



Parish of St Augustine of Canterbury **Helping Hands**

This leaflet offers a brief insight into the activities that exist within our Parish of St Augustine of Canterbury, Matson. If you are new to the parish – welcome! The parish groups look after the practical and spiritual needs of our church and its community, as well as beyond our needs. Please do contact the named person in each group if you want to know more or get involved. You'll receive a very warm welcome – this parish needs you!

Altar Servers

Altar servers assist at both the 6.30pm Mass on Saturday evening and 11am Mass on Sunday morning. There is no formal rota and you can serve at whichever Mass you prefer. You must have made your First Holy Communion. If you would like to volunteer, you will be helped by experienced servers who will teach you the ropes. Contact Ufuoma Bakpa (ufiman@yahoo.com)

Catechists

Catechists support our young people in preparing for the Sacraments. They help every year with the programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and every few years with Confirmation. This is a particularly rewarding role, if you would like to help please contact Tony Sharpe (tonysharp@blueyonder.co.uk)



Children's Liturgy

Unfortunately we do not have volunteers to run this at present but will be able to provide this important part of the liturgy when we have helpers. If you are interested please contact Fr. Gerry. At the back of church is a children's corner with play materials, several with a religious theme, for you to use with your child when appropriate.

Church choir & music

Join the SAS!! The St Augustine Singers welcomes new members. Instrumentalists wanted – if you play an instrument and would enjoy making music with others, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Moni up in the choir loft or see Fr Gerry.

CAFOD

The Catholic Agency For Overseas Development is the official overseas aid agency of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. This group raises considerable funds for CAFOD, especially during Lent and the Harvest Festival. During the weeks of Lent, funds are raised for CAFOD and Together In Matson by a group of ladies making a simple meal such as soup for parishioners in the hall. If you want to know more please contact Ann Kinghorn on 01452 534752 or amk.larkham@gmail.com

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Cleaners

We have a beautiful church which is a privilege to clean, and to keep it in pristine condition we need cleaners. We work on a rota system which operates with 3-4 cleaners in a group at a time convenient to the group. All cleaning materials supplied. Please contact Ann Kinghorn 01452 534752 amk.larkham@gmail.com

Coffee after Sunday mass

This is a valuable social time for us after 11am mass on most Sundays, so please consider coming into the hall to meet up. If you could help occasionally there is a list of dates on the hall notice-board outside the kitchen door, please add your name to help make & serve the refreshments on dates to suit yourself.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist our parish priest, when required, by distribution Holy Communion during Mass and taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound at home or in hospital. Contact Fr Gerry for further details.

Fairtrade

CAFOD founded the Fairtrade Foundation in 1992 along with Christian Aid, Oxfam Tradedcraft, the World Development Movement and the national Federation of Women's Institutes. Small-scale farmers and producers in the development world often bear the cost and risks of trade while global companies make a profit. Fairtrade ensures the world's poorest growers & producers are able to earn a decent living and earn a premium they can put back into their communities. Fairtrade items are on sale at the end of Mass each month. To know more please contact Ann Kinghorn, 01452 534752 amk.larkham@gmail.com

Faith Discussion Group

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the hall, refreshments at 7.15, and all are welcome – parishioners or non-parishioners, catholic or none catholic, young and old. A Bible book or gospel is frequently discussed, normally using the Ignatius Study Guide, however other books have been discussed. We have some lively discussions and learn at the same time. More information from ptaylor@cantab.net 627303

Flower Arrangers

If you enjoy flower arranging - of any standard - we would love to hear from you and perhaps join our rota to do our best to beautify our church throughout the year. Please contact Irene Wilson (300189) or Sue Merigold ([619509](tel:619509))



Folk Group

We have a monthly folk group at 11 am mass. New members (to sing and/or play) are always welcome, please come up to the choir loft to meet us.

Gardening

Volunteers aim to maintain the garden and general tidiness in front of and around the church and if you could spare the occasional hour to help it would be appreciated.

Gift Aid

For tax payers the Gift Aid Scheme is a way to increase personal giving by 25% at no extra cost to yourself. Please talk to Richard Merigold (619509) for details.

Parish Visiting Group

This group of volunteers can support parishioners with occasional shopping, lifts, home visits etc. Please contact Rosemary Parles (617730) or Sue Merigold(619509) if you need help - new volunteers are most welcome.



Pastoral Council

Bishop Declan preached about Pastoral Councils in 2003 “there is a need for a place, a forum in which effective mission can be worked out....these councils can work out the direction in which we need to go at a level that is appropriate for each community”. It should be a place where ‘vision is translated into action’. Our Pastoral Council meets about six times a year. If you are interested to know more or to get involved please speak to Fr Gerry.

Readers for Mass

We have a reading rota for Saturday and Sunday Masses. We are very happy to welcome anyone who wants to join. Occasional training sessions are offered to readers but they are not compulsory and are there to offer advice and encouragement. Please contact Ann Kinghorn 014512 534752 (amk.larkham@gmail.com)



Red Mission Boxes (Missio)

Missio is the Pope’s charity for world mission, helping missionaries work alongside global communities who are poor or in need. We can all help by giving generously through the red box. Please contact Rosemary on 617730.

Repository

A small but comprehensive repository stall can be found at the back of church. Any offer to stock this would be appreciated, please see *Fr Gerry* or *Veronica Hollingsbee* in the Sacristy.

Sacristy Team

A small team looks after all Church service preparations in the parish. The sacristan undertakes the overall preparation of liturgical celebrations, including books needed, sets out the vestments and anything else - cruets, chalices, ciboria, linens, oils, processional crosses, candles etc. If you could help, please contact Veronica Hollingsbee (411502).

Site Management Group

We would like to have a group of people who help keep the church site in good condition & consider health & safety matters as well as undertaking safety checks. These people would generally manage contractors to undertake tasks, subject to the appropriate safety documentation being provided in advance of any work, or undertake safety inspections such as checking smoke detectors on a regular basis, undertake risk assessments as specified by the diocese, or in very limited situations actually undertake minor maintenance tasks such as painting, or follow defined procedures such as the process to remove dumped cars from the car park. Outstanding issues with buildings or the church in general are fed to this group and decisions made on how the problem will be resolved subject to a financial limit. If you would like to join the group, or have skills that you could offer please contact Francis Brown (francis4cricket@btinternet.com or 07717502075). There is training provided free of charge by the diocese. Undertaking any part of these tasks can release Fr Gerry from being heavily involved in some very time consuming non pastoral activities and would make a significant contribution to the parish.



Tea @ 3

This is a social occasion on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 3pm in the church hall. Everyone is very welcome to come along and enjoy a friendly chat with a cuppa and cake. Please contact *Sue Merigold*(619509) or *Rosemary Parles*(617730) if you'd like more details or would like to help.

Together in Matson

Runs the Redwell Centre, a Youth & Community building in Redwell Road, Matson. At T.I.M. there are many clubs/groups welcoming all ages and abilities to join in with and share skills and friendship. Further info www.togetherinmatson.co.uk . Our Parish supports this initiative both financially and by acting as a trustee. The Redwell Centre welcomes any interest from parishioners to volunteer or get involved in their valuable work. Contact *Vanessa Worrall*, Project Manager on 381070 togetherinmatson@redwellcentre.co.uk

200 Club

You pay £12 a year for each number. 50% is donated to the church and 50% is given out in 6 prizes each month. Each year over £1200 is given out in prizes. This is a great way to contribute to the running costs of the parish. Contact *Claire Cooper* (07932103185) or claire249@btinternet.com

Uniform organizations for young people

In our church hall on term time Fridays beavers & cubs (6-10 years) meet at 5.30-6.30pm, Scouts (10-14.5 years) at 7-8.30pm. Explorers 14-18yrs meet in Brockworth on Thursdays.

Contact staugustinescoutgroup@gmail.com / 07954895827

Welcomers

We all recognise how lovely it is to be greeted by a friendly face whenever we arrive at someone's house. It is just the same in God's house. We are blessed with a few regular welcomers but would be happy to encourage others to help. Please speak to *Jeni Gardener* (07591 942191) if you are interested and willing to help.

8/22/SM