

roundabout



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

Issue 572 May 2026

Keep celebrating the joy and hope of Easter



We had a wonderful Easter celebration in our parish with much joy and many hallelujahs. But let's not stop. We remain in the Easter celebratory season, Eastertide, which runs all the way from Easter to Pentecost on 30th May at which point we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The season of Lent, 40 days leading up to Easter was a special, spiritual time for many of us, with daily readings, perhaps giving things up and deepening our friendships and understanding of the Bible through our Lent Connect groups.

Let's continue then, to celebrate Easter as we sing songs about the resurrection triumph over death of Jesus, and as we look together on Sundays at the many Bible passages about Jesus' appearance after his resurrection. Let's share the joy of his early followers. Jesus is alive! This is our Christian hope in life and through death.

So let's find ways, as the theologian Tom Wright suggests, to practise celebrating the 'presence, power and exuberance' of the risen Jesus. How about some acts of joyful, random kindness? Perhaps we can find ways of expressing the love of God as demonstrated by Jesus' resurrection during this wonderful season.

Blessings

Verity Mitchell
Licensed Lay Minister

'Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven'. Matthew 5:16

Prayers for Eastertide

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

As members of St Augustine's with St Luke's we seek to offer everyone in our Parish opportunities to hear, experience and respond to the call of Jesus Christ and to plan and deliver initiatives that will grow our church.

Pastoral Care



Debbie Brockwell has headed up the Pastoral Care team for two years and has now handed over to me. The last year has been a busy one with the care team offering befriending support to those unable to attend church, as well as visits to people at home and in hospital. Regular phone contact was maintained with a number of parishioners, and practical support, such as shopping and lifts, was provided where possible. Congregation members have also supported the team in organising practical tasks.

Over the year, the team continued to connect with about 50 people, making approximately 30 contacts each month. The team also gave out 'Message in a Bottle' packs, developed by The Lions. These are issued to folk living alone to keep in their fridge, to help emergency services quickly know an individual's medications and contact details of next of kin. Our Parish Safeguarding Officer also provided ongoing support.

Andrew Rutherford

Safeguarding



In January, I succeeded John Murray as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding describes the actions and procedures that help to promote a safe culture. It includes supporting the welfare of children, young people and adults, and having processes in place that prevent all forms of abuse (physical or emotional) from occurring. It involves responding sensitively to those who have been abused, identifying where a person might be a risk to others, and offering support, whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

Clearly I can't do all that on my own. I am supported by Jonathan Emery, Jeff Blyth and the leadership team. More broadly, we need everyone to help us make the church community a safe place, where all are valued and treated with respect. So please look out for each other and tell me or members of the leadership team about any concerns you have about where that is not happening. We will look at what actions might be appropriate to address them.

If you would like to contact me, please either email pso.staugstluke@gmail.com or text or leave a voice message on 07482 315455.

Andrew Gurney

Congratulations

Lucy Adcock celebrated her 60th birthday in March and we send her our love and thanks for all the talents and fun she brings to being our music director! A special birthday treat was to spend a night in Hampton Court Palace with friends.

Mary Plummer celebrated her 80th birthday in April and spent a long weekend with daughters Sarah and Jo experiencing the cultural delights of Amsterdam with visits to the Rijksmuseum and a concert at the Concertgebeouw.

Margaret Kendall Moves On



I saw in Margaret a forthright, welcoming personality and someone who is faithful in prayer. Margaret is an accomplished violinist. I knew Margaret from July 1997 onwards when we as a family joined St Augustine's Church. Margaret led the music group and one Sunday morning I asked tentatively if I could join in with the double bass. She could not have been more encouraging and straightaway I was in on the regular Monday evening rehearsals. Margaret started all rehearsals with prayer. Formality in music was something of a novelty for me in those days, coming from a jazz and popular music background. I was conscious of how centred prayer made me feel ahead of the first note. Her prayers held us all in gratitude and faithfulness.

Margaret played the violin, which incidentally she calls her fiddle, beautifully. She had a long, impressive history in music, originally graduating from the Royal College of Music. On Sunday mornings, Margaret's descants would soar above, giving tuneful gravitas to the music group. Anecdotally, at that time I only ever played the double bass with my fingers (pizzicato) and Margaret asked "Why don't you use a bow?" I took heed and set about learning how to play with a double bass bow. It has led to a life-long passion with the classical music repertoire and today my role as principal bass with The Bromley Symphony Orchestra is a telling reminder of what a little word can do.

It is sad to hear that Margaret is moving away from Bromley out of necessity. She has been coming to Sunday morning services and Thursday's CAMEO regularly, often with her fiddle in hand. Margaret's contribution to St Augustine's worship over the years is immeasurable and I will miss not seeing her as I look out amongst the congregation.

Keith Pinnock

Editor's Note: For many years our church family was blessed to have shared the ministry of Margaret and Brian. He was for many years a Lay Reader.

Gwen Ingram



As I sat in church on Good Friday afternoon listening to music for meditation, my mind wandered as the picture 'Christ of St John of the Cross' appeared on the screen. Since my early teens, this picture by Salvador Dali has had a special place in my heart. For my twenty-first birthday my Godparents, Gwen and Bernard Ingram, gave me £20 with which I bought a copy of this picture. Bernard was our curate at St. Augustine's church following his ordination in October 1966.

This year, more than ever before, I have found it quite moving as I look at this beautiful depiction of Christ hanging on the cross. I remembered with much love two special ladies; the first a former member of the church staff in whose study I first saw this picture, the second my dear Godmother who passed away a month before Easter this year.

Husband Dave and I were privileged to join Bernard and their children, James, Stephen and Theresa, their partners, four granddaughters and friends for a memorial service held at St. Francis of Assisi, Strood - the church Bernard and Gwen retired from twenty-two years ago before moving to Malvern.

The songs reflected Gwen's love for her Lord and those around her. There was a poem from the enormous collection written by Gwen's Mum, Ma, and one read by Bernard, written by Gwen, when she spotted the Easter favourite, Cadbury's Creme eggs, on the shelf in January!

Our thoughts are with Bernard and his family at this time.

Jacky Skinner

Christian Aid Week 10 – 16 May

Once again we have the opportunity to share with churches nationwide in supporting Christian Aid (Charity no. 1105851). Some of what we give is for emergency funding, but much goes to provide skills training and equipment so that people now in desperate poverty can become self-sufficient. Envelopes will be available in church for giving in cash or by cheque.

Scan here to donate, or visit caid.org.uk/Compassion

Rob Hutchings

PLANT SALE — Sunday 17th May 2026

The St Augustine's with St Luke's Flower Guild will be holding a plant sale after the 10am service on 17th May in the Garden Room at St Augustine's Church.

The proceeds from the sale will be divided between Christian Aid and the Memorial Scroll Flower Appeal which provides funds to enable the purchase flowers for the Church throughout the year.

Cathy Fyfield

Easter Gifts

Since the beginning of Lent, a group of talented knitters have been producing chicks! This follows a project which we started last Easter when we asked members of the congregation if they would be interested in knitting some Easter chicks. The response was encouraging and, when filled with an egg, they were much appreciated by those who received them.



This year, our knitters have surpassed themselves and over 250 chicks have been given, with our love, to residents at Sovereign Court, Beechmore Court, Ashglade House and Queen Elizabeth House. Our Thursday visitors to morning coffee and puzzles, hot lunch and CAMEO with tea and cakes also each had a chick.

The really encouraging thing for me was the number of people who wanted to give them to neighbours, friends and people they were visiting in Care Homes and hospitals. An enormous 'thank you' to all those who kept taking bags of wool and others who helped with sewing up.

Christine Fisher

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The Speaker's House



Historically, it's a job that no-one wants because its primary purpose is to keep order in the House. Ever since the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Members of the House of Commons have dragged the Speaker to the chair at the start of a new parliamentary session. The position has to be filled by a sitting MP, who then immediately resigns his or her seat: so one of the reasons for becoming an MP is withdrawn!

During the Easter parliamentary recess, I took the opportunity of joining a guided tour of the Speaker's apartments and it was fascinating. After airport type security we walked through Speaker's yard which is on the corner of the Palace of Westminster by the bridge. The Speaker's accommodation has a stunning view of the river. In 1834 when the old parliament buildings were destroyed by fire, Charles Barry and Augustus Pugin were tasked with the re-build. It is in the Gothic Revival style and in 1857 John Denison was the first office-holder to move in to the House.



Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the present Speaker, is the 158th man to hold the office. It dates from 1377, and the accommodation and practices have morphed over time with each incumbent. In recent memory, Betty Boothroyd (so far, the only female, who had a luxuriant head of hair!) was the first to shun the wig in 1992. Then John Bercow did away with the robes altogether. Speaker Michael Martin (the first Catholic appointment) had the private apartments completely refurbished in red and green. Lindsay Hoyle's father was a metal worker, who often collaborated in projects with glaziers. So, on his appointment, he commissioned two impressive stained glass windows sited in the entrance hall. They depict the Crown dependencies with his own Coat of Arms at the top. As few MPs have their own Coats of Arms these days, the College of Heraldry designed one!

All the reception rooms have Speakers' portraits as their only wall decoration and include those of Thomas More and Robert Peel's son Arthur. Our guide was full of anecdotes. There is a large two-poster bed which is reserved for the monarch, should he or she choose to spend the night there before their coronation. It was sold in the 1950s after the room was re-decorated. However, it was spotted at an auction in 1980 and was bought back and re-instated in its rightful place. He also told us that the 43 ft long dining room had seen some unlikely pairings of guests. Speaker Whitley entertained Mussolini and Churchill together and in 1956, Kruschev and Bulganin sat down with Tory ministers Rab Butler and Selwyn Lloyd. Recent visitors have included Volodymyr Zelensky and the Womens' Rugby World Cup winners. But the business of the House and the preservation of our democratic system of government, always come first.

Mary Plummer

Messy Church



Our last Messy Church was focused on Holy Week in the run up to Easter.

All the children love the 'crafty food' table. For Easter, the children made models of the empty tomb using Jammy Dodgers, Oreos and green icing sugar. The heart at the centre of the Jammy Dodgers seemed to be particularly poignant for Easter.
It is always exciting to see some new faces at Messy Church each time, along with the children who come regularly. Why not come along and bring all the family; who knows, you may even discover a hidden talent.

Catherine Lord, Family Worker

Exhausted Pigeon



Are you a morning person or a night person? Me? I am a permanently exhausted pigeon! It is just after five in the morning and I am sitting at my desk in the study at home working on my computer. Sadly, it is not unusual for me to be awake at this time of day. I guess you would say that I have been a morning person right from birth. I made my arrival into this world not only six weeks early but at 3.16 in the morning!

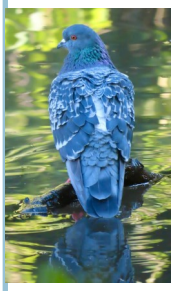
For many years I was woken by A Little Girl I Know heading to the bathroom shortly after five to start getting ready for school. Her long hair meant that it took a while to get through the list of jobs to do before she was finally ready to leave the house, ready to face another day in a place she really did not like. I would often find myself getting frustrated as I sat in the car waiting for her. I just wanted to drop her off and get going on my morning walk before getting ready for work.



As I glance out of the window now the sun is starting to rise, the sky is rapidly changing colour, the clouds are turning a stunning shade of orange. It is almost impossible to describe the beauty of today. My phone informs me that sadly this could be short lived as rain is forecast later. A typical school holiday I would say.

Things have changed in our house. A Little Girl I Know is no longer my alarm clock; I frequently have to go to her room reminding her that she needs to get up and get ready for the day ahead. I guess she is a typical teenager!

Fast forward to five in the afternoon and I am still going from one task to another but by now I am yawning! Some evenings we are busy running a group together, others I am pairing the socks whilst deciding what to cook for dinner that evening and thinking ahead for the next day. The mind of this first-time mother is so often in complete overdrive.

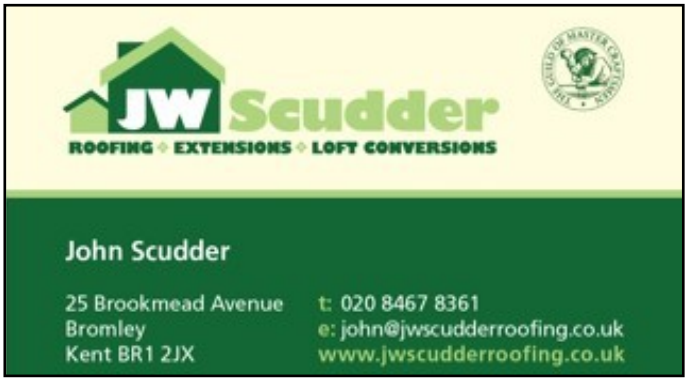


The sky has changed colour again and it is dark outside. I can hardly see a thing as I look out of the window now, just a few lights in the windows of the houses behind us. I think of the people who live there, people who I do not know although I have seen this view for almost twenty years.

It is time for this exhausted pigeon to fall into bed now. Another productive day done, all too soon it will be tomorrow, and it will all start again.

Thank God for being with me today, guard me as I sleep and bless my family and friends with your love and protection. Amen





May Diary 2026

Sunday Services

Sunday 3rd May	St Augustine's Church
10am Café Church	Acts 7: 55-60, 1 Peter 2: 1-10
Sunday 10th May	St Augustine's Church
10am Holy Communion	Acts 17: 22-31, John 14: 15-21
Sunday 17th May	St Augustine's Church
10am Morning Worship	Acts 1: 6-14, Matthew 8: 5-13
5.30pm Holy Communion	St Luke's Church
Sunday 24th May	St Augustine's Church
10am Pentecost Morning Worship	Churches Together in Bromley Common
Sunday 31st May	St Augustine's Church
10am Holy Communion	Isaiah 6: 1-8, John 3: 1-15

Mid-Week Holy Communion Services

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

Ascension Service

Thursday 14th May	St Augustine's Church
7.30pm Holy Communion	Acts 1: 1-11, Luke 24: 44-53

Weekly Groups

Welcome Space & CAMEO – all welcome
Every Thursday 11am – 4pm. Join us for friendship and food.

Why? Group – all welcome
Every Thursday 1.30pm – 2.15pm. Join us in a discussion on the 'whys' of the Christian faith.

St Luke's Bell Ringers — all levels welcome
Every Thursday 7.45pm – 9.15pm at St Luke's Church. Contact Chris Lawrance, Tower Captain, to confirm on 020 8462 3845 or 07707 944299

Men in Church
Friday 29th at 7.30pm in Church, all men welcome with food provided.

Children's Activities @ St Augustine's Church

ARK ~ For Preschool and below
Every Wednesday (including half term) at 10am - 11.45am. No booking required.

Game Station ~ For Primary School children
Every Wednesday (including half term) at 3pm-4.30pm. No booking required, just come along and play games to make you think.

Youth Club ~ For 11–17-year-olds
Every Sunday at 5pm -7pm. You need to register at families@st-augustines.org.uk

Messy Church ~ For the whole family
Thursday 28th Doors open at 3.30pm – 5.15pm, party tea at 3.45pm then craft activities, games, time with Messy Gilbert, sing-along. Fun for all the family. Book on Eventbrite or simply turn up on the day.

Contact Details: office@st-augustine.org.uk or www.st-augustines.org.uk

Staff Contact Details

Vicar:	Revd Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351 or 07778 784331
Curate:	Revd Becky Willoughby	07874 398445
Family Worker:	Catherine Lord	07874 398964
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 Safeguarding Officer:	Andrew Gurney	07482 315545
Parish Office:	Victoria Bouwer	020 8295 1550
Open Weekday Mornings	email: office@st-augustines.org.uk	

The 10am service will also be live streamed on our YouTube 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 07906 645140. 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 vicar@st-augustines.org.uk

Easter Flowers at St Augustine's with St Luke's

Thank you to Cathy Fyfield and all the members of the Flower Guild who produced the amazing flower displays this Easter.







May Edition: Editor - Mary Plummer: Layout - Karen Palmer

The June 2026 edition will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St. Luke's website
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