



roundabout



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

50p

Issue 507 November 2019

The Memory Month

The ancient Egyptians, 3,500 years ago, divided the year into 365 days. This seems an astonishing feat, but the next stage of sub-dividing it into months is what gives our year its shape.

Particular months may play a bigger role than others in our lives. For example, it is not unusual to find that most family birthdays are clustered into just a couple of months. When our role is that of parents school holidays may influence what we can plan for our own activities: holiday time for grandparents is often June or September. For other reasons, one month may hold special significance and I think of November like this.

It is a time of reflection. Sometimes the weather plays a part with its mists and dark evenings and our own mortality is made real by the remembrance of the two great wars. November can stimulate other, more comforting memories. Sheila Griffin recalled just such a feeling last year, when she sewed one of her mother's buttons into the centre of her knitted poppy for our church Remembrance Day display. Tiny acts of remembering make memories active, not passive. They can establish a real connection with the person as they were at a particular point. I can clearly 'feel' my granddaughter Charlotte, aged four, when she made a first attempt at writing the Lord's Prayer for me, as she had heard it: 'Ar Father. You arnt in heaven....' I am immediately taken back to the efforts and imperfections of a dear little girl.



The power of music to evoke memories has long been known and music therapy for people with dementia is proving to be an aid to enriching their daily lives. A dementia charity, Playlist for Life, has recently run a trial which found that there was a marked decrease in stress and agitation when familiar music was played. It can help people live better in the present. I think A A Milne got it right. "What day is it?" asked Pooh. "It's today" squeaked Piglet "My favourite day" said Pooh.

Mary Plummer

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- Editor** Mary Plummer
Layout Karen Palmer



Remembrance Sunday
and Parade Service at 10.00am
10 November
You will be very welcome



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



Jenny's Ordination



A full cathedral is always a sign of a special service. This was true on 27 September when four men and four women were ordained as Deacons at Rochester. Among them was Jenny Warrington, who had spent time in training at St Augustine's.

In her sermon, the Diocesan Director of Ordinands Rev Canon Pamela Ive reminded us that the title Deacon means servant. She recalled seeing the inside of a church door signed Servants' Entrance, a reminder that as we leave a church we are going out to serve the world.

At the end of the service the new Deacons were welcomed with warm applause before being surrounded outside in the sunshine by their relations and friends. In the evening Jenny was able to relax and enjoy the party she had arranged.

We wish her well in her new parish of St Pauls with All Saints, Chatham.

Ann Hanrahan

The Knife Angel

While in Rochester for Jenny's ordination, we were able to see the Knife Angel. This is now recognised as a National Monument against violence and aggression. It is a visual symbol of the dangers of carrying a knife.

The statue is 27 ft high and is made out of 100,000 knives. The knives had been surrendered and confiscated by 43 police forces across the UK. The sculpture took two years to make and was a collaboration between the artist Alfie Bradley and the British Ironwork Centre.

It was an amazing sight and most of us gasped as we saw it towering above us. Let us hope that it will make a powerful impact as it moves around the country.

Ann Hanrahan



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Lest we Forget

We, along with every church, city, town and village up and down this land are about to remember those who gave their lives just over 100 years ago in the Great War, along with those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in wars and conflicts since.

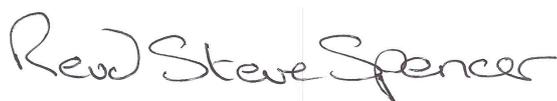
There will be a great outpouring of gratitude to those whose actions past and present have guaranteed the freedoms that each one of us enjoy today. The services that we attend will be a tribute to the bravery of the men and women who gave their today, for our tomorrow. Their sacrifices must not be forgotten. We must keep their memory alive and learn from the mistakes of the past, so that we may continue to strive for peace and reconciliation.

Of course, we face many different challenges today. As I write this article Brexit is again taking centre stage as an agreement has just been announced, although not yet agreed by either the European or British Parliaments. Whatever the outcome is, we must learn that the common thread that holds us all together is our humanity. No matter what our stance is, we must continue to hold the bonds of peace before us, so that the sacrifices of the past are not in vain.

This may often seem a struggle to achieve, yet I believe not an impossible one. As a Christian I draw many parallels with their sacrifice and that of Jesus upon the cross - a sacrifice to the atonement of our sin and a reconciliation with God. I believe this helps us to look forward with hope and a positivity for the future, for the message of Jesus is peace and love.

This is what the narrative of the Christmas story is all about. The birth of a baby, God's own son Jesus, often described as the Prince of Peace, not only changed the world then, but I believe he continues to change the world in which we live today.

Yours in Christ



Revd Steve Spencer, Vicar



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CAP Bromley Partnership



Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK charity based in Bradford that operates through local churches across the country. They are committed to seeing individuals trapped in debt released from both debt and its causes. Partnering with churches across the country there is a network of over 300 Debt Centres and, during 2018, a total of 32,000 people contacted them with 2,575 becoming debt free.

Locally five churches from different denominations worked with CAP to open, in June 2017, the Bromley Debt Centre under the name of the 'CAP Bromley Partnership'. The churches involved are Bromley Christian Centre, Cornerstone Christian Centre, Jubilee Church, St Joseph's and St Mark's. Their aim is to enable individuals living in Bromley who find themselves in financial difficulties to be set free from debt and to have the opportunity to explore a life transforming faith in Jesus Christ. Currently the Centre is working in BR1, BR2, BR5, BR6 and BR7.

The Partnership has employed a debt centre manager, Martin Pointing, to work for two days a week. Martin works with volunteers to visit clients in their home, bringing hope to their lives and providing the link to their debt case officer in Bradford. "Our plan is to be able to connect clients to churches that are local to where they live, so that there is an easy opportunity to connect with the community and if interested, faith, right on their doorstep" says Martin.

Currently Martin has 27 volunteers from 19 different churches working with him and, since opening, the team has had over 90 people contact them for help and has seen seven go 'debt free'. If you would like to know more about the service they offer or could support them either in prayer, as a volunteer, or financially, please contact Martin, either by email at martinpointing@capuk.org or by phone on 07754 934 722.

Derek Holl

Thank You So Much



To all the people who supported my World's Biggest Coffee Morning held at my house to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Many people came on the day, but also many more donated money or sent it via a friend. The response this year has been overwhelming, with the final total reaching an amazing £1,095.51. Lots of people were able to gift aid their donations and this takes the total up to £1,260. Thanks too to those who made cakes for me.

Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer – some more than others. One thing that made this year's event extra special was that two people came who had been and still are supported by Macmillan Cancer Support. They wanted to thank me for hosting it and for raising so much money for this worthy charity.

Sue Goodger.



Cry in the Dark

I wake to the alarm. Monday morning 5.15 am, as agreed last night. It's dark outside. Where am I? A twin-bedded log cabin. John stirs. A Yorkshireman wood turner, club cyclist and friend to all. I make out our bikes across the room. Where am I? Big Sur River Inn, California, nestled amongst the Redwoods, 160 miles south of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, where we started cycling on Saturday. (Only I almost didn't. Mounted my bike still wearing trainers! – Luckily the support car was still there - quickly changed to my clip-in bike shoes!)



Showered and dressed in cycling vest and shorts, I head to Beth and Elaine's cabin next door to collect some 'overnight oats' – too early for a hotel breakfast! – Beth's version of porridge, surprisingly tasty. Today is our longest cycling day – 116 miles plus 8000 feet of climbs over the Big Sur mountain range - we leave at 6.30 am.

After summer months of daily cycle training, seven days of waking, cycling, eating, sleeping. Seven cyclists, plus a dozen from the 'Mace Foundation', united for the charity 'Cry in the Dark' supporting Romanian orphans and terminally ill children. Fantastic support team, morning mist, afternoon hot sun, uphill exhaustion, downhill exhilaration! Monterey Bay, Big Sur, Pismo Beach, Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, Laguna Beach, and San Diego - a memorable 600 mile bike ride!

I'd like to thank everyone so much for supporting this great charity through me, and making this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible!

David Allan

Welcome to our new Ordinand, Sheela Thomas

Sheela was born in Singapore to missionary parents whose calling to ministry was with OM International* (formerly known as Operation Mobilisation). Until the age of 12, Sheela travelled with them on OM's ships, sharing God's Word in Asia and Latin America. She remembers these early years with great happiness. "There was a vibrant expression of faith" she says.

The family settled in West Wickham following her parents' move to one of OM's London bases. Sheela attended Langley School for Girls and found that her new life threw up many challenges. She made new friends, Christian and non-Christian, but found the expression of faith in England different compared to her previous life experiences. After finishing school, she spent a Gap year on an OM ship, which housed about 200 people. She then went on to complete a Theology and Counselling degree.

Life since then has been very varied, from being a facilitator in setting up an AIDS Link centre in South Africa, to being the Pastoral Care Counsellor in a newly planted free church for young professionals and students near London Bridge. She attended worship at Holy Trinity, Beckenham and the vicar encouraged her to look at ordination. She followed his direction and we are delighted that her two year placement is with us at St Augustine's with St Luke's.

*OM has a ministries in 100 countries and also on board their ship 'Logos Hope'



My Grandpa's Clock

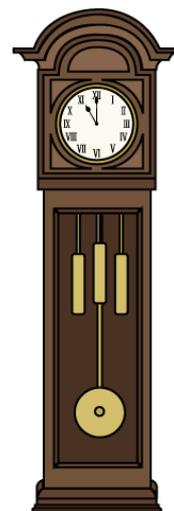
Twice a year when the clocks change I realise just how many clocks we have in our house. I am grateful that a few are radio controlled and therefore change themselves. The others take a bit longer to do; the back to front clock is quite a different challenge all together. A Little Girl I Know helps out by going from room to room finding the clocks that need changing; then again checking that they have all been done.

A favourite clock of ours once belonged to my Grandpa. Often when it chimes I think of him and the times we shared together. Special memories of his final years when he lived in a nursing home close to where I worked. I was able to visit him little and often; we enjoyed those times – just the two of us. I think back to about twenty years before when he would visit our family home. His car would pull up as a clock in the hall started to announce the start of the next hour. He was never early or ever late; spot on time that was my Grandpa. His time in the military had instilled that into him; something passed on to his family I am proud to say.

A Little Girl I Know - like her Great Grandpa - likes music, probably not the type he would be too keen on! Every time the clocks change she wants to change the chime to a different one. Her favourite is Westminster as it reminds her of her time in Brownies as it is the same tune as the song they sing at the end of the meeting. She recalls happy times and the friends she made along the way.

As A Little Girl I Know grows more independent clocks and timings will be very important to her. For me time often moves slowly when she is at school. I can't wait for her to come home and tell me all about her day.

God is the same. He waits patiently for us to talk to Him. He longs for us to tell Him about our day, good or bad. He wants to know if we are happy or hurting or if we have a friend in need of His care, or about our worries for the world in which we live. All these things and much more are important to Him. God longs to hear from us... try it for yourself. Maybe one day you might hear God talking back to you; who knows where or when. The important thing is we keep talking to Him and listening too.



Bits and Pieces



Bits and Pieces has just celebrated its second year anniversary. The group was set up by Helen for adults to try their hand at various arts and crafts. Over the two years we have had a go at everything from macaroons, paper flowers and knitting to origami, painting, quilling and card making.

The evening is for any ability and most of us are beginners just trying something new, with various levels of success! Each month we have a go at something different and thank you to Helen for putting up with our lack of experience and her continued patience. We have a great time and you always come away with something to take home to show your loved ones how good you are. Why not come along, try something new and have fun with us.



Karen, Tanya and Johanna

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Parish People

Congratulations to:

Jonathon Emery on successfully completing his MA at Durham University.

Our **Top of the Pew** team, who have brushed aside all opposition to be finalists in the competition which will be held on Friday 22 November at 8.00pm at Emmanuel URC West Wickham. All supporters welcome.

Elsie Cosedge on the birth of her great granddaughter Elsie Rose born on the 4 September.

Lynn and Paul Morton are happy to announce the birth of two grandchildren: Eloise Kay born 18 September to Michael and Vashti and Joshua Jake born 25 October to Peter and Ria.

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

We welcome into the church family

Cole Daniel MURDOCK

Austin Adrian LINK

The Roundabout team would like to say a couple of big **'thank yous'**

To Helen Scothern, who has been the leading light in our Parent and Toddler team for 10 years and is now changing her nursing job. Those who are involved with the hugely successful Parent and Toddler group know that running it is not just a few hours on a Wednesday morning, so we wish Helen well and thank her for all she has done.

And to Valerie Gorman and Lynn Morton, who will be cooking their last Christmas Meal on 7 December this year. For 10 years, our two chefs have delighted us with the lightness of their pavlovas, the tastiness of their soups and the crunchiness of their roast potatoes. They have been supported by a great team of kitchen toilers in the form of the Social Committee. All of us who have been able to share in the evenings and lunchtimes provided by Valerie and Lynn have thoroughly enjoyed them.

We are pleased to have Ming's Picture Framing as one of our advertisers (see page 2).

Wai, the owner, says

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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 | | |
|----------------------|---|---------|
| Nov 12 | Trefoil | 7.30 pm |
| Nov 20 | MU Film - Hidden Figures | 2.30 pm |
| Nov 20 | Bits and Pieces | 7.45 pm |
| Nov 22 | Top of the Pew final at Emmanuel URC West Wickham | 8.00 pm |
| Dec 1 | Advent Meditation Service | 6.30 pm |
| Dec 2 -6 | Christmas Journey | |

| 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 |

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

| 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 |

| 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 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 |

| 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

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