditionally symbolises ‘strength, protection, eternity and clarity’.

The installation will be visiting towns and cities around the country and as it does the steel will rust and change colour to ‘remind us of our resilience and collective strength’.

Simple individual pieces of steel making a very beautiful, thought provoking and striking piece of art.

Karen Palmer

Hope into Action - A Homeless Initiative



St Augustine's recently hosted a whole day event about practical ways of sharing God's love. Hope into Action, founded by ex-Tear Fund worker Ed Walker and based in Peterborough, is doing just that for individuals and families who find themselves homeless.

Five churches in Bromley: Coppice Mission, Jubilee church, St Peter and St Paul church, Bromley Town church and St Augustine's with St Luke's have formed a Partnership to bring Hope into Action's work to our Bromley community. Laura Cuthill, an experienced worker in the field of causes, effects and challenges of homelessness, led the day.

'Enabling churches to house the homeless' is the aim of this charity and 30 of us began training in how to be 'Friendship and Support' (Church Partner) Volunteers. Hope into Action has acquired two properties in Bromley, which our partnership will make ready for housing those in immediate need. We will then support the tenants throughout the length of their tenancy, with love, help and friendship. A professional worker and Bromley Council provide the legal and administrative services and an 'Empowerment Worker' offers practical tenant support.

Throughout the day we frankly shared our lack of knowledge and hesitancy about this ambitious project, but as Laura made clear, the *first duty of love is to listen*. If that is all we do, for that person it may be enough. We looked at Isaiah 58, Luke ch 4 and James ch 2 to see how only God's grace enables us to do that which we cannot do in our own strength. If you are able to pray for our five churches embarking on this, we will be more than just 30 people.

Mary Plummer

Mwaikisabe Link

The community at St Augustine's has had a link with the church in Tanzania since Linda Wanniaratchy first visited in 2005. After building up long distance communications with a church in Mwaikisabe, eleven of us made an unforgettable first visit in 2016. The warmth of the welcome and the faith the community showed set us on a path of real fellowship. Subsequent visits were made in 2018 and 2019, when we packed various special requests in our suitcases: bras for the ladies and footballs for everyone else!

We have been supporting regularly in prayer and financially, and we have been able to help Pastor Sinda, his wife Margret



and their family build and settle in a new house.

By 2020 it was becoming abundantly clear that a curate was needed, which in turn meant more building! At St Augustine's – by now with St Luke's – we raised just over £12,000 for Amani and his family and the construction work has been finished.

We thank God for the way in which he has led us, together, to spread his word in our very different communities.

Nigel Pope



Prom Praise Fifty Years On

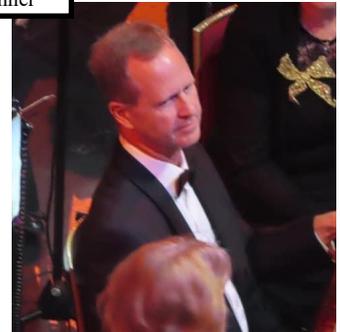
It has been a few years since I was last in the Royal Albert Hall. I used to go regularly to concerts before the series moved to the Festival Hall.

It was good to be back and for such a special occasion – the 50th Anniversary of Prom Praise. The first concert had been held in February 1988 – a Christian ‘Last night of the Proms’ and that was how it seemed to be to me as a first timer.

We sang ‘In Christ Alone’ with the composer Keith Getty present. A specially commissioned piece was sung by a marvellous soprano, Sarah Jane Lewis and a pianist, Maria Marchant played Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue as I have never heard it before.



Photos: Jacky Skinner



St. Augustine’s with St. Luke’s was represented with Verity and Alan Mitchell playing cello and violin and Hilary Chittock singing in the choir. To be among nearly 5,000 Christians worshipping God was an evening I shall never forget.

Ann Hanrahan

7.30 pm Saturday
18th June, 2022
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When: Third Tuesday in the month
between 1.30 – 3.30pm

Tea, coffee and cakes available
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Contact: Diana Pattison on 020 8464 1151 or
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or dianaepattison@gmail.com

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

Decisions

In the months leading up to the birth of A Little Girl I Know we had to make several decisions. There were the simple things like how to decorate the nursery, what pram/pushchair we should get, which cot amongst others. Not easy when you don't know the gender of the baby, but we wanted a surprise! Then like a bolt out the blue, the idea of Winnie the Pooh and his friends came to mind as I tidied the toys on the bed in the spare bedroom.



Probably the most important decision was that of a name for the baby. As we had been expectant parents before, but sadly lost two babies to miscarriage, we had fixed in our mind names if we had a son. A middle name for a daughter too, but could not decide or agree on a first name. A trip to a well-known bookshop resulted in the purchase of a book of baby names ranging from the sublime to the utterly crazy. Even that did nothing to start off with until we sat down on our own and marked off the names that we liked. Eventually we came up with a name that we agreed on. Then there was that small matter of having to wait for another three or four months before the baby arrived to remember the chosen names and not change our minds.

What a responsibility it was - a mistake and the child would be stuck with it for life, or wanting to change it by deed poll, as soon as they were able. Over the years there have been many decisions made on behalf of A Little Girl I Know; primary school, Brownie group to name but a few. As she grew up, we got her involved in selecting her secondary school and Guide group. Maybe the most important thing she has had to decide to date is what GCSE subjects she will start studying when the schools return in September. It is unbelievable just how quickly the time has gone - honestly five minutes ago she was placed in my arms for the first time, this year she will be midway through her teenage years.



Isn't it amazing that with a world population of approximately 7.9 billion people God know us all by name? He knows everything about good, bad or indifferent.

As a young child that used to frighten me to know that. Now I am happy to know that the words from Isaiah chapter 43 verse 1 'Do not fear I have called you by name; you are mine', are true. I hope that you can find some comfort in knowing that God is always with you wherever you go. Praise the Lord!

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Garden Room
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St Augustine's Church
~ we would love you to join us!



ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH
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BROMLEY, BR2 8AT



SPECIAL Dates for your diary

JUNE 2022



This programme runs alongside our regular Sunday Services

Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Saturday 4th June 	"Jubilee on the Green" FREE!	St Augustine's Church	1.00pm ~ 5.00pm	Join us for a special celebratory Jubilee afternoon for all.
From 8th June Wednesdays	The Ark Toddler Group	St Augustine's Church	10.00am ~ 11.30am	
Thursday afternoons...	CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)	St Augustine's Church	2.30pm ~ 4.00pm	Friendship Café ~ meet new friends
Monday 13th June	National Flower Guild demonstration	St Augustine's Church	8.00pm 	See the experts reveal their creative skills
Saturday 11th June	Messy Church	St Luke's Hall,	3.00pm ~ 5.00pm	Children with their adults exploring faith
Friday 17th June	Merry Pilgrim's walk	Wickham Common Walk	10.30am	Meet at jctn of Gates Green Road and Croydon Rd, BR4 9HX
Sunday 19th June	Father's Day	St Augustine's Church	10.00am	Family and Parade Service
Sunday 19th June	Evening Prayer	St Luke's Church	5.30pm	
Tuesday 21st June	Forget Me Not Café	Garden Room, St Augustine's	1.30 ~ 3.30pm	
Saturday 25th June	Youth Connect	St Augustine's Church	6.30pm	Year 7+ "Task Master" evening
Wednesday 22nd June	Bits and Pieces crafts and conversation	St Augustine's Church	7.45pm	Fun adult craft group ~ all welcome

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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 worship with us, our regular Sunday Services for June are:

Sun 5 Jun 10:00 am	St Augustine's Morning Worship
Sun 12 Jun 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion
Sun 19 Jun 10:00 am	St Augustine's Family/Parade Service (Fathers Day)
Sun 19 Jun 5:30 pm	St Luke's Evening Prayer
Sun 26 Jun 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion
Every Wednesday 12:00 Noon	Midweek Prayer & Reflection on Zoom, web address below

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 have reopened for hire for activities. 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

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

June Edition: Editor - Ann Hanrahan Layout - Karen Palmer

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Editor - Sue Goodger: sue_goodger@ntlworld.com
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