

roundabout



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

Issue 573 June 2026

Flaming May/June



Speaking with Rev Becky earlier today she asked me what my Roundabout article was going to be about, - my response was that I was not sure but would pray for inspiration. As quick as a flash she said why not call it 'Flaming June' and relate it to the flames of fire at Pentecost, so here we go.

These last days of May have been incredibly hot with temperatures reaching as high as 35°C at Kew Gardens, the hottest on record for spring. Climate change seems to be the biggest factor for this, and we are told it will be become more commonplace year by year. But on that first Pentecost, the cause of rushing wind and flames of fire filling the room where the disciples were, was not climate change, but the fulfilment of God's promise to send the Holy Spirit, so that when Jesus ascended into heaven his followers would not be alone. The promise was that the Holy Spirit would inspire them to proclaim the Gospel message of Jesus Christ into a broken world. That first day over three thousand came to know that Jesus was the son of God and that through him we may know repentance and salvation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit many other men, women and children have been given inspiration and courage to preach that same message.

The day of Pentecost has often been described as the birth of the Christian Church because, from that day on, the church has grown and grown and grown. It has had many splits, as different denominations have come about; we only need to look at the history of the Church of England. Yet at its core - and central to our faith is the same message that St Peter preached to those in Jerusalem all those years ago - that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

When we gathered together in the flaming sunshine outside St Augustine's Church last Sunday (24th May) with our sisters and brothers in Christ from the many churches that make up CTiBC (Churches Together in Bromley Common), we asked that - by the power of God's Holy Spirit - we too would know the Holy Fire of God in our lives. By changing ourselves and our community to know the love of God and to share that love with others, the broken parts of this world will know the peace that God has for us all.

Yours in Christ

Revd Steve Spencer

Revd Steve Spencer, Vicar

Holy Spirit fall upon us, inspire us with the knowledge of your true love, and give us the courage to share that message with those who do not know your light. Amen

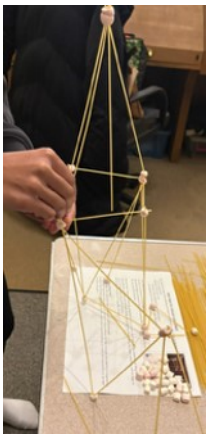
As members of St Augustine's with St Luke's we seek to offer everyone in our Parish opportunities to hear, experience and respond to the call of Jesus Christ and to plan and deliver initiatives that will grow our church.

Youth Club

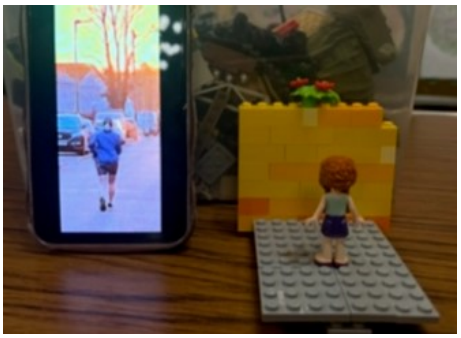


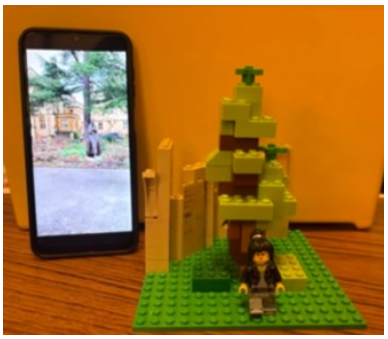
Youth Club meets every Sunday from 5-7pm, giving 11–17 year-olds the chance to meet up, make new friends, do some activities together and have fun. There is something for everyone, including pool, table tennis, table football, Lego, Jenga, board games and other activities such as making their own chocolate for Easter.

The 10-minute Taskmaster Team Challenge encourages lateral thinking each week. Challenges so far have included: building the tallest tower using dried spaghetti and marshmallows; recreating a photo in Lego; building a model animal out of recyclable materials; inventing a new ring tone; and making a recipe for a new brand of sausage. Calling all 11–17 year-olds: we need you!



Catherine Lord





We Will Miss You



Karen Palmer is moving to Birchington to be near her parents who live with her sister. She will be greatly missed by her friends at St Augustine's and from St Luke's church as well.

As a lifelong worshipper at St Luke's, belonging to Brownies and Guides and then fulfilling many of the roles in the church, Karen found it a real wrench to leave and join us at St Augustine's. She initially came as she knew Andrew and Johanna Gurney and stayed because of the warm welcome. It was over coffee one week while chatting with David Wardley that she realised she knew him from Youth Club way back at Holy Trinity's.

Since then Karen has been an invaluable member of St Augustine's. She served on the PCC for 4 years and nowadays she is often seen at the tech desk on a Sunday morning. She enjoyed meeting up for 'Bits and Pieces' – a craft evening run by Helen Baker a while ago. She has been a part of both the 'Christmas Journey' and 'Experience Easter' working with children from local schools. She also helps with St Luke's Rainbows and of course gives up a lot of her time to the proof reading and layout of this magazine.

We wish her well in her new home and we will miss her.

Sue Goodger

Hazel Gill

It is with great sadness that we have to let you know that Hazel died peacefully at home on the 6th of May. Please hold Mark and Kathryn and family in your prayers. Her funeral is arranged for Monday 8th June, 1:30pm at St Augustine's Church.

Australia 2026

We first visited Oz in 1998. Sydney, Alice Springs, Uluru, Kata Juta and Perth were all on our agenda. We never thought we would return - but then, our son Robert, wife Fana and grandsons, Hugo and Oscar emigrated just before 'Lock Down' in 2020.



We have now returned to Sydney three times. This last trip was our longest (six weeks) with some particular and memorable things to do.



Oscar (13) was to race his 'Flying 11' in Sydney Harbour. He loves sailing and it was so good that we were able to follow him on a 'RIB' piloted by our son. Alas, the wind was non-existent - however it gave us the opportunity to witness the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Australian Navy. That included a Red Arrows style 'Fly Past'.



Then to Brisbane for four days to watch Hugo (16) compete in the National Australian Track Cycling event at the Velodrome that will be the venue for the 2032 Olympics. He won two bronze medals.



The next day we were off to the Gold Coast for some R & R. We took part in a Park Run celebrating the anniversary of Australia's 1st Park Run 15 years before. Other days on the Gold Coast were spent battling the surf, and visiting the various theme parks.

Then back to Sydney. Here we relaxed ran, cycled, walked the coastal paths and swam, visited friends and went sight-seeing. Yes there are still parts of Sydney that we haven't been to before. After 6 weeks the 'goodbyes' do not get any easier and as for the jet lag …..

John and Katrina Barnes



Plant Sale – 17 May 2026





The Flower Guild would like to thank the growers, helpers and supporters of the plant sale which raised money for Christian Aid and the Flower Guild. We raised a total of £150, of which £100 was given to Christian Aid and £50 to the Flower Guild for flowers in church.

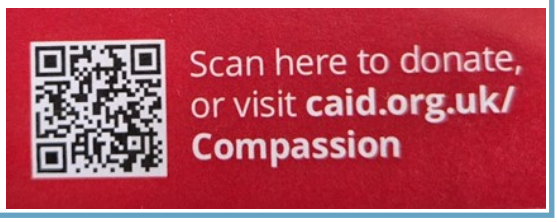
The plant sale was a new initiative and we were delighted to meet so many keen gardeners and people willing just to 'give growing your own' a go. We were particularly inspired by two young boys from our congregation who were already enthusiastic vegetable growers!

Cathy and Alan Fyfield

Christian Aid Week 10 – 16 May

christian aid

We are not able to tell you how much we raised at this stage but there is still time to donate. Please use the QR code or visit the website.



Cycle the Carpathians

cry in the dark
compassion in action

On 12 June, a small group including John Barnes and David Allan will set out on a 3-day challenge of 225 miles from Bucharest to Comanesti, cycling twice up and over the Carpathian Mountains.

They will be cycling in aid of the charity Cry in the Dark.

Cry in the Dark urgently need a replacement vehicle for out-patient care of terminally ill children living in rural areas.

Your help is needed for the maintenance and staff costs of their home 'Casa Lumina' or 'House of Light' which is for orphans rescued from squalid conditions. High inflation is also a factor.

Please sponsor John and David on the form at the back of church, or online at https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-allan-romania-cycle



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Come And Meet Each Other

If you are walking down Southborough Lane on a Thursday, you will notice that the doors of the Garden Room at St Augustine's church are open. Every Thursday throughout the year 'Warm Space' takes place between 10.30 and 4.30 pm. All are welcome to pop in at any time and you will see a range of activities taking place. It's open to all and there is no charge.

The team who run the day are pleased to welcome new visitors and there is no need to pre-book. For those who just fancy coffee and biscuits while doing a crossword or reading the paper, from 10.30 until 1 pm we provide the coffee and biscuits and a range of puzzles and magazines. Some folk bring their own daily paper or puzzle book and plenty of crosswords are finished as a joint enterprise! At lunchtime there is home-made soup and rolls and then there are usually more friends who come for tea and cake in the afternoons, 2.00 – 4.30.

Our Warm Space has been running for several years and if you haven't joined us yet, we look forward to meeting you!

The CAMEO team



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
or dianaepattison@gmail.com

We send our condolences to Michael Hewitt, a regular CAMEO visitor, on the passing of his wife Elizabeth on 21 May.

The Courage to be Disliked



I have been working with children of differing ages in one way or another for more years than I can remember. I have helped with Sunday school, led Pathfinders and since the age of twelve have had a few roles with Girlguiding. For the past seven years I have worked in our local primary school.

It was strange when I first started. I went from being the mother of A Little Girl I Know, back to being myself. It was three months into a new school year; the children had already started to get to know the team when I arrived.

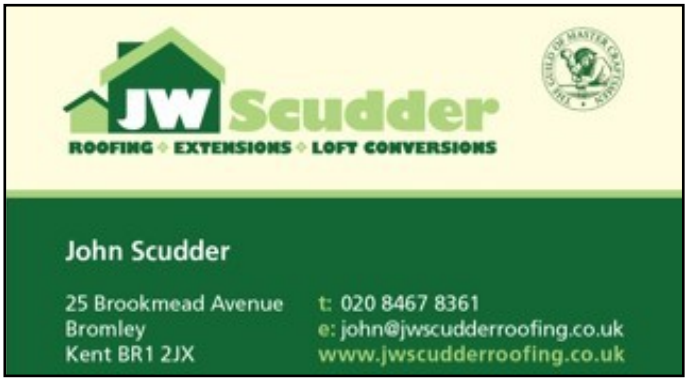
I was so nervous when I signed in for the first time as a member of staff and was taken to meet the other ladies I would be working with. Before long the classroom doors were opened and one hundred and twenty children started to fill the playground. My mind went back to when A Little Girl I Know was in that year group as I stood outside her old classroom. My new work Bestie came over and stood beside me. She told me that my daughter had been in the class she had when she first started working at the school. We laughed as I said that I was pleased to hear that they had not scared her off! I realised then that I had been fortunate to be working with a lady with a similar sense of humour and for the first time ever the same age. As the time has gone on, we have found out that we have so much in common which really helps, including that she too, is the mother of an only daughter.

Then came the most difficult lesson I had to learn. Was I to be the children's friend or foe? I had to realise that I would not be liked by all of them, especially those whose behaviour went against the school rules. I knew that if I was being paid to enforce these rules, I had to have the courage to be disliked.

Many times over dinner, I have told A Little Girl I Know about some of things that happen at the school. She often replies 'It wasn't like that in my day'. It's an all too familiar expression used by many of us in many circumstances, I am sure. Covid has a lot to answer for in the challenging ways we are pushed by the children and how rapidly we must think on our feet as to how we deal with situations often new to us.

Thank you Lord that you are right beside me wherever I go. Not just in church, or work, but as I explore the beautiful things around me. I really couldn't do even the smallest deed without you guiding my path. Amen





June Diary 2026

Sunday Services

Sunday 7th June	St Augustine's Church
10am Café Church	Romans 4: 13-25
Kids' Cafe Church	for children aged 0-11years in the Garden Room for breakfast, songs, story- time, art & crafts and other activities
Sunday 14th June	St Augustine's Church
10am Holy Communion	Genesis 21: 1-7, Matthew 9: 35-10:8
Sunday 21st June	St Augustine's Church
10am Morning Worship	Genesis 21: 8-21, Matthew 10: 24-39
5.30pm Holy Communion	St Luke's Church
Sunday 28th June	St Augustine's Church
10am Holy Communion	Genesis 22: 1-14. Matthew 8: 5-13

Mid-Week Holy Communion Services

Wednesday 10th and 24th St Augustine's Chapel, at Midday

Connect Groups

A place to explore God's word, build friendships, and grow in faith. We will meet fortnightly to look at Acts chapters 1-12. Everyone is welcome, no previous knowledge needed, just an open heart and mind
Tuesdays 7.30pm, from 19th May – Garden Room, St Augustine's Church
Wednesday 7.30pm, from 20th May – On Zoom, link will be send by email
Thursday 10.30am, from 21st May – Godly Play Room, St Augustine's Church

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 26th 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.

Games on the Green ~ For Primary School children

Every Wednesday (including half term) at 3pm-4.30pm. In front of the Scouts' Hut for outdoor games and refreshments. It's for primary school children and their families

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 25th 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:	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



Bromley Philharmonic Choir

Summer Concert

Saturday 13th June at 7pm

St. George's Church,
Bickley Park Road,
BR1 2BE

Tickets £15 / Under 25s: £1

June Edition: Editor - Sue Goodger: Layout - Karen Palmer

The July 2026 edition will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St. Luke's website
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Layout - Adrian King email: aandcking@icloud.com

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