

roundabout

The Parish Magazine of St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane

40p

Issue 391: May 2008

GIVING

People on average income should give 1.5 per cent to charity, the wealthy giving 2 per cent and upwards, and the less affluent 1 per cent and downwards.

This was the recommendation several years ago by the Shared Giving Campaign (details not known). It would be interesting to know in which category most of us place ourselves.

For Christians the standard has always been the tithe (one tenth, 10 percent), given to God via the church as a token that all we have belongs to him. This is based on the Old Testament law (see Leviticus 27, verse 30).

St Augustine's Church, setting an example, gives 10 per cent of its income to outside causes.

Christian Aid Week comes round as usual this month (11 to 17 May) and gives us the opportunity to consider how we give. Some Christians earmark a substantial proportion of their 'tithe' for Christian Aid, with its history as the relief agency of the mainstream churches. Only a few want to give in this way, but surely we can put in £1 or so (some of us, a lot more) when the envelope or collecting tin comes our way.



Rob Hutchings

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A POSTAL SCAM—BEWARE

The Trading Standards Office is making people aware of a postal scam which has been around recently. You may receive an official looking postcard through your letter box from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) which informs you that an attempt has been made to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact the company to arrange delivery.

The card states that you should call them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). **DO NOT CALL THIS NUMBER.** This is a scam operating from Belize. If you dial the number you will hear a recorded message and at that point of connection you will be charged £15.

If you receive one of these cards, immediately call Royal Mail Fraud on 0207 239 6655. This is the regulator for premium rate services and is a local rate call.



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



ON YOUR VERY OWN DOORSTEP!

Every Monday morning sees about sixteen enthusiastic ‘**Friends of Jubilee Country Park**’ working away under the direction of our Countryside Officer, Judy John. The fruits of all this labour were shared with us at the AGM. We heard that work had been carried out around the veteran oak pollard near Tent Peg Lane Car Park to allow in more light and air. Other trees are pruned, and scrub cleared, to give more light for the increasing number of woodland wild flowers such as primroses, bluebells, celandines and wood anemones. This selective clearing also encourages butterflies. Last year 25 species were observed, as well as the common species. Marble whites were seen for the first time as was a solitary white admiral. An increasing number of purple hairstreaks have been seen in the oak trees, if you know where to look. If you look on the notice boards at any of the car parks you will see information promoting public walks and talks.



Eleven refugia were put down at the beginning of last year to provide hiding places for reptiles. There were three confirmed sightings – two slow worms and one common lizard. Also sheltering in these havens were found wood mice, bank voles, field voles and the common shrew, all these creatures proving that there is good bio-diversity within the Park.

The mud that we have to negotiate in the winter bears fruit in the summer when an amazing range of wild flowers are to be found. I shall be leading some *ad hoc* walks during the summer months when there are particular specimens that I would like to share with others. These will be advertised on the notice boards and in our Church Notices. We were delighted to see a little egret in the Horse Field adjacent to the Park. This particular spot provides an excellent vantage point for ‘twitchers’, and our own RSPB member, Bob Land, will be delighted to welcome you on his bird watching walks during the course of the year.

Some of the work carried out by our volunteers is less glamorous, but nevertheless very necessary and productive. People will have noticed the hedge laying and ditch clearing that has been done as per the Countryside Stewardship Scheme Schedule. Meanwhile advice is being sought as to how to retain the water in our ponds, as we have many amphibians in the Park, including a struggling population of crested newts.

Want to know more? Why not join us in The Daylight Inn, Station Square, on the first Monday in the month from 7.30 pm onwards, (excluding Bank Holidays) where we all compare notes and share our common interest in nature.

Sally Morris

ST. AUGUSTINE’S DAY LUNCH

Sunday 25 May at 1.00pm in the Scout Headquarters

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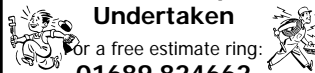
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ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS

There is a tale of four blind men and an elephant. The first blind man holds the elephant's trunk and pronounces that the elephant is like a snake. The second blind man feels the elephant's leg and says that the elephant is like a tree. The third blind man holds the elephant's tail and declares that the elephant is like a rope. The fourth blind man feels the elephant's side and is convinced that the elephant is like a wall. They are of course all correct in their understanding yet none of their insights add up to the whole truth about the elephant. And so it is with God.

It is often quite complex trying to describe the whole truth about God and at other times it can be sublimely easy. And we have to acknowledge that the truth of God is always greater than what we can describe or say about him. So if any one tries to convince you that they have got God all neatly sewn up ... don't believe them.



In the Christian calendar this month we celebrate the three festivals of Ascension, Trinity and Pentecost! Each one provides us with the opportunity to delve deeper into our faith; to discover yet more of the reality of God's love for ourselves and to ask the question, 'Who is God?' For if wrestling with the sophistication of a universe which we *can* see is mentally stretching, then how do we handle trying to look ever more closely at God whom we *cannot* see? So we need to seize these opportunities when they arise in order to grow. If we learn anything from our faith it is surely that God is love; that the power of love is vulnerable and God suffers with us.

The Scottish half of me loves highland dancing especially 'Strip the Willow'. At first it seems very complicated but as the steps are learned and remembered so the dancers move together, weaving in and out in time to the music. Our faith can sometimes be likened to a dance. It has been said that as the relationship between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is alive and constantly moving. It can also be like a dance – a movement of love; a dance we are invited to join and create. We are not meant to be spectators; God invites us to participate – the more the merrier!



The image of dance highlights the aliveness of God and the possibility of a relationship with him. I have spent the last 30 years thinking, reading, studying and talking about God. I trained as a priest and have been ordained for 15 years and yet I know there is still more for me to discover. And that will be so until the day I die. The best way I can describe what it has been like to experience God over all of those years, is being in an intimate relationship of love. Love can never be experienced in an abstract way; love needs involvement, action and relationship. God is!

And as for the rhinos? Well it grabbed your attention didn't it?

Grab God with open arms, come and join the dance.

NB. 'elephants and rhino' is what the Barnes family call a certain mountain pass in the Lake District.

*Yours In Christ
Katharina*

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ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION: FEARS, FALLACIES, AND THE TRUTH

The Edgley family, long-standing members of the St A's congregation, have been involved in correspondence in the columns of the *Church of England Newspaper*. We re-publish three letters below as a contribution to debate, and in the hope that readers will find them helpful.

Sir,

24 February

Organ Donation

As Christians, my wife and I do not care what happens to our bodies after we die. If any parts can be recycled, under appropriate safeguards, to save or improve life among the thousands who wait for crucial transplants, we shall rejoice. We have 'contracted-in', i.e. formally recorded our consent to this. We personally see much in Christian teaching to support this view, and nothing to oppose it.

Some countries operate the opposite system, where consent is assumed unless people record their non-consent in advance ('contracting-out'). Historically this idea has never received widespread support in this country; but it is difficult to establish precisely why ... At present the practice is to consult the relatives, and if they find the idea of organ donation repugnant their views are (rightly) respected.

Discussing the options at a time of stress is obviously difficult. But the columns of a Christian newspaper are a good place to invite those who oppose organ donation - either on Christian or practical grounds - to make a reasoned defence of their position, in the interests of replacing emotion with serious debate. After all, if body parts which otherwise would be buried or destroyed can be used to save life, *why wouldn't you?*

Peter and Viviane Edgley

Bickley

Sir,

7 March

Unease

In principle I agree with the Edgleys that when I have finished with my body I don't care what happens to it. My unease stems from the fact that it is not always easy to know when the 'used envelope' is actually finished with. Doctors have long known that people in comas may be able to hear ... More recent research strongly suggests that some people apparently in a Permanent Vegetative State are actually conscious of what is happening around them.

The process of harvesting organs also seems unpleasant. The body is kept 'breathing' ... mechanically in order to keep the organs in good condition. It is then anaesthetised (why, if it is already dead?) while vital organs are removed.

Surely the ultimate nightmare must be to hear people discussing using your body in this way, and being unable to do anything about it?

As a biologist I feel strongly that much more research needs to be done on the physical reality of 'death' before an opt-out scheme is legalised. (....)

Rev. Pamela Rose

Willingham-by-Shaw

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ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION (continued)

Sir,

9 March

May I comment on the Rev. Pamela Rose's letter ... expressing unease about the 'physical reality of death'? It repeats some widely-held misconceptions.

If you are a victim of a traffic accident, and being kept alive on a ventilator - the most likely scenario - you may indeed be in a coma or permanent vegetative state. But a stage may come when the medical team has to decide - using the latest brain-stem tests - whether you are in fact dead. If you are, the doctors will consult with the relatives about switching off the ventilator; there is no point in keeping a *brain-dead* person 'alive'. You are then taken to the mortuary and the finality of burial or cremation. That is a factual description of the stages and the system that apply at present.

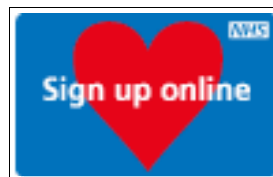
If however you were a potential organ donor, a separate team of transplant doctors would be called in - before the switch-off - and would also satisfy themselves that you were truly dead. **Two** teams would have checked on you: most of us have to make do with one! Then - and only then - will your organs be removed - not harvested, but recycled to save lives. Since you are dead, obviously no anaesthetic is needed.

The brain-stem tests mentioned above, and the concept of 'brain-death' itself, are the result of a great deal of research. They constitute a major safeguard which should allay the fears of many hesitant about an opt-out system.

Peter and Viviane Edgley

*If you feel moved to contract-in, so that your organs can be used to help others in the event of a major accident, and your relatives spared a stressful decision, ask Viviane Edgley for an **ORGAN DONOR CARD** to carry in your wallet or handbag.*

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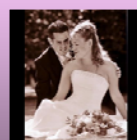
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NEWS FROM PAKISTAN



Maurice and Laura Connor, working with the Church Mission Society, were hoping to return to Pakistan soon after the arrival of their daughter Amberley (born 29 October 2006) but have had to wait many months for Maurice's visa to be granted.

Now they are back, and a copy of their latest letter is displayed on the Overseas notice board in the church. Here are some extracts:

Laura's Reflections

It has been great to be back and see our friends here again and to introduce them to Amberley . We have enjoyed seeing her in our home and getting pleasure from the beauty of her new surroundings. It has been a big adjustment having her with us here, one we are still adapting to. We have a house help who is with us six days a week, from 9.30am –2pm, but we still find it takes all of my time and a lot of Maurice's to keep on top of things. When we first arrived the electricity was off for up to eight hours in the day, which was a big challenge.

We have recently begun to spend a short time in the mornings whilst Amberley is sleeping doing what was suggested by another missionary couple; praise, prayer and planning. It has been really helpful to begin the day praying together, thanking God for his help and provision, and communicating about what we are planning for the day.

Maurice Writes: Water Matters

In 2007 LSRDA* trained and helped 650 more families to make their own homemade biosand filters, with an improved method of training developed and adopted in our absence. Now training is done as a two-day camp in each village during which every family makes their own filter. Follow up visits are made to make sure people are using the filters correctly and understand about germs, hand-washing etc. There is big interest in the DIY Desalination design that we developed, so I am preparing the training course for this. The next step will be to train people and help them to make home-made solar stills to see if people are willing to take the time to run and maintain their own units.

Bible Teaching

Couples come for Bible teaching each month and then go and teach the other people in their villages. It is evident that the couples are really growing in their own faith as a result of this. We are so thankful for this initiative and its success so far; please continue to remember them.

Thank you so much for your love, support and prayers

With Love from *Maurice & Laura*

* Lower Sindu Rural Development Agency

A SUMMER WEEKEND: DETLING 2008

The Diocese of Rochester is hosting 'One People with One Purpose and One Passion' - a weekend of events at the Kent County Showground, on June 21 and 22. there will be space to camp and caravan.

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
10am Opening Worship	10am Opening Worship
10.30am Time Together Part 1	10.30am Time Together Part 2
12 noon Time to Explore	12 noon Time to Explore
5pm Time to Mingle; BBQ, Music, Hog Roast	3pm Time Together Part 3 including Petertide Ordination Service

Contact the Parish Office for further details.

PARISH PEOPLE – MAY 2008

SUCH A SPECIAL BABY! Well, they're all special, aren't they. But the baptism of **Jessica Susan Skinner** on Sunday 30 March at our morning service was extra special in so many ways. Many familiar faces were in the congregation, not least of which was **Rev Eric Heselwood**, who performed this ceremony in his own inimitable style. Jessica herself was very laid back by the whole proceedings. **Lucy Adcock** and **Dan Willis** were two of the devoted Godparents, others were **Hilda** and **Eric** along with Jacky's sister, **Nikki**. She was unable to be there to play her part as Godmother as her third baby was due to arrive on that very day. **Jacky and David** were the epitome of proud parenthood, and Jacky shared some moving words with us all after the service, thanking us for our support and prayers throughout what had been at times a rather difficult pregnancy.

BUSY, BUSY GRANDPARENTS! **Sue and Alan Skinner** were delighted to hear of the safe delivery of another baby girl to their younger daughter **Nikki**, and her husband **John** on 3 April. At the time of writing, this newest arrival has not yet been named. She will be welcomed into the family by big brother, **Joe**, aged four, and sister **Kate**, aged two. Perhaps they will be the ones to choose their new little sister's name.

MORE GRANDPARENTS! **Gloria and Cliff Reed** are delighted to announce the arrival on Sunday 9 March of a new baby boy, **Luca Nathan** to their daughter **Mikki** and her husband **Dom Senior**. He weighed in at 6lbs 13oz. Cliff and Gloria managed to dash up to Shrewsbury to see him late that afternoon and his proud cousin **Aran**, was thrilled to be the first visitor to enjoy the privilege of holding him.

EVEN MORE PROUD GRANDPARENTS: You wouldn't think it possible – we look too young! But, Sally and I are the proud grandparents of a 28 year old! We are very proud indeed to announce that our Grandson is now **Dr. Thomas William Morris**, MA M.res having successfully completed his Ph.D on the subject: 'Towards Synthetic Peptide Ligation'. No, we have no idea what it means either – only that it has something to do with chemistry. **Tom** and his wife, **Kirstie**, are now travelling for six months, beginning in China, after which they will return and he will continue his studies – a perpetual student or what!

IRIS PLAYS ON – **Iris Litchfield**'s latest CD 'When Evening Falls', produced together with a classical guitarist from Salvatori, Illinois, was nominated for the top neo-classical award by the New Age Reporter. Thousands of CDs were entered for this, and Iris won the award for top CD of 2007 !! She now has a publisher – North Star Music – and they have produced a CD of her piano compositions, which are on sale in Germany. You may remember her song, 'We thank you Lord', sung by our singers at Harvest Time. An American arranger is currently arranging it as a choral piece in full harmony.

NOT VERY FUNNY REALLY! **Adrian King** broke his humerus (*funny bone*) while playing badminton recently. **Celia** tells me that in his effort to return a particularly difficult shot, he fell heavily, hitting his arm against a radiator. **OUCH!** Adrian is one of the skilled people that prepare the layout for this magazine every month. So, for the meantime, the other members of this team, **Richard Jones** and **Les Fairhurst**, will have to manage without him.

AN UNFORGETTABLE LADY: **Beryl Osborne** has asked us to thank all those people who attended the funeral of her sister, **Barbara Rawlings**, on 28 March. She was touched by the number of friends who were there to support her in her loss.

SAD NEWS: Sympathy is extended to **Ivy and Hylton Cowperthwaite** as their son, **Neil** died suddenly and unexpectedly from cancer on 9 March after a short illness, just before his 62nd birthday. Many of you will remember the Cowperthwaites who have lived for many years in Homestead Road where their family of eight children grew up, some of whom were members of Plus 14's. Neil and his wife **Ann** were married at St. Augustine's some years ago. Our love and sympathy are extended to all the family in their bereavement.

WE SAY FAREWELL TO AN OLD FRIEND: News has just reached us that **Cennyf Stanton** died on 5 April. She was transferred recently from a local hospital to a nursing home in Manchester so that she could be near her son. Cennyf played an active part in the Flower Guild over many years, and hosted **Kenneth Gill**'s Bible Study Group until quite recently. Once she entered her nineties, Cennyf was not seen at the main Sunday morning worship, but regularly attended the Wednesday morning communion services and Sunday evening worship. She will be remembered for her ready smile and her delightful Welsh accent – we shall all miss her. We send her family our condolences.

Bill Morris

Church Directory

Church Staff

Vicar	Rev. Canon Katrina Barnes (Day off—Saturday)	020 8467 1351
Reader & Assistant Treasurer	Kenneth Gill	020 8467 1260
Reader	Brian Kendall	01689 832304
Reader	Sally Morris	020 8466 6005
Churchwarden	Nigel Pope	020 8467 5921
Churchwarden	Pam Poynter	020 8402 9008
Treasurer	Alan Gorman	01689 855258
P.C.C. Secretary	Mary Plummer	01689 820961
Children's Officer	Liz Carter	020 8467 8155

Church Office

Administrator Kathy True 020 8295 1550

Open : Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 12.00 noon.

Email: augustine597@btinternet.com

Website: www.st-augustines.org.uk

Children and Youth Activities

Matrix Youth Fellowship	The Vicar	
Pathfinders	The Vicar	
Explorers	Lynn Morton	020 8467 3887
Climbers	Valerie Gorman	01689 855258
Parent and Toddler	Vivienne Emery	020 8402 1318

Scouts & Guides

Group Scout Leader	John Bruce	020 8467 0664
Beavers waiting list	Gill Vickers	01689 875098
Guides & Brownies	Tam Hearnden	020 8467 5951
Rainbows	Jacky Skinner	01689 878452

Church Activities

Mothers Union	Mary Margaret Yates	020 8402 1421
Church Rooms	Liz Carter	020 8467 8155
Gregarians	Ann Hanrahan	01689 871483
Pop In Parlour	Betty Dawson	020 8467 3108
Roundabout Business Manager	Tony Holding	020 8467 7460

Church Services

The usual monthly pattern of worship is as follows:

Sun	8.00 am	10.00 am	6.30 pm
1 st	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
2 nd	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
3 rd	Holy Communion	Family Service	Holy Communion
4 th	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Praise
	9.15 am	11.45 am	
Mon	Morning Prayer		
Tues	Morning Prayer		
Wed		Holy Communion *	
Thur	Morning Prayer		
Fri	Morning Prayer		
Sat	Morning Prayer		

* Every first Wednesday is the Mothers' Union Corporate Communion.
A light lunch for everyone attending is served afterwards.

Dates for your Diary

8 May	Gregarians: Weather Lore— Fact or Fiction Talk by Ian Currie	8 pm
20 May	Mothers' Union Meeting (TBC)	8 pm
25 May	St. Augustine's Day Lunch (see separate panel for details)	1 pm
7 June	Godly Play	9.30am till 1pm

**REMEMBER EVERY TUESDAY
POP-IN-PARLOUR 10.00 am—12.00 noon**

Roundabout — June 2008.

Date of Publication —Saturday 31 May

All items to the Church Office by Sunday 11 May, preferably on a disc or by email—plain text, not formatted.

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