

roundabout



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

Website: www.st-augustines.org.uk

Issue 575 September 2026

What a summer it has been!



Day after day we've woken up to cloudless skies with no hint of rain. There have been times of extreme heat. Even in England there have been forest fires. With hosepipe bans continuing, keeping precious plants alive has been a major challenge.

Throughout the Bible there are many verses about water, the refreshment available from rivers, wells and streams, representing God's love and faithfulness to us. Right from the very first Psalm we are encouraged to put our trust in God's love.

It says the person who meditates on God's law - the Bible - is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Even when life is challenging, we can be secure in God's love and draw on his resources through prayer, spending time with other Christians and Bible reading.

This in turn gives us the internal wisdom and resources to help others. In John chapter 7, verse 38, Jesus says, "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" When others are suffering, we have the strength and wisdom to come alongside them and comfort and support them.

What does your faith mean to you? For the prophet Isaiah, in the Old Testament, the Lord God was his strength and his song. He gives us all a promise of a fulfilled life in God's presence. Isaiah chapter 58, verse 11, says, 'The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.' Even as the drought has ended and the rains return, we have an assurance that if we put our trust in him, we can draw strength and hope from what Isaiah calls 'the wells of salvation' with joy throughout our lives.

Why not think about these lovely promises as you water your garden this Autumn?

Verity Mitchell

Licensed Lay Minister



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.



Renewing Wedding Vows 40 years on - Tricia and Nick Ash

Daughter Naomi Smith writes:

A huge 'congratulations' to Mum and Dad on their 40th wedding anniversary, renewing their vows. We were sat in St Augustine's Church for their morning communion service when 11am struck and Mum whispered to me "Our service started at 11o'clock" and – 40 years later to the minute – they were in the same place.





Colin and Sandra Goodwin

What an enjoyable day we had celebrating Sandra and Colin's 40th Wedding Anniversary.



Family and friends gathered in church to hear their renewal of vows.

Later we gathered for a BBQ and desserts and raised a glass to toast the Happy Couple.

The highlight was watching a replay of the wedding video, comparing hair styles and outfits and remembering family and friends no longer with us, but captured on film.

Wishing them both many more Happy years together.

John Blunden

Congratulations to Phil and Viv Emery



Phil says "To celebrate our Ruby Wedding anniversary we travelled first class by train to Edinburgh and stayed in a suite at the Royal Scots Club. Our anniversary was on a Sunday so we attended the service in St Giles' Cathedral and then returned to our accommodation to a bottle of bubbly sent to us very kindly by the chair of 2makeit. A lovely and memorable week."



Families

Welcome back! We have an exciting time ahead of us. There are also a few changes in store.

Our club for children on Sunday mornings is now called simply 'Kids' Church'. It is an engaging hour of fun with story time, action-songs, and thought-provoking activities. It is mostly for under 11's although there is something for every age. On the first Sunday of every month, we also have Kids' Café Church, when we share breakfast together before the fun starts. Come along and join us!





Messy Church is now held on the third Thursday of each month from 3.15-5.15pm and is fast becoming a popular after-school destination for primary school children and their families.



Our two groups for 11–17-year-olds continue as before.

1. Discuss & Discover: a great place for young people to explore faith and its relevance for them on the third Sunday each month from 10.15-11.15am.
2. Youth Group: a gathering together for games, chatter and the bizarre Task Master Challenge on Sundays from 5-7pm, starting again on September 6th.

We look forward to seeing some new faces at both this term.



Our Wednesday groups continue as usual: ARK from 10-11.45am for under 5's, and Game Station from 3-4.30pm for children up to 11 years old. These groups take place each Wednesday from September 9th through to December 16th apart from December 2nd.

Catherine Lord
Family Worker

Coffee Morning

You are invited to Sue's Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It will be on
Friday 25th September

from **10.00 to 12.30** and **2.00 to 5.30**

at **22 Sunningdale Road, BR1 2ET**

RSVP to Sue on 07796 213796

Please come and enjoy a friendly chat and of course home-made cakes. It will be my 20th year and I'm looking forward to meeting up with you all again.

Donations by cash, cheque or online please.

Sue Goodger

St Mark's Parish, Mwaikisabe

Our link with Kondoa diocese was established 11 years ago and since then we have visited six times, each with a variety of different members from our church community. During this time we have been able to give support to them for the pastor's stipend and their parish share to the diocese.

We have also been able to see, during our visits, the material effects of our giving. There are now two completed buildings to which we have contributed – a Pastor's house and a Catechist's house.



Ann and Nigel Pope are making another visit in September during which they will discuss the construction of a permanent piped water supply from their existing well. Currently the community use buckets to bring water from the well into their houses and the church.



The additional benefit of laying the pipes and having two storage tanks, holding 10,000 litres, is that it will help to support local projects such as keeping their chickens and livestock and tending vegetable gardens.

The past two seasons have seen particularly bad drought conditions and right here at home this summer, we can see the effects of water shortage. The community will provide much of the labour involved in the construction and the provision of materials and building equipment will cost £8,000 (inclusive of contingency).

Canon Andrea writes: 'The water project for St Mark's Mwaikisabe church is an important initiative aimed at improving church services and the well-being of the local community. Through this project, the church will have a better worship environment, improved sanitation, better health and enhanced opportunities for development activities. The church requests prayers, cooperation and support from various stakeholders to ensure that this project is successfully implemented and brings lasting benefits to the current and future generations.'



If you feel God is asking you and you would like to give to this project, please make bank transfer, reference 'Kondoa water' to THE PCC OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST AUGUSTINES WITH ST LUKES BROMLEY Sort code: 20-14-33 Account no: 20772100.

Alternatively cheques to Nigel Pope, made out to St Augustine's with St Luke's Bromley. Gift aid will be claimed as long as we have a gift aid form for you.

Mary Plummer

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Thank you



To all at St Augustine's with St Luke's, I would like to say a big thank you for your good wishes and prayers.

At the time of writing, it is hard to believe but I have been in Birchington for six weeks. I have been busy unpacking and trying to remember where I put things! It has been a joy to be able to walk to the sea whenever I need to get away from the unpacked boxes. I may also have had one or two visits to the fish and chip shop!

I have been to two local churches, and it has made me realise and appreciate all of the wonderful musicians, singers, leaders and congregation there is at St A's. A huge thank you to everyone for your support and the privilege to hear and worship with you over the past years. A special thank you to all those who lead the Connect group, for creating a space where you can ask questions and never feel awkward or uncomfortable for doing so.

With love from sunny Birchington-On-Sea

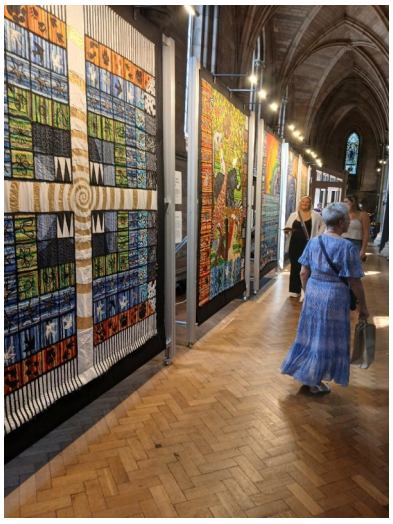
Karen Palmer

'Threads Through the Cross' Advance Notice

In August 2024 I went to Southwark Cathedral to see a fantastic exhibition of huge panels of embroidery and appliqué work, entitled 'Threads Through Creation'. I wrote a piece for 'Roundabout' after my visit.



'Threads Through Creation' was part of a much larger project 'Threads Through the Bible' by Jacqui Parkinson, which has taken her ten years to complete - 'Threads Through Creation', 'Threads Through the Cross' and 'Threads Through Revelation'. Each can be exhibited separately or all together.



'Threads Through the Cross' is coming later this year to Southwark Cathedral from Friday September 4th – Wednesday October 7th. The exhibition starts with the birth of Jesus, takes the viewer through various scenes in his life, then the cross and resurrection, to Pentecost.



The panels are stunning; the colours and workmanship amazing. If you do get the chance to see them you will be glad you went.

Jacqui's website is www.jacqui-textile.com

The accompanying photos from my visit in 2024, give an idea of the scale of the panels.

Carolyn Nield

Look What I Found!

During the recent school holidays, I decided to sort out the wardrobe in our bedroom. It had become unorganised and finding things had started to be a long, drawn-out process. The busyness of the past few months had meant that clothes had been put away, but not in colour order, which for someone who struggles to identify blue and black, is a nightmare. Before long, a number of bags had been filled ready to be donated to charity. I was pleased with the result, time well spent.



This inspired A Little Girl I Know to do the same, a long overdue task not done since I did it when she was at school. There was much to sort out, charity shop drop offs, tip runs, a non-recyclable bin or two full, and stuff to try to sell. She worked long and hard and the result was well worth the effort.

A Little Girl I Know unearthed many long-lost treasures as she sorted out and would frequently come to where I was to show me. It was lovely to share the joy and memories of found items. A particular favourite was a large pile of books from her primary school days when she exclaimed, “Look what I’ve found Mum.”

I enjoyed travelling down memory lane as I flicked through her homework books. I recalled happy and not so happy times sitting with her as she often found the tasks challenging due to her dyslexia. Photographs of day trips out, of places visited so another assignment could be completed, which made me smile and encouraged a couple of days out doing the same things, reliving the memories.

A photo in her Year 3 homework made us both laugh. It was of A Little Girl I Know standing in front of our garage holding a piece of paper. I had written on it, ‘What no sun?!’ She reminded me that the challenge had been to make a sun dial, which was a first for me. I was reminded we had Googled how to do it, made a poor attempt at it, and then waited. Unlike this summer it had been cloudy for weeks leading up to the photo being taken. The deadline for the completion of the homework passport due, there was nothing we could do to test to see if it worked. She recalled her teacher smiling and telling her that she could see she had made the effort and would mark that section as ‘passed’.

This last summer it would not have been an issue, would it? Lots of sun, temperatures so high previous records broken, the brown grass, and of course the hose-pipe ban, news of forest fires, and other weather-related incidents.

As autumn is not far off now, I pray that all children and staff return to school well and refreshed from the break. Those in college or university settle into their studies, and those who have finished their education move forward to the next step knowing that God is with them.

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September Diary 2026

St Augustine's Church Sunday Services – at 10am

St Augustine's Church

6th	Café Church	Bible Reading	Psalms 23
13th	Holy Communion	Bible Readings	Genesis 50: 15-21, Matthew 16: 21-28
20th	Morning Worship	Bible Readings	Philippians 1: 21-end, Matthew 20: 1-16
27th	Harvest Festival/Parade/Holy Communion	Bible Readings	Luke 12: 16-30

Each week there will be Kids' Church in the Garden room for children aged up to 11 years.
On the third Sunday (20th) there is 'Discuss & Discover' aimed specifically at 11-17 year olds.

St Luke's Church Sunday Service – at 5.30pm

20th Holy Communion

Mid-Week Holy Communion Services

Wednesday 9th and 23rd St Augustine's Chapel at midday

Confirmation Classes

16th and 19th September at 7.30pm have been set aside for those considering confirmation.
The confirmation will be held at St John the Evangelist Bromley North 4pm on 11th October.
Please confirm with either Rev Steve or Rev Becky if you would like to attend the classes.

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 3485 or 07707 944299

Children's Activities at St Augustine's Church

ARK ~ For Preschool and below
Every Wednesday at 10am - 11.45am. Restarts on 9th September.

Game Station ~ For Primary School children
Every Wednesday 3pm-4.30pm. No booking required, just come along and play games to make you think. It's for primary school children and their families

Youth Club ~ For 11–17-year-olds
Every Sunday at 5pm -7pm. Restarts on 6th September.

Messy Church ~ For the whole family
Thursday 17th Doors open at 3.15pm – 5.15pm, party tea at 3.45pm then craft activities, games, time with Messy Gilbert, sing-along. Fun for all the family.

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

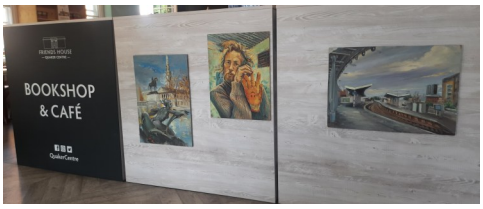
Contact details for all church and uniformed organisations are on our website www.st-augustines.org.uk
Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at vicar@st-augustines.org.uk

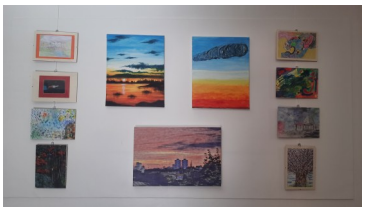
Exhibition



As usual the principle behind the exhibition is to remove the labels from the work of vulnerable people and recognise them as individuals with a talent for painting or drawing or writing, etc, rather than judging them by the labels that hold them back like 'offender' or 'homeless'.

The exhibition is a mixture of work ranging from people in prison, to people on probation, the homeless and refugees, all without labels. The show starts in the Friends House cafe and then continues through a seating area and then two further areas around the building.





September Edition: Editor - Sue Goodger: Layout - Tanya Wardley

The October 2026 edition will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St. Luke's website
Editor - Mary Plummer email: maryaplummer@hotmail.com
Layout - Tanya Wardley email: tanya@wardleyuk.com

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