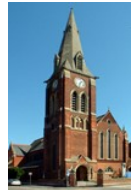




roundabout



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

Issue 549 February 2024

Graduation

Where has January gone? It was almost as if I blinked and it was over! Early on in January not only did we, as a church, have our wonderful Parish Weekend away (see inside for details) but I personally had the joy of graduating from Durham University with my degree.



The ceremony took place in Durham Cathedral and marked the closure of five years of studying Theology, some of it was a joy and, if I'm honest, some of it was a real challenge! It was a proud moment and made me think about how much I have changed over this time. There is something very important about reflecting on the past which then enables us to begin to move forward.

As we begin the season of Lent, we start with Ash Wednesday, a special service of penitence, where we acknowledge past things that we have done wrong which need addressing and putting right. **'Sorry'** is an important word if we want to let go and move forward. Back in 1970, one of the most romantic films of its time was released, called *Love Story*. One of the famous lines spoken twice in the film is **"Love means never having to say you're sorry."** I think this is entirely untrue! If we never examine our hearts, or refuse to confess that we get things wrong, then we run the risk of our heart becoming hardened - towards God and to others. Love means exactly the opposite of this quote. It is precisely in the saying 'sorry' and receiving God's unconditional forgiveness that we become free to move forward into a new way of living.

*Happy is the person whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.
Happy is the person whom the Lord does not consider guilty
and in whom there is nothing false...
Then I confessed my sins to you and didn't hide my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my sins to the Lord," and you forgave my guilt.
(Psalm 32;2,5)*



We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday, with a special, reflective service at St Augustine's with St Luke's, where we take the call to repentance to heart. As we turn away from our wrongdoing and accept God's unconditional forgiveness, we can grow in faith and devotion to God. As an outward sign of what is taking place, our foreheads are marked, in ash, with the sign of the cross.

The start of Lent also happens to fall on the most romantic day of the year, 14th February, St Valentine's Day. Perhaps it would be good this year to think of this day as marking the beginning of the love story between God and us.

Rev Rachel Winn, BA (Hons) Theology, Ministry and Mission



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



Parish Weekend at Ashburnham Place



Hot on the heels of the Christmas and New Year festivities, with hardly a chance to take the decorations from the tree, a merry group of pilgrims set out for Ashburnham Place near Battle in Sussex. Ashburnham Place, an imposing stately home, now used as a Christian Retreat and Conference Centre, nestling in 220 acres of beautiful countryside, provided the perfect sanctuary for our endeavours.

We had a staggered arrival on Friday evening, with some people taking lengthy detours due to flooding or sat nav failures, but all were in time to share the first meal and settle into accommodation. Old friends were

able to catch up and new friendships were forged with those familiar faces for whom time had always limited opportunities to become better acquainted. A welcome and uplifting worship service moved us seamlessly towards the end of the day and the chance to enjoy the lounge and bar.

Saturday morning saw our merry pilgrims, well rested for the most part, breakfasted and levels of anticipation and expectation rising for the launch of the first session. The purpose of the weekend was to share our thoughts on where God is calling our church as a whole and each of us individually. The first session, Launching the Vision, considered areas in which we have done well and those in which we have further work to do. As part of the session, we looked at the vision and mission of other churches, the demographics of our own parish, two examples of successful initiatives, one in our own church and the other from another church. After coffee, the second session allowed us to reflect on what God is calling each of us to do, through a mixture of talks, directed focus on scripture, prayer and reflection.

After the exertions of the morning, we were ready for a hearty lunch, followed by personal time to explore the wonderful grounds and stately buildings or sit and chat enjoying fellowship with each other. All too quickly we were beginning the third session, Priorities into Action, which provided the opportunity to join with others in one of four groups, each of which explored a different priority for the future. In rapid succession there followed, a service of worship and praise, the evening meal and entertainment for the evening. On the subject of the Talent Show on Saturday evening, I am almost lost for words. What talent lies hidden in our community! We were treated to an evening filled with fun and surprises. If only we had made a video to share with everyone, I believe it would have gone viral; comedy, musical performances, songs, poetry and a conscripted community choir. I will never forget the rendition of Yellow Submarine with forty people playing imaginary instruments to form the band mentioned in the lyrics. "When the band begins to play"it certainly did. Watch out Mr Malone!

Sunday morning was frenetic with packing, checking out and breakfast, all prior to the start of the fourth session of the weekend. In this session, we began to bring together strands of visionary thinking for where God might take us in the next three years. We closed with a service of Holy Communion before departing for home. The weekend was thought-provoking, generated many ideas and established the magnitude of the task ahead and the importance of encouraging service amongst our whole community. There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit was working through our merry group of pilgrims and we pray for this to continue as we progress ideas and initiatives.

We have started the important work of considering God's Vision for our parish for the next three years, but there are many people still to hear from, in order that everyone has the chance to be heard before decisions are made. For those that attended the parish weekend and those who are still to contribute, the work of discerning God's purpose has started for St Augustine's with St Luke's. A heartfelt thanks from the leadership team for all that has been done and for all that will be done in the months ahead.

Jeff Blyth, Churchwarden

Lent Pilgrimage

What are your plans for Lent? It's not about simply giving things up but a time for growing in our faith. Would you like a daily Bible reading and reflection or perhaps to join a Lent course? We'll be using group discussion material from the Church of England's Pilgrim series which asks, "What difference does being a Christian make?" We can travel as pilgrims, the pathway of our life becomes more meaningful and joyful, and the world a better place. No one will force the pace of your pilgrimage but together our Lent activities can challenge our perspective and could change the direction of our lives. (See the newsletter for details of the Lent Groups).

Verity Mitchell

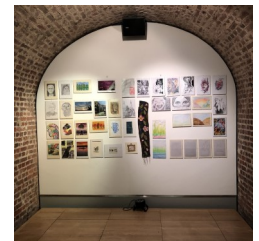
A Winter Outing

In a quiet street between The Strand and the Thames lies a hidden gem: the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. (RSA) The organisation is committed to finding practical solutions to social challenges. The building, designed by Georgian architects Robert and James Adam, is beautifully proportioned and elegant and today offers a lecture hall, meeting rooms, libraries and display spaces. A small group of us were lucky enough to be given a guided tour by Phil Emery, who is a Fellow.



We began by looking at the list of influential men and women who have chaired the RSA Council from its inception in 1754. It includes Madame Curie, Orville Wright, Lord Nuffield and in our own day, James Dyson, Grayson Perry, Simon Rattle and Norman Foster. The common thread is that those who have supported the RSA by holding this office, have enabled people and places to improve and flourish. The President is currently the Princess Royal and the CEO Andy Haldane, formerly of the Bank of England.

Early schemes included trying to find a technological replacement for child chimney sweeps, seeking a way to stop banknote forgery and holding public exhibitions of contemporary art, later to become the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy. It was the RSA with Prince Albert which initiated the Great Exhibition of 1851. The introduction of workers' self education, the creation of girls' secondary schools and examining bodies for skills, such as typing, were also headed up by the RSA. The 20th century saw it pioneer the concept of environmentalism and it established the Design for Industry annual awards. Student Design Awards are now regularly awarded.



Our visit was made very special when Phil took us to the restored vaults. The dingy space originally under the road leading down to the river, housed furs, wines and other goods which were offloaded and stored before The Embankment Gardens were in place. They have been transformed into a pleasing exhibition space and in January the charity **2makeit** and their social enterprise partner, **Pictora**, were invited to mount the 'Made Visible' exhibition, previously displayed at the Friends' House in Euston. As Andy Haldane writes in the RSA Journal, 'Arts and Culture have been restored to their rightful place at the centre of the RSA and our Vaults are hosting the work of a charity that rehabilitates offenders through programmes in music, art and writing'. It was heartwarming to see the anonymous works of those seemingly least valued by society in one of the most perfect and prestigious buildings in London.

Mary Plummer

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Our Knitted Blankets Update

Two days before Christmas Sue Goodger received this lovely email from Louise, from the church in Lee where she takes our knitted blankets.

Dearest Sue,

I write to send you an extra special thank you to you and your amazing team of knitters!!

We were so pleased to be able to distribute the lovely knitted blankets to our clients just before Christmas. I also wrapped all the beautiful beanies individually and gave them out as presents to the children at the foodbank. I took the time to allocate them individually by age and gender and I know in the New Year I will be ready to see the children come to the foodbank wearing their new beanies, like they did last year!



This year we were fortunate to welcome new babies at the foodbank so I prioritised those families to receive the beautiful baby blankets. They could not believe how gorgeous they were!! We have many new clients this year and they were so surprised when we handed them the gorgeous hand knitted blankets. They unfolded them in front of me to see the whole blanket, and with every unfold they would go 'oh wow... oh wow... oh wow!' I explained to them where the blankets came from and that they had been crafted with love by a wonderful team of knitters, and the clients asked me where the lovely knitters were because they wanted to go and say thank you! They all said 'God bless them' and 'please tell them a big thank you from us'.

We are so grateful to you for putting big bright smiles on our clients' faces at this special time of the year. On behalf of our clients I wish you all an extra special and merry Christmas and a very happy new year. All the best for 2024.

Warm wishes,

Louise Vangheluwe,

Administration Assistant & FoodBank Administrator, Action For Refugees in Lewisham (AFRIL)

The Friends of Jubilee Country Park Need Your Help.



Lovely cakes and refreshments were provided in the Garden Room of St Augustine's when members of the Friends of Jubilee Park met recently. There was an exhibition of the work that they have done over the years and a new project was outlined. They are going to plant an orchard near the Thornet Wood Road car park. This work is being undertaken by the Conservation Work Party which meets on Monday mornings from 10 am to 1 pm. They need more volunteers for this and I am told that tea, coffee and cake are provided for the workers. Would this interest you?

Also, on a less energetic note, they need litter pickers. The equipment will be provided and the rubbish collected is put in the bins there. For more information contact Jennie Randall 07840 542261

Sue Goodger

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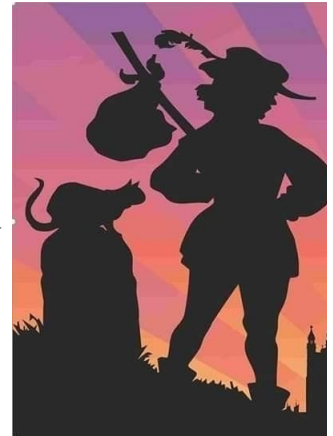


Oh yes it was!

In this year's Scout Pantomime Dick Whittington made his spectacular journey to London, enhanced by the special lighting effects and scenery which transformed the scout hut into a West End theatre.

In spite of the best efforts of King Rat to stop him and even surviving a shipwreck, Dick and his cat Tommy reached London and the show had the happy ending we all hoped for. The cast was as engaging and energetic as ever as the audience encouraged them with boos and cheers as appropriate.

With a larger cast this year, representing different sections of the group, the staging and direction was amazing. Another splendid evening and great fun was had by all.



Ann Hanrahan

Help Us Build a Brighter Future for Our Scouts - Your Support Matters!



The 23rd Bromley Scout Group strive to provide an enriching and transformative experience for our young members, and we are excited to embark on a new project that will help shape the future of our Scouting community.

Our Scouts have been thriving, growing, and learning important life skills through their involvement in various activities and adventures. However, as our group continues to expand, we face the challenge of needing new bathroom facilities that suit the demographic of our young members, and ensuring our Scout headquarters are accessible to those with physical disabilities.

We are looking for support to play a crucial role in funding the construction of this extension and toilet facilities, allowing us to create an environment where our Scouts can continue to learn, grow, and make lasting memories.

Here's how you can contribute:

1. **Monetary Donations:** Your financial support, no matter the amount, will make a significant impact. Every pound brings us one step closer to providing our Scouts with the facilities they deserve.
2. **Business Funding:** Often businesses will have a charity fund, or a match funding scheme. If your workplace has one of these, it can make a huge difference to our fundraising efforts.
3. **In-Kind Contributions:** If you or your business can contribute materials, services, or expertise, we would be incredibly grateful. Your in-kind support is invaluable in helping us minimise costs and maximise the impact of your contribution.
4. **Spread the Word:** Share our cause with your friends, family, and colleagues who may be interested in supporting the development of these facilities. Your advocacy can help us reach a wider audience and garner the support we need.

More details can be found at: <https://23rdbromleyscouts.org/wordpress/hall/hqproject/>
Alternatively, contact us directly at Admin@23rdbromleyscouts.org to get more information.

Thank you in advance for all your help. Together, we can build a foundation for the ongoing success and growth of our Scouts.

David Goodwin

Reduce, Recycle, Reuse

Monday in our house is manic to say the least. The alarm goes off early, as there is much to do before we leave to make the journey to the school of A Little Girl I Know. Not only the normal ablutions, but it is the day of our rubbish collection by the council's contractor. There are bins to put out, but also the recycling to put in a place where it can be seen and collected. Over the past few months, we have been working through a list of rooms to sort out and declutter. It hasn't always been an easy process. Like most of us, letting go of some items has been easier than others.

A Little Girl I Know always finds it difficult to say goodbye to her cuddly toys, as so many have stories of how they came into her possession. Remember Berry, the pink and white bear bought by an elderly couple who had watched her pick it up in a shop? They saw me return it to the shelf as I hadn't enough money to buy it for her. They gave it to her saying that watching the two of us together that afternoon had really made them smile. I would imagine Berry and plenty of other cuddly toys will be lifetime friends of hers. We did manage to sort out using our three favourite boxes.



Reduce - for things that we no longer need, but by donating them to the local charity shops would help them to raise much needed funds. *Recycle* - for things which, with a bit of help from Google, we can use with a group we run to make into something else, thus increasing their usefulness. *Reuse* - it often happens that something I don't need anymore she can find a use for, and vice versa.

There can't be many teenagers who, when asked what they want to do during the school holidays, ask for some time to sort out their stuff and do a tip run. There is something oddly satisfying about climbing up the steps, throwing the bag or item into the large container, and hearing it hit the bottom, knowing it has well and truly gone.

We need to remember that when we talk to God about a situation, we need to leave it with Him, trusting Him to deal with it as He thinks best. We shouldn't try to get into the container to retrieve it, but leave it with God and in His strength move on. Onwards and upwards, dear friends, knowing God knows best.

A New Post Office

A new Post Office will be opening in early March at Bickley Food and Wine, 191 Southborough Lane. This follows the closing of the Post Office in Chatterton Road.

Rob Hutchings

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February Diary 2024

Sunday Services

Sunday 4th February
10am Cafe Church

Sunday 11th February
10am Morning Worship

Sunday 18th February
10am Holy Communion
5.30pm Taize

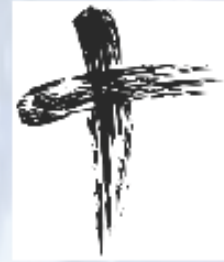
Sunday 25th February
10am Morning Worship

St Augustine's Church.
Proverbs 8 1 22-31, John 1: 1-14

St Augustine's Church.
2 Kings 2: 1-12, Mark 9: 2-9

St Augustine's Church.
Genesis 9: 8-17, Mark 1: 9-15
St Luke's Church

St Augustine's Church.
Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16, Mark 8: 31-end



Mid Week Holy Communion Services

Wednesday 14th and 28th February St Augustine's Chapel, at Midday
Ash Wednesday Service 14th February Holy Communion, 7pm St Augustine's Church

Lent 2024 'Pilgrim Course'

... 'a journey to the heart of God and a living relationship with Jesus Christ'.

Starts Shrove Tuesday 13th February: 7pm St Augustine's Church: join us for pancakes and the First Pilgrim session. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of Church for all sessions.

Weekly Groups

ARK

Every Wednesday, St Augustine's Church, 10.00am - 11.45am. Booking essential see below for church website details

Warm Space & CAMEO - All Welcome

Every Thursday 11am - 4pm. Join us for Food and Friendship. Pancakes on 15th February!

Monthly Groups

Youth Connect - Friendship and Food for School Years 7+

Saturday 10th February - "Shrove Saturday" come and make (and eat) your own pancakes.

Saturday 24th February - Movie Night with popcorn and snacks

'Cheerful Walkers' (formerly Merry Pilgrims)

We are hibernating for the winter but will return in March with our new name.

Mothers' Union

Wednesday 21st February - Join us for a seated games afternoon in the Garden Room.

Friends Re-United

Monday 26th February at 12.30pm - Garden Room at St Augustine's Church

Forget Me Not Café

Tuesday 20th February at 1.30pm - Garden Room at St Augustine's Church

Contact Details: Parish Office 020 8295 1550 (Weekday am Only). Email: office@st-augustines.org.uk
Website: <https://www.st-augustines.org.uk>

Staff Contact Details

Vicar:	Rev'd Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351 or 07778 784331
Curate:	Rev'd Rachel Winn	07311 330202
Licensed Lay Minister:	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Licensed Lay Minister:	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
Churchwarden:	Hilary Chittock	07884 195700
Churchwarden:	Jeff Blyth	07557 349279
Parish Office:	(Linda Spencer	020 8295 1550
(Mon - Fri 10:00 - 1:00)	(Victoria Bouwer	email: office@st-augustines.org.uk

The 10am service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel, 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
Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com

World Day of Prayer



'I beg you ... bear with one another in love'

You will be welcome to attend one of these local services to celebrate this year's World Day of Prayer on Friday 1 March.

St. George's Church, Bickley Park Road, Bromley, BR1 2BE at 11.00 am

St Nicholas Church, Leamington Avenue, Orpington BR6 9QB at 10.30 am

St Mary's Church, 61 College Road, Bromley, BR1 3QG at 10.30 am

The service this year is significant as it was prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

February Edition: Editor - Sue Goodger Layout - Tanya Wardley

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