



roundabout



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

50p

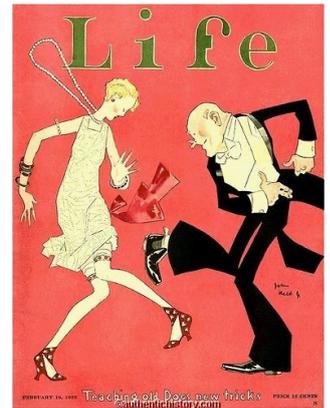
Issue 509 February 2020

A NEW DECADE

Entering a new decade made this New Year seem special. The start of the twenties seemed extra special. I suppose it is because we all have pictures in our minds of the 1920's: flappers with their sleek hair, long legs and long necklaces dancing the Charleston, jazz music and flickering black and white films. The first talking movie and the start of radio heralded a new kind of entertainment.



Behind the scenes, rocket and missiles were being developed. Motoring became popular, cars now had brakes on all four wheels! Lorries started to use diesel engines and the first flight across the Atlantic took place.



As always there was a downside as families were still grieving the loss of their menfolk in the First World War. To remember them, the Cenotaph was built and an unknown soldier was buried in Westminster Abbey.

I wonder what this decade will bring. Some people have already booked a flight into space. I expect most of us would just like the trains to run on time. We shall still have poverty and it seems to be getting worse. Countries are still at war and parts of the natural world are being destroyed.



We must put our trust in God and pray that we can, in some small way, help to make this decade memorable for all the right reasons.

Ann Hanrahan

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11, NLT)

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- Editor** Ann Hanrahan
Layout Karen Palmer



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



The Thomas family

Claire and Lee Thomas and their children Sophie and Jack, are among the newest members of the community here at St Augustine's with St Luke's and we are delighted to welcome them. Claire's Mum is Ann Bond, who has been a member of our Flower Guild for several years.

As is the case with many families with primary school children, life is busy. Saturday mornings see 8-year old Jack – a football fanatic and Spurs supporter – at a training ground in Chislehurst honing his skills as a striker with Eltham Bantams. Meanwhile 10-year old Sophie is practising her singing, dancing and acting at the Spotlight drama school at Newstead Wood. The current production is *The Borrowers*, soon to be followed by *We Will Rock You*. During the week both children are at Babbington House School in Elmstead Woods.



Which brings us to Claire, who is Head of Early Years at Babbington. She has been at the school for 14 years and she does a job share with her sister, Caroline. The school is expanding with a newly built nursery facility and there are currently 90 children in their care – a huge change from the eleven infants in the pre-school when Claire first took the job. Claire is not the only one with a busy job. Lee is a commercial lawyer with BT OpenReach, managing contracts - largely for the government - throughout the UK. He too, is a football supporter, but as he is a member at Chelsea FC, this can cause family diplomatic incidents! Lee's church background was in Farnborough, Hampshire where the worship was most similar to our Morning Worship services with a lot of new music and Lee could usually be found on guitar.

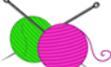
When we met, the family were looking forward to spending Chinese New Year – the year of the Rat - with all their relations, especially Lee's grandad, who will be 90 on 26 January. We wish them a happy celebration.

Three Cs Cafe



The Three Cs café on Tuesday mornings has a dedicated group of home-made cake makers. A small charge is made for coffee and cake and this year it has meant that donations have been made to four charities: Centrepont, Bromley Night Shelter, the Chartwell unit at the PRUH and Crisis.

Do drop in for a chat and help to support good causes.

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2020

I am just about to celebrate my birthday and as I reflect on being another year older it seems to me that time passes quicker every year and in many respects 2019 is already a blur. But as we anticipate what this new decade may bring, my hope and prayer is that 2020 will be one where unity, creativity and kindness will prosper and that our community here in Bromley Common will highlight those virtues.

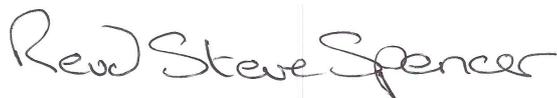
Yet the reality of the world in which we live, I am sad to say, does not always reflect that. In fact many would argue that things seem to be getting worse; from refugees escaping persecution and seeking a better life, to climate change and the impact we are seeing on our environment, like bush fires in Australia.

So, where does the world of 2020 find hope for new starts and new beginnings? Well as a Christian I would look no further than a baby being born in a manger, ironically in a part of the world that has rarely seen peace. Yet from the poverty of a small town called Bethlehem, a message that has spanned the decades continues to speak into today's world, and that message is God's love. Not a soppy, sentimental love, but a love that at its heart is about sacrifice. The willingness of that baby, Jesus, to endure life as a refugee, to endure persecution and finally death on a cross. But the hope that Jesus brings is through resurrection on Easter Sunday. So, I believe that as we move from Christmas time to Easter time in what will only seem a few short weeks, we can discover the hope that Jesus brings to 2020. And that through his message of love our world can be a better place.

2020 is the year that we leave Europe, of course how that will look and how that will work is yet to be defined, as our government seeks a trade deal with Europe and the rest of the world. Sadly, there is still much division, even bitterness, throughout the country on the question of Europe. Whatever side of the debate we may be on, let us pray for all our leaders and politicians and that their arguments will be well defined and thought through. This is important so that we may be as well informed as possible, for the decision they make will affect many generations to come. My overriding prayer is that we do not forget that we are a nation forged in unity and diversity, willing to celebrate all that our democracy brings.

So may 2020 be for you one that is bound in God's peace and strengthened by his love.

God Bless



Revd Steve Spencer, Vicar



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The Orpheus Centre Trust

At the Christmas concert of the Bromley Philharmonic Choir we had a retiring collection in aid of the Orpheus Centre Trust. The Orpheus Centre is an independent specialist college for young disabled adults with a passion for the performing arts. A representative of the charity came to tell us about their work and one of the students sang an aria from *The Magic Flute*. Her solo was amazing.



In the mid-1990s, musician and song-writer Sir Richard Stilgoe and neurologist Dr Michael Swallow started piloting music weeks for disabled people. These were so effective that Sir Richard decided to start a place where disabled people and students could work together for longer than a week – to change their own and other people's lives by creating new music and performing in public. The Orpheus Centre opened in 1997 at Sir Richard's former family home in Godstone, Surrey.

Orpheus started with five disabled students who lived on-site, learning to cook, manage budgets, do laundry and go shopping. They also wrote songs, devised dances and challenged people's preconceived ideas about disabled people whenever and wherever they performed. Nearly twenty years later and Orpheus has up to 28 full time students living in independent flats, as well as around 20 day students. The students are all motivated by the performing arts and have performed in venues all over the country including the Royal Opera House, Royal Albert Hall, Glastonbury Festival, Notting Hill Carnival, the Paralympic Opening Ceremony, The Royal Festival Hall, and appeared in hit TV show *Call The Midwife*.

For more information see the website www.orpheus.org.uk

Sue Goodger

The Children's Society



The Christingle service was particularly well supported this year with over 200 people attending, with them all making their own Christingle during the service. The total amount raised for the work of The Children's Society was £372.71.

Traidcraft Update

Following Traidcraft's announcement in November 2018 that it may have to close this is what has happened. The main thing you may have noticed is that some of the stock has temporarily run out as it has moved over to Tropical wholefoods, a fair trade importer now responsible for importing and packaging. The packaging is also changing to compostable packaging, which has caused some teething problems as it is one of the first to do this. They are introducing a new green tea range and other varieties of tea. Also a cleaning range by Bio D, one of the largest independent natural cleaning companies. They now have a smaller craft range and are hoping to expand on this, having stabilised and consolidated the company during the last year.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

The new catalogues come out in February so take a look at the Traidcraft stall for the new ranges.

Mark Gill

John Senior

John died in early December last year after a spell in the PRU Hospital. He had become very frail but maintained a keen and active mind.

John was born in Barnsley in 1926, became a King's Scout there before going on to Sheffield University. He moved south and worked for Esso in Fawley and then in London. He married Marjorie Murray in 1954 and produced Jane the following year. They moved into Homestead Road where the family increased with the arrival of David and Katherine. The family moved to Petts Wood for some years before returning to Bickley.

John joined the 23rd Bromley Scouts as a uniformed leader between 1967-76. He became Leader of our Scout Troop in that period, following which he took an active role within all aspects of the Group, eventually becoming Chairman of the Group Executive. For some years he took on the complex task of organising the annual District Swimming Gala.



Ever the kindly gentleman, he was awarded Scouting's prestigious Silver Acorn; many of the boys (and girls) will have benefitted greatly from his long years of dedicated service.

Tom Manthorpe

It's behind you

Yes, the pantomime season is behind us. I love pantomimes and have been able to see three this year.

The first was produced by a community group in Winchester. My godson's son has been in the group for a few years. This was the first time I had been able to see him on stage. At 13 he was the tallest person on stage and a very impressive Lord Chamberlain in Cinderella.

Next was Aladdin at the Churchill. A New Year treat! The scenery was breath taking, full of sparkle and colour and the comedian leads were very entertaining.

Last, but by no means least, was the 23rd Bromley Scouts pantomime society's production of Sleeping Beauty. I am always amazed to see the transformation of the Scout Hut into a theatre and am always impressed by the lighting effects, staging, costumes and of course, the enthusiasm and talent of the cast. This year was no exception. We were able to enjoy all the special effects of the new lighting equipment the group had purchased. I am looking forward to their next production already.

Ann Hanrahan



Left:
Alison Ancrum
played Nurse Nellie

Right:
Cast of Sleeping
Beauty



Ten Tiny Fingers

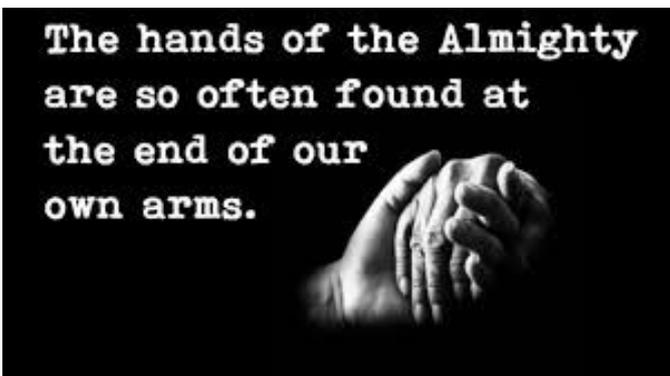
Not long after coming home from hospital with A Little Girl I Know an old school friend came visiting to meet our new arrival. It was a special time as she had managed to find time to spend almost an hour with us before starting her long journey home to the USA. She brought with her presents; my favourite of which was a bodysuit for A Little Girl with the words, '*Ten tiny fingers, ten tiny toes, two bright eyes and one button nose*' on it. I smiled when I read it as I recalled the midwife at the delivery telling me that all fingers and toes were present and correct, my Mum remarking what beautiful large brown eyes she had, and me calling her button nose as I tried to get her to feed that second evening. I thanked God many times for my beautiful, perfect baby girl, mindful of those not so fortunate.



A few weeks after coming home we were sort of getting into a routine. There was the normal round of feeding, nappy changes, bathing and sleeping. During the time A Little Girl I Know was sleeping I would often try to get up to date with a few household tasks especially the never ending pile of washing!

During the early years of her life I was so hands on, having to do so much for her. As she started to grow up I was able to help and encourage her to do more and more for herself. It was funny to watch her trying to feed herself; how she missed a mouth the size of hers I will never know! I realised how important my hands were at this time more than any other time in my life. As time has gone on I am pleased to say that we still walk together holding hands.

As she has grown older, like me she has used her hands for the good of other people around her day by day. I am sure that the habit will continue throughout her life.



As I watched the television programme Call The Midwife on the BBC iPlayer recently I was pleased to hear one of the nuns, Sister Monica Joan say, "The hands of the Almighty are often found at the end of our own arms". Absolutely right Sister! May our hands and feet always be ready to do the work that God wants us to do now and throughout our lives.

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Parish People

Congratulations to:

Johanna and Andrew Gurney on the arrival of their first grandchild **Ivy Joy** to daughter **Emma and Dan** last November.

To **Anita and John Bruce** who became grandparents for the ninth time in December to **Joshua Theo**, the third son of their son **Matthew and Vicky**.

Helen and Tom Smith who became grandparents for the third time in January with the arrival of **Jude Frank**, second boy for their son **Stuart and Lizzie**. A seventh great grandchild for **Tom Manthorpe**.

Also congratulations to:

Cathy Fyfield's mother **Eileen Nebel** who celebrated her 100th birthday on the 29th January with a party at Southmore Court where she is a resident.

Thank you to **Betty Dawson** for the following information:

Rev. Phil Stone who was made an Honorary Canon at Bradford Cathedral. Phil grew up in our parish and led one of our weekends away at Pilgrim Hall. He and his wife Di have been leaders at Scargill, a Christian conference, study and retreat centre in North Yorkshire for 18 years. "It's going well", he says, "with plenty of new developments."

Now retired from his Wilmington Parish, the **Rev. Richard Arding**, a former curate of St. Augustine's is living with his daughter **Jenni** in Tunbridge Wells. They've acquired a Jack Russell who "gives us great joy and is good exercise for me". Richard preaches at local churches, and has begun to volunteer at The Spa Valley Railway based at the old West Station, doing assistant station master roles.

Barbara Oakley, wife of **Tim**, another ex curate has had a year with two spinal surgery operations, so spent a quiet Christmas recovering at Church Stretton. However, they enjoyed two holidays and have seen sons and grandchildren in Sheffield and Kemsing.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 6 March
Rise, Take your Mat and Walk

This year's service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

We are encouraged to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They invite us to support them as they continue their journey towards full reconciliation.

Local services in Bromley and Orpington will be held at

St Andrew's church, Burnt Ash Lane	10.30 am
St Nicholas church, Leamington Avenue	1.30 pm
Christ Church, Charterhouse Road	7.30 pm

You will be very welcome at any of these services.

Keep your news coming to me either by seeing me in church on Sunday morning or at The Three Cs on a Tuesday morning. Alternatively you may like to email it to me at jackysskinner@gmail.com. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary		
Feb 8	Messy Church	3.00 - 5.00pm
Feb 11	Trefoil AGM	7.30 pm
Feb 19	Bits and Pieces	7.45 pm
Feb 19	Mothers' Union AGM	2.00 pm
Mar 6	World Day of Prayer	See page 7

Worship with us on Sundays	
8am Holy Communion	St Luke's Every Week
10am Morning Worship	St Augustine's 1st and 5th Sunday
10am Holy Communion	St Augustine's 2nd and 4th Sunday
10am Family Service	St Augustine's 3rd Sunday

Join us during the week	
Mon 9.15 am	Morning Prayer
Wed 11.45 am	Holy Communion
Tues 10.00 am	The Three Cs
Wed 10.00 am	Parent and Toddler

Children and Youth Activities		
Club JC	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Parent and Toddler	Victoria Bouwer	07779 009064

Church Staff		
Vicar	Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351
Youth & Schools Minister	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Reader Emeritus	Kenneth Gil	020 8467 1260
Reader	Brian Kendall	01689 832304
Churchwarden	Pam Poynter	020 8402 9008
Churchwarden	Viv Emery	01689 861929
Treasurer	David Wardley	accounts@st-augustines.org.uk
P.C.C. Secretary	Johanna Gurney	020 8467 9587
Children's Officer	Helen Scothern	07909 824099
Safeguarding Officer	Helen Scothern	07909 824099

Scouts & Guides		
Joint Group Scout Leaders	Jenny Owens Sandra Goodwin	020 8467 4702 01689 831654
Beavers' waiting list	Ellie Howard	07923 507995
Brownies	Ruth Higginbottom	01689 818104
Visit the Scout website— www.23rdbromleyscouts.org		

Church Activities		
Mothers' Union	Linda Wanniaratchy	0776 1853653
Church Rooms	Liz Carter	020 8467 8155
St Luke's Hall Hire	Church Office	020 8295 1550
The Three Cs	Jacky Skinner	07812 714803
Roundabout Manager	Lorna Murray	020 8467 0536
Bell Ringing	Chris Lawrance	020 8462 3485

Church Office	
Parish Administrator	020 8295 1550
Open : Monday to Friday 10.00 to 1.00	

We welcome your emails at: office@st-augustines.org.uk
 You can also find out about more recent and future events in our church by visiting :
www.st-augustines.org.uk

roundabout	<p>MARCH 2020 Date of Publication - SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY Editor Mary Plummer 01689 820961 Layout Adrian King aandcking@waitrose.com All items by email to the church office by 7 February</p>
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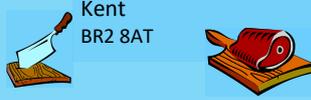
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