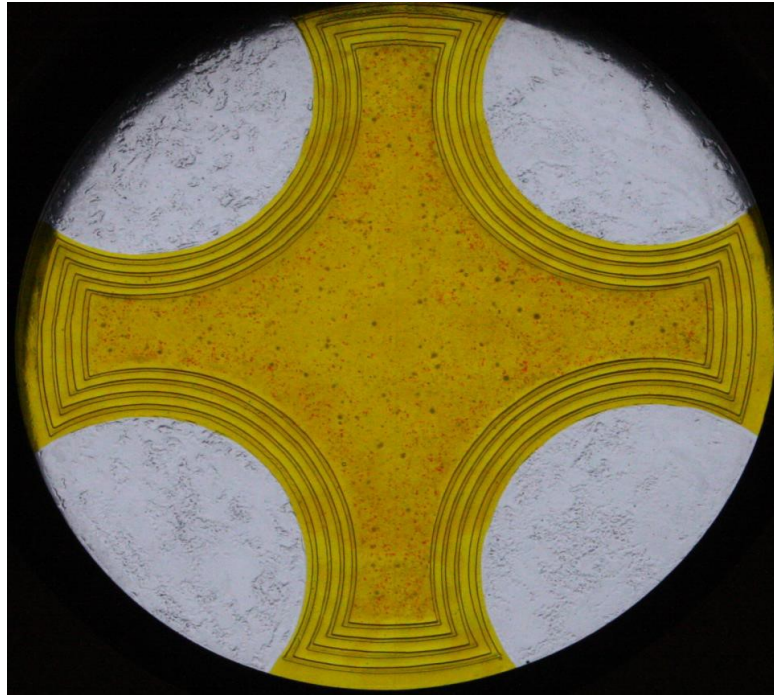


THE AUGUSTINIAN

The Parish Magazine for the R.C. Parish of Springfield



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Welcome

This Autumn, Fr Damien and I are moving into our second year in the combined parishes of Holy Name, Our Lady Immaculate and St Augustine. We are delighted to welcome Fr Paschal into our parish community in these weeks. Following his ordination in 2020, Fr Paschal has had a busy parish life in Colchester whilst also continuing his inspirational ministry with young people across the Diocese and indeed across the Country.

Chelmsford will be his second appointment and we warmly welcome him here to work with all our parishioners whilst he also continues to work for one day a week directly with the young people of our Diocese through the BCYS (Brentwood Catholic Youth Services).

As our plans for a central clergy house move forward Fr Paschal will be resident in the presbytery at St Augustine's in the hope that in the coming year the priests will once again share a common life as and when a suitable property is found. In the meantime, welcome to Springfield Fr Paschal!

Fr. Martin

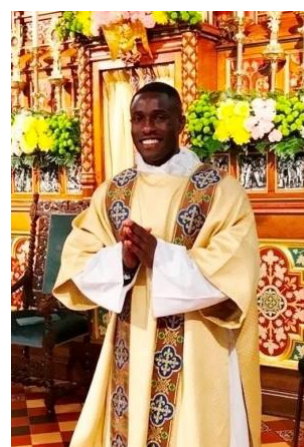
Our priests



Fr. Martin Hardy
Parish Priest



Fr. Damien Wade
Assistant Priest



Fr. Paschal Uche
Assistant Priest

40 years

We recently had our 40th anniversary of a being a parish in Springfield. The bishop, previous parish priests and Fr. Michael all celebrated mass on the hottest day of the year! There was an amazing buffet after mass where we celebrated together the fruits of this parish. Thank you to everyone who contributed and there will be more to come in Augustinian 18!

Parish News

40 years as a parish

The Parish is celebrating our 40th Anniversary. On April 30 Mass was said by the Bishop, who was also celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. After Mass, we held a collection to present to him and we had a cake made. Bishop Alan cut the cake when he joined us for refreshments after Mass.



King Charles III

This year has seen an additional Bank Holiday, for the Coronation of King Charles. St. Augustine's celebrated the occasion on the following day, the Sunday, with a shared lunch. About 60 parents and children were there, bringing contributions of food and drinks for a shared meal and the hall was decorated with union jack bunting. Royal themed quizzes were on the tables but, for many people, conversation with new acquaintances was the priority. The lunch finished with a toast to the new King.

Fr Damien's first anniversary of ordination

Fr. Damien celebrated the first anniversary of his Ordination on Sunday, June 25. Three parishes joined in his celebration with lunch hosted at St. Augustine's. Food and drink were supplied by volunteers and was well attended across the parishes. Everyone agreed that St. Augustine's host a good party!



Other news

The first weekend in July was a busy one. On Saturday (the first), we had our visit to Canterbury (which is reported later). On Sunday, we had our annual Stewardship Sunday talk, and in the afternoon there was a celebration for the First Communion children. Sacramental preparation has been undertaken for the three parishes together, though the children had made their First Communion in their own parishes. On Sunday, June 2, they shared a Mass to celebrate together in the afternoon, held in the marquee at New Hall, who hosted a reception for parents and children afterwards.

Louise Geddes RIP

Sadly, in July we lost Louise Geddes. Louise was born in South Africa but qualified in England as a social worker. She worked for a number of local authorities, but was also an active parishioner, being involved in a number of activities. She worked with the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and, when she walked to Santiago de Compostella last year she did so for BCCS. She supported the Chelmsford Community Sponsorship in a Safeguarding role, and made an important contribution to the success of the project. Before Covid-19, she was a regular attender at the New Hall Mass, often with her grandchildren, and will be much missed.

Knights of St. Columba Council 302



Knights of St. Columba

The Knights of St. Columba have continued to restart their pre-covid activities. Following the renewed Annual Dinner, we restarted the Annual Quiz in May. This had been very popular over the years and had not been possible for four years so we relaunched it in May. We had a very enjoyable evening, with a good set of questions, a bar which offered a wide range of drinks (including beer fresh from the Mighty Oak Brewery in Maldon) and a fine buffet. It was marred only by the fact that we had a poor attendance, but those who were there had a very enjoyable evening. Despite the attendance, both Ladies' and Men's titles were contested, and both were won by Chelmsford.



Our Knights at Leisure has continued, with get togethers in March and May. We have a list of 30 or so frequent attenders but holidays and other commitments mean that the number who can join us is usually 12 – 20. We like to try varied venues and that means that some dates are more successful than others, but our last two, at the Horse and Groom in Writtle and the Grange in Boreham were well received with pleasant meals and good service.

The Council and Province have a well-established relationship supporting the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. With the

lack of fund raising events over covid, BCCS came up with the idea of a "Relay 100" network of walks or cycle rides, intending to link every church in the Diocese to the network. At the beginning of June, Chelmsford Council played their part by walking from Holy Name Church to Our Lady and St. Joseph in Stock. Despite some confusion over the route we finished the route, with a stop at the Hoop, in Stock, for lunch. We met our support drivers there and did the final few hundred metres with them, before returning home.



If you want to support the Society's work, you can make a donation in recognition of our Walk: details can be found on the Society's website. We will be doing a more formal fundraising walk in September. There is an offer of match funding for anything raised from this walk, so please keep your eyes open for details and support it when you can.

We have lost a number of Brothers over the last four or five years and have not been able to recruit since the beginning of 2020. One of our priorities is to restart recruitment and we have done one talk at Blessed Sacrament. While we only recruited one new member there, we are going to start a rolling programme of talks at

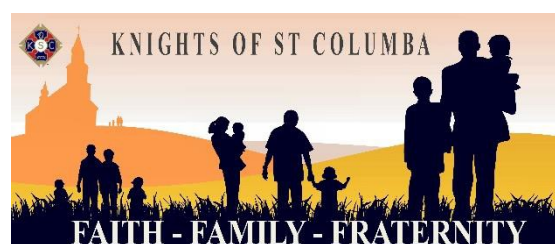
parishes to recruit regularly. Our new Brother was initiated into the Order just after Easter and received his certificate of membership at the June Council, and is already taking an active part in the work of the Order.

We hold an Annual Mass each year to remember our deceased Brothers and their widows. We try to hold it at the Cathedral, and if possible celebrated by the Bishop. This year, the Mass was not celebrated by the Bishop, but it was held at the Cathedral on 17 June. Attendance has fallen over the pandemic but we feel that it is important to continue with it, as it is one of the commitments of Knights that we remember deceased Brothers and pray for the repose of their souls.

One of the Brothers who we lost this year was Eddie Alcock, whose funeral was held at Our Lady Immaculate on July 7. Eddie had been a member of the Knights of St. Columba for 48 years, first in Harlow and then in Chelmsford, and had been Grand Knight of Chelmsford Council twice. He was a qualified accountant and had served as Finance Director to the Order nationally. He was asked to join the Board of Directors on account of his qualification,

possibly the only person to join the Board without having been a Provincial Grand Knight. The regard in which he was held by the Order is shown by the fact that the readings and bidding prayers at the funeral read by the Supreme Knight (our nation chairman), the Regional Director for East Anglia and the Provincial (Diocesan) Grand Knight, and attended by the Council Grand Knight and fifteen other Knights or recent Knights.

Another of our part of our mission is to support parishes in organising events. On 2 July, the three parishes held an afternoon Mass to celebrate the First Communion of this year's children. The car parking was stewarded by Knights. It was relatively easy but it helped to separate streams of traffic coming in by the two entrances.



Quick Quiz

We haven't had a quiz for some time, so here is a short autumn quiz:

1. Which two races make up the autumn double?
2. What kind of drink is autumn gold?
3. Who described autumn as a "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness"?
4. Whose was the song "Autumn Almanac"?
5. On which album would you find the song "Forever Autumn" ?
6. What marks the beginning of astronomical autumn?



Answers to thompsoncj01@blueyonder.co.uk by the end of October. There will be a (very) small prize. As the answers are all easily found on the internet, marks will be given for more complete answers and interesting extra information!

Parish visit to Canterbury

Christianity came to Britain when it was part of the Roman Empire, but when the Romans left, the Germanic settlers had their own religion. Christianity was lost for two centuries until Pope Gregory I (the Great) sent a mission to England led by St. Augustine, taking advantage of the marriage of King Egbert to a Christian Frankish princess. Egbert accepted Christianity and gave property to Augustine to found churches and an Abbey. Augustine is the patron saint of this parish and to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our foundation, the communities sharing the church took a coach trip to Canterbury to visit some of the sites associated with him.

We started at the Abbey site and we were fortunate to arrive in time for a guided tour of the site (now in ruins). It is built on land donated by Egbert and is the first foundation of the mission. The first buildings were relatively small but the site was continuously redeveloped over the Middle Ages with larger and larger churches. The Abbey was extended and a cloister and refectory added. The Abbey was the place of burial of the kings of Kent, and the first three bishops of Canterbury, the location of whose graves are still marked. None of the earlier buildings on the site remain (they were demolished during the Reformation and the church there now is Victorian) but the layout can still be seen, including the site of the old refectory.



Ruins of the early Abbey

Graves of the first Bishops

Site of the Refectory

That day was the day of the Canterbury Medieval Pageant and the craftspeople and role players were scattered around the City. Many of us had lunch in the grounds of the Abbey where we were entertained by a pair of storytellers relating the legends of the time of Augustine. They involved the audience in their narrative, including a starring role for Steve Webb as the god Jupiter.



From there we went on our individual ways. Many of us visited the church of St. Martin, not far from the Abbey. This was the first church used by St. Augustine, a building granted to him by Egbert. Though a pre-existing building, it was extended by Augustine and one of the walls still standing as built under his direction. This became famous after the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope together placed their hands on the wall to celebrate their shared heritage. The church (relatively) recently received a section of stained glass window from Chartres Cathedral showing St. Martin of Tours.



The Pageant organisers had produced a card for children to take round sites of interest or activities and be stamped as they went in. Those who got five stamps could claim a chocolate coin at the Cathedral Visitors' Centre. The card had a sketch map of the City with these locations on and we picked one up to guide us some of the highlights included the church of St. Thomas, the Catholic church in Canterbury. This was built in the 1870s on the site of an old church, and is well attended by overseas visitors. As well as a bone and art of the vestments of St. Augustine of Canterbury, the reliquary also contains part of the vestments of Bishop Oscar Romero.



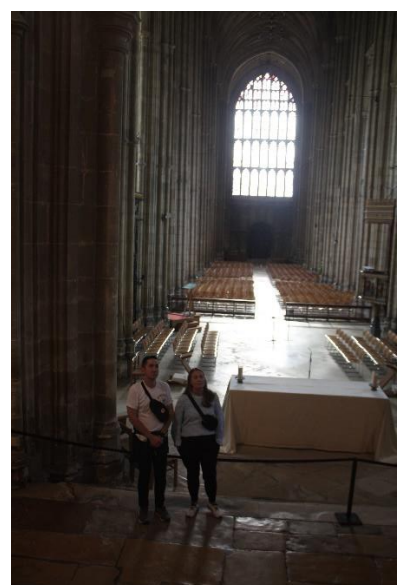
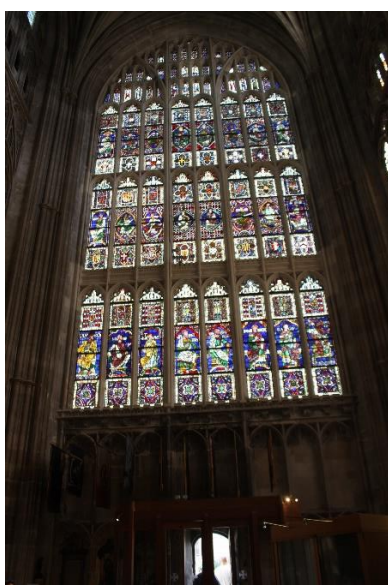
Having collected another stamp on the way there, we went on via Burgate, to get a fifth and on to the Cathedral to pick up our chocolate coin and have a drink. The staff there confirmed that we could have another coin if we collected another five stamps so we set off again. We called at St. Peter's church, where we heard that it was the only Anglican church inside the city walls. It is on the site of a Roman era church, bricks and tiles of which are incorporated into the tower of the current church, linking it to the earliest days of Christianity in England. From there we went on to one of the oldest churches in Canterbury, St. Mildred, dedicated to an eighth century abbess of royal descent, which is one of the oldest Canterbury churches. It includes part of a Roman wall and an early stained glass panel of St. Mildred.



Neither seems to have thought of the Cathedral.



We picked up a couple more stamps on the way back to the Cathedral, where the Visitors Centre was closing, but did issue us with a second gold coin. From there, most of us went in to the Cathedral for Evensong. One would expect a Cathedral choir to be excellent, and they did not disappoint us, reinforced by the atmosphere (and acoustics) of a great Cathedral. Evensong is not a participatory service, but it was an opportunity for calm and contemplation at the end of the day. From there we made our way by diverse routes back to the coach to return to Springfield.





HCPT Group 26

It was a joy to be back in Lourdes this Easter with HCPT Group 26 on my ninth pilgrimage to a place that holds a special place in my heart.

HCPT's Easter pilgrimages in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were all affected by Covid-19 so it was the first time that HCPT groups were actually able to travel to Lourdes in what felt like an eternity! The return of HCPT's Easter pilgrimage was exciting for regular pilgrims but as with all things post-Covid, there was some nervousness as we weren't too sure how the charity would bounce back from a difficult period.

This year, we were a smaller group, reflecting that some of our regular helpers had decided not to travel to Lourdes post-Covid and couldn't justify the cost of their own fare in the midst of a cost of living crisis. Nevertheless, we still managed to get to Lourdes and our group consisted of seven helpers and three sponsored disabled children, who we call "VIPs".

All of the VIPs that we took this year had particularly complicated needs. This is the specialty of HCPT Group 26 as we are fortunate to have helpers who work in special needs schools and provide care to special needs children. Other HCPT groups may specialise by taking children to Lourdes with named abilities, such as down-syndrome, autism or epilepsy (to name a few) but equally some groups take children from socially deprived and disadvantaged backgrounds.

This year, I had the pleasure of looking after a young man who had complicated needs in addition to his primary ability of down-syndrome. His communication is predominantly through gesture and Makaton and he is only able to speak a handful of words. He needs support with cleaning, washing, eating, dressing, toileting and many other day-to-day activities that most of us take for granted. This is part and parcel of looking after our VIPs and our preparation before we go to Lourdes means that all of the helpers are able to provide an excellent level of care.

In his time with me and my group, along with the other two VIPs, he was able to have a great week away, despite it raining for most of the week! We have jam-packed days in Lourdes which include touring the town, having Easter egg hunts, going to the zoo, visiting the fort and doing many more activities! We have lots of parties, dressing up, dancing and singing with other groups in the region and our friends in HCPT Group 171. We spoil our VIPs with great food, including ice creams, crepes and chips and this year we had plenty of hot chocolates to keep us warm!

We also attend Easter Sunday mass, regional mass on Tuesday and Trust mass on Thursday which is the highlight of the week and a huge occasion where all groups across the wider HCPT charity come together to celebrate life. It is the best the Catholic faith has to offer! There is no mass quite like the Trust mass, which is full of colour, noise and dancing! This year's regional mass was presided over by none other than Fr. Michael Barwick, so it was great to catch up with him in Lourdes.



While I was looking after this fun-loving young man in Lourdes, his Mum was able to have some respite. She was able to spend time enjoying her hobbies, which included climbing mountains! At the end of the week, she posted the following message publically on social media, which reminded me of the impact the pilgrimage can have on parents/carers as well as the impact it has on the VIPs themselves.

"I'm about to hit the hay at what's nearly the end of the first full week I've had to myself since I bid my Dad farewell a decade ago.

I've been wanting to blog all week about a lot of things but I've been preoccupied with experiencing this unbelievable gift.

Of time. Of the opportunity to celebrate life and to celebrate... myself. When was the last time you were able to celebrate yourself?

We know ourselves better than anyone. Find a way to break away. To celebrate you. No one else can do it just the same. Truly.

I tell you what, this pandemic broke me into slivers, but this glorious week has been the glue. Because I have not stopped moving!

I've spent a week in celebration of life and power and hope and renewal. And me. I spent it celebrating me. Well nourished, it's time to get back to my boy now!"

You all have my sincere thanks for your support in the raffle held after mass in March 2023 at St. Augustine's. All of the funds raised went directly to paying for our VIPs to go on this year's pilgrimage. Without support and prayers from parishioners, friends and family, as a group we simply wouldn't be able to offer a life changing pilgrimages to these amazing young people.

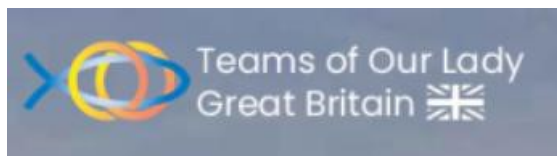
And... planning for Easter 2024 has already begun! It will be a particularly important year for me as it will be my tenth pilgrimage! (Where have all the years gone?!) HCPT Group 26 forms a huge part of my life and I have developed special friendships with the rest of the helpers in the group as well as in the wider HCPT charity. I have had the privilege of taking some incredible VIPs to Lourdes with me and seeing them love our week away is amazing for me to witness. Here's to year 10!

I hope you enjoy seeing the pictures of our week away in Lourdes included in this article. If you want to see more photos, videos and what we are up to then please follow and like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/HcptGroup26

Ben Hitchen HCPT Group 26 helper



Teams of Our Lady



Teams of Our Lady is based on coming together to eat, share, pray and discuss. At the start of covid this became impossible, and several Teams permanently stopped meeting then. As soon as we could arrange to get together, therefore, we thought that it was a priority to organise a national event in person. To relaunch these events, we made it our priority to hold a national conference as soon as we could.

A large part of our intention was simply to get as many of our Teams members as possible together: we are a close movement and many of us have known each other for many years so we were eager to get together in person. However, we felt that it was important, as early as possible, to start to think about how to move forward with developing the movement. In addition, we made time for the usual Teams' activities of eating together (essential for a two-day event), prayer and discussion.

The venue that we chose was the Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick, in Derbyshire. Dating from about 1700, the Hall has been a conference centre for many years but has been extensively extended in the grounds. They offer a range of plenary and break out meeting rooms and accommodation for up to 400 people, along with a gym and exercise rooms and, of course, a chapel. We had use of the Main Conference Hall with the break out rooms on either side, and separate rooms for the children's programme.

The work began when we arrived. As families arrived they were allocated to rooms and given a package of information, including a booklet for the weekend with text and hymns for the weekend's services and groups and information about the venue. While this was happening members of the organising team were setting up the various displays and items of equipment and reviewing the Health and Safety assessments. As people settled in, there was a little spare time before dinner.



After dinner, we had evening prayer in the chapel, using the reading which referred to putting "New Wine in Fresh Skins", the theme for the weekend. People were still arriving, so the rest of the evening was a social evening, for which we also had use of the conference hall. As well as just getting together and renewing acquaintances, we had a range of games and puzzles for those who wanted them (particularly the children). You may be surprised to hear that Chris set a special pair of quizzes, one on the wine theme, which seemed to go down well.



On Saturday, we began with an opening liturgy and then the children went off with the helpers (DBS registered) for their own programme. Some of the families attending would have been unable to without the children's programme, so the helpers were crucial to making the re-Gathering a success. We are grateful to those who gave up their time to prepare and deliver the programme.

We had a bit of a setback in that our morning speaker was ill and could not attend. Two of our Province organising team had a presentation which they had used before, on communication in couples. Afterwards, we had a coffee break and time to think about what they had said and

time to share and reflect. This went into lunch and then we separated in couples for some private time together for contemplation, sharing or quiet prayer.



Saturday afternoon was set aside for a "business" session mainly focussing on a "SWOT analysis" which the Province Team had undertaken. Like many organisations, Teams has lost members over the pandemic, and we wanted to focus on how to renew our membership. Following a group discussion, the feedback emphasised that we needed to focus on what Teams could offer, both to prospective members and our parishes. After tea there was a group discussion with members of different Teams starting from a specially chosen reading.

After dinner, we again had evening prayer in the Chapel, in a slightly different format, and then another social evening. The games and puzzles were available again but there was a sequence of planned entertainments. One included inviting the audience up by decade of joining Teams to join a dance and be photographed. This culminated with the longest married couple with us, at 57 years, the Masons, who, not surprisingly, danced alone.



Sunday morning began with an opening liturgy and reflection and then Bishop Patrick McKinney, Bishop of Nottingham (the local Diocese) was the keynote speaker. His comments including some reflections on the

Teams contribution to parish life and the Synodal process. Our discussion team then came together again to meditate on a reading in the light of the weekend's sessions.

After our Sunday lunch, we finished with Mass in the Chapel. This was celebrated by Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop to the Armed Forces, joining us as the son of the Masons. The children's programme had prepared an enactment to accompany the second reading, the Road to Emmaus. At the end of Mass, a new Northern Regional Couple, David and Joanna Harries were installed. We had a final cup of tea together before departing.



Swanwick was an excellent venue, with the most modern facilities and helpful staff. The dining rooms are sufficient for several hundred diners and the food is beautifully fresh, mostly being sourced locally (the bananas and rice may be from further afield). The bar has an imaginative selection of beers and wines, at very reasonable prices, and they provided a mobile bar with bottled drinks for the social sessions. Everyone left feeling spiritually refreshed though some expectations were not fulfilled: one of the new couples to our Gatherings commented "We didn't expect it to be fun"



If you are interested, the GB website www.teamsgb.org.uk provides extra information or contact Chris and Dom Thompson 01245 469161 and email thompsoncjt01@blueyonder.co.uk



The SVP is an international organisation committed to addressing poverty in all its forms. In the Chelmsford Parish Partnership, there are two local Conferences – OLI & Holy Name and a second at St Augustine's Springfield. Since the Parish Partnership was set up, we are working more closely together.

The St Augustine's Conference (St A) meets fortnightly on a Monday evening for about an hour and a quarter - sometimes a physical meeting and sometimes a Zoom call. In addition to Conference Members we have a wider team of volunteers who get involved in specific activities e.g. bakers and drivers providing transport for the elderly and housebound to our tea parties and we are so grateful that we can always rely on offers of support.

Conference members and volunteers give of their time as they are able to and it is usually extremely rewarding! If you would be interested in helping with an activity or you know of someone who might like to attend one of our events or receive a befriending call or visit, please contact Veronica Crittall.

In June we had another successful tea party – this time held at St Augustine's. "The Champs" provided the music and our team of volunteers provided the transport, food and hosting/serving at the party. This time we trialled a quiz sheet during The Champs's refreshment break. Chris Thompson provided the questions with a 1950s/1960s theme which proved very popular.

On 22nd August we held our Fun Day for disadvantaged families. St John Payne kindly provided us with the use of their premises and the weather was ideal.

It was a busy day - 57 children and their families. We are so grateful to the many parishioners and friends who volunteered their time and their talents to help us on the day- both catering and leading the various activities. A number of the helpers were disappointed to

find that adults were not able to have a donkey ride – but there were plenty of other activities also on offer, both creative and active.



We also run the Springfield Furniture Bank. The calls for furniture and household items are continuing to increase. Unfortunately, one of our invaluable van drivers has recently moved away. It's a small van that can be driven on the usual full driving licence. If you could give us a few hours of your time on a weekly or monthly basis, we would be very grateful. The van goes out with a Driver and a helper to load and unload furniture. (You'll need to be fairly fit but not exceptionally so. Our current volunteers range from men in their 60/70s to ladies in their 30s. We load furniture at our storage locations, deliver out to those in need and collect donated furniture.)



Demand for second hand bikes are also remaining high so if you are able to volunteer some time of have unwanted items of furniture, good household linen etc or bikes that you are able to donate, please give us a call on

0330 043 6474 (Call or Whatsapp message),
Email: furniture.springfield@svp.org.uk
www.facebook.com/SVPSpringfield

we're on your side

Whether you need help with legal advice for your family or in business, we're here to help.

Speak to Peter on:

01245 453 813

PETER.ALLEN@BIRKETTLONG.CO.UK

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OUR PARISH VISION

1. A dynamic worshipping community - where people come for the first time and immediately sense the presence of God
2. A community where everyone is growing in their understanding of the Catholic Faith
3. A community where everyone is growing in the life of prayer and their relationship with God
4. A community where pastoral, spiritual and practical care is given to those in need
5. A community where more people are actively involved in the Mission of the Church.

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Loving Father,

You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in Him and have eternal life.

May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit, Help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence.

Give us the courage to witness to the joy of the Gospel by our words and actions.

Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever,

Amen

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to Augustinian 17: we hope that you had a good summer. Several items in this edition have a connection to our 40th anniversary and hopefully there will be more in the next one. We also hope that you were interested in the Teams of Our Lady item and took away the message that Teams come together for a spiritual purpose, but stay together because Team members enjoy the meetings.

We already have a number of ideas for the Christmas edition, but there is quite a long preparation and printing time, so it is not too early to be thinking about items. If you can think of anything that would interest readers, please send it to us. If we have too much for the Christmas edition, it will be a useful start for the Easter one.

As usual, thank you to Ben Hitchen for formatting our articles, including adding logos, crests and so on. Thank you also to New Hall whose printing always gives "The Augustinian" such a professional look. Thank you to all our contributors. We hope that you are all having a good return to school, work or retirement.

Chris Thompson