



# roundabout



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

Issue 543 June 2023

## A Splash of the Bold

When was the last time you tried something for the first time? Being brave and encouraging others was the theme of my school assemblies this week at Southborough Primary School, so I thought I'd share a few thoughts with you too! Doing something new, like learning a musical instrument or making the perfect macaron, can sometimes feel like an impossible task, one that often makes us want to give up altogether. In the moments of struggle it's often difficult to see the end result or even any progress, but perseverance is a key skill to grab hold of.



After a long busy day for Jesus and his friends by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus wanted to sit and pray. So he sent the disciples to the other side of the lake, saying that he would catch up. Just before dawn, with a mist in the air, the disciples saw something strange. A figure in the distance was coming towards them across the lake. As the figure grew closer, some of the disciples recognised that it was Jesus walking across the rough water, like it was dry land. Peter called out to Jesus, asking if he could join him. Peter took a deep breath, sat on the edge of the boat, swung his legs over the side and gently lowered himself onto the water, keeping his eyes fixed on Jesus. Peter stood up carefully and began to walk across the water, step by step, closer and closer to Jesus. Suddenly a gust of wind swirled around him, flapping his cloak around his legs. At his feet, he could hear the waves splashing over his sandals. "This is impossible" Peter thought to himself, shivering in the wind. He looked down at the water, dark and deep and ... SPLASH! Suddenly Peter wasn't walking on the water anymore, now he was sinking, but Jesus grabbed his hand and helped him back into the boat.

Peter wanted to walk on the water like Jesus did. Jesus encouraged him to do it and he could, while he was looking at Jesus, believing that he could. But as soon as Peter took his eyes off Jesus, and stopped believing, he sank! Sometimes there's something you'd like to do, but you're a bit scared to start, you're not sure if you can do it, and it feels really difficult. It's been said that if you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat. You have to take the first step; you have to try, be brave, even if you're feeling the challenge is difficult, just like Peter did.

We've all heard the phrase 'practice makes perfect', but I think that's an impossible task, so maybe it should be 'practice makes progress' instead. Jesus is God's son and was able to do amazing things, like walk on water. Just like he encouraged Peter to climb out of the boat and walk on the water as well, he also helps us to do difficult or new things. As it says in the Bible, 'I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength.' So be brave, try new things and keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

**Helen Baker, Youth and Schools Minister**



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



## Coronation on the Green

What a fabulous way to end the Coronation weekend! St. Augustine's with St. Luke's pulled out all the stops to provide a wonderful experience for the local community on the Monday afternoon. As the weather was changeable, the event was held in St. Augustine's church and adjoining rooms, including the Scout Hut. Over 325 people came to celebrate the Coronation and the atmosphere was friendly and welcoming.

On entering the church we were given a copy of a quiz, and questions were posted all around the church and garden. It was a challenging quiz and people were to be seen searching for questions and pondering the answers. Many prizes had been donated and the first prize was four tickets to Horrible Histories in London. Tables and chairs were set out throughout the church and cream teas were served to a steady stream of people, who were then able to sit and chat as they enjoyed this treat.

One of the things that caught my eye was a table with memorabilia on it from previous coronations. It brought back memories for those of us old enough to remember the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953. There were numerous flower arrangements around the church and six special displays highlighting Coronation-related Prayer Stations.

The children were able to make a coronation crown, colouring a paper crown, decorating it with jewels and assembling it to wear home. They could also make a wand adorned with a crown and ribbons. Thanks to Helen and her helpers for this activity.



In the Garden Room John Blunden showed his family tree and one for Christine Regas and we were encouraged to write one of our own. There was a large chart showing the genealogy of King Charles III.

In the Scout Hut the Brownies had a game called 'Pick a Crown'. If you were lucky you could win a sweet or a small prize. Needless to say, I wasn't, but it was fun trying.

Sue Goodger

## A Street Party for the Coronation

On Sunday 7 May many street parties were held to celebrate the Coronation. The NewsShopper was full of the notices of road closures across the Bromley Borough.



A Pillar Box Topper in Petts Wood

My road held a small party with only a few of the houses. There were tables of food in front gardens and lots of different drinks to choose from to toast the new King. It was a chance to meet new neighbours and to spend time with friends.

A collection was taken towards the cost and we donated any money left over to CASPA.

This award winning charity provides a support and social hub for the autistic community in Bromley, currently working with over 500 autistic individuals and their families in a variety of venues.

We had a lovely day and were able to help others at the same time.

I'm sure King Charles would approve.

Sue Goodger



## Coronation Flower Displays and Prayer Stations

We arranged Prayer Stations for people to reflect on related to the theme of kings ~ Jesus the King and King Charles III



### 'The King'

We invited you to consider the contrast of the crown worn by our earthly King Charles III and that of Jesus; one wore a crown of lavish jewels... the other a harsh crown of thorns.



### 'Power and Authority'



The Orb presented to King Charles represents the Sovereign's power and governance. Scripture says that Jesus has been given supreme authority in heaven and on earth. We prompted people to: **'Think about who has authority in your life?'**



### 'Forgive us our sins...'

The Bible says that if we deny we do wrong then we are deceiving ourselves, but if we are honest enough to admit we get things wrong and confess to God, then he promises to forgive us, (1 John 1:8)



We invited people to spend some time to reflect on anything that might be acting as a barrier between them and God ~ and to ask for forgiveness.

(We used stones covered in sand as symbols of sin... they were washed clean in the water below the image of a son being reconciled to their father).

### 'You anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows...'



It was a sacred moment when King Charles was anointed with oil at the Coronation. Taken from Psalm 23, these words tell us that one day God will anoint us and bless us to the point of overflowing. We invited you to use the Chrism oil to sign the cross on your hands or forehead as a symbol of God's desire to bless his beloved children.

### 'He brought me to his banqueting table and his banner over me is love...'

Word taken from the Old Testament Song of Songs, chapter 2 verse 4. We invited anyone to help themselves to our food-laden table as a reminder of God's abundant generosity to us.



### 'The Throne Room of Heaven'

King Charles was seated on the royal throne in Westminster Abbey on May 6th 2023. Scripture says that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and now he 'is seated at the right hand of God the Father' (1 Peter 3:22)



Our special thanks to Cathy and Alan Fyfield and the Flower Guild, John Blunden, Helen Baker and Rev Rachel Winn for these stations.

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## Ringling for the King

I think we can all agree that the Coronation ceremony on May 6th was a spectacular and memorable occasion, with part of its appeal the excellent bell-ringing of the Westminster Abbey ringers sounding out both before and after the service.

For hundreds of years church bells have rung out, not only to call communities to worship, but also to celebrate special occasions, in remembrance of others and to signify special events. They are part of the soundscape of the UK. In June 2022 we all celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with the sound of bells and sadly in September 2022 bells were rung muffled throughout the nation as a mark of respect at her passing. There are estimated to be over 80,000 church bells in this country, but only about 30,000 qualified ringers. Following the announcement of King Charles' Coronation, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) initiated an appeal to recruit more ringers to be trained in time to *Ring for the King*.

We in this joint parish are privileged to have at St Luke's an excellent ring of eight bells. However the deprivations of Covid and lock-down have reduced our St Luke's band to three or four regular ringers. Ringing for services and other occasions requires the continued assistance and cooperation of ringers from neighbouring towers.

Faced with this situation and the CCCBR appeal, Chris Lawrance (Tower Captain) and I set about recruiting new ringers. Sadly, our appeals for support from our congregations fell on deaf ears. However in November 2022, 16 year old Esra and her mother, Alison, having read about '*Ring for the King*' joined our team of bell ringers.

Typically, practising once a week with the odd missed practice and only a limited amount of 'rope-time' each, to learn sufficient bell control to ring independently and within a band of 6-8 other ringers can take many months. Alison and Esra managed it in just over four. So on Coronation day Chris managed to assemble a band of six 'true' St Luke's ringers, and at 10am we rang 30 minutes of Rounds and Call Changes to celebrate His Majesty's accession, an achievement made possible only by our '*Ring for the King*' recruits.

**Postscript.** And they love it, and firmly intend to continue with our band. If this fires your interest, please contact Chris ([christopherlawrance@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christopherlawrance@yahoo.co.uk)) or me at [worgretdons@gmail.com](mailto:worgretdons@gmail.com), and we would be delighted to 'show you the ropes'.



**Bromley Ecumenical Singers**

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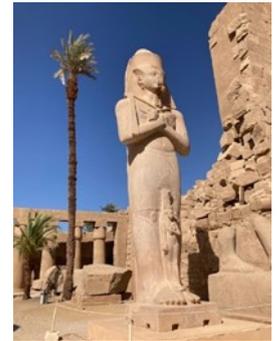
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## Travels to Egypt

In 1981, Tom and I were given as a wedding present, a beautiful framed photo of 'Sunset over the Nile'. We have wanted to go ever since! In April we went to Hurghada for a few days in a resort and swam through beautiful coral reefs with brightly coloured fish whilst snorkeling in the Red Sea.

We drove for three hours through the desert to Luxor where we visited the East and West bank pharaohs' temples, including the tombs of Rameses and Tutankhamun which were just stunning; the sheer size and expanse together with the beautiful carvings and décor. Considering they are nearly 4000 years old, they are in a fantastic condition with original colours. 1,600 sphinxes line the road from East to West. We viewed the Valley of the Kings (despite my fear of heights) from a hot air balloon – it was spectacular to fly like a bird.



Karnak temple

Egypt is 80% desert and sailing along the beautiful river Nile through fields of wheat and rice you can see how reliant they are on their only source of natural water.



Edfu

We visited Edfu and Kom Ombo temples, the Aswan Dam, sailed a felucca to a Nubian village with its African vibe and rode a camel before our journey back along the Nile.

We had a brilliant guide whose knowledge of Egyptology made our experience fascinating. We were there during Ramadan. With 80% of people being Muslim (just 20% Catholic/Orthodox) it was interesting to see how strict they were (including our guide) with fasting, not even a sip of water in 30 degrees of heat!



Edfu

The minarets called them to pray several times a day and the huge mosques were beautiful. It was lovely to see the Christian cross high on churches too.

Maybe Steve and Rachel could ring our church bells several times a day, to remind us to pray.

Helen Smith

## Congratulations

The Morning Service at St Augustine's on Sunday 21 May became very special when Katrina and John Barnes renewed their wedding vows after 50 years of marriage.

The church had been beautifully decorated with arrangements of pink and white carnations, the same colours as were used on The Day.

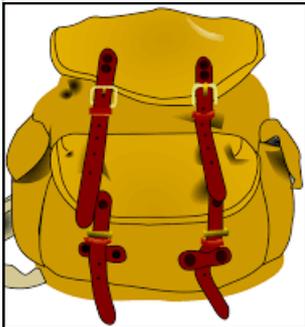
Many tears were brushed away as the couple made their vows with their family in Australia and Spain watching online. We wish them many more happy years together.



## The Armour of Mum

After picking up A Little Girl I Know from school recently we decided to stop on the way home for a treat. Finding two coffee shops out of action – one about to close, the other's coffee machine not working there was only one place left to go – The Pub!

Before long we were drinking our favourite fizzy drink, and tucking into a small snack that would end up being our dinner that evening. By us sat a new family, the baby only a few weeks old, the young parents eating their food, grateful I'm sure that someone else had cooked it for them. I could almost feel myself salivating as I recalled the cottage pie my Mum and Dad brought round a few days after we came home with A Little Girl I Know. Win, win, they got a cuddle with their almost new granddaughter, and we had the best meal I had eaten for the previous nine and a half months.

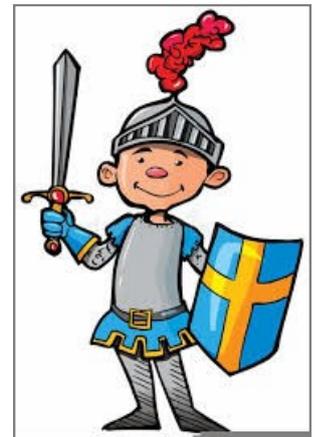


The baby in The Pub seemed to sleep most of the time waking briefly for a nappy change and a top up of milk. I thought back about the bag or rucksack that came everywhere with us in the early days of parenthood. Going out when A Little Girl I Know was small was like planning a military exercise. There was always so much to take in case of the unforeseen happening. Besides the obvious things like food and nappies, there was the change of clothes for her, a clean top for me just in case, and lots of other bits and pieces. I am pleased to say that I was caught out without it only once, and a friend was on hand with an extra nappy that she had packed that morning.

The Bible tells us in Ephesians chapter 6 verses 11 - 17 about The Armour of God which is vital for our fight against the Devil and the evil in the world around us. As a child I was fascinated by bright, shiny armour made of iron or steel, worn by the Knights of old as they went into a battle. We don't physically wear armour, but the word of God, the Bible, protects us.

A Little Girl I Know and all of us fight battles day by day, some others know about, others known to God alone. May God help us to put on our spiritual armour and stand firm knowing that God is with us every day.

I often think of that new family in The Pub. I pray that they may be equipped to enjoy every moment with their new arrival, just as I continue to treasure my best ever Christmas present, A Little Girl I Know born all those years ago.



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# JUNE 2023

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



Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Thursdays from 1st	<b>Welcome Space and CAMEO</b>	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	11.00am ~ 4.00pm	A space to meet, chat, enjoy coffee, light lunch, tea & cake... wi-fi & work spaces available
Wednesdays from 7th (Term-time only)	<b>The ARK Toddler Group</b>	St Augustine's Church	10.00am ~ 11.30am	
Wednesday 7th	<b>Ice Pops on the Green</b>	St Augustine's Church Green	From 3.00pm	Free Ice Pops to passers-by, (weather-dependent)
Thursday 8th	<b>CAMEO Police Scam Talk and Q&amp;A</b>	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	2.45pm	Come and meet our friendly local Police Community Support Officers and hear about how to avoid scams in your neighbourhood.
Saturday 10th	<b>Youth Connect</b>	Jubilee Park	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Walk in the Jubilee Park. Details to be confirmed by Whats App.
Sunday 18th	<b>St Luke's Healing Service with Holy Communion</b>	St Luke's Church, Bromley Common	5.30pm	 
Tuesday 20th	<b>Forget Me Not Café</b>	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30pm	
Wednesday 21st	<b>Bits and Pieces</b>	St Augustine's Church, Barnard Room	7.30pm ~ 9.30pm	Come and join us as we continue to grow our skills in Embroidery. No skill needed. £5
Wednesday 21st	<b>Mothers' Union Cheese and Wine Evening</b>	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	8.00pm	Come and find out about the Mothers' union - all welcome; it is not just for mothers or women.
Saturday 24th	<b>Youth Connect</b>	St Augustine's Church, Barnard Room	6.30pm ~ 9.00pm	Murder in the Youth Group. Work out 'who dun it?' in our Murder Mystery Party
Tuesday 27th	<b>Merry Pilgrims Walk</b>	Meet at Shorham, Filston Lane Free Car Park TN14 7SR. Lifts can be arranged if needed.	10.30am	A walk approx 7Km, (2hrs) mainly flat along trails and paths.

## Staff Contact Details

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<b>Churchwarden:</b>	Jeff Blyth	07557 349279
<b>Parish Office:</b>	(Linda Spencer	020 8295 1550
<b>(Mon - Fri 10:00 - 1:00)</b>	(Victoria Bouwer	email: office@st-augustines.org.uk

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

<b>Sunday 4th June</b>	Trinity Sunday	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Café-Style Service</b>
<b>Sunday 11th June</b>	Barnabas the Apostle	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Wednesday 14th June</b>	Midweek	12.00 Noon	St Augustine's Chapel <b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 18th June</b>	2nd Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>Sunday 18th June</b>	2nd Sunday after Trinity	5.30pm	St Luke's Church <b>Healing Service with Holy Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 25th June</b>	3rd Sunday after Trinity	10.00am	St Augustine's Church <b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Wednesday 28th June</b>	Midweek	12.00 noon	St Augustine's Chapel <b>Holy Communion</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

June Edition: Editor - Sue Goodger Layout - Tanya Wardley

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