



# roundabout



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

1972 - 50th Anniversary Year - 2022

Issue 535 September 2022

## Belief and Hope

As our attention starts to turn towards autumn, I pray that we can reflect upon a summer that has not only been hot but, I hope, enjoyable as well. However, it has really brought home the ongoing effects of climate change and the need to rethink how we can turn increasingly towards sustainable energy, for the sake of our children and our children's children.

Of course, this is easier said than done. The ongoing war in Ukraine reminds us of European and global dependence on Russian oil and gas. This has caused many governments around the world a moral dilemma: putting sanctions in place while keeping the 'lights on at home'. Again, this need for energy is even more apparent as the world moves to a post-Covid state – even if sometimes it does not feel that way. The pressure on fuel demand leads to spiralling fuel bills, inflation and a cost-of-living rise which will push many families into economic hardship, the like of which many have never experienced before. Therefore my prayer is that, whoever becomes leader of the Conservative party and subsequently Prime Minister, they will think long and hard about policies which can help the poorest and most disadvantaged in our society in this time of overwhelming financial strain.



It can often seem that hope is in short supply as we look to the needs of this world. But despite the darkness, there is light, there is hope. As Christians we believe in a God that has not abandoned the world to its own devices, but rather through his son, Jesus Christ, he engages with his creation. Through the teachings of Jesus, he has shown a way of life that reflects love, goodness, kindness and hope. If you wish to find out more, join us in October and November. Over five sessions we will be exploring the hope that comes to the world from the birth of Jesus, his death on the Cross and the impact of his Resurrection. Dates will be advertised shortly on our website [www.st-augustines.org.uk](http://www.st-augustines.org.uk)

### *Prayer*

*Heavenly Father, we come before you today in need of hope. For so often there are times when we feel helpless. We pray for hope, for a better future, where love and kindness prevail.  
Lord, help us to walk in your light, to live our lives in faith and to know your glory. Amen.*

Yours in Christ

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.**



## A Novice Flower Arranger

Fifteen or so of us gathered at a special CAMEO meeting to listen to Cathy Fyfield give a very brief introduction into 'Flowers in Art'. This covered everything from a painting which decorated Nebamun's tomb c1350 to a magnificently life-like pansy set in rock crystal by Carl Fabergé.



Featuring l-r: Maureen, Gill, Cathy, Carolyn and Sheila's hands!

We then had tea and a delicious apricot jam sponge cake before we sat down to have a lesson (in my case, the very first!) in flower arranging. I can put a rose in a vase and it will look a mess but, having learned to 'cover my mechanicals', I got stuck in. Although I heard my carnations pleading for their lives, I ignored them and popped them into a gooey sponge (not the apricot one) and hoped for the best. When Cathy praised mine I felt like I'd passed an 'A' level in floristry. I'm not ready for church flower arranging yet, but at least I can hold my head up and look a carnation in the eye.

Sheila Griffin

## Happy Birthday Elsie



An unusual event occurred during the 10 am Sunday service on 7 August. Steve, our Vicar, stepped down from the chancel, walked to the last row of chairs and got down on his knees. The reason? To say 'Thank you' to Elsie Cosedge and ask the congregation to sing happy birthday to a much loved 100-year-old member of our church family.

Rachel, our Curate, had previously visited Elsie at her home and showed us a video of the conversation she and Elsie had



Elsie with Michael and Richenda Tadman

enjoyed earlier in the week. A very young Mr and Mrs Tadman and two babies set off for South America as CMS mission partners. After several years and two more children, the family returned to Britain, but they never lost touch with their South American friends. When SAMS (South America Mission Society) was formed, it became one of the first charities our Outreach team agreed to support with regular donations.

Later in life, Elsie married David Cosedge and many Roundabout regulars will remember their contribution to our Parish life at St Augustine's and David's thought provoking sermons. We send our very best wishes to Elsie and her family on a special milestone.



Congratulations to **Zach Winn** who was baptised by his mum, **Rev Rachel** and assisted by his dad **Adam** in a birthing pool by total immersion on 24 July. Zach stood before those present and told of his coming to the decision to be 'done'. Not even the water was able to flatten his head of hair for very long!

Congratulations to **Rachel and Adam** on their 30th Wedding Anniversary.

## Bishop Given

The weekend of the 20th and 21st August was a very special one for St Augustine's with St Luke's. We were delighted to be one of the parishes chosen to welcome Bishop Given and his wife Reverend Lilian from Kondoa, Tanzania. Their hectic six week schedule in England began with the Lambeth Conference to which the Archbishop of Canterbury invites all Anglican Bishops worldwide – and there are nearly 900 – and partners. Then, during the rest of August, the Bishop and his wife spent their time at venues throughout the Rochester diocese. It is difficult to imagine the number of handshakes, smiles and conversations they have shared!



On a sunny Saturday afternoon we gathered for a party in a beautiful garden in Bickley, to celebrate a relationship which has grown over the past 10 years. From tentative beginnings we have now seen three group visits from our church to Kondoa diocese. We began by exploring ways in which we could support the parish of Mwaikisabe and its Pastor John Sinda and their new Christians. With little in the way of infrastructure, after discussion and fundraising we have helped to provide a vicarage and a house for the catechist, or curate.

At the party, Bishop Given told us how quickly the diocese is growing. He shared his vision for the future and the need for a parish church to house the number of existing and new Christians in what is predominantly a Muslim area. He then gave us all an open invitation to come and see Kondoa first hand! Afterwards, there was plenty of time to chat with friends and to meet Bishop Jonathan, soon to be enthroned as Bishop of Rochester, who was there with his wife Toni and dog Ludo.

The following day Bishop Given opened our 10 am Sunday service with a warm welcome to everyone including Harrison and Jude, two little boys about to be baptised. We heard how the elephants in Tanzania are becoming dangerous as they seek for water following the droughts. We sang 'Jesus Loves Me' with the chorus translated into Swahili! What a wonderful way to start the week: thank you Bishop Given and Lilian.

Mary Plummer

## Sharing and Caring



When I took early retirement from teaching in 2007, having been so active for many years, I looked for a way to occupy myself and to help others at the same time. In September of that year I held my first 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. I made all the cakes and biscuits myself and invited friends and neighbours into my home.

This year it will be my 16<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning, or should I say 'Coffee Day', as it lasts all day and often runs over into other days afterwards. Over the years I have raised over £9,500 for this worthwhile charity. Many people have shared their experiences with cancer, of themselves or family members, and some have received help from this charity. My father died of cancer when I was sixteen, and this charity is close to my heart.

Everyone is welcome to pop in for a chat and some homemade cake. A donation is appreciated, any amount you like, however small. It is a really lovely way to bring our community together and to help others at the same time.

My Coffee Morning is on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am – 12.30pm and 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm at 22 Sunningdale Road. Please come!

Sue Goodger

## Our Knitted Blankets

Early last year Margaret Evans, a neighbour of Betty Dawson who has had Roundabout for many years, gave us a great many baby blankets which she had crocheted. I gave some to Helen Scothern for Bromley Brighter Beginnings and took the rest to the church in Lee that distributes our blankets through their foodbank to refugees in Lewisham. Margaret who is a member of Southborough Lane Baptist Church, loves to crochet and she now makes very colourful squares for us which are sewn into blankets. So far they have been made into 11 single blankets.



We have donated an amazing 94 blankets in various sizes to St Peter's church. None of this would be possible without Tanya Wardley, who sews all the squares together and crochets around the edge of each blanket. She is literally an answer to a prayer for me. She also knits cot blankets and has made some beautiful woolly hats which I will take to Lee when the weather gets colder.



I brought a couple of finished knitted blankets to church a few months ago for people to see how lovely they are and will bring some more to show later this month for those who were not there.

I now have a further 20 blankets to take. Last time they were so pleased to receive them and told me that they will be needed even more this year when the cold weather comes and gas and electric costs soar. The colourful blankets brighten the lives of the families who have so little. So please keep knitting – every little square helps.

## Introducing...

### St Augustine's with St Luke's Pastoral Care Team

**Welcome** to our dedicated Pastoral Care Team.

We are evolving and developing what we can offer for parishioners and congregation members who have newly-arising or ongoing Pastoral Care needs. Our team of fifteen individuals (and background supporters) is led by three Co-ordinators, shown below:



**Debora Brockwell,**  
(first point of contact)

**07712179973**

[deborabrockwell@btinternet.com](mailto:deborabrockwell@btinternet.com)



**Hilary Chittock**



**Reverend Rachel Winn**

#### We are here to offer help by:

- **Listening:** If you need someone to talk to
- **Caring:** If you are a carer for someone
- **Praying:** We can pray for you and with you
- **Prayer Ministry:** In the future this will be offered after some Sunday morning services
- **Hospitality:** We can help people connect with our social groups and activities
- **Responding in a crisis:** We are not an emergency service but on occasion may be able to offer some intervention (e.g. an emergency meal or lift)
- **Befriending:** We can visit those who are isolated
- **Signposting:** We can help point you to other organisations or places of support

## 'Goodbye' Fitness and Fun

On Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 12 of us gathered in the Garden Room for our last ever exercise class with Sally Morris. A lot of us have been attending regularly for many years. Sally kept us moving for an hour from our positions on chairs before going onto the three tracks of the CD, doing standing exercises and finishing with colourful hoops, not being spun round our hips!

Just before we had our drinks and biscuits, I was honoured to present Sally with various gifts representing her passions, bought with money donated by members of the group past and present. There was a plant for her outside garden and one for the table in her lounge, which is always covered with interesting flowers and foliage. She loves her rescue cat, Joshua, and shares prawns with him every week. A note in an envelope requested it should be spent on prawns! Sally is a great supporter of Clark's Furniture Shop in the Fairway where they sell upcycled goods, and she loved the cast iron doorstop in the shape of a cat. Finally she received a hardbacked note book for her reflections, prayers and meditations as her faith is so important to her in her daily life and many of us have benefitted from the care, concern and consideration for us spiritually as well as physically.

Some who signed the card and contributed to the gifts have not returned to the class for a variety of reasons since COVID and they were in our thoughts.

The presentation was rounded off by Steve in prayer, offering thanks for all Sally has done for the group over the years and finally Christine Regas read out the limericks below.

Christine Fisher

### 'Sally'

by Chris Regas

*Our get fit enthusiast Sally  
Made sure we did not dilly-dally.  
And with fitness, came fun  
With a joke and a pun  
We became all exceedingly pally.*

*Her aim was to keep us all moving.  
She did so with music most soothing.  
If the player gave out  
She would give it a clout  
To make sure the disc stayed in its grooving!*

*Dear Sally, how we will all miss it.  
We're glad you once decided to risk it:  
That we'll miss you 'tis sure,  
But we'll miss even more  
Each choc ginger or lemony biscuit!!*

*Much love, Chris*



### 'Hello' Fun and Food with Sally

In the Autumn Sally plans to gather the group together in the Garden Room with a 'bring your own' picnic lunch followed by coffee and lemony biscuits of course. All welcome. Look out for the date in the weekly notices.

Keep your news coming, email me at [jackysskinner@gmail.com](mailto:jackysskinner@gmail.com). Thank you.

## Thank You For...

I wonder how many times a day you say 'Thank you'? A Little Girl I Know was a late talker, but I am pleased to say used this expression pretty much from then onwards. Often at the end of her session at Pre-School I would be told that she had lovely manners quite advanced for a child of her age.



During the recent school holidays, we have been able to spend a fair bit of time together. We have had days out seeing new things, we have visited places new to her, and other places that are firm family favourites. At the end of each trip, she would say 'thank you for taking me'.

The other day as we sat on the bus travelling to an out-of-town shopping centre, we had plenty of time to talk. It was a long and often boring journey, so to fill the time I asked her to tell me something that she was thankful for. Almost without delay she started to reel off a long list.

There were all kind of things; for the house we live in, for the food we eat and for fresh clean drinking water, for her Grandparents, family and friends. It went on and on and on. Then she asked me. My list could have included many of the same things as hers, but also wildlife, flowers, health and comfortable shoes.



She laughed. "Why shoes?" she asked. I explained that when I open the cupboard in the hall every day I am greeted by a large selection of footwear. These range from trainers, walking boots, smart shoes, and fluffy slippers. I explained that it was essential to select a pair of comfortable shoes especially if you have to wear them for a long time. Very important for her on a school day or me for work as I am on my feet all the time.

Later as we walked towards a well-known shoe provider to have her feet measured, I reminded her of the comfort bit. Result! No change of size so the decision was made that she would start this school year wearing the ones from the previous year, that just needed a good old polish.

Before bed later she asked if I had some slippers. I told her that I had, but preferred to walk around in my socks in the evening. We finished up by thanking God for the amazing number of things that we have to be grateful for.

*What have you thanked God for today?*

Congratulations to **Phil and Harriet Carter** on the birth of their first baby, Max, on 20 August. A fourth grandchild for **Liz and Alan Carter**.

Congratulations to the two youngest grandsons of **Helen and Tom Smith**. **Jude**, younger son of **Stuart and Lizzie**, and **Harrison**, son of their daughter **Holly** and her partner **Tony**, who were baptised in August.

Love and prayers to our children who have returned to school following the long summer break. We think especially of those starting or changing school, and those starting GCSE, A level or University courses.

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!

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**SPECIAL Dates for your diary  
SEPTEMBER 2022**



This programme runs alongside our regular services

Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Every <b>Thursday</b> ~ from 1st September		St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	2.30pm ~ 4.00pm	Friendship Café ~ bring and meet new friends
From 7th September, <b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>The Ark Toddler Group</b> (Term-time)	St Augustine's Church	10.00am~ 11.30am	
<b>Wednesday</b> 7th (and 21st) September	<b>Midweek Holy Communion</b> (Re-starting)	St Augustine's Church, in the Chapel	12.00pm	
<b>Saturday</b> 10th September	<b>Great Youth Connect Bake-Off!</b>	St Augustine's Church 	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Year 7+ Have fun putting your baking skills to the test.
<b>Wednesday</b> 14th September	<b>Ice Pops on the Green</b>	St Augustine's Church	3.00pm	
<b>Tuesday</b> 20th September	<b>Forget Me Not Café</b>	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30 ~ 3.30pm	
<b>Friday</b> 23rd September	<b>Merry Pilgrim's Walk ~</b> Wickham Common & Well Wood		10.30am	Meet at the 'Common Notice board', Jnctn of Gates Green Rd and Croydon Rd, A232 Postcode: <b>BR4 9DE</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 21st September	<b>Bits and Pieces 'String Art'</b> 	St Augustine's Church	7.30pm £5 each (for materials)	Craft for adults: String Art is fun, simple and produces beautiful results
<b>Saturday</b> 24th September	<b>Youth Connect Lego-Masters</b>	St Augustine's Church 	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Year 7+ Join us for fun building challenges!

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## Staff Contact Details

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<b>Licensed Lay Minister:</b>	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
<b>Licensed Lay Minister:</b>	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
<b>Parish Office:</b>	(Linda Spencer)	020 8295 1550
<b>(Mon - Fri 9:30 - 1:30)</b>	(Victoria Bouwer)	email: office@st-augustines.org.uk

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

Sun 4 Sep 10:00 am	St Augustine's Morning Worship
Sun 11 Sep 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion
Sun 18 Sep 10:00 am	St Augustine's Morning Worship and Baptism Service
Sun 18 Sep 5:30 pm	St Luke's Taize Service
Sun 25 Sep 10:00 am	St Augustine's Holy Communion

The 10 am service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel, [www.st-augustines.org.uk](http://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](http://www.st-augustines.org.uk)  
Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at [revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com](mailto:revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com)

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