



roundabout

The Parish Magazine of St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane

50p

Issue 488 December 2017



O Little Town...

I have always loved nativity plays. I think it dates back to when I was Mary in a school nativity. The sight of little children dressed as shepherds with tea cloths, or angels with wobbly haloes on their heads, makes me happy. I was therefore surprised to have a similar experience on my summer holiday in Sicily.

We were staying in Taormina, a picturesque little town clinging to the mountainside, with beautiful views of the coast and Mount Etna. On our first evening we set off to explore and found what appeared to be a little chapel. Stepping inside we found a large glass screen surrounding a miniature model of the town. Lit by twinkling lights, every street was peopled by tiny figures going about their daily business – eating and drinking in the squares, serving in the shops, walking in the streets and living in their homes. As I gazed in wonder at the detail, I spotted to one side a cave in the hillside. Inside it was a nativity scene. It was such a surprise and very touching.

I visited the chapel every day and it remained special even in the daylight. After a busy day of sightseeing it was an oasis of calm.

I imagine it must have been just like that in Bethlehem. The town bustling with people there for the census. The streets crowded and noisy. But at the back of it all was the Holy Family serenely caring for Baby Jesus. I am looking forward to seeing the nativity scenes this Christmas on cards, in shop windows and in churches and hope to feel that special sense of love and peace

Ann Hanrahan

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Editor Ann Hanrahan

Layout Adrian King

The Roundabout Team wishes all our readers a very Happy Christmas.

Combined Christmas Services



December 17	6.30 pm Carol Service	at St. Luke's
Christmas Eve	8.00 am Holy Communion	at St. Luke's
	4.00 pm Christingle Service	at St. Augustine's
Christmas Day	11.15 pm Midnight Holy Communion	at St. Luke's
	8.30 am Holy Communion	at St. Luke's
	10.30 am Family Christmas Praise	at St. Augustine's



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



Anointing for Healing

Every Wednesday morning, there is a service of Holy Communion in our chapel at **11.45 a.m.** This service includes anointing with oil for those who would like it.

After receiving the bread and wine at the communion rail, those who wish to be anointed simply remain kneeling, before having a little oil placed on their foreheads and hands along with prayer.

Anointing is an ancient Christian practice. There is a reference to it in The New Testament. James writes, in part: "If one of you is ill, he should send for the elders of the church and they must anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord..."(James 5 v 14.)

Being anointed with oil seems to me a simple way of receiving healing from God, in whatever form that takes. It is tangible, a little like the water of baptism, the exchange of rings at a marriage service or the taking of bread and wine at Holy Communion. I can see it and feel it. I found it to be a great help during the recent period when I was in and out of hospital having operations and treatment.

It is a mistake to think of anointing solely in terms of physical healing because healing is of different sorts. In one of his sermons the Bishop of Rochester said, "in varying respects we all need it. We need that gift, that healing, that wholeness, that being put together."

As someone who has greatly benefited from anointing in our chapel, I would encourage anyone else who is suffering in any way to come to the Wednesday Holy Communion service.



Brian Kendall

Christmas Events - Come and join us!!

Christmas for all the family at St Augustine's

Christmas Journey for All
Saturday 9 December 10.30 am

Messy Christmas
Saturday 9 December 3 pm

"The Big Dress Up" Christmas Nativity family service
Sunday 17 December 10 am

"Elf" Christmas Film Festival
Free film / free popcorn
Saturday 23 December 3 pm

Christingle service
Sunday 24 December 4 pm

Christmas Praise family celebration
Monday 25 December 10.30 am

St Augustine's Church
020 8295 1550
www.st-augustines.org.uk

An illustration of a nativity scene. A large white star is in the dark blue sky. Below it, a shepherd in a brown robe and white head covering holds a staff. Two white sheep are in the foreground. In the background, there is a white castle with a red roof and a green hill. The scene is framed by a red border.

Christmas Film Festival
Saturday 23 December

3 pm "Elf" (2003)
6 pm Pizza & Prosecco
7 pm "Last Holiday" (2006)

Free films / free popcorn

Advent Hope

The season of Advent is a time observed in many Christian churches as an opportunity; an opportunity of expectant waiting and preparation when we ready ourselves for God's coming among us at Christmas. It is a time when we remember his coming as a baby in Bethlehem at Christmas and anticipate his coming again in glory as judge; all of which can be lost amongst the hurry and scurry of our preparations for Christmas. Advent is also a time to be still and reflect once again as we prepare to meet a King who comes in a way that the world does not expect.

In Jesus Christ, God has shared our human nature and comes to us in the company of the poor and outcast. Remember Jesus' parable – *'as we do it to the least, most needy person, we do it to Him.'* That is where we will find him. That profound fact might influence career decisions for some of us and should affect how all of us use our time and money.

As we prepare for Christmas, do we spend more on Christmas cards and gifts for our friends than on the poor and needy? Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that it is bad to give gifts to our family and friends, because love and friendship are wonderful gifts that we must celebrate and strengthen. But we can also buy fairly traded, low carbon or hand made presents. Or you might add up what you spend on Christmas and then make an appropriate donation to a charity or divide the amount between a few charities, so that the people who have no one to give them a gift, can then receive something, perhaps the basic necessities of life that we take for granted and don't even think of as a gift.

At our annual Christingle service on Christmas Eve we have a collection in aid of the Children's Society that supports vulnerable children in the UK. It is a tiny part of what it means to prepare for God's coming among us.

That is the risk God took in coming among us, entrusting himself to our care or neglect, entrusting himself as a baby born to poor people, who were about to become political refugees. That is God's salvation made visible. God entrusts us with the poor of the world, because he is among them. This is the God who has shared our life so that we can share his life, who will judge us, in part, on how we have 'done God' in the midst of the turmoil, oppression and injustice of this world.

The season of Advent is a call to all of us to wake up.



Yours in Christ
Kathleen

Owens 01689 829978

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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

(Run by the members of The Bromley
Common Group of Churches)



A monthly cafe for people living with dementia and their families, friends and carers will be held in the garden room at St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane. It will take place on the third Tuesday of the month from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm and the first session is on January 16 2018. It will provide a relaxed place for conversation, refreshments, gentle games, quizzes and music. Nearly everyone we know, knows someone who is affected by dementia. At any one time, one in fourteen people over 65 has dementia; but this is not all bad news. It is possible to live well with dementia with the right understanding and support. There are many organisations providing that support and in Bromley, the main centre is the Dementia Support Hub, which is based in Community House, South Street, Bromley. It offers advice and information, befriending, dementia training and a range of other services. (Bromleydementiasupporthub.org.uk 0203 328 0366). Community development work is part of the hub's role and local churches have been supported in setting up new activities for people with dementia, their families and carers. This is a joint venture between the three Anglican parishes on Bromley Common: Holy Trinity, St. Luke's and St. Augustine's, and for it to be a success we will need both volunteers and guests.

If you know anyone with dementia who might enjoy such an outing please let them know about it.

If you would like to volunteer to help by serving tea or coffee, by making a cake or just by being available to chat to people, please contact me.

Diana Pattison (dianaepattison@gmail.com).

St Augustine's bookclub: Spiritual care for those with dementia

Following on from Jenny Warrington's recent sermon on dementia*, St. Augustine's Book Club has chosen a new book, 'Thinking of You: A resource for the spiritual care of people with dementia', written by the Revd. Canon Joanna Collicut and published by Bible Reading Fellowship. The book is a comprehensive introduction to the subject and a practical resource for those directly affected by the condition, their friends and families. Importantly, the author addresses the spiritual care of those affected and how the church can support them and their carers. Diana Pattison, who many of you will know at Holy Trinity Bromley Common, is an 'Anna Chaplain', an initiative set up by Bible Reading Fellowship, which is being spearheaded in Rochester Diocese. Her pastoral ministry is to elderly people in particular, so she will also be helping us with our thinking on this subject. Copies are available from me and I will be organising times when anyone who would like to read the book and discuss it can meet. All are very welcome.



Verity Mitchell

veritymitchell777@btinternet.com

*Available on St. A's website - www.st-augustines.org.uk/audio

Diary of a First-Time Mother

Change!! Change!! Change!!

From the time I was three, our family lived very close to the church. Handy for church, local shops and the bus stop. My Mother, a non-driver, would often take my younger sister and me for a trip on the bus to places of interest, or the larger shops in town. We were frequent users of the then very unreliable 94 bus. Remember them? Moan, moan, moan! We would wait for ages for the bus, then two, or sometimes three, would come along together. Goodness knows how long you would have to wait if you missed the third bus...!

Our local route now has a single-decker bus, so as a treat for A Little Girl I Know, we travelled quite some way from home on a double-decker, so that we could sit upstairs and see more of the surroundings. She laughed as I told her about Grandma getting quite cross with the driver in the old days, if he stopped at too many request stops. I remember my frustration when on the bus travelling to school, the driver would call out, 'All Change', so that either the driver, or the bus could be replaced for the remainder

of the journey. These stories made for a happy Little Girl I Know and made our journey pass more quickly.

A Little Girl I Know was recently given some money by a close family friend. She was pleased to be able to buy yet another Lego kit. When we paid for it the assistant apologised, "Sorry, it's all small change". I assured her that it would soon be spent - and it was.

Only yesterday my plans for the time when A Little Girl I Know was at school changed. My 'Me Day' became a 'We Day' as I invited my friend to join me. A few tasks completed, we could take time out and chat over coffee. I guess it was the therapy she needed, as she told me she felt so much better when we arrived back at her house sometime later. I, in turn, felt that it had been good to have her company for a while, before I returned to my *To Do* list. As this time of Christmas is fast approaching we all need to find time to stop, listen again to the message of the birth of Jesus and then be prepared to change, to be more like Him day by day.



23rd Bromley Scout Pantomime

People travel from far and wide to see our now famous Pantomimes and preparations for Peter Pan started back in September. The cast are rehearsing hard every Sunday afternoon at the HQ, ready for when the stage goes up in early December.

The performances will be 11 – 13 January 2018 at our Scout H.Q. on Homestead Road, Bromley, BR2 8BB. All performances will start at 7.30pm, apart from the Saturday matinee which will start at 4.00pm.

Tickets cost £5.50 for Adults and £4.50 Children. All profits from the Pantomime go into allowing the group to provide affordable Scouting activities for the young people in the group.

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Safe winter motoring,



Christmas is coming and we can be either excited or terrified by the prospect, depending on our age, responsibilities and bank balance. But, there can be different kinds of Christmas glitter and they include frost, ice and snow! So, before you don your overcoat and leap into the car for a shopping spree, remember the three golden rules of winter driving and be ready -

See, be seen and be safe!

See - make sure that the windows are crystal clear, inside and out. Clean or replace the wipers as well and make sure that the screen wash works and is topped up with one part fluid to three or four parts water to prevent freezing up (see the instructions) and you need a de-icer and a scraper for the worst conditions. A squeegee is also useful for damp days.

If everything mists up when you get in, set the fan to maximum and direct it to the windscreen and switch on the air conditioning. You can also use cloth or kitchen paper to wipe off excess.

When you return, try leaving all the doors open while you unload and go indoors, to get rid of warm moist air. It's also a good idea to have a silica gel dehumidifier pack from Halfords or Lakeland hung inside and to remove wet coats, rags or paper towels you have used to wipe windows; they are guaranteed to steam it all up again by the next morning.

Be seen - don't forget to clean the lights and check that they are all working and adjust the headlights according to the load. Going home with all the family and the boot loaded with food, drink and gifts will mean your lights dazzling other drivers, endangering everyone. Look in the handbook for details.

Be safe - days are short, cold, wet, windy, icy, or all of these at once, so make sure your tyres have a good tread and are at the right pressure; lowering pressure in the hope of better grip is a very bad idea!

Being safe also means being vigilant - look out for wet leaves, black ice under bridges, broken road surfaces under overhanging trees etc. and slow down. Avoid surface water, if possible, otherwise slow down and use a low gear, as it may be hiding potholes or be deeper than you think.

In snow, take a shovel, remove any piled on the roof and bonnet, choose a higher gear and drive gently to reduce wheel spin. Look for extra grip at the side of the road, where grit can collect. If you have to stop in snow or ice the anti-lock braking system (ABS) will bring you to a shuddering halt, but if you don't have it, try cadence braking - pump the brake pedal rapidly to give the same effect as ABS. If you get stuck, bits of old carpet under the driving wheels can help.

Skids can be caused by braking or accelerating on slippery surfaces of any kind - to cure it, ease up on whichever is the cause. If the back of the car swings to the right, turn the wheel to the right, then straighten when you feel the the wheels grip again. Steer left for a skid to the left. Drive smoothly and this is less likely happen.

If you are only driving locally, winter conditions will drain the battery, so switch off the stop/start function if you have it and charge up the battery as necessary. If going far take blankets and a hot Thermos - you never know!




Happy, safe Christmas driving to all - **Remember the Three Golden Rules.**

Adrian King

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Parish People

Congratulations to **Pam Spooner**, who has been presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the twenty years or more she has spent selling poppies for the British Legion.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to Love in a Box this year. 14 boxes were donated.

We wish **Rev. Tina Kelsey** well for her new appointment as Priest in Charge at St. Peter's, Edmonton in the Diocese of London.

Bishop Given's Visit



Bishop Given, the Bishop of

Kondoa, Tanzania, visited St Augustine's over the weekend of 4th and 5th November. He worshipped with us on the Sunday morning and was a great encouragement to us. He thanked us for our contributions to Mwaikisabe, our link parish in the Diocese of Kondoa and he highlighted the importance of the funding we provide towards Pastor John Sinde's stipend - meaning he had to spend less time worrying about where his next meal might come from. He also told us that Pastor Sinde had recently started a church in a remote area, which he had only been able to reach because of the motorbike St Augustine's had bought for him.

There was a special thank you for the funds we had sent earlier this year to help people, who were without food, because the rain had not come. He said that the church in Kondoa was able to be a great help to many, not just to Christians, but to Muslims, who make up 90% of the population of Kondoa. This was a strong witness to God's love.

We asked the Bishop how we at St Augustine's could help Mwaikisabe and also the Diocese of Kondoa. He encouraged us to continue to support Mwaikisabe and Pastor Sinde in prayer and with his stipend and also consider assisting the church at Mwaikisabe, which needs funding to complete the building of a new pastor's house.

Bishop Given also explained the importance of the Bible School in Kondoa, as there are many pastors and lay ministers ('Catechists'), who have no formal ministry training. He suggested we might like to fund the training of a Kondoa Bible School student. It was inspiring to spend time with him and understand more of the challenges faced by the church in Kondoa.

We prayed for Bishop Given as he entered the third month of his three month sabbatical - he flew to the Holy Land with his wife Mama Lilian the next day, for a three week visit.

The picture shows Bishop Given after the service on Sunday with the 11 from St Augustine's who visited Kondoa and Mwaikisabe in October 2016. Another visit is being planned for autumn 2018.

Nigel Pope

From the Parish Register

Funerals. We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of

Margaret TIMMS
Michael GOLDING
Peter GARDNER
Raymond RICHARDS
Olive BERKHAUER

Baptisms. We welcome into the church family

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Dates for your Diary

12 December	Bromley High School Choir at 3Cs	10.45 am
16 December	Carol Singing by Co-op, Chatterton Rd	11.00 - 12.00
19 December	Sax Quartet plays Christmas music at 3Cs	11.00 am
9 January	Trefoil Guild -The Show must go on	8.00 pm
16 January	Forget me Not Café opens	1.30 - 3.00
17 January	Mothers Union Beetle Drive	2.00 pm

Children and Youth Activities

Messy Church Youth House Group	Helen Baker	07795 007724
Club JC	Helen Baker	07795 007724
Parent and Toddler	Helen Scothern Mandy James	0790 982 4099 0796 372 1309

Scouts and Guides

23rdbromleyscouts.org

Joint Group Scout Leaders	Jenny Owens Sandra Goodwin	020 8467 4702 01689 831654
Beavers	Claire Pester	07810 426666
Brownies	Ruth Higginbottom	01689 818104
Rainbows	Helen Scothern	0790 982 4099

Church Activities

Mothers Union	Christine Sanger	020 8249 7199
Church Rooms	Liz Carter	020 8467 8155
Three Cs	Jacky Skinner	01689 878452
Roundabout Business Manager	Lorna Murray	020 8467 0536
Singing Group Thursdays 7.45 pm	Lucy Adcock	020 8467 4535

Worship with us on Sundays

Sun	8.00 am at St. Luke's	10.00 am at St. Augustine's	Evening Worship
1st	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	St. Luke's - 6.00 pm
2nd	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	St. Luke's - 6.00 pm
3rd	Holy Communion	Family Service	St. Augustine's - 6.30 pm
4th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	St. Luke's - 6.00 pm

Worship with us on Weekdays

Mon - Sat: 9.15 am	Morning Prayer (not Wednesdays)
Wednesday 11.45 am	Holy Communion (except 2nd Wednesday)

Join us on.....

Tues 10.00 am	The Three Cs
Wed 10.00 am	Parent and Toddler
Thurs 10.30 am	Sally's Exercise Class

Church Staff

Vicar	Rev. Canon Katrina Barnes (Day off - Saturday)	020 8467 1351
Youth & Schools Minister	Helen Baker (Day off - Friday)	07795 007724 youth@st-augustines.org.uk
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985070734 llm@st-augustines.org.uk
Ordinand in Training	Jenny Warrington	01689 834375
Reader	Kenneth Gill	020 8467 1260
Reader	Brian Kendall	01689 832304
Churchwarden	Les Fairhurst	020 8462 8992
Churchwarden	Vivienne Emery	01689 861929
Treasurer	David Wardley	07925 736491
P.C.C. Secretary	Mary Plummer	01689 820961
Children's Officer	Liz Carter	020 8467 8155

Church Office

Parish Administrator	Nickie Streek	020 8295 1550
Open: Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 12.30. pm (Closed Thursdays)		

You can easily contact us by sending an email to: office@st-augustines.org.uk

To find out more about our church and to view back numbers of this magazine, please visit our website: www.st-augustines.org.uk

roundabout

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