

roundabout



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

Issue 574 July 2026

World Cup 2026 - Who will take the glory?



For football fans, July is looking set to be action packed with the 23rd FIFA World Cup well under way. If you wonder what all the fuss is about, or would rather avoid it altogether, then July might seem like an eternity. With TV being taken over by matches, and news coverage of the matches, it really is impossible to not engage just a little with the goings on over the pond. Whilst I'll be cheering England on, I'm also interested in the asides coming to the fore, for example the cost of match tickets. The cheapest ticket for England against Croatia, our first game is $265 (£198) for a category 3 seat. Tickets for the Final on July 19th will be the most expensive in World Cup History with a starting price of $2,030 (£1,513) for category 4 seats and an eye-watering $8,680 (£6,470) for category 1. That's without indulging in a $13 (£9.69) pretzel at the Seattle Stadium, or a nice cold beer at $20 (£14.91). Alongside financial concerns, political issues are noteworthy, particularly relating to the Iranian team. It's interesting though that whilst there are restrictions put on the Iranian team's presence in the US, they are still playing. Football seems able to rise above the death and devastation wrought by nation against nation, to bring some sort of awkward treaty. This World Cup is for sure extremely sensitive and complex.

Perhaps it's human nature to get drawn into the negative sideshow that lingers throughout proceedings, but positive undercurrents are also surfacing. FIFA spokesperson, Bryan Swanson stated in an interview with 'POLITICO' that the estimated global economic output would exceed $80 billion. This for me isn't the headline though, Swanson goes on to say that the tournament would also generate engagement with 6 billion people – "This will be the biggest show on the planet." Now this is interesting, especially as it seems that God is working in and through football players and teams. After Germany's 7-1 win against Curacao on Sunday 14th June, players from both sides came together in a circle to pray. In a post-match interview, German midfielder Felix Nmecha said, "During the game we are opponents facing one another but after the match, we are all Christians and we are like brothers." He went on to say, "We simply said a little prayer together because we are all still feeling very grateful for everything that has happened. He added "Overall, we all believe that Jesus is glorified through the game, and that is why we came together." This interview is all over Instagram and YouTube, and in two days had 12,121 views. You can see it at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92zLv8k6h-g. There is also a fantastic video of the Curacao team worshipping ahead of the tournament. It popped up on my Instagram feed but can also be seen on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lpxl6V0uteA&t=10s.

What an incredible witness to the 6 billion people who are engaging with this, the Biggest Show on the Planet. Praise God!

Yours in Christ

Revd Becky Willoughby

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.

A Big 'Thank You'



This month the Roundabout team is saying a fond farewell to Adrian King as layout manager. His involvement with Roundabout over 30 years has been hugely valued by those of us on the editorial and distribution arms of the magazine.

When it ceased to be published commercially, Tim Hyde, our Church Army Youth Minister at the time, took it on and Adrian assisted him. After Tim moved to Southampton on a new project, Adrian was joined in turn by Richard Jones, David Wardley and most recently, by Karen and Tanya. He enjoyed using new technologies as they became available and his enthusiasm for new methods and equipment remains undiminished.

Fifty years ago, the Roundabout king of grammar was Dickie Dawson, followed by Peter Edgley and then Adrian. His love of language and a neat turn of phrase have made our proof reading sessions very enjoyable and he has often produced articles which evoke a giggle or more serious thought. We will try to maintain the standards he has set and wish him a happy post-Roundabout retirement.

Ann, Jacky, Lorna, Mary, Sue and Tanya
The Roundabout Team

Games On the Green

Games on the Green is back by popular request on sunny Wednesday afternoons from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. This is fast becoming a favourite destination for Primary School children and their families.



There are hoops of all sizes, giant dice, bean bags and skittles which are perfect for inventing games. For any children who want to practise their football skills ready for the World Cup (in a year or two) there are coloured cones and a soft ball so they can create their own dribbling courses in competition with their friends.

For younger children, we have a ball-eating bin (which handily doubles up as a hiding place when you need to disappear quickly), or toss and catch, and skittles to knock over.



For smaller children still, there are cosy picnic rugs, big books and Mega blocks to keep them busy.

When any of the children fancy a break there are cold drinks and ice lollies, and of course cups of tea for the grown-ups too.

There really is no end to the fun on Wednesday afternoons at *Games on the Green*. We're running right through July and August too, so come along and have a chat with some friends while your children play together.





Catherine Lord

Diamond Wedding Anniversary



John and I were married on 4th June, 1966, at St. Luke's Church in Charlton Village.

60 years later, to celebrate our Diamond Anniversary, we met up with our 'oldest' and closest friends, Paul and Barbara, in Bradford-on-Avon.

Barbara was my bridesmaid and Paul and John have been friends since the age of five at Primary School. We were joined later for dinner by my cousin and his wife who live in Avonmouth.

Our 'big' celebration with the family will be at the beginning of August at Roseyard in Eastry, which will accommodate 19 of us for the weekend - including Jacqueline and Jeff and our American grandchildren.

Anita Bruce

SAMS

The South American Mission Society was founded in 1864, working closely with the Anglican dioceses in Latin America. SAMS missionaries served within a diocesan family and Amerindian pastors began to be ordained during the 1960s. Urban work also started in the cities, including the establishment of many schools. In 2010 a 'new' Church Mission Society was formed by amalgamating SAMS and CMS.

As their work grew, in the diocese of Northern Argentina, three new indigenous bishops were consecrated in 2016, two Wichi and one Toba and a new branch of the Mothers' Union, named AMARE was initiated by CMS mission partners. Since then the work of developing Church Mission Society's future mission work in the region has expanded – together with, listening to and inspired by Latin American Christians.

Elsie Cosedge

Elsie Cosedge, who has passed away aged 103, had a faith, nurtured in her childhood, which took her to far flung parts of the globe and she worked tirelessly to promote the work of Mission Partners everywhere.



It was with the South American Mission Society that Elsie Tadman, her husband and family learned first-hand about the challenges and the rewards of living the Gospel in a foreign land. After many years in South America, Elsie joined her family in Bromley and came to St Augustine's during Rev'd Brian Ash's ministry. Having married again, she and David Cosedge participated fully in the worship life at St Augustine's.

A memorial service will be held in church.

Len Holliday

From 1968 to 2002, Len and Pam Holliday were a very active couple in the life of St Augustine's church. Len was a Pathfinders' leader and on one memorable occasion took the group for a tour of Wembley Stadium. He also led the Gregarians, which was the social arm of St Augustine's, organising dinners, supported by Pam and outings, as well as being a member of the PCC.

Len and Pam retired to Chichester and Len passed away on 3 June. A small service for family and friends will be held in Chichester Cathedral.

Johnny and David's Romania Cycle Challenge

Saturday morning early June, up for a 6.30am start to a day when we would be cycling 110 miles from Bucharest to Brasov, the skiing centre of Romania, via mountains up to 3,500 feet.



David and Johhny at the start

Besides Johnny Barnes and I, we had Glyn, an ex-racing cyclist and bike shop owner, Chris, who is dean and team rector of Romney Marsh and Steve, CEO and founder of the charity Cry in the Dark. Steve had had a serious, nearly fatal cycling accident last year, and it was good to see him back in the saddle, recovering strength.



The team in Brasov centre

We reached beautiful Brasov, after some serious climbing and over twenty hairpin bends on the way down. Entering the city, Chris and I had identical cycle accidents when our front wheels caught in the railway lines we were obliquely crossing, giving us similar knee and shoulder grazes!



At the summit, day 3

The next day we cycled 75 miles through the hills, stopping for our picnic lunch next to a water well where locals gathered to fill their containers with the healing waters. Then on to Miercurea Ciuc, a Hungarian speaking area of Romania.



Arrival at Casa Lumina

Our final day of 65 miles began with a long climb up the Carpathian mountains to the summit – the latter part pursued by snarling snapping dogs, which did wonders for our uphill climbing speeds!

Then a 40-mile dash to the finish – the familiar-to-me city of Comanesti, and a warm welcome by the residents of Casa Lumina, a home for life promised to orphans rescued from appalling conditions 26 years ago.

I am proud that our church here in Bromley supports Cry in the Dark, a Christian charity with values of respect, compassion, honesty and integrity, courage to speak out for injustice, and commitment to the future.

Thank you to everyone who has supported John and me for this ride!
If you'd like to support the work or get involved personally, please speak to me, or see https://www.cryinthedark.org/

David Allan

Christian Aid

The final amount we raised at St Augustine's and St Luke's for Christian Aid Week this year is £149.40 – £100 from the plant sale and £49.40 from envelopes. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile charity and to those who donated online.



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HQ Improvements at the 23rd Bromley Scout Group

The 23rd Bromley Scout Group are pleased to share an update on the major improvement works recently completed at our Scout HQ. This phase of the project represents a significant step forward in modernising the building and ensuring it continues to support our young people and community groups for many years to come.

Over recent months, the HQ has benefited from a series of essential upgrades, including the refurbishment of the kitchen, improvements to the girls' toilets and a number of behind the scenes repairs that make the building safer, more practical and more welcoming. One of the most appreciated additions has been the new disabled access ramp. Several visitors have already commented on how much easier it is to enter the hall. This improvement has made a real difference to accessibility and inclusion.

These upgrades have only been possible thanks to a huge collective effort. The Scout Group has raised funds through fundraising, events, donations and grant applications. Every contribution has helped move the project forward, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported us.

The improvements are already making a positive impact on:

- Weekly Scout activities across all sections
- Community groups who hire and rely on the hall
- Parents, carers and visitors who now benefit from improved access and facilities
- Leaders and volunteers who have a safer, cleaner and more functional space to run programmes

These upgrades ensure the HQ remains a vibrant, reliable and inclusive space for all who use it. We offer our sincere thanks to the church and PCC for their continued support, encouragement and partnership throughout this project. Their backing has been invaluable in helping us deliver these much needed improvements.

The next major phase of our improvement plan is the installation of a new hall floor over the summer. This will further enhance safety, appearance and usability. Fundraising for this stage is already underway, and we look forward to continuing this journey with the support of our community.





David Goodwin

Thank You

Sue Goodger's granddaughter Isie and her friend Eva would like to thank everyone who supported their cake sale in aid of Bowel Cancer UK on Sunday 14th June at St. Augustine's church.

The girls both love baking and Isie wanted to raise money in memory of a family friend who passed away earlier in the year.

It was a very successful and enjoyable event. There were lots of amazing cakes and cookies for sale and it raised £250 for this worthwhile charity.



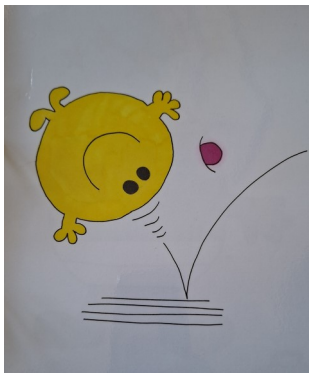
The Mr Men and Little Miss Books

One of my dearest friends - sadly no longer with us - bought A Little Girl I Know the complete set of The Mr Men books for her first birthday. All 48 books, trust me I know, by how many times I had to tidy them away after she had got them all out. It was a challenge to get them back in their box in the right order so that the spines revealed a message telling you which books they were. We enjoyed many peaceful moments snuggled up on the settee as I read them to her. A few years later, after she started school, she asked to dress as Mr Funny for her first outfit for World Book Day. For some parents it is a day of nightmares, I however loved it and was happy to set about sorting out her homemade outfit. I was pleased to receive many compliments from the other parents, who as time was short had sourced their children's outfits online.

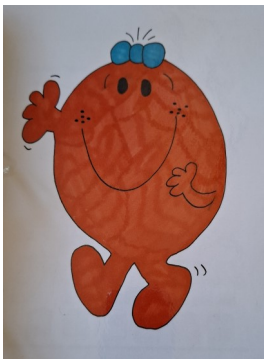
A few years later The Mr Men came back into my life. I was helping with a Bible club at a local primary school and I was happy to have the chance to re-read the books. This time the characters had been cleverly used to help tell some Bible stories. Let me explain.



There was Mr Greedy, to tell the story from Luke 12: 13-21 who didn't share his crops, he just built bigger barns, but he died before he could use them. What use were they to him then? The message behind the story, to share what we have got.



Next Mr Bounce, telling the story from Acts 20: 7-12. Ever felt that the sermon is going on and on? Yes often, 15 minutes is quite enough. The moral of this story is to make sure you don't sit by an open window if you are feeling tired; or maybe like the boy in the story who fell from the window, should have been more respectful and listened and therefore learnt from the speaker.



Finally, and possibly the most important story, a lesson for us all from Little Miss Fun - that being a Christian is fun and we don't follow a list of rules. The verse John 10: 10 reminds us that Jesus came that we might have life and life in all its fullness.

A Little Girl I Know reminded me recently that God created fun, laughter and smiles and that we should use them. Absolutely right my darling. As Christians we have a peace and a hope that others don't have; this should be a reason to put a smile on your face!

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July/August Diary

Sunday Services - @10am

St Augustine's Church

5th July	Café Service	2nd August	Café Service
12th July	Holy Communion	9th August	Holy Communion
19th July	Morning Worship	16th August	Morning Worship
26th July	Holy Communion	23rd August	Holy Communion
		30th August	Morning Worship

St Luke's Church - @5.30pm

19th July	Holy Communion	16th August	Holy Communion

Mid-Week Holy Communion Services

July - Wednesday 15th and 29th St Augustine's Chapel, at Midday
August – No mid-week Holy Communion

Connect Groups

A place to explore God's word, build friendships, and grow in faith. Everyone is welcome and we will be running each session three times a week. The sessions are:

	Tuesday 7.30pm St A Garden Room	Wednesday 7.30pm On Zoom	Thursday 10.30am St A Godly Play Room
Session 4	30 June	1 July	2 July
Session 5	14 July	15 July	16 July
Session 6	28 July	29 July	30 July

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

Children's Activities @ St Augustine's Church

ARK ~ For Preschool and below
Every Wednesday at 10am - 11.45am until 22nd July when we break for Summer. Restarts on 2nd September.

Games on the Green ~ For Primary School children
Every Wednesday throughout the summer at 3pm-4.30pm. In front of the Scout 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 until 26th July where we break for Summer. Restarts on 6th September.

Messy Church ~ For the whole family
Thursday 23rd 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. No Sessions in August.

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

Allotment Show

Southlands Road Allotments & Gardens Ltd (the allotments both sides of Baths Road) will be holding their annual allotment show on Saturday, 22nd August at St Luke's Hall, Raglan Road.

Doors open at 2pm, and the show is on for a couple of hours or so. Admission is open to everyone and is free, so please do come along and support the members of your local allotments.

On display there will be over 60 categories covering vegetables, fruit and flowers as well as jams, cakes, artwork, needlework, photography etc., so we think there is something of interest for everybody. All the exhibits will have been judged earlier in the day.

There is also a tombola, raffle, produce stall and there is tea or coffee and cake to enjoy over a chat outside, weather permitting. Remember the date – 22nd August; we look forward to seeing you there.

**You don't have to be an plot holder to enjoy the benefits of our allotment association; for £3 a year you can become a garden member which entitles you to enter exhibits at the show and you can purchase a wide range of gardening items at very competitive prices at the shop in Baths Road **

Richard Coughtrie

July Edition: Editor - Mary Plummer: Layout - Tanya Wardley

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