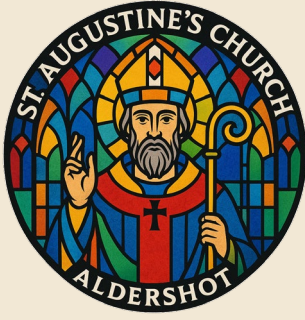




The Parish of Saint Augustine, North Town, Aldershot

Parish Newsletter for August 2026

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has
received." — 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)

Services in August

2nd August

Sun 2nd August 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Wed 5th August 10:00am **Said Mass**

Wed 5th August 10:30am – 12:30pm **Open Church** with chat, companionship and refreshments at the back of the church.

Fri 7th August 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open Church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

9th August

Sun 9th August 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Wed 12th August 10:00am **Said Mass**

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

Fri 14th August 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open Church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

16th August

Sun 16th August 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Wed 19th August 10:00am **Said Mass**

Wed 19th August 10:30am – 12:30pm **Open Church** with chat, companionship and refreshments at the back of the church.

Fri 21st August 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open Church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

23rd August

Sun 23rd August 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Sun 23rd August 11:30am PCC Meeting in the Canterbury Suite.

Wed 26th August 10:00am **Said Mass**

Wed 26th August 10:30am – 12:30pm **Open Church** with chat, companionship and refreshments at the back of the church.

Fri 28th August 10:00am – 2:00pm **Open Church** for prayer, reflection and quiet time.

30th August

Sun 30th August 10:00am **Sung Mass** followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.

Wed 2nd September 10:00am **Said Mass**

Wed 2nd September 10:30am – 12:30pm **Open Church** with chat, companionship and refreshments at the back of the church.

Parish Information

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

Facebook Page: [St Augustine's Facebook page](#)

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

Tidying up



As part of our continuing efforts to improve the church and hall grounds, the PCC hired a skip to dispose of the old garden benches and other unwanted items. We were pleased to agree with Deux Chats Pre-School that the cost of the skip would be shared.

The opportunity was also taken to clear a considerable amount of accumulated rubbish from the Canterbury Suite. This has helped to make the room tidier, more welcoming and better suited for PCC meetings, Bible study groups and other church and community activities.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the clearance and disposal work, in particular David and Kay.

Renewal



Following the removal of the old and damaged garden benches, the PCC agreed to purchase replacement benches for everyone to enjoy. The new benches arrived flat-packed and required rather more assembly than we had perhaps anticipated, but with patience, teamwork and a little ingenuity, we got there in the end!

A particular word of thanks must go to David Preston—our resident “master fixer”—whose practical skills and determination proved invaluable in putting everything together. The new benches are now in place and provide a safe and welcoming place to sit and enjoy the church grounds.

Open Church Ministry

Our Open Church Ministry has now been running for four months, with the church opening consistently on Wednesdays and Fridays. This regular commitment is helping to make St Augustine's more visible, accessible and welcoming to the wider community.

Wednesday visitors tend to be members of our own congregation, who remain after Mass for refreshments, fellowship and conversation. On Fridays we regularly welcome visitors from the wider community. Some call in simply to look around, while others stay to explore the church, enjoy its peace or speak with those on duty.

The success of the Open Church Ministry should not be measured by numbers alone. Its purpose is to let local people know that their parish church is open and available to them. Each time someone finds the doors open, receives a friendly welcome or discovers the beauty and tranquillity of St Augustine's, another connection is made between the church and the community it serves.

Looking Ahead

Planning is under way for ***Scripture and Prayer at St Augustine's: A Journey through St Mark's Gospel***, a new six-session series hopefully beginning on Wednesday 30 September. Full details, including the confirmed dates, will be available shortly in church and on the parish website.

Seven Pillars

There is no single official list, but the seven pillars of the Anglo-Catholic tradition may be described as: the Mass and the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist; the sacramental life of the Church; Holy Scripture understood within the Church's living tradition; the Creeds and teaching of the undivided Church; apostolic ministry through bishops, priests and deacons; a disciplined life of prayer enriched by devotion to Our Lady and the saints; and Christian mission and service, particularly among the poor, lonely and marginalised. Together, these pillars express a faith that is ancient yet living—rooted in the worship and teaching of the historic Church while calling Christians to make the love of Christ visible in the world today.

Pillar One: The Mass and the Real Presence

The first pillar is the Mass, which stands at the heart of Anglo-Catholic worship. At the altar, the Church gathers not simply to remember something that happened long ago, but to encounter the risen Christ, truly present in the consecrated bread and wine, and to share in his one perfect offering of love. Scripture is proclaimed, prayers are offered, sins are confessed and the faithful receive Holy Communion, strengthening them for their daily lives and Christian service. The beauty and reverence surrounding the Mass—vestments, candles, incense, music, silence and ceremonial—are not ends in themselves; they direct our attention towards God and help us to worship with our bodies, minds and souls.

From Our History: The 1964 Church Completion Scheme.

An important moment in the history of St Augustine's came in 1964, when the present sanctuary, vestries and sacristy were constructed as part of the Church Completion Scheme. The new additions were dedicated by Bishop B. M. Dale on 1 July that year. The work required the removal of the temporary Lady Chapel created during the 1930s, and although the original plans included a purpose-built replacement, rising costs meant that this could not be completed. The 1964 scheme nevertheless marked a significant stage in the development of St Augustine's and reflected the parish's continuing determination to improve and beautify the church for future generations.

Change is often necessary if the Church is to respond faithfully to new needs and opportunities, but it should never be introduced merely for the sake of novelty. The Church must remain rooted in Christ, Scripture and its inherited tradition while being willing to consider how its worship, mission and use of resources can better serve both the congregation and the wider community. Healthy change begins with prayer, careful thought and a clear explanation of what is being proposed, why it is needed and how it supports the Church's mission.

Carrying people with you does not mean that everyone will agree with every detail, but it does mean that everyone should feel heard, respected and included. People need time to ask questions, express concerns and understand how a proposed change might affect them. Consultation should be genuine, and suggestions should be considered rather than dismissed. When leaders communicate openly, acknowledge people's attachment to familiar ways and introduce change at a manageable pace, trust can grow. Lasting renewal is achieved not by leaving people behind, but by walking together with patience, honesty and Christian love.

Giving and Support



Scan the QR code to make a donation.