



roundabout



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

Issue 539 February 2023

Hope Springs...

The start of 2023 has been a cold and gloomy one so far, the cold snap we are experiencing, in many respects, sums up the general mood of the country. The rising cost of food and energy is driving up the rate of inflation, interest rate rises are impacting upon mortgages, while many in our public sector for the first time feel they have no other option than to take strike action over pay and conditions. This new 'winter of discontent' has the potential to gnaw away at the very fabric of our society, especially if we add the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine and other political, social and economic upsets around the world.

Sadly the picture painted of 2023 so far seems far removed from the hope and optimism that normally greets the start of a new year. However, I get the impression that something else is also taking place, a growing sense of community that is bringing people together. For instance, the increasing need for food banks has pricked the conscience of many to offer help in all kinds of ways, from distributing to donating. Communities are gathering in churches and community hubs where warm spaces are offered to those who are struggling with heating bills. For some the challenges of this year will seem insurmountable, yet as individuals and community we can make a difference in the world we inhabit.

It would be all too easy to concentrate on the challenges that we will face this year, but we must not forget that there will be many things that will bring us joy, a wedding or a birth, a special birthday, a family gathering, falling in love. These are the kind of joys that remind us of our humanity and are stamped into our DNA; DNA that I would argue comes from the generous love of God which is expressed through his son Jesus Christ. As a Christian I see that God's love for us has not diminished and whether in times of joy or uncertainty he continually walks alongside us.

My prayer for 2023 is that we bring before God our hopes, our dreams, as well as our fears, asking for his peace, and his generous love in the uncertainty of this age.

Yours in Christ

Revd Steve Spencer, Vicar



More tea, 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.**

DEFIBRILLATOR

In early December Rev Steve asked me if I could explore purchasing a defibrillator to be fitted outside the church for the use of the local community. I invited David Wardley (church treasurer) and Liz Carter to join Sheila and me the following afternoon to explore the various options of getting one.



Initial enquiries showed that we needed to raise about £1,500 to not only pay for the machine, but for a secure box for it to be fitted on the church wall, an electrician to fit it and any ongoing expenses such as replacement pads and a new battery when required.

I had previously been given a very generous grant by a charity London Hearts towards the purchase of a defibrillator for my local running club (Zero to Hero). I approached them and they agreed to provide us with a grant of £300 towards the purchase and they would supply us with the machine and case in which it would be stored.

I foolishly expected this to take at least a month so you can imagine my surprise when Rev Steve rang me the following day to say two large boxes had arrived at the vicarage with the new machine and case!


We then had to go into overdrive to raise the funds to be able to pay for the machine. I appealed to our wonderful congregation and Sheila did the same with all our local businesses resulting in several generous donations especially from John in Ted's Coffee Shop and Claus Hairdressers. We also had a fantastic donation from the girls at Newstead Wood School.

The machine was duly fitted in the middle of December and to my amazement three days later I was contacted by London Ambulance Service to tell me the machine had been called into action earlier that day in a local emergency. As it happened the machine eventually wasn't required but it proved how important its availability was.

In an emergency the person who dials 999 to call the ambulance is given the code to open the box to access the machine. The defibrillator is fully automatic and once turned on gives very graphic instructions on how it should be used.

Richard Griffin

THE PARISH OF
ST AUGUSTINE'S WITH ST LUKE'S



CAMEO

(Come And Meet Each Other)
at our
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FORGET ME NOT CAFE



Memory cafe for anyone with dementia, their families, carers and friends.

Where: The Garden Room
St. Augustine's Church
Southborough Lane
Bromley BR2 8AT

When: Third Tuesday in the month
between 1.30 – 3.30pm

Tea, coffee and cakes available (Payment by donation)
Contact – Diana Pattison on 020 8464 1151 or
dianaepattison@gmail.com

(Run by the members of The Bromley Common Group of Churches)

'I have heard about your Faith'

The World Day of Prayer this year will be on Friday 3 March. Every year, the Christian community in a different country is chosen to prepare the worship and this year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Taiwan.

Taiwan is a country that has been caught in a power struggle for many years with China, who claims it as a sovereign Chinese territory. As of April 2022, only 13 of the 193 UN member states, including the Vatican, have recognised Taiwan as a sovereign territory.

Services in our area will be as follows on 3 March

St Mary's, Green Street Green 10.30 am

St. Peter and St. Paul, Bromley 10.30 am



Taiwan



Jinping Jumping the Gun.

This Christmas you could buy your child a Speaking Globe; touch anywhere with the special stylus and it tells you the name of the country you have chosen and all its important details, available in 48 languages.

Touch on Taiwan and the story is somewhat different. You will be told that its capital is **Beijing**, not **Taipei** and its currency is the **Renminbi** and not the **New Taiwan Dollar**.

Turn the globe over and you will see it is made in China. What a surprise! History on the hoof - fait accompli for President Xi Jinping. Job done!

Our prayers are needed more than ever.

Adrian King



Towards the end of last year, Open Spaces and Warm Spaces were popping up all over Bromley. They are intended to be social spaces where anyone can drop in. At St Augustine's with St Luke's, our own Warm space is on Southborough Lane in the Garden Room, next to the Scout Hut.

It runs all day on Thursdays from 10.30 – 4 pm and since we started numbers have varied; sometimes a small group, on other occasions enough for a few games tables.

Some come along for soup and rolls at lunchtime, or with a friend

for tea and cake in the afternoon. And, in these chilly days, it really is a warm space.

There is no advance notice needed and if you are passing or having a quiet day, our door is open and if you have a favourite game, bring it along!



What is the u3a?

The u3a, or the ‘University of the Third Age’, is a UK-wide charitable organisation which was founded forty years ago. Its aim is to provide opportunities for those no longer in work to come together to develop their interests, make new friends and learn for fun. You are never too old to learn!

Our u3a in Bromley is thriving, with so many groups that there really is something for everyone. With an annual subscription of £20 you are welcome to join any number of groups depending on space. Interest groups often take place in people’s homes, so there may be a waiting list. There are also General Meetings and Open Groups to which you can just turn up without pre-booking. Open groups which meet in hired rooms charge a small fee towards the running costs. There are also groups which meet via Zoom. There are over 70 groups, too many to mention here, ranging from active ones to more relaxing and thought-provoking ones. This illustration gives you an idea of some of them.

Several of our community at St Augustine’s with St Luke’s are members and three are group Leaders: Alan Carter for Nine Hole Golf and Bridge, Adrian King for Intermediate French Self-Help and me for Gardening (an Open Group).



If you want to find out more about our u3a, and what interest groups there are, visit www.u3abromley.org.uk . I can certainly recommend it.

Sue Goodger

Roundabout 2023

Good news from the PCC. The printed copy of Roundabout will continue to be delivered free of charge. If you wish to make donations to St Augustine’s with St Luke’s, details are below.

1. By cheque

Made payable to St Augustine’s with St Luke’s

Post it to the following address:

Roundabout Donation

St Augustine’s Church

Southborough Lane,

Bromley

BR2 8AT

Alternatively, to save a stamp, put it in the post box outside the entrance to St Augustine’s Church.

2. By your Computer and internet

Go to www.st-augustines.org.uk/roundabout and click on the link to the donation page. You will need a debit or credit card.

3. By using your phone to scan the QR Code and click on the link to the donation page. You will need a debit or credit card and the QR Code Reader, which can be downloaded free from the internet.



MORE ABOUT MERRY PILGRIMS.....

For those of you who saw my article in December's 'Roundabout' you will know that the 'Merry Pilgrims' (open to anyone who enjoys a gentle stroll in the fresh air, the chance to walk with friends or maybe make new ones, and to discover the greener parts of the locality) planned the next get-together to include a shortish walk and then lunch in the New Inn at Hayes.

We met in the car park at Norman Park and set off under Pam and Tanya's guidance through the park and then along various streets and a smaller park, Husseywell Open Space, complete with duck pond (it's a long time since I've seen so many mallards), until we reached our destination.

The New Inn at Hayes has a large Dining Area with a bar, and tables had been booked for us. There were several other groups already enjoying themselves and more came in - it is obviously very popular. The Menu was varied and the service excellent. There was lots of good-natured chatter over the food in the convivial atmosphere.

Afterwards five of us chose to walk back, taking a more countrified route from the one we had come by: the others went back by bus, or car. It had been another very pleasant outing and in lovely weather which is always a bonus!! *Thanks to Pam and Tanya for organising and to Gordon for checking out the New Inn for the group.*

Please look out for more info about Merry Pilgrims in the notices on page 7 of Roundabout if you are interested. The walks are usually once a month.



'Long shadows on a winter's day'

Carolyn Nield

Alan's new (temporary) role

Last Friday Alan Mitchell was licensed by the Bishop of Huntingdon as a Lay Chaplain to Christ's College, Cambridge where he's studying for a PhD. He'll be acting as a temporary chaplain in an interregnum until Easter. In the photo with Alan is the Bishop of Huntingdon, Dagmar, and the Master of Christ's College.

Alan will be responsible for all the services in the Chapel, complete with full choir, where he will preach and lead services and also have a wider pastoral responsibility for the college.



Socks



Do you own an excessive number of a certain item of clothing? For me I have a large collection of socks. There are plain black and blue (not that I can tell which one is which), there are ones with my favourite cartoon or Disney characters on them, there are long socks and short ones, and almost invisible ones once I have put on my shoes or trainers. Most have been gifts over the years, some although they are too brightly coloured to go with my clothes I wouldn't throw away as they have special meaning to me. There are 'No spring chicken' ones a gift from my Godson on my 40th birthday, the one and only pair I took on honeymoon with me. After two weeks of daily wear, evening washing, and overnight drying ready for the next day I decided that they were worth keeping, but have not been worn since.

Last week I noticed when I got to work that I had odd socks on... both blue, but one striped all over with a pink bit over the toes, the other a small amount of stripe like the others, but mainly plain with orange over the toes. On the inside I was embarrassed, on the outside I laughed it off, saying that I had another pair like that for the following day!

When I told A Little Girl I Know she laughed. She reminded me of when she was younger and she would sit on the bed pairing the socks as I put the rest of the clean washing away. I have to say that she was much better at it than me. Oh how I wish that she still did it for me as it has never been a favourite job of mine.


She then went on to tell me about her favourite socks, warm and fluffy ones worn all year round, but especially appreciated in the winter months.

The following day a charity collection bag appeared in our post-box; this prompted a wardrobe sort for us both. I was amazed with how much we no longer wore or needed and how much extra space we now had in our respective wardrobes. Later that week with the bag collected we talked about some of the items we had got rid of. Many held precious memories of the events that they had been worn for, which brought a tear or two to my eyes. No, I couldn't part with any of my precious socks and she her hoodies, so I guess we were quits.

Thank you, God, for the clothes in our wardrobes, for socks to keep our feet warm and hoodies for our bodies. We remember before you those who are not so fortunate as us. Amen.

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FEBRUARY 2023



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

Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Wednesday 1st	 Hot Chocolate on the Green	St Augustine's Church Green	From 3.00pm	Free hot chocolate to passers-by, (weather-dependent)
Thursdays 2nd 9th, 16th & 23rd	Warm Space & CAMEO	St Augustine's Church Halls	10.30am ~ 4.00pm	A cozy space to keep warm, to meet others, enjoy soup and rolls and cake... wi-fi and work spaces available
Sunday 5th	Café~Style Church	St Augustine's Church	10.00am	We share breakfast and the love of Jesus together
Saturday 11th	Youth Connect ~ Junk Modelling	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Yr 7+ Let your creativity run wild; see what you can make from small things!
Wednesday 15th	 Merry Pilgrims Walk	Meet at High Elms Golf Course Car Park	10.30am	A circular walk around the grounds, ending at the Green Roof Café
Wednesday 15th	Bits and Pieces ~ Hand Embroidery	St Augustine's Church, Barnard Room	7.30pm	Come and create a beautiful piece of art with a needle and thread. £5 for materials
Wednesday 15th	Mothers' Union ~ ALL welcome!	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	2.00pm ~ 4.00pm	Talk on MU work in prisons by Jenny Beaney, vice-president Rochester archdeaconry.
Saturday 18th	Interactive Lent Worship	St Augustine's Church	9.30am ~ 11.00am	Coffee & cake & simple worship, including hymns & songs for the Lent season
Tuesday 21st	Forget Me Not Café	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30pm ~ 3.30pm	
Wednesday 22nd	 Ash Wednesday Service	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm	A thoughtful reminder of the need for reconciliation with God, to mark the beginning of Lent
Thursdays from 23rd	Lent course	St Augustine's Church Hall	10.30am ~ 12.00 noon	Join us as we start our weekly <i>in-person</i> Lent Course, leading us up to Holy Week
Thursday 23rd	  'Shrove Thursday'!	St Augustine's Church	2.00pm ~ 4.00pm	Everyone welcome to join us for some belated Pancakes as we enter the Lent week.
Saturdays from 25th	Lent course	Zoom ~ online	10.00am ~ 11.00am	Join our <i>weekend</i> online Lent Course: st-augustines.org.uk
Saturday 25th	Youth Connect Movie night	St Augus Church 	6.30pm ~ 9.00pm	Year7+ enjoy a movie together with popcorn and drinks.
Tuesdays from 28th	Lent course	Zoom ~ online	7.00pm	Join our <i>evening</i> weekly online Lent Course: st-augustines.org.uk

ROUNDBABOUT February issue: Editor Ann Hanrahan, Layout Adrian King.

The March 2023 issue will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St Luke's website.
 Editor: Sue Goodger - sue_goodger@ntlworld.com Layout: Tanya Wardley - tanya@wardleyuk.com
Please send all articles in absolutely plain, unformatted text and all photos separate from the text by February 23

Church Information

Staff Contact Details		
Vicar	Rev Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351
Curate	Rev Rachel Winn	07311 330202
Youth and Schools	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Licensed Lay Minister	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
Churchwarden	Hilary Chittock	07884 195700
Parish Office: Mon-Fri 9.30 am - !.30 pm	Linda Spencer Victoria Bouwer	020 8295 1550 office@st-augustines.org.uk

You are welcome to worship with us. Our regular Sunday Services for February are:

Sunday 5 February	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Café-Style Church
Wednesday 8 February	12.00 Noon	St Augustine's Chapel ~ Holy Communion
Sunday 12 February	10.00 am	St Augustine's Church ~ Holy Communion
Sunday 19 February	10.00am	St Augustine's Church ~ Morning Worship
Wednesday 22 February	12.00 Noon	St Augustine's Chapel ~ Holy Communion with Ashes
(Ash Wednesday)	7.00 pm	St Augustine's Church ~ Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday 26 February	10.00 am	St Augustine's Church ~ Holy Communion
(First of Lent)	5.30pm	St Luke's Church ~ Reflection Service

The 10.00 am service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel, www.st-augustine's.org.uk
 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 groups are on our website www.st-augustine's.org.uk
 Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com

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