



# roundabout



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

Issue 541 April 2023

## New Beginnings

Easter is often seen as a time of new beginnings; the days are lighter, the weather a touch warmer and we all hope for better times ahead. However, with the ongoing war in Ukraine fuelling the cost of living crisis and other inflationary pressures, life may continue to seem a struggle for many people.

So where do we look for hope instead of despair? The narrative of Easter is all about God's transforming presence in the world, through his Son Jesus Christ. Through his death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday, we see the outward display of God's love and passion for all his creation. For many people the Easter story is hard to understand, questioning how the execution of one man two thousand years ago can influence so many people today.

For Christians around the world, we recognise that the Easter story is about God's own son bringing wholeness into a broken world. Jesus' act of sacrifice upon the cross opens a pathway to God, where sins are forgiven and salvation is offered.

In the pages of the Bible, we read how Jesus was dragged before the authorities. He is beaten and whipped and sentenced to die, crucified on a cross. Many would question why this is something to celebrate; we even call the day of his death Good Friday. For Christians it signifies hope. It is the day when God's own son took all the pain and all the wrong that we do, upon his shoulders, so that we might be forgiven.

That hope is fulfilled on Easter Sunday when God raised Jesus from the dead. Through that act of love, the world would never be the same again. This is the real celebration of Easter, that Jesus died for the pain and sorrow that our sin causes. Therefore our prayer at this Easter time is that, through Jesus, we may all find a freedom to live a life full of love, compassion and forgiveness.

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.**



## Spreading the Word

Twice a year our church and our church rooms are transformed into the 'Christmas Journey' and the 'Easter Experience'. Our usual church activities are set aside while small groups from Southborough, Raglan, Trinity and Bromley High schools learn about the Good News. In all, we welcome more than 200 children aged 6 and 7.

It is an opportunity to make a story more vivid in the telling. The children are led round to places Jesus visited on his last journey; from riding on a donkey into Jerusalem, to the Garden of Gethsemane and the tomb with the stone rolled away. They taste foods from Jesus's time and do craft activities. We hope that this experience brings all the children, their teachers, teaching assistants and parents who came with them, closer to the meaning and joy of Easter and the Resurrection.



## Hope into Action



Enabling churches to house the homeless

In 2021 Bromley Parish Church invited Ed Walker to lead a presentation on the Christian response to homelessness. His own response had been to set up **Hope into Action**. Last year, St Augustine's with St Luke's partnered with Bromley Town church, Bromley Parish church, Jubilee church and Coppice, to form our own charity '**Hope into Action, Bromley**'.

To meet the 'tragedy of homelessness in their community', **HiA** enables churches to offer a Christ-centred approach. Under the umbrella of 'Transform Bromley Borough', one house has already received tenants. In 2022, the five churches working and praying together, moulded 25 dedicated volunteers into a team who have transformed a second house into a home. This is now about to receive two tenants, who currently have nowhere to live.

We demonstrate the love of Christ in action

By lovingly preparing the houses for our new tenants

By praying for homeless people we encounter

By continuing our care for the tenants through the trained Befriending and Support Volunteers

We do this in the hope that our tenants will know the overwhelming love of God in their lives, as they are provided with shelter, friendship, care and support.

**HiA, Bromley** is managed by a trust, and two of the trustees are volunteering as Empowerment Workers. This role will soon be advertised as a full time post. We pray that the person who fills this post will have the skills to support new tenants to connect with local churches and build relationships. There will also be support for maintaining their home well, finding employment and eventually a permanent home for themselves.

**To find out about Rob's story, someone who had 'lost his life' but has now found hope and restoration visit [www.hopeintoaction.org.uk/videos](http://www.hopeintoaction.org.uk/videos)**

Rev Steve Spencer and Rev Rachel Winn

## Traidcraft

At St Augustine's we are grateful to Mark Gill for having run the Traidcraft stall one Sunday a month for nearly 15 years. His selections of coffees, dried fruits and delicious chocolate amongst other items have been much appreciated.

However, Traidcraft has entered administration. It was formed in 1979 to be a model for trading goods sourced or produced in third world countries. It played a fundamental role in changing the trading system of these goods to a 'shared interest' method. The producers were part of the whole process, rather than just the people who grew or made the end product. Fair Trade products are sold in most supermarkets as well as smaller outlets.

## Mothering Sunday Memories

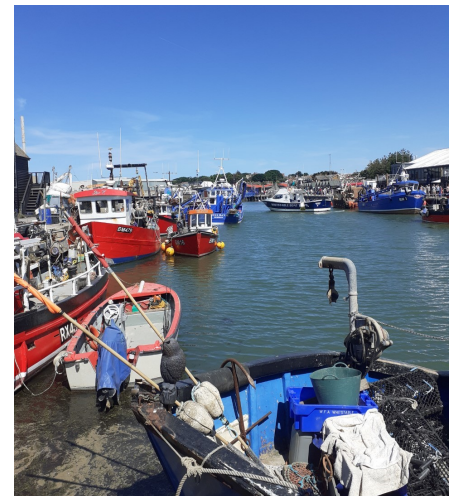
When I was a child, and when my children were growing up, there wasn't as much fuss made about Mothering Sunday as there is nowadays since it has morphed into 'Mothers' Day' - a celebration from the US and which is held in May, and is non-religious. Here flowers and cards were given and the day was celebrated in church, that was it and it was lovely.

As a teenager growing up in Camberwell, I went to St Giles' church on Sundays. The Vicar was the idiosyncratic Revd John Glasson Nicholls who eventually became Chaplain to the Queen. He introduced some quirky hymns for Mothering Sunday including one that began 'O ye who would a-mothering go with flowers in your hand' which I had never heard before and never since. He explained that Mothering Sunday should also celebrate Mary the mother of Jesus, Mother Church and Motherland as well as mothers of families. The hymn I mentioned refers to the tradition of people in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries working away from home (mainly servants and apprentices), going back to see their mothers on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. This Sunday, also known as Refreshment Sunday, was a chance for them to enjoy good food as a break from the rigours of Lent.

I have a friend who made Simnel Cake to share after the Mothering Sunday Service at the church I attended later in Catford. It is a rich cake with marzipan on the top completed by adding eleven round balls of marzipan to represent the eleven faithful Apostles.

Last year, my daughter asked me what I would like to do to celebrate the day. I had a bit of a think and said I would like to go to the seaside (due to Covid it had been a while since I had seen the sea) and have fish and chips! Consequently we found ourselves on the train to Whitstable together with Helen's partner. Not knowing the town at all we followed the crowd when we reached our destination, and eventually found the beach! We enjoyed a pleasant walk looking at the sea and noticing the piles of oyster shells for which Whitstable is famous nowadays. We spotted the 'Old Neptune' pub on the sea-shore and were served a delicious fish and chip lunch there. Afterwards we found a great craft market which is open all year whatever the weather, and also explored the pretty Castle garden.

*Altogether a very delightful Mothering Sunday outing.*



Carolyn Nield



On Saturday 18th March, (in the pouring rain!), we again offered anyone passing by St Augustine's church daffodil posies made by our Flower Guild and our CAMEO group. We had some lovely conversations and met some new neighbours; it was our way of blessing anyone nearby just before Mothering Sunday.

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## Catching up on Kondoa

You may know that the Diocese of Rochester has a link with the Kondoa Diocese in Tanzania. We are privileged, at St Augustine's with St Luke's, to have a link with the parish of Mwaikisabe, nearly 600 Km inland from Mombasa.

Once a year there is a meeting with representatives, including Nigel and I, from all the Rochester parishes linked with Kondoa. This year we heard directly from Bishop Given over Zoom, as well as several other people who had recorded video messages for us to watch. It was great to see them 'in person' and to hear their voices, particularly since we haven't been able to visit for a while because of the pandemic.

As usual, Bishop Given was inspiring in his message, telling us how much he and the congregations in Kondoa appreciate the link. He always emphasises the importance of the relationship, as well as the financial help we can provide. He was able to share positive news from the community as they have experienced promising results from the development of drought resistant maize and there has been some good rain so far.



We also heard from Conjesta, the incredibly impressive (and young) headmistresses of St Peter and St Paul's school, which opened in 2019. It has gone from strength to strength and has more than 200 students, serving Muslims and Christians. It is now looking to fund a boarding house and some additional classrooms. The Bishop sees it as a really important bridge between the Christian and Muslim communities, as children of different faiths build relationships lasting into adulthood. They are also looking for people to assist with fees for the children of pastors, so they too can attend. It is great to hear that it is thriving.

Ann and Nigel Pope

*If you want to know more or would like to contribute to the work in Kondoa, please speak to Nigel or Ann Pope, or email [nigel@thepopes.net](mailto:nigel@thepopes.net)*

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## Doreen Greenall (1935 - 2023)



I got to know Doreen when I came to live in Trinity Village and discovered we both attended St. Augustine's church.

Doreen was a busy church member who enjoyed Sally's activity class and also helped making the tea or coffee or doing a background job. She was a loving and proud mother and grandmother, and a great lover of dogs. She invariably had a dog treat in her pocket!

We had many happy times going together to church events and enjoying a glass of wine. She loved to read and her usual Saturday morning was going to the library followed by a cup of coffee with friends or family.

More recently Doreen wasn't able to attend church but liked to keep in touch by reading the church notices and church magazine.

Rest in peace my friend your friendship was a blessing.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16)

Jo Kingsmore

## Traditional Easter Biscuits

These buttery biscuits are traditionally eaten at Easter, after the deprivations of Lent, when butter could not be eaten.

### Ingredients

100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened  
75g/2¾oz caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling  
1 egg, separated  
1 small unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest only  
200g/7oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
50g/1¾oz currants  
1-2 tbsp milk



### Method

1. Preheat the oven 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Line three baking trays with baking paper.
2. Put the butter and sugar in a bowl and beat until well combined and fluffy. Add the egg yolk and lemon zest. Sift in the flour and mix well. Stir in the currants and enough milk to make a fairly soft dough.
3. Knead the dough on a floured work surface and roll out until 5mm/¼in thick. Cut out 24 rounds using a 6cm/2½in fluted cutter. Bake for 8 minutes.
4. Lightly beat the egg white using a fork.
5. Remove the biscuits from the oven and brush the tops with the beaten egg white. Sprinkle over caster sugar and return to the oven for 5 minutes, or until pale golden brown and cooked through. Leave to cool on the trays for a few minutes, then lift onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Save the date...

MONDAY 8TH MAY 2023



for ...

**'Coronation on the Green'**  
2.00pm ~ 4.00pm

- Tea and Scones
- Crown Crafts
- Hook a Crown
- London Trivia Quiz
- Kings Lineage Stand
- My Family Tree

and come inside for Prayer stations and Coronation-themed Flower displays!

St Augustine's Church,  
Southborough Lane, Bromley, BR2 8AT

## Take Courage

Many years ago, a very dear friend who worked at the church moved away to the Midlands. It had been a difficult time for me personally that year; the first time a close family member had died, leaving school with little idea of what I wanted to for a job, and then a lady I had the utmost respect for moving so far away. I was left feeling bereft.

After a few letters backwards and forwards an invitation came, to go and stay with my friend and her husband over the weekend of Palm Sunday. I quickly accepted and eagerly made the arrangements to travel up there. When the day came, I was nervous. Although I was with a mutual friend my mind was in overdrive - what if the coach was late arriving at our destination (there was no such thing as a mobile phone to say we were almost there) and what if my snoring kept the whole household awake at night?



I can't have been a bad houseguest as a few months later I was making arrangements to do the same journey again, this time on my own. This time I had the responsibility of taking a large box containing a silver communion chalice with me. I was scared to let it out of my sight until I could pass it on to my friend. On the train up to London Victoria I enjoyed looking out of the window at the scenery. Just as the nerves started to kick in, I saw the words, 'Take Courage' painted on the side of a building. Ok, *you* understand, but as someone who was not much older than 17, I did not realise that it was an advertising slogan for a brand of beer, painted on the side of the Shortlands Tavern. I took it to be a kind of heavenly message telling me to do just that, 'Take Courage' and to enjoy my time away. I have to say I had a great time, and never again worried and enjoyed my frequent visits.

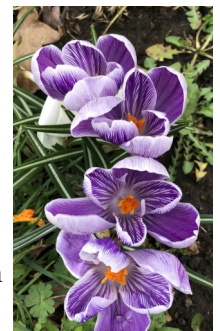
I often remind A Little Girl I Know to 'Take Courage' when she is having a wobbly day. I tell her that she is not alone in her worries and concerns and that whatever the situation, God is with her all the time. Recently she told me that she had remembered those words and had remembered to smile even just before her least favourite lesson of the week. PRAISE GOD!

## A Gentle Reminder

The purple crocus, peeking through the grass, heralds the coming of spring. It brings joy to our hearts and, as the emblem of the fight against polio, is a reminder that the task is not yet done.

In 1980, when the global initiative to eradicate polio started, there were 380,000 new cases. Last year, there were 22 - two in Afghanistan and 20 in Pakistan. During this forty year period, the number of non-endemic countries has increased. It is estimated that as many as 20 million people were saved from the disease and 1.5 million children escaped an early death. After three consecutive years in an area with no new cases, it is confirmed that polio has been eradicated.

There has been increased pressure on governments over the last few years to ensure that every child receives a vaccine. However, donors like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary remain firm in their aim to end polio. One day the purple crocus will no longer be a reminder of a work in progress, but rather a marker of a job well done. Let it be soon.



John Lee

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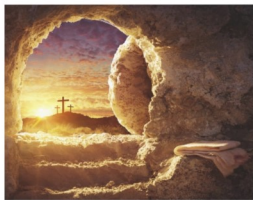


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# APRIL 2023

This SPECIAL **Easter** diary dates run alongside our Easter programme of services **overleaf** or:  
[www.st-augustines.org.uk](http://www.st-augustines.org.uk)



Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Monday 3rd	<b>Holy Week Evening Prayer</b>	St Augustine's Chapel	7.00pm	Join us, as we enter Holy Week, for Evening Prayer in the Chapel
Wednesday 5th	<b>'Faces of Easter' Meditation</b>	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm	Guided meditation in the church unlocking the mystery of Easter
Thursdays from 6th	<b>Warm Space and CAMEO</b>	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	10.00am ~ 4.00pm	A cozy space to meet, chat, enjoy soup and rolls and cake... wi-fi & work spaces available
Maundy Thursday	 <b>Evening service</b>	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday evening service with Holy Communion
Good Friday		St Augustine's Church	12.00 noon ~ 3.00pm	Reflections at the cross
Easter Sunday	<b>Sunrise Service with Holy Communion</b>	St Augustine's Church	6.00am	
Easter Sunday	<b>Easter Day!</b>	St Augustine's Church	10.00am	A service of Holy Communion to celebrate our risen Lord and Saviour
Saturday 15th	<b>Youth Connect 'Minute to Win it' Challenge</b>	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Yr 7+ enjoy a night full of 60-second challenges and competitions!
Monday 17th	 <b>Merry Pilgrims Walk</b>	Five Oak Lane, Staplehurst, Tonbridge TN12 0HT 	10.30am	A self-guided tour of the Hush Heath Estate and Balfour winery
Tuesday 18th	<b>Forget Me Not Café</b>	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30pm ~ 3.30pm	
Wednesdays from 19th	<b>The ARK Toddler Group</b>	St Augustine's Church	10.00am ~ 11.30am	
Wednesday 19th	<b>Mothers' Union ALL welcome!</b>	St Augustine's Chapel	12.00pm noon	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion, followed by soup and rolls.
Wednesday 19th	<b>Bits and Pieces 'Embroidery Part 2'</b>	St Augustine's Church, Barnard Room	7.30pm ~ 9.30pm	Time to continue building our embroidery skills. £5 for materials.
Saturday 22nd	<b>Mothers' Union Spring Members' meeting</b>	St Paulinus Church, Crayford	9.30am for 10.00am ~ 2.30pm	
Saturday 29th	 <b>Youth Connect Photo Challenge!</b>	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Year 7+ Join us for photo quizzes and challenges

## 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  
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**Parish Office:** (Linda Spencer 020 8295 1550  
 (Mon - Fri 10:00 - 1:00) (Victoria Bouwer email: office@st-augustines.org.uk

You are welcome to join us - our regular Sunday and Midweek Services for April are:

<b>Sunday 2nd April</b>	Palm Sunday	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Café-Style Service</b>
<b>Monday 3rd April</b>	Week day	7.00pm	St Augustine's Chapel <b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday 5th April</b>	Week day	7.00pm	St Augustine's Church <b>'Faces of Easter' Meditation</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday 6th</b>	Week day	7.00pm	St Augustine's Church <b>Holy Communion and foot-washing</b>
<b>Good Friday 7th April</b>	Week day	12.00 noon ~ 3.00pm	St Augustine's Church <b>Reflections at the cross</b>
<b>Sunday 9th April</b>	EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service	06.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Sunrise Service</b> (followed by croissants)
<b>Sunday 9th April</b>	EASTER SUNDAY	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Holy Communion Easter Celebration</b>
<b>Wednesday 12th April</b>	Midweek	12.00 noon	St Augustine's Chapel <b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 16th April</b>	2nd Sunday of Easter	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Morning worship</b>
<b>Sunday 16th April</b>	2nd Sunday of Easter	5.30pm	St Luke's Church <b>Holy Communion Service</b>
<b>Sunday 23rd April</b>	3rd Sunday of Easter	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Holy Communion Service</b>
<b>Sunday 30th April</b>	4th Sunday of Easter	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Morning Worship</b>

The 10am 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)

April Edition: Editor - Mary Plummer Layout - Karen Palmer

The May 2023 edition will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St. Luke's website  
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