



# roundabout



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

Issue 547 November 2023

## Daily Blessings

How do you start your morning? Is it a nice cup of tea, a strong coffee, your favourite cereal or toast? Do you listen to the radio or maybe you just have a quick morning routine and head for work, whether at home or in the office.

How about reading your Bible every morning to get life into perspective? Why not give it a go? It's such a blessing. If you only hear the Bible read and explained on a Sunday, there are fewer opportunities to hear encouraging words of hope. We all need to lift our eyes to higher things which will lead us to prayer, especially in these troubled times. Sometimes the Bible has a verse or idea that is exactly what we need to hear at that moment.

I use Bible Reading Fellowship notes but there are lots of resources out there. You could read a Psalm. I try to read mine before looking at the news headlines, social media or emails.

Sometimes it's the calm before the storm. Reading a small portion of the Bible puts our worries and cares in perspective compared to the bigger picture of God's love for us. It can be such an encouragement on our journey of faith.

If you want to meet with others, you are welcome to join the clergy in the church chapel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays every week. They start their day with the Church of England's Daily Prayer service of prayers and readings at 9am.

This week I've been reading about the story of Elijah. He is one of my favourite Old Testament prophets. He had highs and lows. He was a prophet in Israel when many people had turned away from God. He had to run away from a hostile King and Queen who wanted to kill him. He suffered material hardship, he had times of great triumph when God powerfully answered his prayers but he also had times of burnout and depression. Even then God met him with a still, small voice.

These readings have reminded me that, whatever challenges we face, we too can put our trust wholeheartedly in God, who loves us and wants to bless us every day as we walk with Him.

*God Bless*

Verity Mitchell, Licensed Lay 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.**



## Top of the Pew

It was an evening with a difference as St Augustine's with St Luke's played a team from Beckenham Methodist church in the semi-final of the inter-church quiz. The type of questions was a challenge. Rounds included mathematics, logic, the Isle of Man and word connections. It was a relief to see the Bible round and poetry!

Our team, Liz Carter, Lucy Adcock, Andrew Gurney and Richard Jones met the challenge. The score was 71-53 and the final against St Barnabas beckons. Pop the date in your diary: 8 pm 17 November at Christ Church, Petts Wood.

Ann Hanrahan

## Safeguarding at St Augustine's with St Luke's



*What is meant by safeguarding?*

Safeguarding is positive action that is taken to promote the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals. It allows people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults, to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

*St Augustine's with St Luke's* is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of the children, young people and vulnerable adults within our church community and to encouraging an environment where all people are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

*OK, so what does a Parish Safeguarding Officer or PSO do?*

The PSO takes a lead role in fostering inclusiveness and promoting a safer Church where everyone can thrive and grow. The PSO will have an overview of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults and works to ensure the local implementation of the Church of England's safeguarding policy and the latest safeguarding guidance.

*So, is the PSO responsible for all safeguarding work at St Augustine's with St Luke's?*

Absolutely not! Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. It is at the heart of our Christian faith and each of us has a responsibility to maintain a safe environment for all in the Church family and the wider community.

*How is safeguarding promoted in the Church?*

There are lots of ways we promote safeguarding in the Church including:

Using safer recruitment practices to appoint those who serve in positions of responsibility in the Church, whether paid or voluntary;

Ensure that regular safeguarding training is undertaken, so that members of the church are equipped to engage positively with the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults in both a practical and theologically informed way;

Making good use of the excellent training, policies, guidance and resources provided by the Rochester Diocese Safeguarding Team.

*What should I do if I have a safeguarding concern?*

Please contact the PSO if you believe there is something we could do better or you believe there may have been a breach of safer working practices. **If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from the PSO, the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) or report the matter to the Bromley Council Social Care Service using safeguarding information displayed on 'Promoting a Safer Church' posters in our Church buildings and on the Safeguarding Section of the *St Augustine's with St Luke's* website. **If there is immediate risk/danger, call Police on 999.****

**Any concerns reported to the PSO or DSA will be treated with appropriate discretion and sensitivity.**

**John Murray / St Augustine's with St Luke's Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)**

## An Unusual War Memorial

High above the village of Shoreham a chalk cross is carved into the hillside.

In the summer, eight 'Merry Pilgrims' met up in the car park in Shoreham Village and walked up to the chalk cross - a bit of a climb but worth it to see the cross and for the stunning views over the village and surrounding countryside (and there is a bench for anyone needing a bit of a rest!).

I have since done some research on this cross and found that it had been the idea of a local man, Samuel Cheeseman, who had lost two sons in the First World War. The land used was donated by a local landowner, Francis Mildmay, who had himself served in WW1. It was carved between May and September 1920 and commemorates not only Cheeseman's two sons but also 48 other men from the village who were killed. It is 30m long and 18m wide. In October 2021 Historic England designated the cross a scheduled monument. The listing record describes the cross as *'an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community'*.

I checked online and found that there is only one other example of this type of War Memorial in the country and it is also in Kent, overlooking the village of Lenham. Apparently that cross was covered with earth during WW2 to prevent it being used as a navigational aid by enemy aircraft.



Carolyn Nield

## Things are warming up at CAMEO,

On Thursday 21 September three crew members of the London Fire Brigade came to speak to our CAMEO friendship group about home fire safety. Mark, Ashley and Amy arrived in their fire engine, which they parked outside on St Augustine's green. While Stuart waited in the truck (they were still on call!) we enjoyed an informative and lively talk about home safety, the work of a Fire Officer and we 'fired' our questions at them for an hour!

They gave us some very useful tips: always close doors when you go to bed, turn off electric switches at the sockets, have a phone in the room with you, never enter a room or hallway full of smoke, wait for the fire service to arrive in an emergency, as their response time is within minutes. We heard about their training, level of fitness required, the 'other side' of their work, such as responding to road traffic accidents, rescuing cats (yes, they actually do!) and their continuous updating of knowledge of local premises in the event of a fire. All three seemed happy in their roles and we were privileged that they allowed us a glimpse into the life of the fire service in Bromley.

Rev'd Rachel Winn

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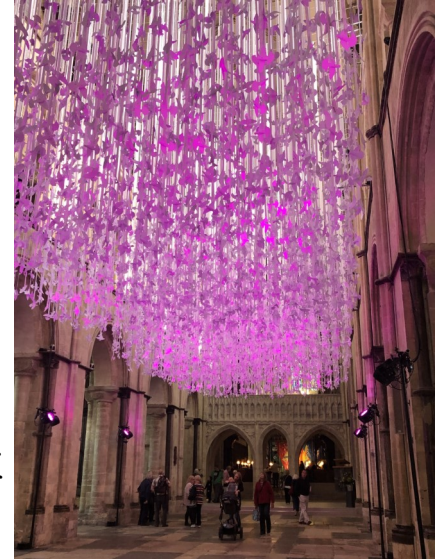


## Peace from Above

I recently spent three action packed days with an old friend in Goring by Sea. She had moved to Goring in 2017 but with one thing and another, it was my first visit and she was intent on giving me the full tourist treatment. Amidst the brisk walks by the sea, the leisurely visit to the Pallant Gallery and some interesting culinary experiences, there was an afternoon of real peace.

The nearby city of Chichester is easy to navigate as it is based on a cruciform layout and at its heart is the 948-year old cathedral. In 681, the monastery founded by St Wilfrid in Selsey became the first Cathedral in Sussex. In the ensuing years, having moved to Chichester, it experienced its fair share of fires and destruction, St Richard's Shrine a victim of the Reformation and its contents ransacked by the Parliamentarians in the Civil War. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century new representations of Christianity were recognised with Mark Chagall, Graham Sutherland and John Piper among the artists commissioned to produce permanent works.

In this century, technology is playing its part in sharing the wonder of God's world with all those who enter its ancient doors. Light installations are one way of doing this. I missed the 'Peace Doves' installation when it visited Rochester Cathedral, so was delighted to experience it in Chichester. The nave, empty of chairs, was filled with fifteen thousand handmade paper doves, each containing a message of peace, love and hope written by local people and each attached to suspended Star Wars type light sabres. The empty spaces in our wonderful cathedral buildings are unparalleled and as the colours of the installation changed and the choir way down in the chancel rehearsed, my Wednesday afternoon was timeless.



Mary Plummer

## A Date for Your Diary



On Sunday 5 November at 3.00 pm in St Augustine's Church we are holding a Memorial Service to remember our loved ones who have passed away.

The service will last about an hour, during which the names of those who have passed away will be read out and a candle lit for them. If you wish to bring flowers, our Flower Guild will kindly create an arrangement in memory of those we loved. We will sing some well-known hymns, share in some readings and prayers and hear a short talk.

Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love, but we hope to offer you a time for remembrance and prayer.

Rev'd Steve Spencer

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## A Visit to a Garden

I was recently given the opportunity to go on a coach trip to visit Beth Chatto's garden near Colchester in Essex. This was somewhere I had always wanted to visit.

Beth was a famous gardener and plantswoman. She wrote eight books and won ten consecutive gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show. She started her garden in 1960, with her husband Andrew, who shared her interest in plants.

The garden was a wasteland when they started working on it. It is in one of the driest parts of the country and so it was challenging to find plants that would flourish there. Her famous saying was 'Right plant, right place'.



The gardens are magnificent, all laid out differently; a gravel garden where only drought-tolerant plants can survive; a water garden with lush planting and tall trees surrounding three small ponds; a scree garden with raised beds and alpine plants; a reservoir garden with winding grass paths between herbaceous borders, overlooking a neighbouring farmer's reservoir and a woodland garden with ferns and low growing plants.

All the plants are grown on site in their nursery and visitors are able to buy them at a reasonable price. The gift shop was amazing and the weather was beautiful. Altogether a wonderful day out!

Sue Goodger

## Parish People



At Petts Wood Bowling Club's final match of the season on 30 September, Helen Scothern received a cheque for £2,050 from Mary Plummer, Ladies' Captain. The money will go towards supporting Bromley Brighter Beginnings' work with Bromley's children and families.

Hilary Chittock, on behalf of all of us at St Augustine's with St Luke's, commended Jacky Skinner on 40 years of service to Girlguiding. Jacky currently runs the Rainbows who meet on a Monday evening in St Luke's Hall. If you, or anyone you know, would like to help Jacky with this, please contact us at Roundabout (details on back page).



Richard Griffin recently gave a talk at Norman Park about his time as a Royal Protection Office. The event raised £1,000 for the young athletes at Blackheath and Bromley Harriers and £150 for Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. Well done Richard!



## Rainbows



As you know from last month, I have a slight obsession with the sky and all that is in it. Little gives me more pleasure than standing looking out of the front upstairs windows at the sky in front of me: the birds, the pretty cloud formations and the vapour trails that often overlap each other from the increasing quantity of aircraft that fly nearby. With my camera nearby I often take a photo or two to remind me of the stunning sunrises or sunsets to look back on when it is dull. The thing that gives me the most pleasure is when I see a rainbow, having been a huge fan since childhood.

A Little Girl I Know is often by my side to watch the colours of the rainbow change from bright to almost gone, sometimes in a matter of moments. She recalls hearing the story of Noah's Ark when she was in Club JC, found in Genesis chapters 6 to 8. I remember being told Noah and the Great Flood is mentioned 47 times in the Bible, in nine\* different books.

God tells Noah to build an Ark in which his family and two of every kind of animal would be saved from The Flood. A Little Girl I Know always moans at the thought of forty days and nights of continuous rain – to me it sounds like a typical school holiday! Finally, when a dove returns to the Ark with a dry olive branch Noah knows The Flood is finally over - the rainbow in the sky above, a sign that God would not flood the earth again.

A Little Girl I Know reached for my camera as we drove to school recently. A mixture of rain and the sun resulted in a rainbow that seemed to travel with us most of the way. The colours were bold as it formed a kind of arch over the road we were travelling along. It was a beautiful start to our day.

As she got into bed that night, we talked about a rainbow that had appeared, as we joined other local residents, at the annual Service of Remembrance around the War Memorial not far from home. We recalled the Bible story, and the importance that we must remain true to God instead of worrying about what other people think.



\* Genesis, 1 Chronicles, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Matthew, Luke, Hebrews, 1 Peter and 2 Peter

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# November Diary 2023

## Sunday Services

### Sunday 5th November

10am Cafe Church

3pm Memorial Service

St Augustine's Church.

Revelations 7: 9-end, Matthew 5: 1-12

### Sunday 12th November

10am Remembrance & Parade

Holy Communion

St Augustine's Church.

1 Thess 4: 13-end, Matthew 25: 1-13

### Sunday 19th November

10am Safeguarding Sunday

Morning Worship

5.30pm Holy Communion

St Augustine's Church.

1 Thess 5:1-11, Matthew 25: 14-30

St Luke's Church

### Sunday 26th November

10am Holy Communion

St Augustine's Church.

Ephesians 1: 15-end, Matthew 25: 31-end

## Mid Week Holy Communion Services

Wednesday 8 and 22 November

St Augustine's Chapel, at Midday

## Weekly Groups

### ARK

Every Wednesday, St Augustine's Church, 10.00am - 11.30am. Booking essential see below for church website details

### Warm Space & CAMEO - All Welcome

Every Thursday 11am - 4pm.

## Monthly Groups

**Youth Connect** - Friendship and Food for School Years 7+

11 November at 7.30pm

25 November at 7.30pm

**Merry Pilgrims** - Friendly Walkers

Tuesday 14th November at 10.30am. Meet at St Augustine's Church for a Woodland Walk (ending in Petts Wood) For more details contact Tanya 0208 467 0562

### Forget Me Not Café

Tuesday 21st November at 1.30pm - Garden Room at St Augustine's Church

### Friends Re-United

Monday 27th November at 12.30 - Garden Room at St Augustine's Church.

Contact Details: Parish Office 020 8295 1550 (Weekday am Only). Email: [office@st-augustines.org.uk](mailto:office@st-augustines.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.st-augustines.org.uk>



## Staff Contact Details

<b>Vicar:</b>	Rev'd Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351 or 07778 784331
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<b>Licensed Lay Minister:</b>	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
<b>Licensed Lay Minister:</b>	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
<b>Churchwarden:</b>	Hilary Chittock	07884 195700
<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

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)



## 23rd Bromley (St Augustine's) Scout Group Christmas Fair



Come and join us for some Christmas fun

Saturday 25th November 11:30 to 14:00

in the Scout HQ - Homestead Road, BR2 8BB  
50p Entrance fee

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All proceeds raised go to the Scout Group and the continual costs of facilitating Scouting in the community (Registered Charity 267692)



November Edition: Editor - Mary Plummer [maryaplummer@hotmail.com](mailto:maryaplummer@hotmail.com) Layout - Karen Palmer

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