

The Parish of Saint Augustine, North Town, Aldershot

Parish Newsletter for May 2026

"Worship the Lord in the splendour of holiness."

Services in May

3rd May

Sun 3rd May 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Wed 6th May 10:00am **Said Mass**

Wed 6th May 10:30am – 12:30pm **Open church** with chat, companionship and refreshments at the back of the church.

Fri 8th May 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

10th May

Sun 10th May 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Sun 10th May 11:25am Vestry Meeting followed by Annual Parochial Council Meeting

Fri 15th May 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

17th May

Sun 17th May 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Wed 20th May 10:00am **Said Mass**

Wed 20th May 10:30am – 12:30pm **Open church** with chat, companionship and refreshments at the back of the church.

Fri 22nd May 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

24th May

Sun 24th May 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Wed 27th May 10:00am **Said Mass**

Wed 27th May 10:30am – 12:30pm **Open church** with chat, companionship and refreshments at the back of the church.

Fri 29th May 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

Parish Information

Our website: <https://staugustine-aldershot.org.uk>

Facebook Page: [St Augustine Facebook](#)

Email: staugustine.1907@gmail.com

Wi-Fi at the Church: Network: staugustinenet. The Password is displayed at the back of the church.

What's Happening

- Father John is back from his world-wide cruise.
- Thank you to Father Glyn for guiding us through our Easter journey.
- We started our open church initiative on 17th April a small but positive start.
- The vestry meeting to elect Church Wardens is on Sunday 10th May at 11:25am followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at 11:30am.
- There will be no midweek service or open church on 13th May because both Fr. William and Fr. John have important prior commitments. Carol and Graham are also away.

A brief history of Forward in Faith – Part 1

By Angus Henderson

Forward in Faith and the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda both arose from significant theological developments within the Church of England, particularly concerning the ordination of women. These bodies reflect the concerns of traditionalist Anglo-Catholics seeking to maintain continuity with historic Catholic order and sacramental theology.

Forward in Faith was established in 1992 following the General Synod's decision to ordain women to the priesthood. For many Anglo-Catholics, this raised profound theological questions about apostolic succession and the nature of priesthood. A group of like-minded men and women in the Guildford Diocese was already meeting together and they went on to found the Guildford Branch. Of these Fr John Harvey and Angus Henderson are still active here. Forward in Faith became a key organisation offering a theological voice, pastoral support, and a united front for those opposed to women's ordination. Central to the settlement that enabled such groups to remain within the Church of England was the creation of Provincial Episcopal Visitors (PEVs). These bishops, sometimes called "flying bishops", provided alternative episcopal oversight to parishes unable to accept the ministry of women priests, ensuring sacramental assurance and continuity. The PEV covering Guildford is Luke, Bishop of Richborough, who is based in Portsmouth, and his ministry has been warmly welcomed and supported by the Diocese.

The issue intensified with the decision to consecrate women as bishops, culminating in 2014. In response, the Society of St Wilfrid and St Hilda was formed. The Society built upon earlier provisions but created a more structured and visible ecclesial body. It brought together clergy and parishes under bishops who upheld traditional Catholic teaching, including those who had previously served as PEVs, now often referred to as Society bishops.

From the Editor

Joining the PCC isn't quite as daunting as it sounds—think less “committee marathon” and more “being part of the team that helps shape the life of the church.” It's a chance to have a say in what we do, how we welcome people, and where we're going next. There's a bit of paperwork, the occasional lively discussion, and yes, sometimes biscuits—but above all it's about working together to support and grow the mission of St Augustine's. If you care about the church and its future, the PCC is simply a practical way to turn that care into action (and you might even enjoy it along the way).

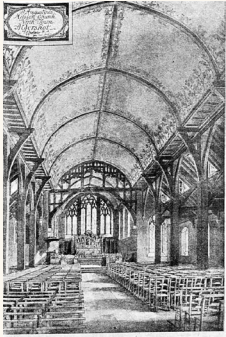
A gentle encouragement

If you are considering serving in any capacity, please do take a moment to complete a nomination form in advance of the APCM (they are at the back of the church). Doing so allows the meeting to proceed in an orderly and respectful way, avoids placing individuals on the spot, and ensures that those standing have had time to reflect and pray about the responsibility. It helps the whole process feel more intentional, transparent, and rooted in discernment rather than last-minute uncertainty.

Diary Dates

- 10th May 2026 – The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) 11:30am

Parish Life



St. Augustine's 1907

Giving and Support



Scan the QR code to make a donation.

Final Thoughts

In the quiet rhythm of our days, the Church gently reminds us that holiness is not found only in the extraordinary, but in the faithful offering of ordinary moments to God. At St Augustine's we are nourished by Word and Sacrament, sent out not simply to believe, but to become living signs of Christ's presence in the world. Each small act of charity, each prayer whispered in hope, each gesture of forgiveness participates in the life of grace. As we go forward, may we do so with renewed trust that God is at work among us—quietly, persistently—drawing all things toward His love.