



roundabout



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

Issue 545 September 2023

Noticing God's 'nudge'

Welcome back to Roundabout! I hope that you had an enjoyable summer and were able to take some kind of break to mark the holiday season. I wonder, when you took time out did you find you had *more* time to hear from God than usual or did you take 'time off' from listening to God?

Recently I was reading in the Old Testament book of Judges about 'the mighty warrior' Gideon, (Judges chapter 6). He is quite a sceptic and, far from submissively accepting God's plans, Gideon questions God's faithfulness to his people, he disputes the calling and denies his personal ability to carry out the task of defeating his enemies. Gideon is so hesitant and unsure that three times he asks God to give him a sign to confirm he has even heard correctly.



Often people say to me 'how do I know if I am hearing from God?' or 'how do I know if it really is God's Spirit speaking and not just my imagination?' Well, I often ask for a sign when it comes to noticing God's nudge. Sometimes I have a sudden thought out of the blue that I need to contact a person I barely know, or I sense a need to call in unannounced on an individual, or to strike up a conversation with a stranger, for example. At this point, rather than rush ahead, I just 'notice' the idea and put it to the back of my mind. If I have the same thought flash into my mind again I will pay more attention and take time to pray about it, but I usually will not act on it. If the thought is in line with scriptural principles and it arises a third time and persists, I will usually act upon it. Many times I have found these incidents to have been a 'nudge' of the Spirit and I have been so glad I responded. Occasionally I have been saddened that I ignored the nudge and missed a wonderful opportunity.

As we enter a new term maybe God is calling you to act on a hunch. Perhaps you are being called to start up a prayer group. Perhaps he is nudging you to contact someone you have fallen out with to seek reconciliation. It could be that you are starting a new school or going to university and there are unexpected friendships God wants to lead you to form so that you can flourish. God may be trying to get your attention, so why not ask him to help you 'notice the nudge,' pray about it and then respond? If you are still unsure, there are always clergy and other leaders in the church who would be happy to listen, pray and talk it over with you.

God bless

Reverend Rachel

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

BWANA ASIFIWE

Praise the Lord – a phrase I heard so many times.

As we stood in the Cathedral watching Ann and Nigel being made deservedly Canons, we were all asked to say a few words. I said that I had to thank Ann and Nigel for their inspiration and encouragement to come on this trip...their planning and organisation was outstanding...it wasn't without its challenges!

I also said that they had told me about the hospitality of Bishop Given and Reverend Lilian...and the generosity of the people of Kondo...those of you that have been will know what I mean and I had now witnessed it for myself.

Finally I said that I loved the joyous worship and felt that I had made new friends. I secretly wondered if I might have African ancestry as I wanted to join in the dancing!

It was a truly inspirational and reflective trip...being out with the Maasai in the bush was amazing...However it is difficult to bring to life the new Maasai church with its sound system but no electricity or running water in the village. The surprise when after the service sodas were brought out...It is so different to our worship and lifestyle and yet, as Steve said, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and we can support and learn from each other.



It was great to visit our link Parish and I am in awe of Steve's preaching...I loved how we all got used to saying Bwana Asifiwe...Praise the Lord.

As you can imagine it was a trip with many emotions, it was also a trip reminding me of the importance of prayer and hope and that we have to step by step move to a fairer world for all.

We had such a great time and have so many good stories...don't forget to ask about the chickens which we will tell you all about in the morning service on 17 September...

Debbie Brockwell



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FORGET ME NOT CAFE



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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)

A Summer Exhibition

For nearly two years, 2makeit has been working at The Hub, a space at Friends House in Euston. Together with other partners, it supports men who have experienced the prison system and who are screened into the Personality Disorder Pathway via the NHS and HM Prison and Probation Service. It is a safe place to meet people and to get support.

This summer, two not-for-profit organisations, Pictora and 2makeit mounted 'Made Visible', an art project featuring a variety of works created by staff and users of The Hub and those who suffer from labels that hold them back (eg 'homeless', 'offender', 'unemployed'). Each piece was exhibited without labels bringing out hidden talent to be 'Made Visible'. Other contributions came from refugees, charity workers, NHS support staff and those in the community experiencing mental health challenges. The wider value of the project is in the supportive rehabilitation for the service users. Since the start of the project, nobody has re-offended.



Phil Emery, Director - 2makeit www.2makeit.org

The Friends House



The Friends House is an imposing, porticoed building hiding a hidden gem: a great café and bookshop in a bewildering and busy part of London. Had it not been for the 2makeit exhibition, I would not have found it, but what a friendly space for 'Made Visible'. It was an art exhibition without being an arty exhibition. Almost every wall was hung with collages, sketches, poems, portraits and abstracts and the folk who were sitting with their coffee or lunch didn't seem to mind me peering over their heads to get a better look. The selection was varied, some fanciful, some troubling, some reminiscent. It demonstrated that if words are not available, there are many other ways of expressing feelings. It was a morning I will remember.

Mary Plummer

New Wellbeing Café



In June, the Five Elms Primary Care Network launched the Wellbeing Café at St Augustine's Church. This was a well organised event organised by Social Prescribers and attended by many Healthcare Professionals and others involved in invaluable local services, (such as the Fire Service and various charities).

Once a month there is a lovely, lively atmosphere, where we are able to meet our neighbours, make new friends and enjoy free cakes and hot drinks.



The hosts provide a variety of activities. Some of these include: a seated exercise class, mindfulness sessions, wellbeing talks, toenail clipping and bingo, to name a few.

As we at St Augustine's with St Luke's join in with this excellent initiative we are finding many opportunities to meet new people and invite them to our own Thursday 'Welcome Space' and share with them what is happening in the life of our church. Why not join us? Pop in anytime between 11.00am and 1.00pm on the last Friday of every month; you'll receive a warm welcome!

Rachel Winn

Community Safety

Community Support Officer Tracy Homewood visited our CAMEO afternoon in June and we had to get extra chairs! We often see her at our Sunday service or our Thursday Warm Space. This time it was to share the problems of scams. When you read of the many different types of scams, it can feel quite threatening, but there are a few simple rules

Phone scams: Clearly, if we have a phone – mobile or landline – we are vulnerable. A local Bickley resident had taken a call from a 'police officer' in Kingston. He quoted her bank details to her before continuing with his instructions about a withdrawal. NOTE: the police never ring.

- If they have a concern about anything or anyone, it will be a visit.
- Never engage in any conversation.
- Do not ring back a number they may have given you.
- Put the phone down immediately.

If you have a smart phone and you don't recognise a phone number, you can check by Googling it. Tracy told us that pre-Covid most locally reported crimes were physical, eg burglaries. It is just as important to report a phone scam.

Doorstep scams: 'I'm working across the road...' These scammers, usually masquerading as tradespeople, are still very common, especially in our area with owner occupied properties. Initially, this is not a police matter but it should be reported to Bromley Trading Standards who also have a rapid response unit. The golden rules are

- Never allow anyone into your house
- Never part with any money to someone you do not recognise.

Fake tradesmen will always give a very plausible reason for doing either of the above, but unless your house is on fire, just shut the door!



Mary Plummer

Friends Re-united

For many years I enjoyed the privilege of leading two Groups which were held in the newly built Garden Room at St. Augustine's Church in 1987. I then decided to train in EXTEND with the aim of putting our beautiful Room to good use. Most of these exercises take place seated, and others holding on to chairs. These have been designed to develop muscle strength and joint mobility without the need to worry about weight bearing or balance. At about this time, I led a Lent Course in our new Room, which continued as a regular Bible Study, later called The Friday Faith Fellowship. Both these groups continued for over thirty years. Then, as Bill's Parkinson's Disease progressed, I was unable to leave him at home alone. I managed to get Care for him on Thursdays so I could continue the 'Get Fit with Sally' classes. This came to a natural close with the arrival of COVID. We met again for a while after Bill died in 2019. I then decided, as I was well into my eighties, perhaps it was time for me to 'call it a day'. People were unanimously sad at the thought of our not meeting again. Hence, I thought of 'Friends Re-united'. This is open to everyone, and we meet irregularly on Mondays at 12.30pm in the Garden Room, bringing our own lunches, (as I am no caterer!), tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US** - past Group members, neighbours, friends, Church members, or members of other Faiths: everyone, without exception!



God loves each and every one of us, and knows us personally, our needs, fears, and our concerns about His world. He knows us, better than we know either ourselves or each other. He is Love Itself. He loves us unconditionally, impartially, and non-judgementally! As each of us has a unique group of friends, these meetings, which I firmly believe take place at God's Invitation, afford an opportunity for us to get acquainted within Love's Presence.

The Bible tells us to 'Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters, not forgetting to show hospitality to strangers, for in so doing, we entertain angels unawares.' Hebrews 13:1&2

Keep looking for future dates in our Weekly Newsletters.

Sally Morris



It's that time again! The last Friday in September is the date when Coffee Mornings are held throughout the country to raise money for **Macmillan Cancer Care**.

I am hosting my 'Coffee Day' again this year. It will be my 17th one. I really enjoy welcoming people into my home and each year the amount we raise exceeds my expectations. We have now raised over £11,000.

My Coffee Day is on **Friday 29 September from 10.00am – 12.30pm and 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm** at 22 Sunningdale Road.

Please come along and bring a friend. There will be cake!



Sue Goodger

Memories



On a recent visit to a charity shop A Little Girl I Know came out smiling from ear to ear. She had found a double DVD of our two favourite films, mine - Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, and hers - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, based on the book by Roald Dahl. I was transported back to my childhood when I saw them and smiled too.

Memories of Boxing Days when Willy Wonka was on the television after The Queen’s Speech almost every year. I would sit cuddled up to my beloved Nana watching the film, full from a lunch of cold meat, bubble and squeak, and sprouts. For a brief moment I longed to be with Nana and feel the warmth of her embrace again.

A Little Girl I know was pleased with her find and en route to the car she asked if we could call in to the supermarket. An unusual request from someone who would do almost anything but come food shopping. She picked up a packet of chocolate buttons, some popcorn and two cans of soft drink, allowing me a moment to pick up some fresh bread and vegetables for dinner that night. On the drive home she told me I was to go and tidy away the laundry when we got home and await further instructions. I am a good girl and did as I was told, even managing a quick check of my email.

Before long she came upstairs and invited me join her in the lounge. As I entered I could see that the curtains were closed although it was only four in the afternoon. A small table was laden with two bowls, one with chocolate buttons, the other popcorn. Finally, our two favourite drinking glasses with cans of drink on the side. “Mum, I thought we should take some time together to relive our childhood”, she said. She pressed Play on the remote control and the familiar tune at the start of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory started. After a brief break we were ready for the start of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We cuddled up, we laughed, we sang along with the familiar songs. We had an enjoyable afternoon together; we had been so absorbed in the films our snacks were almost untouched.

The Creation Story



Every August local Mothers’ Union members make their way to Rochester Cathedral for an evening service to celebrate the birth of their founder, Mary Sumner.

This year we found the Cathedral was host to an amazing exhibition ‘Threads through Creation’ by Jacqui Parkinson. Twelve large panels tell the story of creation in the most wonderful needlework. The colours were striking as was the stitching and the design of each story.

The way the stories from Genesis had been interpreted was so thoughtful. The details in the panels ranged from tiny insects in the Garden of Eden to elephants and giraffes following Adam and Eve as they are thrown out of the garden.

It took Jacqui three years to make the panels which contain more than eight million stitches. They are images I shall remember whenever I hear the creation story. The exhibition continues touring English cathedrals until September 2024.

Ann Hanrahan.

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SEPTEMBER DIARY 2023

Sunday Services

Sunday 3rd September

Morning Worship,

St Augustine's Church, 10.00am

Romans 12: 9-end, Matthew 16:21-end

Sunday 10th September

Holy Communion and Club JC

St Augustine's Church, 10.00am

Romans 13: 8-end, Matthew 18: 15-20

Sunday 17th September

Morning Worship (Tanzania Special)

St Augustine's Church, 10.00am

Romans 14: 1-12, Matthew 18: 21-35

Sunday 17th September

Taizé Service

St Luke's Church, 5.30pm

Romans 14: 1-12, Matthew 18: 21-35

Sunday 24th September

Holy Communion

St Augustine's Church, 10.00am

Philippians 1: 21-end, Matthew 20: 1-16

Mid-week Holy Communion Services

Wednesdays 13th and 27th September St Augustine's Chapel, at Midday

Weekly Groups

Welcome Space and CAMEO ~ All welcome

Continues every Thursday, 11am ~ 4pm

Special Fire Crew talk on Thursday 21st, 2.30pm

The Ark Toddler Group (Term time only)

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

Youth Connect ~ Friendship and Food for Years 7+

Saturday 16th September, 7.00pm ~ 9.00pm

Merry Pilgrims ~ Friendly walkers

Tuesday 19th September at 10.30am. Meet at High Elms Golf Club car Park (BR6 7JH) for a gentle stroll

**Contact details: Parish Office 020 8295 1550 (open every weekday morning between 10.am and 1.00pm). E-mail: office@st-augustines.org.uk
Website: <https://www.st-augustines.org.uk>**

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

Top of the Pew



We lost the women's football, but St Augustine's with St Luke's Top of the Pew team won their third round contest against St Joseph's.

After a shaky start, the competition was keen. It was an evening made special as both teams scored full points for the Bible round! Well done Liz Carter, Lucy Adcock, Andrew Gurney and Richard Jones. Look out for the date of the next round in October.

Ann Hanrahan

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Curate	Rev 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: Mon-Fri 9.30 am - 1.30 pm	Linda Spencer Victoria Bouwer	020 8295 1550 office@st-augustines.org.uk

**ROUNABOUT September issue: Editor Ann Hanrahan
Layout Adrian King**

The October 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 September 23

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