



roundabout



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

Issue 534 July 2022

Sense~less

A few weeks ago I finally succumbed to the Covid-19 virus. After the initial illness I thought I was over all the symptoms, but after tucking into a tasteless chocolate chip shortbread I realised I had absolutely no sense of taste or smell. I didn't think too much about this, but as the weeks have gone by I have come to realise just how important these God-given senses are and how much we take them for granted.

Our senses serve not just to bring pleasure but to protect us as well. It is much harder to tell if food has gone off or if the bins smell when we rely so much on them to guide us. I only discovered I was drinking milk which was weeks out of date when I noticed my cup of tea had curdled! But the overriding conclusion for me is that eating without taste is really disappointing and disheartening.

I have since found it helps to try and enjoy food in a different way; trying new textures and temperatures, discovering that spicy food can be 'experienced' if not tasted and eating really healthy snacks for their nutritional value rather than to simply indulge!

What is obvious is that stopping eating because the pleasure of taste has gone would be foolish; we have to eat to survive and we trust that the taste in food is still there even when we cannot experience it.

There are parallels to be drawn here with faith. Sometimes we go through times when we completely lose sight of God. When faith diminishes and we can no longer 'see' it is tempting to abandon our walk with God and to feel disappointed and disheartened. When faith fails we may pull away from church, stop engaging with scripture, stop praying and lose our heart for worship... **But the love of God is still there, even though we may not sense it.** In the same way that to cease eating because taste has gone would be harmful, so it would be to give up on God when we cannot sense his presence in our lives. God is there in the blandness; he is for you and not against you, he loves you and is waiting for as long as it takes for your sight to return.

Experts say that the best thing we can do when we lose our sense of smell and taste is to 'expose our nose' to strong perfumes and aromatic food and drink and to try spicy foods and new flavours, as a way of 'retraining' our senses. Ultimately lost senses will return in their own time and way.

Similarly, if your faith has died don't give up on God, rather, seek him all the more. Find new ways to see him, keep on praying into the void, find a new place to worship, keep 'going through the motions' and always expose your spirit to his Spirit. Don't shrug and say "I've lost sight of God, that's it, but instead seek him in new ways and more intensely, until you **can** see and feel God again. This is exactly what a test of 'faith' is, continuing to walk with God when we can't even see he is beside us:

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
Being convinced of what we do not see" (*Hebrews 11:1*)

God bless

Reverend Rachel Winn



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



Trooping the Colour

I was very lucky this year to have a seat at the Trooping the Colour. After a most thorough security check, we found our seat high up in the stand (a stand had collapsed the week before so we knew all the checks had been made and we were safe). The weather was kind and everyone was excited to be there.

Instructions had been given that men should wear morning suits and ladies to be smart – no sandals. The Irish Guards were trooping their colour. I was looking forward to seeing their mascot, an Irish wolfhound. They are

the only regiment in the Household Division to have a mascot. His name is Turlough Mor, better known as Seamus. As a serving guardsman he is also inspected before he leads the regiment.

As the ceremony takes place the audience are required to stand every time the colour passes them. Gentlemen are required to remove their hats, and there were quite a few top hats, and those in uniform are to salute. This happened nine times. This includes treating the first gun of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery as their colour.

At the end of the ceremony we stayed in our seats until a sweep of the parade ground had been made for any medals that may have been dislodged. I did see something being picked up. We stayed in our seats to watch the fly past come over our heads, and that clever 70 formed by 15 Typhoons. A brilliant day!

Ann Hanrahan

Jubilee on the Green at St. Augustine's



A wonderful time was had by all at the Jubilee on the Green on the afternoon of Saturday 4 June. The sun shone after an unpromising start to the day and people flocked to the event. Everything was free, from hot drinks to cream teas, delicious cakes and a non-stop barbecue, with all the meat and veggie burgers donated by local butchers, Cleaver and Twine. Volunteers were out in force and nearly 300 people were there, with many dressed in red, white and blue.

The afternoon started with a demonstration of hand bells, expertly played by ladies from the Greater London Kent Hand Bell Ringers led by Hilary Chittock. The children had fun with a bouncy slide, face painting and craft activities. Many crowns and hats they had made and decorated could be seen in the final parade.



There was a challenging quiz, with questions posted all around the green, of which the winning score was 14 out of 20. An interesting display of Coronation memorabilia was set up, which looked familiar to those of us old enough to remember that day. It was great to see the 23rd Bromley Explorer Scouts' Clear-up Gang who helped so wonderfully at the end. Thanks to everyone who played a part in this fantastic event.



Sue Goodger

Jubilee Celebrations

Friday, 3rd June was the date for the Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Sheila and I had received an invitation and to attend the reception at The Guildhall after the service. Five minutes after getting the invitation Sheila was already trying on her dresses to see which one was best for the occasion and of course which were the best matching shoes. All I had to do was make sure my morning suit still fitted having not worn it for several years!

The day involved a very early start as I had been invited by Sky TV to be part of their Jubilee Show presented by Kay Burley. When I accepted I didn't realise that they would be sending a car to collect me at 5.15am so getting up at 4.30am was not a very pleasant experience.

I was taken to St. Paul's Cathedral where I was introduced to the Production Team and then had to have make up put on, probably to cover up my wrinkles. Kay Burley has a fearsome reputation but fortunately for me she was very lovely and laughed at my stories which helped to relax me. I was originally due to do only a couple of live interviews but as it turned out I did five interviews with her which seemed to be well received. I was amazed to get messages from all over the world from people who had seen my interview, just proves the power of the internet.

Once my TV commitments were over I met Sheila and we joined the queue to be searched and have our tickets checked and then we were admitted to St. Paul's. I presumed as we were quite late getting in we would be sat right at the back but our seats were right under the dome of the cathedral about eight rows back from where the Royal Family were to be sat. We were very close to Nicola Sturgeon and Sheila cast envious eyes on the shoes she was wearing.

The service was fantastic especially the pieces sung by the choir, to hear them live was really special. Even now just thinking about 'Vivat Regina Elizabetha' sends shivers down my spine.

Once the service was over we had to parade through the streets to The Guildhall for the reception. That was really amusing as the crowds were behind the barriers whilst we all walked down the centre of the road smiling and waving to our adoring public!

Once in The Guildhall we were served some lovely wines and some fabulous canapes. The food kept coming and as you can imagine it would have been rude to refuse so we did our best to eat everything that came in our direction. All too soon the National Anthem was played by the musicians and the event came to a close. Back home to Bickley where we both were very glad to be able to take our shoes off and grab a nice cup of tea.

Richard Griffin



Hilary Chittock was privileged to have a seat in the stand for the Jubilee Pageant with other members of Girlguiding LASER (London and South-East England Region). What a day to remember!



What a delightful evening we had at St Augustine's on 13 June. More than 50 flower lovers attended a meeting of **The Guild of Church Flower Arrangers**, and Kate, Acting Chairman, asked members to say their special prayer.

*'May God grant that our hearts, our eyes and our hands
May receive His inspiration enabling us to glorify His house
With the beauty of the leaves and blossoms which He has created.'*

we were gorgeous, but part of her message about God's world was using alternatives to oasis, which is a medium which does not breakdown and goes to landfill.

She began with 'Glorious Sunrise' which was a European design, (called a parallel design) using aspidistra leaves and stunning gerberas, anchored in bio oasis. Next came pink roses and white lisianthus with tall verbena and phormium and ivy leaves, this time in a fibre floral base, which comes from volcanic rock and bio-degrades more quickly. The third arrangement was one which anyone could do. Find a container, cut strips of Sellotape across the top to form a grid and put an inch of sand and water in the bottom. The only drawback of this one is that the arrangement is all verticals. Lastly, the showpiece. A beautiful pedestal design which used garden ferns cut to make geometric shapes with antirrhinums, arum lilies white roses, and irises. Inspirational!



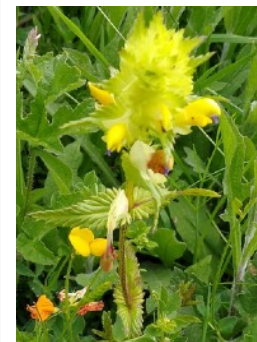
Mary Plummer



Merry Pilgrims' Wildflower Walk

The latest 'Merry Pilgrims' May walk was held right at the end of the month as Sally Morris had volunteered to lead us round Jubilee Park pointing out various wild flowers. She was joined by Jenny from the Friends of Jubilee Park who told us about the Park's history.

About a dozen of us were blessed with lovely weather as we made our way round from the Thornet Wood Car Park. Sally loves and knows the Park well and was able to show us the very pretty Common Spotted Orchid, Greater Yellow Rattle (a protected plant which is parasitic as it feeds off the nutrients in the roots of nearby grasses) and Corky-Fruited Water Dropwort (very rare except in Jubilee Park). We were able to chat to each other while admiring the scenery and the sunshine, just as well as the heavens opened in the afternoon! The group gave a big 'thank you' to Sally and Jenny at the end of the walk.



The group meets once a month for walks led by Hilary, Pam, Tanya and Sally. The walks, which are all reasonably local, are fairly easy and usually last about an hour and a half, so if you feel like a bit of gentle exercise in good company, come and join in.

Carolyn Nield



Congratulations to the awesome **Christine Regas** on her surprise presentation of a certificate and medal to celebrate her 70 years of being involved in the musical life of St. Augustine's Church. I think it is fair to say that she was touched and surprised when our lovely choir leader Lucy gave Chris her award in church on Music Sunday morning.

Also that morning **Sue Skinner** was presented with a very special hymn book which included one with music composed by Sue Skinner's grandfather, which we then sang. Sue also celebrated a Big O birthday in June, as did husband, Alan, seven months earlier.



Many of us at St Augustine's with St Luke's remember the dynamic work that **Jenny Warrington** did during her short time with us as Ordinand in Training. To continue her ministry Jenny and Allan moved to Chatham and in June Bishop Simon Burton-Jones installed her as Priest in Charge at St. Paul with All Saints. You can see the service on YouTube. We send our prayers and love to Jenny for a fruitful ministry.

Kondoa visitors

2022 is a Lambeth Conference year and **Bishop Given** from Kondoa will be attending. We are very pleased that he and his wife Lilian will visit us as part of a busy Rochester diocese schedule following the conference. So put **Sunday 21 August** in your diaries!



Top of the Pew has started again and sadly St. Augustine's with St. Luke's lost to St. Swithun's but only by three points. So close!

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The Day I Should Have Stayed in Bed!

I just knew it was going to be one of those days when I slept through my early morning alarm. I must have been sound asleep when A Little Girl I Know woke up, and then my alarm failed to sound; that was my fault as I thought it was set and clearly it wasn't.

Then there was the rush to make the lunch for A Little Girl I Know, who was getting a few last minute things ready for school. The traffic was heavy as I headed back after dropping her off. I was happy to be able to walk to my favourite place, but on arrival I found that all the gates were still padlocked. Could the day get any worse?, I thought. Eventually I found a way into the park and my spirits were lifted by the first sighting of some baby geese with their doting parents. I felt sad as I saw the amount of rubbish carelessly dropped right by the bins, but sadly not inside.

A message from A Little Girl made me feel sad for her, clearly her day wasn't much better than mine. A call from a colleague saying that she had tested positive for Covid and I was in pieces. I wanted to go home, put my lovely pyjamas back on, pick up my colouring pens, and shut out the world just for that one day.

Another message this time from work, another difficult situation I had to try to resolve that lunchtime. I stopped walking, and headed for a bench near to one of my favourite parts of the park.

As I looked at the water I saw more young waterbirds, I listened to the birds singing high up in a nearby tree. I realised that I was being so silly wanting to give up so early in the day. I spoke to God. I told Him that I was sorry for feeling like that. I thought about A Little Girl and asked that she would be calm and that she would get through the day. I remembered my work friend with Covid and those from our church. I asked that they would be better soon, and that they hadn't passed it on to other people. I said a thank you for the beauty of all that I could see around me.

With a spring in my step, I moved on with the day. I remembered the words on a poster that I had seen when I was around the same age as A Little Girl I Know, '*God will never give you too much for you to handle*'. The day I should have stayed in bed ended up as a good day, with so many wow moments. I was glad that I hadn't gone back to bed. Oh, and yes, I did enjoy some 'Me Time' colouring later that day too.



The Roundabout team would like to wish our readers a happy summer holiday.

There is no edition in August.



FORGET ME NOT CAFE



Memory cafe for anyone with dementia, their families, carers and friends.

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St. Augustine's Church
Southborough Lane
Bromley BR2 8AT

When: Third Tuesday in the month
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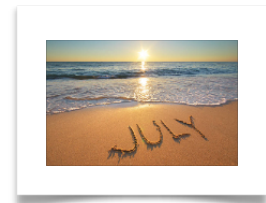
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SPECIAL Dates for your diary JULY 2022



This programme runs alongside our regular services

Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
From 6th July Wednesdays	The Ark Toddler Group (Term-time)	St Augustine's Church	10.00am~ 11.30am	
From Thursday 7th July afternoons		Garden Room, St Augustine's Church	2.30pm ~ 4.00pm	Friendship Café ~ make and meet new friends
Saturday 9th July	Messy Church	St Luke's Hall, Southlands Rd, BR2 9QR	3.00pm ~ 5.00pm	Children with their adults exploring faith in a fun way
Sunday 17th July	Holy Communion	St Luke's Church, Bromley Common	5.30pm	
Tuesday 19th July	Forget Me Not Café	Garden Room, St Augustine's	1.30 ~ 3.30pm	
Tuesday 19th July	Merry Pilgrim's walk	Wickham Common Walk	10.30am	Meet at junction of Gates Green Rd and Wickham Common, BR4 9HX
Wednesday 20th July	Bits and Pieces	St Augustine's Church	7.30pm	Fun adult craft and conversation ~ join us Needle Felting
Thursday 21st July	"Flower in Art" at CAMEO ~ all welcome!	Garden Room, St Augustine's Church	2.30pm ~ 4.00pm	A short talk about flowers in art fol- lowed by Workshop
Tuesday 26th ~ Friday 29th July		St Augustine's Church	10.00am ~ 12.30pm	Fun, games and Bible stories for primary school ages
Saturday 30th July (and repeated on Zoom in August)	Dementia, God and Us	St Augustine's Church	10.00am ~ 12.00pm	A 'Short Course' exploring Dementia in the context of Christian faith
Sunday 31st July 	Our popular Café~Style Church is back!	St Augustine's Church, 10.00am service		Breakfast, Worship and Holiday Club Celebration
Sunday 31st July	Family BBQ	St Augustine's, outside On The Green	Following the morning service	For families, Holiday Club and our Youth Connect young people

Staff Contact Details		
Vicar	Rev Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351
Curate	Rev Rachel Winn	07311 330202
Youth and Schools	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Licensed Lay Minister	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
Churchwarden	Hilary Chittock	07884 195700
Parish Office: Mon-Fri 9.30 am - 1.30 pm	Linda Spencer Victoria Bouwer	020 8295 1550 office@st-augustines.org.uk

You are welcome to worship with us, our regular Sunday Services for July are:

Sunday 3 July 10.00 am	St. Augustine's Morning Worship
Sunday 10 July 10.00 am	St. Augustine's Holy Communion
Sunday 17 July 10.00 am	St. Augustine's Family Worship
and at 5.30 pm	St. Luke's Holy Communion
Sunday 24 July 10.00 am	St. Augustine's Baptism

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 and uniformed groups are on our website www.st-augustine's.org.uk
 Our vicar Steve Spencer can also be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com

ROUNABOUT July issue: Editor Sue Goodger, Layout Adrian King.

The September 2022 issue will be printed and published on the St. Augustine's and St Luke's website.

Editor: **Mary Plummer** Layout: **Karen Palmer** - kajpal@live.com

Please send all articles in plain unformatted text and all photos separate from the text by August 23

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