



roundabout



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

Issue 551 April 2024

Listening and Obeying wisdom from Saint Benedict



I've been thinking about Benedict, a 6th century Italian monk who wrote a simple, but now very famous, rule for his monks. The Rule of Saint Benedict still forms the basis for many monastic communities around the world and has stood the test of time, but why is it relevant for us in St Augustine's with St Luke's as we are not monks?

Although we don't live together in a monastery, we seek to live as a Christian community in our parish so perhaps he has something to teach us.

Benedict said that he wanted to establish a school for beginners wanting to grow in their faith and in the Lord's service. He wanted, 'nothing harsh, nothing burdensome' but to encourage everyone. At the beginning of his Rule he asks us simply to listen and obey. We believe our life together is about learning obedience by listening to what God is saying in all aspects of life and responding to what we hear.

He speaks to us in many ways. We can listen to him through the Bible, through other people, through what is going on in the world around us, even in the circumstances of our own individual lives and through our spiritual teachers.

We listen in order to work out what God is asking us to do then, in love, we respond to God's call. Obedience is a promise to give of ourselves to others in the name of Christ. Our model for this obedience is Jesus, who listened to God and responded to God's will. In our obedience we try to put on the mind of Christ, thinking and acting as he would. We say that our mission is to offer all in our parish the opportunity to hear, experience and respond to the love of Jesus Christ.

So let's continue to listen to what God may be calling us to do and then to obey, as Benedict said, 'so that in all things God may be glorified.'

**Verity Mitchell,
Licensed Lay Minister**

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

Easter Experience 2024



St Augustine's church was once again transformed for a week, during March; gazebos, tables for money changers, palm leaves, a donkey, a last supper, a trial, crucifixion, the tomb and finally the glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday. This offered 250 Year 2 children from our local primary schools the opportunity to step back in time and follow the footsteps of Jesus and his friends in the most dramatic weeks of Jesus' life, that has changed the lives of so many people over the ages.

We pray that this experience will have touched the lives of at least some of these children, their teachers and the parent helpers, when less and less reference is made to the bible and sharing God's love.

Hilary Chittock

Experience Easter!!

Lots of children came to see me in my old potting shed here in the garden of Gethsemane and as they sat on the rug in front of me I told them about a frightening event that happened right here, a few nights ago. I recalled that Jesus came here with his friends as he knew something scary was about to happen. The children said that if they had been in that situation they would want their parents, their friends and their dogs with them! I told them that his friends all fell asleep, but when the soldiers came for Jesus they all ran away and hid. I hope that when they completed their Easter journey they would have realised that some friends might let them down but Jesus never would.

The Gardener

My take on Easter - a personal view

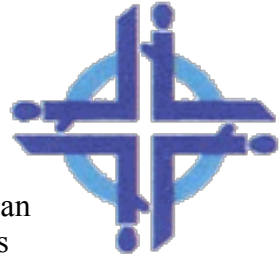
For me, Easter is not just a time to spend time with family or to receive chocolate eggs, but to commemorate the sacrifice Jesus made for us, to free us from the weight of our sins. It is a time of mourning as we grieve at what Jesus had to go through for our sake, but it is also a time of gladness as we recognise the love that Christ has shown us and what it means for us.

I personally see it as a time of humility and a time to openly express my love for Jesus. Paul writes in Philippians chapter 2 that Jesus '*humbled himself, becoming obedient to death on a cross.*' In the same way that Jesus was humbled enough to '*make himself nothing*', we as Christians should be humble enough to accept what He has done for us. After all, if we are not humble, then we cannot admit that all of us sin, and therefore we cannot accept the salvation that Jesus so freely offers to each one of us.

Easter is a time to live our lives for Jesus and to show Him the love He deserves and to glorify Him in our actions and our words.



World Day of Prayer



More than 100 people attended the World Day of Prayer service this year at St Nicholas' church in Orpington. It was emotionally charged as the service had been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine. Obviously the situation in the country had accelerated since the service was written and a special prayer reflecting the current situation had been sent out to be read at all services.

Next year's service is being prepared by women in the Cook Islands, entitled 'I made you wonderful'.

Ann Hanrahan

An Additional Prayer from WDP Palestine for March 1st 2024

We pray for women, who even now are losing children and other family members. We pray that their strength be a beacon of resilience, as they endure all challenges and pain with grace. Grant them courage to navigate adversity. And may their aspirations for peace and prosperity shine brightly in the midst of these difficulties. In this time of war, we pray for the healing of hearts and the restoration of peace. May compassion prevail over hatred, and may the suffering of all those affected by the war be alleviated. Grant them strength, solace, and hope for a brighter and harmonious future. We pray for all families who have lost members; for the kidnapped, the missing, and all who are still under the rubble. May the spirit of God grant them all patience and strength as they wait to be reunited. Lord Jesus, we pray for the end of all wars, especially in the land you called home. You are our Saviour, the one who taught us the real meaning of peace. Guide us and give us power to practice peace in our daily lives.

Amen



"Christ has died"



"Christ is risen"



"Christ will come again"

An open invitation was issued to produce an Easter Garden to be judged by the Vicar. There were 14 entries and the Vicar said “There are 14 winners!” Well done everyone.



Photos by
Karen Palmer
and
Jess Skinner

Bromley Youth Music Trust

Established in 1993, BYMT is an independent music service that provides a high quality instrumental and vocal music education to young people in the London Borough of Bromley and surrounding areas. It has 208 teachers and 16 support staff working with families, schools and partner organisations to ensure that children and young people have opportunities to sing, play, create and perform music in a wide range of community settings and professional concert venues.

BYMT is situated next to Southborough Lane Primary School. It caters for all ages and experience, including adults. It provides a range of ensembles and groups. These include bands, choirs, chamber music, keyboard classes, orchestras, musical theatre, and sessions for infants. It also provides holiday courses, workshops, and masterclasses as well as annual concert tours in Europe for advanced musicians.

I sing with the adult choir. We will be performing Bach’s Magnificat and a number of chorales at All Saints Church in Orpington on 28 April. Tickets and more information about BYMT are available on the BYMT website <https://www.bymt.co.uk/>

Andrew Gurney

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www.bymt.co.uk/events

Congratulations to

John Bruce

In March, John and Anita Bruce were invited to the Old Palace, Bromley Civic Centre, for the Mayor of Bromley Awards. John had been nominated by three local councillors for an Award in recognition of his many years of voluntary service to the people of the London Borough of Bromley.



Celebrating 200 Years of the RNLI

Some of you may have seen the wonderful post box topper that appeared in Petts Wood in March to commemorate 200 years of the RNLI saving lives at sea.

The charity was founded by Sir William Hillary. He lived on the Isle of Man and saw the treacherous nature of the sea first-hand. He witnessed dozens of shipwrecks around the Manx coast and saved many lives with the help of locals. He saw the need for a lifeboat service manned by trained crews for all of the UK and Ireland and published a pamphlet detailing his plans. When the Admiralty refused to help

he appealed to philanthropic members of London Society and this time it worked. Over 30 eminent gentlemen put their names to the fledgling service at the inaugural public meeting on March 4th 1824. King George IV graciously granted the Royal prefix to the Institution's name, making it the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck. Later that year the name was changed to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution – the RNLI – as it is known today.



This wonderful charity, founded upon and driven by values of selflessness, courage, dependability and trustworthiness, with volunteers at its heart, relies entirely on donations.

Sue Goodger

'Away From It All'

It's spring – summer is on its way.....time to think about holidays and time to remember Away From It All.

If you spot a family, a couple or an individual in our parish who has not had a holiday for some years and is really in need of a break, consider nominating them for a Mothers' Union Away From It All (AFIA) funded holiday. They will need a professional person to support the application but they do not need to be members of a church. Contact Kate or Jocelyn for further information on 07780 306866, or email aafafia.rochester.mu@gmail.com



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

Favourite Places

As a young teenager I had the privilege of frequently visiting the home of a staff member of our church. Situated a mile or so up the hill, it was a warm and welcoming place away from the things that needed doing in the church building, often in preparation for the main Sunday morning service. I would gladly help with a few minor jobs my favourite, folding letters, addressing envelopes, then taking the short walk to the post box and back in time for coffee.

One thing I remember was a picture on the wall of her small study. A religious piece by the surrealist artist Salvador Dali entitled Christ of St. John of The Cross. The original was painted in oil on canvas in 1951. It depicts Jesus hanging on the cross against a dark sky. He almost floats over water with a boat and fishermen at work. I recall commenting to my friend two important things, first that Jesus wasn't wearing His crown of thorns, and secondly that there were no nails in His hands and feet. Both these things have great relevance in the Bible accounts of the crucifixion. My friend replied saying, "Jesus didn't need nails to hold Him to the cross. It was His love for you and me that kept Him there." *Powerful stuff.* It will come as no surprise that using money given to me by my Godparents for my twenty-first birthday, I bought myself a copy of this picture. Many house moves later it is still on display as a daily reminder of the love He has for silly old me.



A Little Girl I Know has a favourite place too. Ever since she started school she has found peace and security in the library. You would think a child with dyslexia wouldn't want to be seen in such a place. I know we are fortunate that she is able to read at a good level, although it shows in other ways. I often catch her with her head in a book, able to tell me what she has been reading about. She enjoys spending time in the library helping there and chatting with the Librarian, whose support has been invaluable for A Little Girl I Know.

I am sure that you have a favourite place too. A place where you feel safe, secure and welcomed by God: remember it doesn't have to be a church building. So often I find peace in a park full of noisy geese, especially early in the morning. This helps to get my jumbled thoughts in some kind of order ready for the day ahead.

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April Diary 2024

Sunday Services

Sunday 7th April

10am Cafe Church

St Augustine's Church.

Acts 4: 32-35, John 20: 19-end

Sunday 14th April

10am Holy Communion

St Augustine's Church.

Acts 3: 12-19, Luke 24: 36b-48

Sunday 21st April

10am Morning Worship

5.30pm Holy Communion

St Augustine's Church.

Acts 4: 5-12, John 10: 11-18

St Luke's Church

Sunday 28th April

10am Holy Communion

St Augustine's Church.

Acts 8: 26-end, John 15: 9-17



Mid Week Holy Communion Services

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

Weekly Groups

ARK (term time only)

Every Wednesday, St Augustine's Church, 10.00am - 11.45am. Booking essential see below for church website details

Welcome Space & CAMEO - All Welcome

Every Thursday 11am - 4pm. Join us for Food and Friendship.

Monthly Groups

Youth Connect - Friendship and Food for School Years 7+

Saturday 13th April - 7pm - 9pm Fun and Games

Saturday 27th April - 7pm - 9pm Movie Night with popcorn and snacks

Mothers' Union

Monday 8th April - 1.00pm Deanery Service taking place in the St Augustine's Church and refreshment in the Garden Room.

Friends Re-United

Monday 29th April at 12.30pm - Garden Room at St Augustine's Church

Forget Me Not Café

Tuesday 16th April at 1.30pm - Garden Room at St Augustine's Church

Contact Details: Parish Office 020 8295 1550 (Weekday am Only). Email: office@st-augustines.org.uk
Website: <https://www.st-augustines.org.uk>

The 10.00 am service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel, www.st-augustine's.org.uk

To book a room at St. Augustine's, contact Liz Carter on 020 8467 8155.

To book St. Luke's Hall, contact the Church Office on 020 8295 1550.

Contact details for all church groups are on our website www.st-augustine's.org.uk

Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com



APCM



Our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** will be held on **Sunday, April 28** at **11.30am** in the **Barnard Room** and will last about an hour. **All are welcome to attend.**

Staff Contact Details		
Vicar	Rev Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351
Curate	Rev Rachel Winn	07311 330202
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Licensed Lay Minister	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
Churchwarden	Hilary Chittock	07884 195700
Churchwarden	Jeff Blyth	07557 349279
Parish Safeguarding Officer	John Murray	07482 315545
Parish Office: Mon-Fri 9.30 am - 1.30 pm	Linda Spencer Victoria Bouwer	020 8295 1550 office@st-augustines.org.uk

**ROUNABOUT April issue: Editor Ann Hanrahan
Layout Adrian King**

The **May 2024** issue will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St Luke's website.

Editor: **Sue Goodger** - sue_goodger@ntlworld.com Layout: **Karen Palmer** - kajpal@live.com

Please send all articles in absolutely plain, unformatted text and all photos separate from the text by April 23

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