



roundabout



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

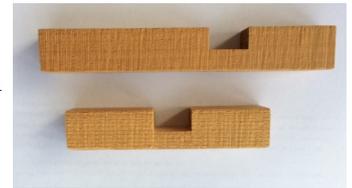
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Issue 501 April 2019

Home or Away

Thank goodness, the winter is over! February half term was wonderfully sunny, but will we have to pay the price for that later? Will the daffodils bolt or a late frost kill the apple blossom? Time to think of days out, weekends away, or maybe a longer break. I feel for the poor postman who has to contend with ever- larger, more glossy brochures, enticing us to visit exotic places. I love most things about going away – just not the packing! However, there is a special something I pack into my hand luggage – two small pieces of wood. The story behind it is this.

When I was first on the PCC – amazingly back in the 1980s – we had a study day for PCC Members, which I think was on the theme of 'Approaching the Cross'. One of our number, John Longbourne, an ex-woodwork teacher and a real artist in wood, gave us two pieces of wood, each with a small chink cut out. Separately they meant nothing. Fitting them together, they made a cross. When I am away, the tiny act of putting them together reminds me that my church family is with me; sharing the cross is what binds us together.



In recent years, John may or may not have remembered that he made these crosses. The significant point is that he shared his faith; in his own way, using his own medium. In a Sunday sermon, Jenny encouraged us to do likewise; not to preach or try to persuade others of our faith, but to show in our normal daily lives why our faith is a part of who we are. We may not use wood or paints or flowers in the clever way that others can to express our faith: Jesus tells us that to notice the needs of others is enough, whether we are at home or away.



Mary Plummer

Easter Services 14 to 21 April

Palm Sunday

8 am Holy Communion - St Luke's:
10 am Eucharist - St Augustine's
6 pm Evening Prayer and Meditation - St Luke's

Maundy Thursday

7.45 pm Holy Communion - St Augustine's

Good Friday

10 am-noon Messy Church
Noon-3 pm Wait and watch - St Augustine's

Easter Sunday

6 am Dawn service - St Augustine's
10 am Easter Day Family Communion - St Augustine's

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- Editor** Mary Plummer
Layout Karen Palmer



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



Women in the World

In one week I was privileged to attend two very different church services. Both had a focus on women. The first was held in Southwark Cathedral, where the choir anthems echoed round the vaulted ceiling. The occasion was the Commissioning by the Archbishop of Canterbury, of the Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union and the Board of Trustees. This was a very special event as Sheeran Harper is the first World President from outside the British Isles. She is from Guyana. Six of the Board of Trustees are also from outside the British Isles and one trustee is a man.



In his address, the Archbishop was enthusiastic in his praise for the Mothers' Union. "It was", he said, "unique as the biggest and oldest women's group in the world". He urged members to make it better known as one of God's great works in the Anglican community. The service ended with the Archbishop and others swaying to the rhythm of a steel band that accompanied the Recession.

The second service was held locally in Petts Wood Methodist church. A smaller setting for this year's World Day of Prayer service. This year the service was written by women from Slovenia.

Modern Slovenia became independent from Yugoslavia in June 1991. It is one of the smallest countries in Europe (about the size of Wales) and has a population of under two million (about the size of Birmingham). Slovenia joined the EU in 2004 and a quarter of the people live in the capital, Ljubljana.

The theme for the service was 'Come, Everything is Ready' based on the parable in Luke 14 vv 15-24. During the service we were reminded that we are all God's children, everyone is valued and God's kingdom is open to all. Do not refuse the invitation and miss out. It is reassuring to know that organisations such as Mothers' Union and the World Day of Prayer exist and are so active in caring for those in need throughout the world.

Ann Hanrahan

Helen's Licensing

Helen was licensed as a Licensed Professional at Rochester Cathedral on 10 March. A Bishop's licence is a recommendation and recognition of Helen's ministry within this community.



Helen and Mark Sanger at the Licensing

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What Price for Peace

The world in which we live often seems a scary place - the shock and horror as we turn on our TVs and hear of fifty people killed in a Mosque in New Zealand with many more injured. These were people just going about their everyday lives. In our own country, our young folk say they do not feel safe on the streets as knife crime becomes an epidemic. We hear of natural disasters, the devastation and loss of life caused by Cyclone Idai to Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and don't even get me started on Brexit!

Even as a person whose glass is always half full, like most I do sometimes despair, and I do wonder if this is a true reflection of our society. Of course, and as a vicar, you might expect me to say this. But despite what we may see in the world, I think there is so much more that is good. I say that because by and large I think people want a life where we can live alongside each other, without arguments, without friction; in other words, to live in peace.



And so, at this time of Easter, I believe as Christians we can find the peace that the world craves in the narrative of the Easter story. This may sound a strange thing to say as we read in the pages of the Bible of Jesus being dragged before a kangaroo court, beaten and whipped and sentenced to die by one of the most cruel ways in the known Roman world, crucified upon a cross. So -let's be honest - this seems a strange thing to celebrate. We even call the day of his death Good Friday. Yet for us, as followers of Christ, it signifies hope. It's the day when God's own son takes all that we do wrong upon his shoulders so that we might be forgiven, and therefore find peace. This all comes together on Easter Sunday as we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead to bring new life into the world.

As we celebrate Easter, I pray that as a society, as a community, we might hold on to the message that Jesus brings; that through faith in him we might find God's peace and God's love in our lives not just at Easter but every day.

Yours in Christ
Rev Steve Spencer

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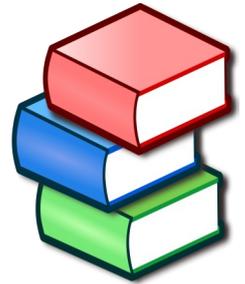
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Book Reviews by Verity Mitchell

Lent is a time for reflection. For some of us that means getting into a holy habit, or a daily reading, or working through a devotional book. We have two this year.

The Merciful Humility of God by Dr Jane Williams

Jane is the Assistant Dean at the London and Chelmsford diocesan training centre, St Mellitus College. She is also the wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury. In this book she explains that Lent is not about giving things up, but is about finding ourselves and discovering that God is merciful but also humble. These are qualities which are demonstrated both in Jesus and throughout the biblical narrative.



Celtic Lent – 40 days of devotions to Easter compiled by David Cole

Celtic Christianity celebrates the wisdom of the saints in Britain and Ireland, who lived a thousand or more years ago. They were missionaries and wise teachers. Many of their writings are grounded in nature; the idea that the whole of creation is being reconciled back to God through the cross.

These are stories and ideas to help us to think in a fresh way about our faith. It's not too late to read either or both of these books during the season of Lent.

Editor's note: copies can be obtained via Alan and Verity Mitchell: 07985 070734

Celebrating Tanzania

The Social Committee at St Augustine's with St Luke's broadened their food repertoire in no small way when they laid on a meal for 50 people, Tanzania style! The brightly coloured fabrics covering the tables and the background folk music set the scene – we just needed to exercise our brains to complete Pam Poynter's challenging 'What do you know about Tanzania?' quiz.



However, it was really about the food. We were only given a spoon and one plate for the three course meal, so we all had to wash our hands first as clearly fingers were going to play an important part! Lynn had made 120 pancakes for our starter, and Linda had been up to Peckham to buy the maize flour to make the Ugali (see Helen Smith demonstrating how to use this paste ball). Valerie produced a delicious bean stew to accompany the chicken and spinach, and the meal was rounded off with ripe watermelon and banana. For those who have already visited Mwaikisabe, it brought back memories, as did Nigel's powerpoint presentation, and for the rest of us, it provided an insight into how more than half the world lives without gas and electricity.

Spotlight on Jackie and Dennis Lewis

Jackie and Dennis have lived in the Bromley area for more than 40 years. Jackie hails from Bermondsey, Dennis from Kennington and later this year, together with their daughter, son, and five grandchildren, they will celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary.

They first came to St Augustine's in November 2016 and having thoroughly enjoyed the Alpha course last year, they are currently attending the Bible study group and have joined a house group. "We love the fellowship at St Augustine's" says Dennis "and you'll always find us enjoying a 'cuppa' after Sunday services". They enjoy the variety of worship services and when asked for their favourite hymns, Jackie chose 'Thine be the Glory' and 'Abide with Me' was Dennis' choice.



In a former life, Dennis worked in banking in the City and Jackie was a meals/playground supervisor at Crofton school and for four years was assistant manager at a charity shop in Petts Wood. Jackie was also treasurer and membership secretary for the Friends of Jubilee Park. Following his diagnosis with Macular Degeneration – a condition which leads to central vision blindness - Dennis qualified as a counsellor for the Macular Society. After 20 years, he has recently retired from running their national counselling service and Jackie is now his full time carer.

Spare time activities include trying to beat the contestants on TV quiz shows and following the twists and turns of The Archers and other goings-on in Ambridge. And if you see someone at the Toddlers' Christmas party sporting a red cloak and a big white beard.....Thanks Dennis!

Calling All Knitters Again

Following our very successful poppy knitting project last year, we would like anyone in our congregations who can knit or crochet to make Spring flowers as part of the decorations of the church for Easter. The flowers are to be white with pastel-coloured buttons in the centre. They will be scattered on the floor around the cross and displayed on the window sills.

Our church will still have stunning fresh flower displays but we hope that these subtle knitted spring flowers contributed by members of the congregations will make the displays more meaningful and personal.

We have two knitting patterns.

1) Simple Daisy Pattern:

White wool – double knit, Size 8 (4mm) needles,
pastel-coloured buttons for flower centres

Cast on 51 st using size 8 needles

Rows 1-4: Stocking stitch

Row 5: [K1, Cast off 9 st] 5 times.

6 stitches remain on needle.

Break off yarn leaving a good length. Thread yarn through remaining stitches, gather up and fasten off. Sew up the little side seam on the flower to form a circle. Draw each petal close to the centre with a single stitch. Sew button onto the centre.



2) Last year's Poppy Pattern with this added: With white cotton make five petals by counting 3 ribs to each petal and catching the edge of the petal with a few stitches. Sew the pastel-coloured button in the centre of the flower.

Sue Goodger and Cathy Fyfield

Diary of a First-Time Mother - To Move Forward You Have To Stop

As I sat with A Little Girl I Know as she lay in bed recently we talked. Nothing unusual about that; it's funny how children seem to need to talk as we want them to sleep. For me this is an important time; we often talk about that day and her feelings about the coming one.



It had been a busy week for me, full of the responsibilities of being Mother to A Little Girl I Know, a wife, a daughter, a volunteer at a number of groups as well as being a home-maker. Soon she was asleep and I was able to switch the computer on to reply to an email received earlier that day that I had not had time to answer. A Little Girl I Know came and stood beside me. She needed a cuddle and a bit of reassurance as she had been woken by a dream that made her feel sad. When she was back asleep my work continued. I re-read a text message from a caring Christian friend I had received. In it she had said, 'To move forward you need to stop'. It had struck me as an odd thing to say especially as she knew that I often spent most of a Wednesday catching up on paperwork before going to run another group that evening.



That day I had crossed off many jobs from my To Do list. Don't you just love a list? I do and am not sure how I would cope without one on the go. It had been a productive day. I was pleased with myself. Now the reply to the email was ready to send. I yawned, I was tired or maybe even exhausted.

Then it struck me, in order for me to move forward I needed to stop. How sensible my friend was. For me to be effective the next day I had to stop, rest and even sleep. Tomorrow would be another day full of new challenges and things to do. The final check of the email before sending it could wait until then.

The following morning A Little Girl I Know came into the bedroom. I was barely awake. But I felt so much better for a good sleep, refreshed and ready to tackle the next lot of jobs on the list.

Little by little I will get there, with God's help I will, I know that.

Farewell to Jenny Warrington

After a wonderful eighteen months at St Augustine's with St Luke's, I am soon to move churches. With the advice of my college, I am returning to my sending church, Christ Church, Orpington at the end of March to immerse myself in a different 'style' of worship for a few months before heading off to my curacy church in Chatham. All being well, I am due to be ordained deacon at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 28th September 2019 at 3pm. You are very welcome to attend and I shall send further details nearer the time.

I have really enjoyed my time with you and am very grateful for all your support, advice and love. I shall miss you all and will continue to pray for you, as St A's with St L's has a very special place in my heart. May God bless you and keep you close as you navigate through life and spread His kingdom love to others. With love, Jenny.



Jenny's last service with us was on Sunday 24 March. She will be missed and we wish her well.

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Parish People

Congratulations to: Debbie Brockwell on reaching a glamorous 60! Together with lifelong friend, Helen Smith, and their other halves, they flew to Norway to ride with huskies and see the Northern Lights – magic!

Also to our **Top of the Pew Team**, who won convincingly their first round match against The Rosary Church, Hayes. Proceeds from all rounds go to The Bromley Homeless Shelter.

From the Parish Register

Funerals

We extend our love and sympathy to the family and friends of:

John LONGBOURNE

Tribute to Sylvia Last



Sylvia was one of those totally committed people whose life revolved around St. Augustine's. She was into everything and anything; always bouncing around. If something wanted doing, you only had to ask, or you didn't even need to do that! Sadly, Barry's wife, Wendy, died leaving three young children; the youngest, Trevor, being just eight years old. Sylvia stepped in to do what she could at that sad time, and she and Barry eventually married, finally moving away to Bexhill-on-Sea where they enjoyed over 38 years together. They never missed Christmas, their card always carrying the handwritten message from Sylvia: *The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

Barry predeceased Sylvia by just two months - which came as a blessing for her. They can now be together again, though on a distant shore. May they both rest in peace.

Alan Skinner

The last of an era: a tribute to John Longbourne

It was almost three years ago that I wrote about John's wife Daphne, followed last year by a tribute to her brother Norman. John could well be called the last of the Tooleys for although he came from a slightly more staid background, he became, as Daphne put it, 'Tooleyerised'! His dad was caretaker of the old St. Augustine's Hall, and his mum a founder member of our Mothers' Union. I first became aware of John in 1953 when as spokesman of the Senior Austins, he allowed me to join them two years early. He and Daphne married in 1954 after which he joined all three siblings in the church choir. In our lighter moments I remember the two of them doing a sketch on marital life called 'Bliss blistered' and at a choir concert John singing 'I'm the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo'.



I got to know the family very well after their children arrived and I was always welcome at their home. I learned that John was very interested in local history and had many pictures of early Southborough. When he first retired he embarked on several photographic trips round historic London, resulting in slide shows on social occasions such as at 'The Gregarians'. He was often on the PCC, rising to Vice Chairman, and was a regular money banker. One of his favorite hobbies was calligraphy, for which he has a lasting memorial in the church's Memorial Book. I wonder who will have the privilege of adding his name to its pages.

Chris Regas

Keep your news coming to me either by seeing me in church on Sunday morning or at The Three Cs on a Tuesday morning. Alternatively you may like to email it to me at jackysskinner@gmail.com. Thank you.

Church Directory

Dates for Your Diary

Apr 9	Trefoil Games Night	8 pm
Apr 17	MU Easter Meditation	2 pm
Apr 17	Bits and Pieces	7.45 pm
Apr 19	Messy Church	10 -12 am
Apr 28	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	12 noon

Worship with us on Sundays

8am Holy Communion	St Luke's Every Week
10am Morning Worship	St Augustine's 1st and 5th Sunday
10am Holy Communion	St Augustine's 2nd and 4th Sunday
10am Family Service	St Augustine's 3rd Sunday
6pm Holy Communion	St Luke's 1st Sunday
6pm Evening Worship	St Luke's every week except 1st Sunday
6.30pm Holy Communion	St Augustine's 3rd Sunday

Children and Youth Activities

Club JC	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Parent and Toddler	Helen Scothern Victoria Bouwer	07909 824099 07779 009064

Join us during the week

Mon 9.15 am	Morning Prayer
Wed 11.45 am	Holy Communion
Tues 10.00 am	The Three Cs
Wed 10.00 am	Parent and Toddler

Scouts & Guides

Joint Group Scout Leaders	Jenny Owens Sandra Goodwin	020 8467 4702 01689 831654
Beavers' waiting list	Ellie Howard	07923 507995
Brownies	Ruth Higginbottom	01689 818104
Rainbows	Helen Scothern	07909 824099
Visit the Scout website— www.23rdbromlevscouts.org		

Church Staff

Vicar	Steve Spencer	020 8467 1351
Youth & Schools Minister	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Licensed Lay Minister	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Reader Emeritus	Kenneth Gil	020 8467 1260
Reader	Brian Kendall	01689 832304
Churchwarden	Pam Poynter	020 8402 9008
Churchwarden	Viv Emery	01689 861929
Treasurer	David Wardley	07952 736491
P.C.C. Secretary	Johanna Gurney	020 8467 9587
Children's Officer	Helen Scothern	07909 824099
Safeguarding Officer	Helen Baker	07576 233119

Church Activities

Mothers' Union	Linda Wanniaratchy	0776 1853653
Church Rooms	Liz Carter	020 8467 8155
The Three Cs	Jacky Skinner	07812 714803
Roundabout Manager	Lorna Murray	020 8467 0536

Church Office

Parish Administrator 020 8295 1550

Open : Monday to Friday 10.00 to 1.00

We welcome your emails at: office@st-augustines.org.uk
You can also find out about more recent and future events in our church by visiting :
www.st-augustines.org.uk

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