



roundabout



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

Issue 540 March 2023

Time for some 'Holy Habits'

In March we are in the Christian season of Lent, forty weekdays when we commemorate Jesus going into the wilderness of Judea for a time of fasting and testing in preparation for his ministry. For Christians, it can be a time of reflection; where we think about our Christian journey. Although through history it has been seen as a time for abstinence, it's not simply a time to give up chocolate or alcohol. It can be a good time for a spiritual 'check-up'. As it says on our website, 'Christianity isn't about giving up on fun, pleasure or success. Jesus came to help us live life to the full but that can only be done when we model our lives on him and allow him to give us his peace, grace and Holy Spirit'.



We, in St Augustine's with St Luke's, want to deepen our faith in Jesus and our relationships with others. Some of us are enjoying special daily readings during this time. In our Lent groups we are exploring some 'Holy Habits'. These have been developed as a helpful way of life for both those exploring or already actively living out the call of Jesus to 'follow me'. They are for all ages and cultures; a way of life based on Luke's portrait of the community of followers of Jesus that we see in Acts 2:42-47; habits that are as blessing to all; that help us to grow as disciples of Jesus.

There are ten habits: biblical teaching, meeting together (fellowship), attending communion, prayer, sharing resources, serving, eating together, gladness and generosity, worship and making more disciples. The habits can become a way of life for young and old in the church community. When lived faithfully day by day, the habits encourage us together in the adventure of following Jesus. There have been lots of stories from people who have found these to be an encouragement; bringing peace, lessening anxiety, and building community. May this time of Lent encourage us to think about adopting new habits on our faith journey that will encourage us but then also allow us to be a blessing to our community.

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.



Queen Elizabeth House



In February, after three years (due to Covid) a small group of us were able to visit Queen Elizabeth House Care Home in Southborough Road to lead a short service for any residents who wished to join us.

It was a joy to be back and those present were very welcoming. They enjoyed the singing and sharing their memories and stories with us.

Sue Goodger

Friends of Jubilee Country Park

Upcoming events in the Garden Room at St Augustine's

The Friends of Jubilee Country Park are celebrating their Twentieth Anniversary this year. To mark this milestone they have planned a number of special events, two of which will be in St Augustine's Garden Room.

On Thursday 30 March, we have a special guest speaker, Dr Clive Nuttman who will be addressing '*The Plight of the Humble Bee*'. Dr Nuttman is an eminent biologist and environmental educator and his talk will examine the reasons behind the decline of these vital insects.

This will be followed by a short Annual General Meeting before Ross Fryer, our idVerde community ranger, reports on the work carried out by the Friends conservation work group.

Please join us for refreshments from 6.30pm, with the talks starting promptly at 7pm. The meeting should end by 9pm. Please note - this event was originally planned for Thursday 23 March but has been moved to the following week.

Then on Thursday 11 May we have celebrity speaker, Tom Hart Dyke who will talk about his '*World Garden at Lullingstone Castle*'. This is the garden which he planned whilst held captive by guerrillas in the Colombian jungle in 2000. Tom's idea for the garden was formed in the depths of despair after being told to prepare to die. Tom is a great speaker and has a truly fascinating story to tell. Please join us. Doors will open at 7.00pm for the talk at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served before the talk. A donation towards the cost and work of the Friends of Jubilee Country Park would be welcomed.



John Bruce – *Chair of the Friends of Jubilee Country Park*

Christmas in Sydney



We made the 10,000-mile journey to visit our family who emigrated three years ago. It was a much-anticipated visit, as we had not seen them for so long, thanks to the Covid lockdown. We're sure you can understand the emotional reunion...

They now live on the north side of the Parramatta River in Sydney. From here we were able to board with ease one of the frequent ferries into central Sydney, and could visit various museums and other important landmark sights.

On New Year's Eve we watched the Sydney Harbour firework display from the cheap seats (a hill behind their house).

One of our hopes was to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The climb opened in October 1998 just one month after our previous visit. We were both looking forward to it - after all what could go wrong!!! Our family had booked the 'Twilight Tour,' alas they didn't book the weather! (See photo)

For the Open Air Cinema the day was perfect, overlooking the Harbour Bridge and Opera House - apart from the fruit bat that decided to deposit on Katrina's shoulder. That said - so many iconic landmarks.

When the weather was good we made use of the family swimming pool, or hid in the shade. We also enjoyed a great day in the Blue Mountains. What amazing views and rock formations plus the steepest railway in the world!!

While in Sydney we both took part in the local Park Run. Johnny kept up with his cycling - riding with grandson Hugo as well as paddle boarding with both of them. Grandson Oscar was a great coach and showed his granddad how it should be done! Katrina was the official photographer!!



We're sure we will be returning to a 'Land Down Under' at some point in the not too distant future.

John and Katrina Barnes

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‘Cry in the Dark’ in Ukraine



‘Cry in the Dark’ has been working in Romania for over 20 years helping and caring for children, many who had been orphans living in appalling conditions and have special needs. They founded a home for the orphans, and also a centre which currently houses volunteers. This was formerly a medical centre for terminal children’s palliative and respite care, until they opened a brand new paediatric inpatient unit a few years ago. Throughout last year the centre was also home to several families of Ukrainian refugees from Odessa.

With his wealth of experience, Steve Cooper, the CEO of the charity drove into Ukraine from Romania at the end of January on a fact-finding mission, accompanied by Mihaela Dumtrache and Dr Lou Chanarin. There they visited several orphanages to donate resources and to find out exactly what their needs are and how to help them. He has now returned home safely and thanks all those who have been praying for them and those who have donated to their charity. Their task now is to plan the best way to help the many children who have been displaced by the war and are orphans.

If you would like to donate to this project visit www.cryinthedark.org

David Allan and Sue Goodger

Tribute to Pat Penn



Many reading this will remember The Penn Family, faithful members of St. Augustine’s for over 35 years. I cannot help but smile when I recall the late Bill’s sense of fun, so often with his beloved wife Pat by his side. It was with sadness I received a message from my friend Gill, their daughter, a few days before Christmas telling me that Pat was receiving end of life care. The end came quickly, on Boxing Day.

I was privileged to join with Pat’s family and friends at Bluebell Cemetery for a service of celebration for her life. The underlying theme of the service was love. We heard over and over of the love that Pat had for her parents and her younger sister Sue. Then for husband Bill and their children, Gillian, Andrew, Stuart, Martin, and Stephen. Then their eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Pat was an active member of our church, organising the team of Welcomers, a regular contributor to the Roundabout magazine, a member of Gregarians and Wives Group. Pat also touched the lives of many people in Petts Wood as Leader of the Cubs at The Methodist Church. Pat’s faith was important to her, so it was fitting that Psalm 23 was read by Gill from Pat’s well-loved Bible. Dementia played a large part in Pat’s life, as she spent the last nineteen years living in a care home in Caterham. May Pat now rest in peace - with Bill and her second child Andrew - and rise in glory.

Jacky Skinner

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Birthday Celebrations

Congratulations to Evelyn Dunn on her 90th Birthday. Celebrations included a family lunch, lots of flowers, cards and two large balloons making a figure 90.



My Friend Gisela

I first met Gisela Kerkmann in September 1959 when a group from St. Augustine's visited Foxbury, the then CMS training college in Chislehurst, prior to a CMS led mission the following Spring. When the team from Foxbury and Liskeard Lodge came in April, Gisela and I 'gelled' together, and during the mission week, won a treasure hunt!



Originally from Germany Gisela had come to England after the war and acquired British citizenship while training as a nurse in Derbyshire. She stayed with friend June Mercer during the mission and we both saw her off to India in late 1960, keeping in touch after she reached Pachod Hospital in Western India. At our request she became our church's 'missionary link' for the next twenty years, during which time we raised funds and sent equipment to the hospital. As she had no particular base in England, she stayed with June whenever she came home on furlough.

Around 1970, she moved across to Hiranpur hospital in Eastern India. In 1977 Joan Kemp, then the instigator of a CMS 'Action Group' at St.

Augustine's, organised a trip to India for June, Joan and me. An overnight train trip took us to Hiranpur to be met by Gisela and spend some days at the hospital with her. We saw much of Indian hospital and local Christian church life, including a baptism. On leaving Hiranpur Gisela insisted that we experience second class train travel to Calcutta, a real eye-opener into local means of travel.

We next travelled across India by train to Poona where June, Joan and I spent some days at Sangam, an International Guide House, while Gisela stayed at a mission house. Our trip ended in Bombay, where Gisela took us to Elephant Island with its many statues. As it was now December, our trip ended with a Christian Carol Service on the beach.

Gisela returned to England in 1980, ending her working career in Homefield, Bermondsey Medical Mission home. She then met Alfred Jeffery, a keen mission supporter from Crowborough, and they were married at St. Augustine's. She had also become our Pastoral Assistant. As they now lived in Addison Road next door to St. Luke's, the vicar there 'poached' them to assist at that church, which needed more help at the time. In 2002 they retired to Cliftonville, near Margate, where I stayed with them on a couple of occasions, including one Christmas. Their final move was to a beautifully equipped retirement flat near the sea front, where I last visited them a couple of years before the Covid lockdown. Sadly their health declined as they both reached their nineties. Having fallen and broken her femur, Gisela finally went to be with the Lord she loved and had so faithfully served, on 28th January. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alfred at this time, as he bravely copes with his loss.

I have always loved knowing Gisela, who as well as being full of faith, was also full of fun, and we spent many happy times together. Long may we remember her.

Christine Regas

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

At the start of the recent half term I found myself in the car park of one of the charity shops in our local High Street. I was there collecting the most recent find of A Little Girl I Know, a large freestanding mirror for her bedroom. As I waited for it to be brought out my mind went into overdrive... would it be too big for my medium sized car, would it be a good match to the other furniture in her room, and probably more importantly did she really need it as we already have a lot of mirrors in our house? I need not have worried as everything worked out, and I have to admit looks really good in her room.

Before going to work the other morning, I paused to check my appearance in her mirror. In my head I could hear her saying that I looked fine, and to hurry up so that I wasn't late!



Later that afternoon on my way home from my walk I called into a food shop named after an extremely cold country. My only purchase was a loaf of bread, nothing fancy, just plain and simple white bread. I joined a small queue and casually passed the time of day with the lady behind me.

I had in my hand the exact money to pay, therefore I was shocked when the cashier asked me for proof of my I.D. I must have, without meaning to, pulled a face at that request. I have never been asked for that when attempting to buy bread.

I know that A Little Girl I Know hasn't been very well for the past few days, maybe the bags under my eyes are big enough to pack for a fortnight's holiday, but I did not think I had aged that much.

It turned out that the shop offered a discount to the over 60s on Tuesdays. I'm sure that she was just doing her job, checking to see if I was eligible for that, so I politely told her that I had got a while to go yet. When I told A Little Girl I Know what had happened she laughed out loud.

I am glad that God sees me as I am, the good, the bad and the something in between. I will never again worry about it if someone thinks I am older than I actually am. Old age is a gift that not all live to experience. Keep looking in the mirror and remember that God loves the person you can see in it so very much.

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MARCH 2023

These SPECIAL diary dates run alongside our regular programme of services [overleaf](#) or: www.st-augustines.org.uk



Date	Event	Where	Time	More Details
Thursdays: 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd, 30th	Lent course 'Holy Habits'	St Augustine's Chapel	10.00am ~ 11.00am	Join us for our weekly <i>in-person</i> Lent Course, to explore the exciting life of following Jesus
Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd, 30th	Warm Space & CAMEO	St Augustine's Church Halls	10.30am ~ 4.00pm	A cozy space to meet, chat, enjoy soup and rolls and cake... wi-fi and work spaces available
Saturdays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	Lent course 'Holy Habits'	Zoom ~ online	10.00am ~ 11.00am	Join our <i>weekend</i> online Lent Course: st-augustines.org.uk
Tuesdays 7th, 14th 21st, 28th	 Lent course 'Holy Habits'	Zoom ~ online	7.30pm	Join our <i>evening</i> weekly online Lent Course: st-augustines.org.uk
Wednesday 8th	Hot Chocolate on the Green	St Augustine's Church Green	From  3.00pm	Free hot chocolate to passers-by, (weather-dependent)
Saturday 11th	Youth Connect 'Cookie chaos!'	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Yr 7+ Come along and join in the fun as we bake and decorate a variety of biscuits and cookies.
Wednesday 15th	Mothers' Union ALL welcome!	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	2.00pm ~ 4.00pm	All are welcome (not just Mothers!) to join us for a Lent Meditation
Wednesday 15th	Bits and Pieces 'Dot Painting' <small>(No painting skills necessary)</small>	St Augustine's Church, Barnard Room	7.30pm ~ 9.30pm	Adult crafters... create a beautiful piece of art with household items and acrylic paint. £5 materials.
Saturday 18th	Daffodils on the Green	St Augustine's Church Green	From 10.00am	We offer free daffodil posies to all passers-by to bless them for Mothering Sunday
Tuesday 21st	Merry Pilgrims Walk		10.30am	Save this date... for a Spring walk! All details will follow in our weekly online Newsletter.
Tuesday 21st	Forget Me Not Café	St Augustine's Church, Garden Room	1.30pm ~ 3.30pm	
Saturday 25th	 Youth Connect ~ Easter Extravaganza!	St Augustine's Church	7.00pm ~ 9.00pm	Join us for an Easter Treasure Hunt and lots of fun activities

Staff Contact Details

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Curate:	Rev Rachel Winn	07311 330202
Youth and Schools Minister:	Helen Baker	07576 233119
Licensed Lay Minister:	Alan Mitchell	07985 070734
Licensed Lay Minister:	Verity Mitchell	07379 294826
Parish Office:	(Linda Spencer	020 8295 1550
(Mon - Fri 9:30 - 1:30)	(Victoria Bouwer	email: office@st-augustines.org.uk

You are welcome to join us - our regular Sunday and Midweek Services for March are:

Sunday 5th March	2nd Sunday of Lent	10.00am	St Augustine's Church Café~Style Service
Wednesday 8th March	Midweek	12.00 noon	St Augustine's Chapel Holy Communion Service
Sunday 12th March	3rd Sunday of Lent	10.00am	St Augustine's Church Holy Communion Service
Sunday 19th March	Mothering Sunday	10.00am	St Augustine's Church Parade Service
Wednesday 22nd March	Midweek	12.00 noon	St Augustine's Chapel Holy Communion Service
Sunday 26th March	5th Sunday of Lent	10.00am	St Augustine's Church Holy Communion Service
Sunday 26th March	5th Sunday of Lent	5.30pm	St Luke's Church Holy Communion Service

The 10am service will also be live streamed on our You Tube channel, www.st-augustines.org.uk

St. Augustine's Church Rooms and St. Luke's Hall are available for hire. 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

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