

roundabout



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

Website: www.st-augustines.org.uk

Issue 577 November 2026

Confirmation Celebrations!



What a privilege it was to be part of the Confirmation Service at St John the Evangelist on the 18th October. During the service fifteen people from five local churches were confirmed including Mark, Chloe and Kenneth from St Augustine's with St Luke's. Mark kindly sent his thanks to Steve and I for leading him through the course and said, "It was a wonderful experience being Confirmed with my daughter Chloe, and indeed Kenneth and everyone there. Thank you."

It was great to see so many family and friends joining in this powerful and joyful time of worship as the candidates stepped out and declared their faith in Jesus. In his sermon Bishop Jonathan spoke about how Confirmation is a time of commissioning, a time when Christians make the choice to live as a disciple of Christ.

This reminded me of my own Confirmation twenty-one years ago and journey since. It was a pivotal moment in my life, a reset and it sent me along paths that I would never have dreamed of. I would not have thought in a million years that I would become a priest. I remember one day at theological college, our group was discussing what it means to be ordained. As we looked at each other, it was clear that there was an overwhelming sense of anxiety and panic at the thought. Then, very helpfully, one of the group said that above anything else we are called to be disciples of Jesus and that doesn't change. We are just continuing to follow the commission we undertook when we were confirmed.

As disciples of Jesus, we can't always be sure of what paths we will be taken along. We can though, be sure that we will have a companion for the journey, and we know that Jesus is a friend like no other. It is my hope and prayer that as we all continue our journey with Jesus, we would grow in love and trust as we follow him wherever we are called.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Becky



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.

Thank You Becky

It will soon be coming to the time when our lovely Curate Becky will be moving on to a new role. Becky is someone whose love of God shines through everything she does.

It has also been such an enjoyable experience getting to know all the Willoughby family, who have become part of our community.

Becky approaches everything with enthusiasm which is evident in how the 'Why' group has grown. We have benefitted from her involvement in all that she does - she is an individual with many talents as seen by our new website and social media.

Personally I want to give her a huge 'thank you'. She has given me great support whilst I have been on my course. I hope next year she will be at my licensing.

Becky is someone who makes you feel valued. We will miss her as our curate but know that whatever she moves on to she will be a great success and share her love of God with others.

Debora Brockwell

Sahara Trek 2026

Over five days in November I will be trekking the Sahara Desert - across ancient dried up river beds, sand dunes and vast sun-baked plains in aid of St Christopher's Hospice.

Temperatures during the day can reach 34 degrees and the nights are COLD!! Sleeping in tents - no washing facilities (babywipes) but please don't ask about the loo...

Over four days I will be trekking a total of 50km. I have covered all of my travel expenses so any money raised will go to St Christopher's Hospice.

Please sponsor me to help provide expert end of life care and bereavement support in South London.
Donate to my page at: https://fundraising.stchristophers.org.uk/fundraisers/Katrinabarnes

Rev Canon KB

Thank You...

So much for the great support that everyone has given me for my Coffee Day at the end of September. Many people from our church came on the day and also people who were unable to come sent donations.

It was my 20th year of hosting this event at my house in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and my grand total this year is £1,536 not including the Gift Aid. Such an amazing amount to be able to send to this worthwhile charity.

Sue Goodger

Ann Hanrahan...



Had a lovely surprise recently when she was presented with a special Thank You card at the Trefoil Guild lunch.

This was in recognition of the many years she has been supplying refreshments at these meetings and organising charity lunches.

British Museum Bible Tour



On a beautiful sunny morning in October, thirteen intrepid members of St Augustine's with St Luke's gathered at Bromley South Station to embark on our visit to the British Museum for a 'Bible Tour'. Another three friends from St A's with St L's met us there to complete the group. On arrival we were met by our tour guide for the day, Jim, a very knowledgeable Christian, who brought the Biblical artifacts to life and explained their connection to the stories in the Bible.

After a welcome break for lunch Jim guided us through the many upstairs galleries. Again, the fragments of pots and vessels brought the passages in the Old Testament to life. This made me want to go back to my Bible and read the passages again. It was incredible to see the 'Cyrus Cylinder' (6th Century BC), often regarded as the world's first human rights charter, promoting principles such as freedom, equality and religious tolerance. The charred wall reliefs from the Assyrian capital Nineveh were also amazing and are proof of Nahum's prophecy which foretold of a fire that would consume it.

A huge thank you to Curate Becky who made all the arrangements for our amazing day.

Hilary Chittock

Messy Church

There were lots of happy faces at Messy Church in September. Our families got to know each other that little bit better as they asked each other questions, including what was their favourite food, animal, and time of year and why - this was usually Christmas because of the presents! More searching questions included 'How can we make the world a nicer place where we are?'

After tea, the children had a hunt for 20 cards which were hidden around the church. All the cards were found apart from number 6 which I found recently! The children put the cards into order and then turned them over to reveal something about the story to follow.

This time it was the Story of Creation from the Book of Genesis. The takeaway from the story was that the world was made on purpose for a reason, and that God was pleased with all He had made, and that includes all of us too!



There were a lot of fun activities for the children to do, including painting their own picture of God resting from all his creativity on the seventh day; there were some interesting pictures!



The children could also make their own mobile or bead key ring. We even had a sand art light box for the first time for everyone to try.

Everyone had a great time and made new friends. Why not come along with your family? Who knows, you may even discover a new super talent of your own.

The next Messy Church takes place on November 19th. We look forward to seeing you there.

Catherine Shelley
Family worker

Commemorative Scroll Appeal 2026/2027



Every year St Augustine's with St Luke's Flower Guild holds an appeal for donations to raise funds for the provision of flower arrangements in church throughout the year, but especially for the festivals of Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Donations can be made in memory of loved ones, by writing their names on the last section on the Commemorative Scroll Appeal form.

All those named are then listed on the annual Memorial Scroll which is displayed in the Memorial Chapel.

Names may also be added to the Scroll without a donation to the Flower Fund by just completing the last section of the Commemorative Scroll Appeal form.

All members of the Flower Guild consider it a privilege to arrange your flowers, knowing that each bloom represents cherished memories.

There are several ways you can donate to the appeal fund, the details of which can be found on the form:

by Cheque, Cash, Credit or Debit Card or Bank Transfer.

Whichever method you choose, please complete the form and return it in an envelope clearly marked **'Commemorative Scroll'** to the church office.

Many thanks for your continued support, it is very much appreciated,

God bless,

Cathy Fyfield

On behalf of St Augustine's with St Luke's Flower Guild.

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Moving On

You might often sit and ponder, at the end of a lonesome day,
Of the deeds and the hurts in your memory that try to darken your way.

The pain might be strong as you let hold, with this loss you may well shed a tear,
For the feelings for him/her within you seem so warm, so true and so dear.

The journey might often be challenging, for the bridges are often quite long,
And sometimes when crossing just halfway, remembering could start to get strong.

As you take the first step to freedom apprehension sometimes might well soar,
Determination you cannot relinquish as you need to be closing that door.

You might even feel cold and weary and your focus may well start to fade,
But just pray to the Lord for His guidance – He'll be ready to come to your aid.

This will give you the strength to keep going – you can imagine how good it will be
When this agony within you is banished through this wonderful Almighty He.

Hazeline 2002 Copyright

A Pilgrimage

This year marks the 110th anniversary of The Battle of the Somme. 1st July – 18th November 1916.

I am the custodian of a set of First World War Medals, Death Penny, Photographs and Documents for a Soldier. Walter Denton. 15th September 1915 he went off to Manchester to volunteer for The Royal Marines Light Infantry. He was recruited at Deal and became Private Walter Denton Ply 1097, 1st Royal Marine Battalion. Sent over to France 9th February 1916. He was killed on the 13th November 1916 during The Battle of Ancre which is in the vicinity of Beaumont Hamel. He was killed along with 70 comrades that day.

He was buried in an unmarked grave and was missing for some time. He was later dug up identified by his boots, cap badge, and the name tag in his shirt. He was moved from the surrounding battlefield and re-buried in an official cemetery, Serre Road No 2 Cemetery. This is the largest on the Somme, holding 7,127 bodies of which 4,944 are unidentified.

His brother took his name when he was born in 1926. I met Walter back in 1982 when I was on work placement, scene painting Pantomime at the Theatre in Oldham for six weeks. Over the years I stayed with him while working in Manchester and on Tour.

Walter did not know where his brother was buried or for that matter his parents. Information came to light when he contacted The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. They offered their sincere apologies and realised there was no epitaph on the gravestone. A new Stone was commissioned, and Walter was asked what he would like to say.



For our Tomorrows

They gave their today

Walter your memory

Is cherished with pride



I believe no family members have ever visited the grave in France. It was a privilege to visit and lay a wreath last December on behalf of his family and place a poppy cross for the unknown soldier known only to God who is buried in the same plot.

A promise fulfilled and kept.

John Blunden

Socks

I love my socks. Over the years, my choices have changed from the bright fluorescent yellows and pinks of my youth to pairs featuring my favourite cartoon characters, and now to a more conservative plain black or blue.



One pair I am reluctant to part with was a cheeky gift from my godson for my fortieth birthday many, many years ago. They featured a large yellow chicken and the words 'no spring chicken.' It may seem odd, but I really enjoy looking through the box in my wardrobe and choosing which socks to wear. The one thing I strongly dislike is pairing them up after they have been washed.

One thing all year round that is guaranteed to put a smile on my face is when I put them on first thing in the morning and enjoy the warmth they provide. A Little Girl I Know and I have the same size feet now. The only indication that they are mine is the colour, she refuses to wear black, and I white. Easier when it comes to pairing them up, I guess.

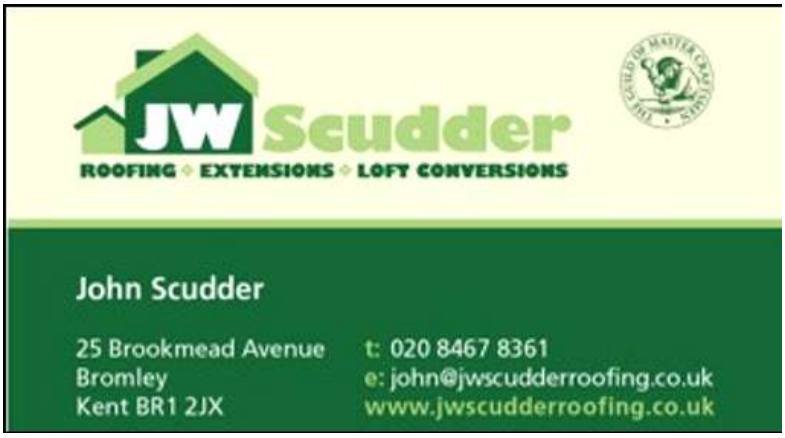
By the time I return from my morning walk it is often necessary for a quick change of clothes before heading off to work sometimes that includes my socks especially if it has been raining.

Not so long ago I was reminded of the challenge that when you see someone without a coat give them one of yours. Outside a local building that was being refurbished there were a large number of hangers for people to do just that. It was heartwarming to see people leaving coats there and I followed suit. I was pleased and sad in equal measure when, as I paused for a bit nearby, I saw a lady pick up one of mine, try it on, and walk off with a huge smile on her face. I felt that for once I had done my Girlguiding good turn for the day. I knew the lady who took it, not by name but by her sad circumstances and I knew that a simple gesture probably meant the world to her. I am not sure however, that I could do the same with my socks.

When A Little Girl I Know was tidying up recently she found a number of coats that she no longer wore. She asked me to give them to charity so others could be warm and look as good as she did a few years earlier. What a kind thing to do Little Girl.

Thank you, God, for the warmth socks provide. Thank you for the immense variety of colours and styles they are available in. We give thanks for those who make them for us and think especially of those who do not have socks and shoes.





November Diary 2026

St Augustine's Church Sunday Services – at 10am

St Augustine's Church

1st	Café Church with Baptism	Bible Reading
8th	Remembrance with Parade	Bible Readings Micah 4: 1-5, 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58
15th	Morning Worship	Bible Readings Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18, Matthew 25: 14-30
22nd	Holy Communion	Bible Readings Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24, Matthew 25: 31-46
29th	Morning Worship	Bible Readings 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9, Mark 13: 24-37

Each week there will be Kids' Church in the Garden room for children aged up to 11 years.
On the third Sunday (15th) there is 'Discuss & Discover' aimed specifically at 11-17 year olds.

St Luke's Church Sunday Service

15th Holy Communion at 5.30pm
29th CTiBC Advent Service at 6.00pm

Other Services

Wednesday 11th Remembrance Day Service at 10.45am St Augustine's Church Green followed by tea and coffee in the Garden room.
Wednesday 11th Midweek Holy Communion Midday St Augustine's Chapel
Saturday 21st Meditation Prayer Morning at 10.00am st Augustine's Church
Wednesday 25th Midweek Holy Communion Midday St Augustine's Chapel

Connect Groups

Sessions will be
Tuesday 7.30pm at St Augustine's Church 3rd and 17th November
Wednesday 7.30pm on Zoom 4th and 18th November

The link for the Zoom meetings is
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7454170610?pwd=YXhtZnp0UTV6S180TlhCRkd5N1AwZz09

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.

Game Station ~ For Primary School children and their families
Every Wednesday 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.

Messy Church ~ For the whole family
Thursday 19th 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:	Rev Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351 or 07778 784331
Curate:	Rev Becky Willoughby	07874 398445
Family Worker:	Catherine Shelley	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

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Come and join us for some Christmas fun

Saturday 28th November 2026 - 11:30 to 14:00
Scout HQ Homemead Road, BR2 8BB

Games -Tombola - Prizes - Crafts - Nearly New Sale
Gifts and toy stalls with all kinds of Christmas gift ideas for loved ones.

All proceeds raised go to the Scout Group and the continual cost of facilitating Scouting in the community. 50p entrance fee. Registered Charity No. 267692

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

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