



roundabout



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

1972 - 50th Anniversary Year - 2022

Issue 537 November 2022

Light to Live By

I want you to imagine for a moment that you are fast asleep in your bed and suddenly you wake up and it is pitch black. You are feeling rather frightened as you can't see anything. As you reach around in the dark you are relieved to locate the switch for your bedside lamp, as you turn it on you are now able to see things again. Now imagine that you are the captain of a ship out on the sea at night and that you need to avoid hitting the rocks as you come into shore. You would be relieved to see the glow of the lighthouse pointing the right way and helping to avoid the danger. In many different situations in which we find ourselves, we know that light is good news, because it makes it possible for us to see.

If you know me you might know that I love useless facts, because you never know when they might come in handy. Here are some fun facts about light - light travels at 299,792,458 metres per second and takes 8.3 minutes to get from the sun to earth. The sun is very big, in fact, 1.3 million earths could fit inside it. I believe that light is important to God, after all he created the heavens and the earth. Light is essential for everyday life. It enables us to see when it's dark. We can read in John's gospel that Jesus once told the crowd, 'I am the Light of the World. Follow me and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that brings life.'



Why does the world need another light if we already have the Sun? It seems to be doing a very good job! If we look around us, it doesn't take long to realise that the world can be a very dark place. Our hearts can be dark and in need of light. Many of the sad things that go on around us are caused by a type of darkness in people's hearts. God turned on the biggest, brightest light when Jesus was born. Jesus came to bring light. He came to show us how to live in light and in goodness. His light is bright enough for everyone in the whole world to see how to live and avoid danger. Just like the light from a lighthouse, Jesus can light our way through life, show us what God is like and show us the way to bring light to the lives of other people. He wants to be there to help when we feel lonely, hopeless or depressed.

Jesus, Light of the World promises us his presence and that he will never leave us. When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God never left them. When Jesus was born, one of the names given to him was 'Immanuel', which means God with us. We may not be able to see Jesus, with our physical eyes, but he is with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we have Jesus living so close to us, we don't need to be afraid of anything, because he is God, powerful and good.

So the next time you feel in a dark place remember that Jesus is the 'Light of the World'. If we choose to follow Jesus he will lead us on the safe path through life, help us see things as they really are so that we are not walking in darkness and he will never leave us.

Helen Baker, Youth and Schools 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.



Welcare

I am now the parish representative for Welcare which is a charity that we as a congregation support. This charity aims to provide practical and emotional support and advice to families and to children up to the age of 13 in South London and East Surrey. This support may be on an individual basis either in schools or centres or helping families through group work programmes. The service is underpinned by Christian values but they work with people of all faiths and none; the aim is to help those in the greatest need. Their vision is as follows:

welcare
strengthening families since 1894

‘Our vision is of a world where every child and family are respected, included and resilient and able to overcome challenges in life. We believe that by working together we can create a society where parents and children have the confidence to recognise and seize every opportunity to flourish.’

This charity would not be able to work without the continued support of churches, individual donations and fundraising events. Upcoming fundraising events include a carol service in December (date not yet set) singing carols in The Glades and some Advent services in church with money donated to Welcare. This is a great charity which is much needed in this troubled world with so many pressures and difficulties. I appreciate your ongoing support and please remember the work of Welcare in your prayers.

‘Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ’
(Ephesians 5:20)

Jo Kingsmore

Thank you



A great big **Thank You** to everyone who supported me by making a donation or who came to my Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a really special day and well worth all the baking and house tidying! Thank you also to the friends who made cakes for me. Together we raised a grand total of £1,615 and, with the Gift Aid added, it takes it to just over £1,900. This is an amazing amount and one which will go a long way to provide much needed support for those suffering or recovering from cancer. Thank you so much. I

couldn't have done it without you.

Sue Goodger

2MakeIt: Those of us who experienced Phil Emery's testament at a recent Sunday service were made aware of just how much small charities can achieve and how they value individual commitment by supporters. *‘Music restores and transforms as nothing else can’* says patron Sir Tim Rice. 2Makeit provides opportunities to prisoners and ex-prisoners for creative expression through music, which can help enormously with rehabilitation. info@2makeit.org

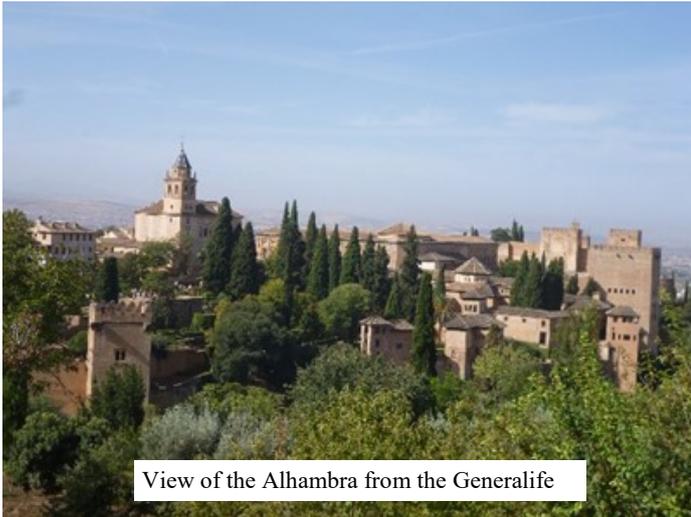
2makeit
creativity for rehabilitation

Bromley Brighter Beginnings

Bromley Brighter Beginnings are making up Christmas Hampers for all the children and families who have contacted, or been referred to them for support. They would welcome gifts of toiletries and Christmas sweets and I will have a gift box in the church porch every Sunday morning in November for contributions. Thank you.

Mary Plummer

My Visit to the Alhambra



View of the Alhambra from the Generalife

As a birthday present this year my daughter took me to Granada in Spain to visit the Alhambra, which is an ancient walled city with many palaces built on the top of a hill.

In 1238 when Muhammad I became king of the last reigning Muslim dynasty in Spain, the Nazrid family, he started building the Alhambra. The following kings added to it until in 1492 the last Nazrid king handed over the city to Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic rulers of Spain.

Our tour started by viewing the beautiful gardens of the 'Generalife', the Sultan's summer palace

outside the city walls. These gardens have been remodelled and the planting is modern, laid out with high yew hedges with arches cut into them and borders with low box hedges. The gardens are symmetrical with reflective pools and fountains.

Once inside the Alhambra we were shown the palace of Charles V. This was built and decorated in the Renaissance style. It is unusual because it is square from the outside but as you go inside it has a circular courtyard. The decoration of the courtyard was never finished as they ran out of funds to complete it.



Later another tour guide showed us the Nazrid Palaces. They consist of many buildings where the decoration is really beautiful: mosaics and very detailed plaster work cover every wall and ceiling. The windows look down onto courtyards and gardens.

The highlight of the tour for me was the Courtyard of the Lions. It is paved with white marble slabs and in the centre is a fountain with twelve marble lions spouting water from their mouths. In the courtyard everything is an allegory of paradise; the 124 columns symbolise a forest of palm trees; the four rills that flow into the fountain represent the four streams of paradise. The courtyard is Roman in its design, but the cloisters show a Christian influence. It is thought that the fountain which dates from the 11th century, originally belonged to a Jewish vizier and that the lions represent the 12 tribes of Israel. In medieval times in Spain the three monotheistic faiths (Jewish, Muslim and Christian) coexisted peacefully.



It was a truly memorable trip and I hope I have inspired you to visit it.

Sue Goodger

Gordon and Jeff Blyth

Father and son, Gordon and Jeff Blyth live busy lives. Over coffee recently at the Harvester they shared some of their experiences about how they came to join us at St Augustine's with St Luke's. Many of our readers will not be surprised to learn that it had something to do with Sally Morris!

Jeff and his wife Christine live in Keston and for nearly 30 years, Christine and Sally had been part of the Southborough Lane surgery team, which was a meeting point and support service as much as a doctors' medical practice. Partners were invited to social events, which were held in our church rooms and when Jeff and family were looking for a new church which emphasised outreach, the friendly welcome they found with us led them to become part of our family. Jeff's musical abilities were fostered at Alleyn's School where he learned trumpet and trombone, and already being a pianist, he added the organ to his repertoire. Having studied as an external student at the London College of Music, he worked as Director of Music in parishes for over 25 years and took over from Clive Mansell as Chair of the Board of Education in Rochester Diocese.



The Blyth family's origins were in Devon and Gordon started school in Plymouth, which is where he and wife Barbara met. Sadly, Barbara passed away last year. After National Service, Gordon began work with Abbey National Building Society in Exeter, where Jeff and sister Rachel were born. Several moves later, Gordon was Manager of the Bromley branch. The family lived in Hayes and after retiring, Gordon set up on his own: he bought a coach! For 17 years he ferried people to London, on holidays, private events and all the time garaging the coach in Hayes vicarage.

Jeff, meanwhile, had qualified as a Human Resources Manager while working with Grand Metropolitan Leisure. He specialised in Career Pathway advice and Mentoring and his work with a variety of charities outside of his job was recognised when the National Institute of Leadership and Management awarded him a Fellowship. Until the Covid restrictions came into force, Jeff and Janet Fox (who sometimes sings with the Music Group on Sunday mornings) ran a small charity for homeless in London, providing clothes, food and lunches and referring those in need to hostels. These days, teaching music and mentoring take up most of his time and we are pleased he has brought his performing skills to us on a Sunday morning.

Mary Plummer

Double congratulations to **Richard and Sheila Griffin**. 21 October 1972 was a special day for Sheila as it was her 20th birthday and for Richard as he had to remember the ring and give a speech! Happy Golden Wedding to Mr and Mrs Griffin from all at St Augustine's.

Thank you to you both for the delicious cake that was enjoyed by all, after our service on 23 October.



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

Welcare Service of Thanksgiving

Wednesday 16th November at 11.30am
Bromley Parish Church, St Peter and St Paul Bromley, Church Road, Bromley, BR2 0EG.

The Friends, supporters, and staff of Welcare invite you to their Service of Thanksgiving for the work of the charity with children and families in the borough of Bromley.

The service is open to everyone. It will be a joyful occasion and an opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues and learn more about the work and future of Welcare. Reverend James Harratt will officiate, and we look forward to hearing children from St Mark's School choir leading the singing.

Please RSVP by emailing info@welcare.org or calling 020 7820 7910.



23rd Bromley (St Augustine's) Scout Group Christmas Bazaar Saturday 26th November 11:30 to 14:00



in the Scout HQ - Homestead Road
50p Entrance fee

Any donations of new - nearly new books, games, toys, toiletries will be gratefully received.
We cannot accept any jumble thank you.

Message from Bromley Food Bank

On behalf of everyone at Bromley Borough Foodbank, thank you very much for donating 100.75 Kg of food to us this harvest time. The constant and unwavering support we receive from churches across our borough is incredible and we feel very blessed to receive this food. Donations such as this will allow us to continue serving those who need us in our community. We thank you for your kindness and generosity.



Top of the Pew

An enjoyable evening was spent watching the second semi-final of this year's competition. Our team, Liz Carter, Helen Baker, Andrew Gurney and Richard Jones, were playing at St Mark's, Bromley. A perfect score from both teams on the Bible round made it an evening to remember!

Happily, our team won and will meet Christ Church, Chislehurst in the final. This will be held on Friday 25 November 8 pm at Christ Church URC, Petts Wood. Do come along and support our team as they defend their title.

Ann Hanrahan

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

Jigsaw Puzzles



Recently I celebrated a huge achievement... I managed to complete a jigsaw puzzle. I thought that the lid of box told me that it should take six to twelve months to complete, I managed it in four weeks! Ok, it was a simple picture designed for children *aged* between six to twelve years!

I have to say that I have never been interested in doing puzzles, I can only recall once looking forward to a few minutes downtime here and there to put the pieces together. A Little Girl I Know reminded me of the wise advice her Grandma had given her. Sort out edge pieces first, build up and complete the outer frame, and then do the rest. This seemed logical, but it seemed to take ages to go through the 3000+ pieces looking for the frame. Before I put them into the top of the box, I took one last look at the picture that I was trying to do. It was a map of the United Kingdom and Ireland, the one thing in its favour, as I have always enjoyed looking at maps.

Little by little I spent time before work, whilst cooking the dinner, and sometimes before bed trying to put a few pieces together. I started to enjoy doing the puzzle. Sometimes A Little Girl I Know would offer to have a go, but I told her to leave it alone, I had to complete it on my own. Once it was done, she offered to help me find another one in a local charity shop. I politely declined her kind offer. The first puzzle completed in over twenty years was enough for me.

The following Monday when I walked into the staff room at work there was a jigsaw puzzle on a little used table with a note from the Head Teacher on it encouraging members of staff to have a go and try to put a few pieces together. At the end of the half term, it was far from finished. Maybe I am not the only one who struggles with them.

A Little Girl I Know and her Grandma used to love spending time together making up puzzles and chatting as they did them. These were special times for them both.

My life closely resembles an incomplete jigsaw, a few pieces together here and there, the frame missing a few bits. I'm not even sure what the final picture will look like. God only knows that, for that I am grateful. A Little Girl I Know and I will chip away at the puzzle that is our lives and one day we will see the final picture in God's time.

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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



SPECIAL Dates for your diary
NOVEMBER 2022

This programme runs alongside our regular services



Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Wednesdays	The Ark Toddler Group	St Augustine's Church	10.00am~11.30am	
Wednesdays 2nd, 9th, 16th November		St Augustine's Church Halls	7.00pm meal, arrive from 6.30pm	Enjoy a good meal & explore the Christian Faith together
Thursdays From 3rd and Throughout November	Warm Space and CAMEO	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	10.30am ~ 4.00pm	Need a space to keep warm? Come and meet others, enjoy soup, rolls and cakes... bring your work if you want to (free Wi-Fi available)
Sunday 6th November	Café~Style Church	St Augustine's Church	10.00am	We share breakfast and the love of Jesus together
Wednesday 9th and 23rd November	Midweek Holy Communion	St Augustine's Church, in the Chapel	12.00 Noon	
Wednesday 9th November	Hot Chocolate on the Green	St Augustine's Church Green	3.00pm	Free hot chocolate to passers-by (weather-dependant)
Friday 11th November	A Service of Remembrance	St Augustine's Church Green	11.00am	A short service of Remembrance in the open air
Saturday 12th November	Youth Connect Night Adventure	Cudham Shaws Outdoor Centre Car Park BR6 7LH	5.00pm ~ 8.00pm	Year 7+ Bring your own winter picnic, a torch and warm clothes!
Tuesday 15th November	Forget Me Not Café	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30 ~ 3.30pm	
Wednesday 16th November	Bits and Pieces (Adult Crafts)	St Augustine's Church Hall	7.30pm	Come along and learn the relaxing art of Origami ~ £5.00 each
Wednesday 16th November	Mothers' Union (All welcome)	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	2.00pm ~ 4.00pm	Come and hear Glynis Carpenter talk about the MU response to Domestic Abuse
Tuesday 15th November	Merry Pilgrims Walk	Scadbury Park	10.30am	Meet in the car park Old Pery Street, BR7 6PT
Sunday 20th November	Safeguarding Sunday Service	St Augustine's Church	10.00am	Protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Christian message and we all play a part.
Saturday 26th November	Youth Connect Movie Night	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Year 7+ Come and enjoy a candle-lit pre-Christmas movie and snacks

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Staff Contact Details

Vicar:	Rev Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351 or 07778 784331
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 November are:

Sun 6 Nov 10:00 am	St Augustine's Café Style
Sun 13 Nov 10:30 am	St Augustine's Remembrance Sunday and Parade Service
Sun 20 Nov 10:00 am	St Augustine's Morning Worship - Safeguarding Sunday
Sun 27 Nov 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion - Advent Sunday
Sun 27 Nov 5:30 pm	St Luke's Advent Reflection 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

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

November Edition: Editor - Sue Goodger Layout - Karen Palmer

The December 2022 edition will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St. Luke's website
Editor - Mary Plummer: maryaplummer@hotmail.com
Layout - Tanya Wardley email: tanya@wardleyuk.com

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