



# roundabout



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

Issue 523 June 2021

## What is your Favourite Song?

**Eurovision**, why do we put ourselves through it!? Every year I say to myself I am not going to watch it, but for some reason I do, only to be disappointed once again.

Personally, I thought our entry was worth at least one point, obviously our European neighbours did not agree with me! Yet as I listen to the various entries, I was reminded that each one, in their own way tells a story. It might be a story of new love or unrequited love, a story of joy or even of sadness. There will be many different styles that will suit preferences and moods, like Jazz, Rock, R&B, or even Pop, yet, whatever the style it will resonate with someone. A good song will draw you into the narrative so that the words are remembered for many years, and can become an anthem for your lives, especially if they highlight an important event in your life, for example the first dance at your wedding.

In the same way our own lives tell a story that can influence others and speak into the context of where we live. As Christians I believe we have an important role in sharing the story of our walk with Jesus Christ, because many of us have been blessed by others when we have heard their experience of Jesus. In my view I think that the sharing of our stories is especially important at this moment in time, as we emerge out of lockdown and start to make connections once again. For some this may sound a daunting task, yet like the words of an old familiar song I know that the words will flow freely. For at its heart the song of Jesus Christ is the purest sound of Love we will every know and can ever share with others.

I suspect next year when Eurovision comes round again, I like many millions will be tuned to our TVs and my prayer will be, "please Lord, just one point will do."

Yours in Christ

Revd Steve Spencer -Vicar



**As members of St. Augustine's with St Luke's, we seek to follow Jesus' command—to share God's love with our community.**



## Licensed Lay Minister

On 15 May I was licensed by Bishop James, along with 11 others, to Lay Ministry in the Church of England at a service in Rochester cathedral. The Bishop spoke about Bertha, Queen of Kent, who played a key role in the conversion of the Anglo Saxons (English) to Christianity in around 580-600AD. She was a lay person who helped to prepare the way for St Augustine to lead his mission to Kent. The Bishop reminded us that lay people have a key role in bringing people to faith and to serve in the church.

Verity Mitchell

A licensed lay minister (LLM) or lay reader (in some jurisdictions simply reader) is a person authorized by a bishop in the Anglican Communion to lead certain services of worship (or parts of the service), to preach, and to carry out pastoral and teaching functions. They are formally trained and admitted to office, but they remain part of the laity, not of the clergy.



## APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on Saturday 8 May. As in 2020, the meeting took place on Zoom because of the coronavirus restrictions. The APCM looks back over the previous year with reports on different aspects of life at St Augustine's with St Luke's.

Sadly, many parish activities have not taken place and we still cannot hold church services as we used to do. However, it was good to be reminded of all the positive initiatives that have happened and to be encouraged by them. Most striking is the way in which technology has been used to keep connection, communication and worship going. Zoom has enabled us to hold church services, host coffee and chat sessions and to run a Lent course entitled 'Encounters with Jesus' which was attended by around 60 people week by week. Our Youth and Schools Minister, Helen has recorded virtual Messy Church sessions, online Holiday Clubs as well as various craft and Bible story videos. We have not been able to sing as a congregation in church but musicians and singers, supported by their production team, have been recording music for weekly services – there are now 121 hymns and songs on the St Augustine's with St Luke's YouTube channel.

Learning how to master this technology has been challenging at times. Gratitude was expressed to everyone who has helped in any way to put all this digital content together. We are glad that technology has been used to bring worship, good news and encouragement to people in our community.

Johanna Gurney



## Our Knitted blankets

Thank you for continuing to knit for the refugees in Lewisham. Your knitted squares keep coming and Tanya has been busy sewing them up. I will take some more blankets soon when we have a few more. I recently received this email from the church.

*Dear Sue,*

*We sent out your blankets with our Easter deliveries and the feedback is just beginning to trickle back to me. As you can imagine the recipients were delighted with such warm and colourful gifts. One family in particular had just had a new baby so the cot blanket was just perfect for them! Thank you again to you and your team of intrepid knitters!*

*Many Blessings,*

*Angela*

*Churchwarden (St Peters, Lee)*

## The Stephen Jota Children's Centre, Uganda

### Spring term update.

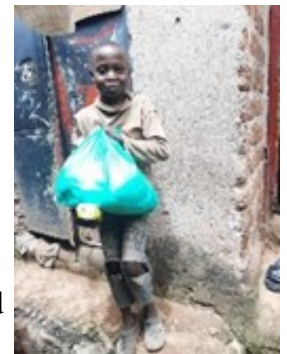
We are as always incredibly grateful to all our supporters for your continuing generosity and prayers. The last year has provided even greater challenges for people in Uganda and we have been able to provide some emergency aid and support many families in need thanks to you. We are pleased to share some recent positive developments and it's been a joy to see some of the students returning to the centre as permitted in recent months as lockdown has been easing in the country.



Work is progressing on the building of a new classroom block for the school. Some of the boys have been helping to make bricks for the build which are fired on site.

The local community foodbank continues to distribute food from the church in the slum area of the city.

With involvement from the pupils and staff at the Centre, Pastor Stephen has recently set up a rabbit enterprise breeding and selling rabbits. They have constructed many cages and shelters and created a clear business plan. They began with just 3 rabbits and already have 15!



*The Stephen Jota Children's Centre is one of the charities supported by St Augustine's with St Luke's Outreach and Away Giving.*

Adrian King

### Editor's note

Our article about Latch in the April edition of Roundabout published the wrong contact phone number for Lolly Bell. It is 07993 861218.

We apologise for any problems this may have caused.

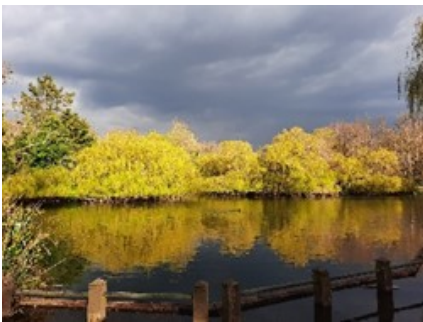


## Walking, Walking, Walking

During lockdown Jacky Skinner has been walking! She walks from her house near Orpington Hospital to Priory Gardens at the end of the High Street every day. This is her 'happy place' and she spends the time there observing and photographing the gardens and the wildlife, as well as thinking and meditating. She says it has really helped her emotionally during these difficult times, enjoying God's wonderful world. Many of you may have seen her beautiful photos on Facebook.



This has also been beneficial in other ways. As her amazing photography has captured the squirrels, ducks, geese, trees and flowers so wonderfully through the changing seasons, she has regularly submitted them to the News Shopper. This has resulted in 13 of her photographs being published in the last year.



The other benefit that Jacky wasn't expecting was to receive a walking challenge medal for a virtual walk of London, a total 13 miles or 21

km. It is a superb medal, really heavy, too heavy to wear around your neck for long!



In January Jacky signed up for the walking challenge of virtually walking from Land's End to John O'Groats, a distance of 874 miles to be completed in 12 months. She completed this in 4 months and 8 days, averaging just over 6 miles a day whilst recovering from a knee injury! Jacky has been inspired to undertake two more challenges since, and plans to continue to for as long as she is able.

Sue Goodger

## Parish Prayer Walk - Completed!!

It is a real joy to know that every single street in our parish has been covered in prayer by members of the congregation since the start of Lent, THANK YOU so much! There were a couple of individuals who prayed along a great many roads; *you know who you are* and we are really grateful :)

Many of the streets were prayed for several times over by different participants and it was really interesting to discover new roads - and people - previously unknown to us. Quite a number fed back that they had some great conversations with complete strangers, which has led to us praying for individuals in our parish that we otherwise might never have encountered.

It need not stop here! As many of us continue to walk around the parish in our daily lives why don't we simply use our recent experience to offer prayers whenever and wherever we go... who knows, we might see some of these new faces in our congregation in months to come!

## Nix Chix

*Matthew 23: 37.... 'as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings'*

Keeping chickens was something that I've always been interested in and now that I am retired, I get to spend more time doing so. They are an absolute delight to have around and I currently have three girls, Aggie, Bluey and Chicken and I do treat them as pets.

The question I am asked most about my girls is "how do they lay eggs if there's no cockerel?" the simple answer is, they just do! Hens do not need a cockerel to lay eggs.

Chickens lay eggs from around 20 weeks old, this is called 'point of lay'. Depending on the breed, a chicken will lay an egg each day and despite having three separate egg laying boxes, mine will all try to squeeze into the same one. My Welsummer, Chicken, lays a very dark terracotta coloured egg, Aggie, a Light Sussex, lays very light brown eggs and Bluey, a Blue Haze, she lays your standard coloured brown egg. Chickens need at least 12 hours of daylight to lay eggs and, after they have laid, make a loud calling noise which can last for several minutes. It is the 'song of pride', or maybe relief if you're a chicken. Eggs should be stored with the pointy end (smaller end) down, this allows the air inside to rise to the larger end without breaking the yolk. Storing eggs this way, keeping the air pocket at the top, prevents any possible bacteria reaching the superb golden yolk... the best bit.



Aggie

As the days shorten, normally late October, the girls get a rest from egg laying and this is when they moult.



Chicken

A full moult can last about 8-12 weeks and as the girls need protein to produce their new feathers, it won't be until around February that their crowns, the red bit on a chicken's head, starts to become more red and swells, that they start to lay eggs again - timed perfectly to match the lengthening daylight hours.

There is a pecking order and the girls will often peck at each other to sort out the ranking system, but they are very social and will dust bathe together and snuggle up at night as they roost. When morning comes, they seem to have forgotten what the pecking order was yesterday and so it starts again.



Bluey

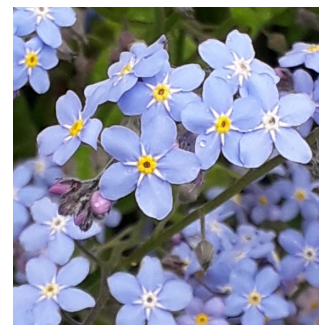
During lockdown 2020, we were able to upgrade the henhouse and chicken run and give the girls more space. More room inevitably means I need more girls to fill it, so I will be picking up maybe two or three more in the not too distant future.

Nickie Streek

## Flowery Memories

Having a garden has been a blessing during our periods of lockdown. It has made me think a lot about flowers and how many of them remind me of people and places.

At this time of year I am enjoying my forget-me-nots which remind me of my grandmother. I don't know why, perhaps it was a favourite of hers. My patch of lily of the valley reminds me of the bungalow where I spent the first five years of my life. I can picture a patch of them by the kitchen door. Roses remind me of an Auntie who grew them in her garden and gave me rose bushes as a present for my new house.



Locally, bluebells for a lot of us means a visit to Emmetts garden, and primroses remind me of cycling as a schoolgirl through Sussex lanes. Dahlias and chrysanthemums are prize winners in the village flower show which my friends helped to organise.

I wonder which flowers have a special meaning for you.

Ann Hanrahan

## Batteries

Only last evening I was looking for yet another battery. An electronic device belonging to A Little Girl I Know had stopped working, just at that moment when she needed it to do her homework. Typical!



I looked in the old plastic Tupperware box that I use to store spare batteries. There were a number of batteries, ones used for an old doorbell that had long since stopped working, there were some bought for toys, now given away as A Little Girl has outgrown them. There were tiny, tiny batteries for watches and calculators, the list just went on and on. I eventually found the size battery I needed, but on checking the voltage on a gadget I found it to be distinctly underpowered. There was nothing for it but to add it to my shopping list for the following morning. A Little Girl I Know would have to wait a bit longer before she could continue with her assignment. She was disappointed, but the shops were closed and there was nothing more I could do at that time.

The following morning, we visited the shops together; we were amazed at the variety of makes and sizes available. After a while we selected the ones we needed, then we couldn't remember how many we needed. Honestly it was like a scene in a comedy film, I said, 'three', she said, 'four'. In the end we went for more than was found to be necessary, but at least now we have spare for when these ones run out. Soon we were home, batteries put in, and A Little Girl I Know was able to finish her homework started the previous evening.

I guess this incident taught us a few valuable life lessons. Always have some extra batteries available especially of frequently used sizes, but also about life. You see that evening as I said goodnight to A Little Girl, I reminded her of just how important we are to God. It really doesn't matter if we are big or small, young or old, the colour of our skin. The list goes on and on. To God we are more than all of these things and loved so very much. She looked at me and smiled and said, 'Mummy can I say thank you to God for batteries', 'Of course you can' came my reply, and whilst you are talking to Him remember to thank Him for loving you'.

### Six candidates Confirmed by Bishop James on 1 May

A confirmation service is always a great joy for a church. The six candidates were all wanting to express their faith publicly. They were Christian Major, Pete Smee, Russell and Sarah Speed, Iona Mitchell and myself. We all enjoyed attending classes on Zoom before Christmas. It was chance to explore and discuss the foundations of our faith: God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the bible, the church, prayer, sin, sacraments and living as a Christian. The service itself was very intimate, given COVID restrictions, compared with the full church we would expect in normal circumstances. It was therefore very special for the six of us, allowing us time and quietness to contemplate the promises we were making. Bishop James spoke of Jesus being the way, the truth and the life, of early Christians being called 'The Way' and how God would guide us, based on verses from Isaiah 30 verse 21: Whether you turn to the right or the left, you will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it."



Verity Mitchell

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**Eric and Rhena Clouston** have sent us this update from Bangalore

‘Rhena and I each got our first Covid jab early April, but we do both seem to have got Covid anyway, a couple of weeks later. Our symptoms were, mercifully, fairly mild, so we are OK, except for some ongoing fatigue. Kitty and Sam are well and enjoying their new freedom: Kitty went from Cambridge to visit Sam in York a week ago and had a great weekend there.



Many of our friends, church members and my students have/have had Covid, some seriously, and with some bereavements. In local churches we have links with, there are families who are struggling to keep going financially, so several members of our church have taken responsibility for arranging groceries to be delivered to them.

The general situation in Bangalore is this. Lockdown 10-24 May (and probably longer); the - 'second wave' of Covid since April has been sharper and worse than last year, but they claim that numbers peaked last week or so; hospitals struggling to cope; oxygen supplies basically being fully used (two of our hospitalised friends, a couple, are just being weaned off the oxygen, praise God).

Many thanks for your thoughts and prayers. Much needed at the moment.’

**Congratulations to**

**Lynda and Richard Jones** have become grandparents with the birth of Violet Meryl Mae Jones, daughter of their son William and his partner Jenny.

**Verity Mitchell** who was licensed as a LLM (Licensed Lay Minister), by Bishop James, at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 15 May.

**Christmas at the Griffin’s**

Thanks to Covid restrictions, last Christmas was a no-show as far as family gatherings were concerned but not to be beaten Richard and I celebrated on May 24<sup>th</sup> the Day of Pentecost.

In awful weather our daughter Holly and grandson Joshua came for a full blown Christmas Dinner – being greeted at the door by two idiots in Father Christmas jumpers and hats and singing Christmas carols. The Christmas tree blazed with lights, the decorations sparkled and the cards still adorned the mantelpiece. After Grace we continued the family tradition of singing ‘Happy Birthday, dear Jesus’ and pulling our crackers and even the dog appreciated a few turkey treats. Everyone had a great time and thanks to our sons’ duties we will be celebrating again on 19<sup>th</sup> December and then again on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Three Christmases in one year – bring it on, as Steve would say!



Sheila Griffin

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*As members of St Augustine's with St Luke's, we seek to follow Jesus' command – to share God's love with our community.*

You are welcome to worship with us:

- on Sunday mornings at 10 am via Zoom and phone.
- on Sunday mornings at 12 pm Holy Communion in St Augustine's church.
- on Wednesday mornings 11.30 via Zoom and phone.

For details of how to join ring 020 8467 1351

Our church office is closed until further notice and normal church activities are suspended. St. Augustine's Church Rooms and St. Luke's Hall were reopened for hire on 19 May for activities which are permitted under the new rules.

Our vicar Steve Spencer can be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com or by phone on 0208 467 1351

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