

AUTUMN 2026 PROGRAMME OF LOCAL EVENTS



The events listed are held at **St. Augustine's Church and Community Centre in Richmond Road** and are open to all. Entry is normally free, although a small charge or retiring collection may be held where fees are requested by speakers or performers. A complimentary glass of wine or fruit juice and nibbles are served at most events.



The programme is supported by Richmond, Oxford and Windsor Roads' and Benson Area Residents' Associations, and put together by St. Augustine's Church. The September talks will focus on aspects of Creation science and Christian responsibility and October's theme celebrates Black History month.



Check details online at <https://www.churchatcastle.org> and <https://stas.org.uk>

The programme for November and December will be available in October.

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 6-7pm: GOLDBLOCKS AND THE BIG BANG

Scripture asserts that 'In the beginning, God made the world' (Genesis 1.1.) and St. John's gospel starts, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God... All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.' (John 1.1 &3). Scientists today accept that there was a beginning to time and space, which happened 13.8 billion years ago. What was created was finely tuned to a remarkable degree, like Goldilocks' porridge, 'Just right' for life to appear. The 'Big Bang' which started time and space was not a chaotic explosion, but opened a precisely designed universe. The speaker, **Revd Dr Rodney Holder**, has explored ways in which science and faith complement each other in a number of books and is a regular speaker on the relationship between religion and science, especially cosmology.

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 6-7pm: 'I CAN TRACE MY ANCESTRY BACK TO THE PROTOPLASMAL PRIMORDIAL ATOMIC GLOBULE'

Pooh-Bah's claim, in W.S. Gilbert's 'Mikado', as 'a particularly haughty and exclusive person, of pre-Adamite ancestral descent' gives us one of the best and earliest jokes based on Darwin's 'Origin of Species'. Evolution has been known and appreciated since the 19th century. From the first self-replicating cells in the cold waters of earth, the first living things evolved, leading after innumerable generations to humans with the capacity to ask questions. Floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters all play their part in the story. **Revd Dr Tom Ambrose** will address Pooh-Bah's claim and proposes that as science advances, the hand of the creator is becoming more apparent in the natural world.

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 6-7pm: A ROCHA: COMMITMENT TO CREATION CARE

The speaker is **Ed Walker**, Executive Director of **A Rocha International**, a global family of conservation organizations working together to live out God's calling to care for all aspects of creation and to equip others to do likewise. A Rocha is best known in the UK for its inspirational and holistic Eco Church initiative, with over 9,000 churches now registered, (including St Augustine's which has gained a Silver Award).

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 6-7pm THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS: HOW CAN CHRISTIANS HELP?

Clare and Aidan Baker from **Global Justice Cambridge** and **Elisabeth Burleigh** from **Fairtrade Cambridgeshire** will speak about their campaigning issues. They will raise the issue of Christians' responsibility towards the environment and future generations and specifically talk about the theme of trade - Christian responsibility to trade fairly, looking at the Fairtrade initiative and its links to climate - and also the role that Christians are taking in campaigning against the system of 'corporate courts' that can allow overseas investors to stop governments taking climate action. Many countries in the Global South have been targeted, but now the UK government is being sued over blocking a new coal mine in Cumbria.

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 6-7pm: THE WELL BEING OF WIDOWS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Dr Sarada Chatterjee, a well-known face from her patronage of Café@99, is a Bye- Fellow and Director of Studies in Land Economy (to become known as Environment, Law, and Economics) at Lucy Cavendish College. Her work explores pressing issues surrounding gender, human dignity and capability across South Asia and beyond.

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 6-7pm: AIN'T MISBEHAVIN

Philip Mead will give a piano recital for Black History Month. It will include works by Art Tatum, Scott Joplin and Coleridge Taylor.

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 6-7pm: "THE HOUSE IN BACOLET"

Local author, **David Lambert** introduces his novel, *The House in Bacolet*. Born in Trinidad and Tobago to a West Indian father and an Irish mother, David grew up immersed in the rich diversity of the Caribbean where his novel is set. As well as being an intimate portrait of a marriage, the book explores the difficulties of human communication and how these are compounded when race, sex and culture-bound assumptions are added to the mix.

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 6-7pm: ST AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

St Augustine of Hippo was born in the 4th century in the Roman province of Numidia (present day Algeria). **Revd Andrew Day** will talk about this early North African saint who was one of the most influential and profound philosophers and thinkers of the Early Christian Church.

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 6-7pm: STEEL INVADERS STEELPAN BAND

No Black History Month could be complete without a return visit by the ever-popular **Steel Invaders Band** in a lively concert of Caribbean Music that will get your toes tapping and your heart racing.

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 6-7pm: SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS

Septimius Severus, born in modern day Libya of mixed Italian and Libyan heritage, rose to power in the late 2nd century. **Dr Carole Leonardi**, who gave us such a heartfelt talk on the Windrush Generation in Cambridge last year, will talk about this actively campaigning emperor who expanded the boundaries of the Roman empire.

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 6-7pm: CONCERT OF INDIAN MUSIC

A first for St Augustines! – a concert of Indian Music lead by **Dr Sarada Chattejee and friends**. A fitting finale to a month that hopefully will have opened our hearts and lifted our spirits.



..... and don't forget on, on the first Sunday of the month, **Sunday 5 September, Sunday 4 October, Sunday 1 November and Sunday 6 December** to come and share a **COMMUNITY LUNCH** starting at 1 pm: two freshly cooked courses with wine or fruit juice for only £10 per head. Open to all. Booking is advised - 01223 364929

And why not enjoy a coffee and cake at **Café@99?**

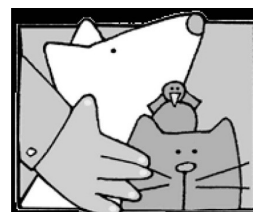
Open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10.30 am to 12 noon at St Augustine's in Richmond Road – a café run by and for the local community. An opportunity to share a conversation, write a poem, browse a newspaper, or simply relax. Hosted by Richmond Road Residents' Association.

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

Pet Blessing Service at 10.30am

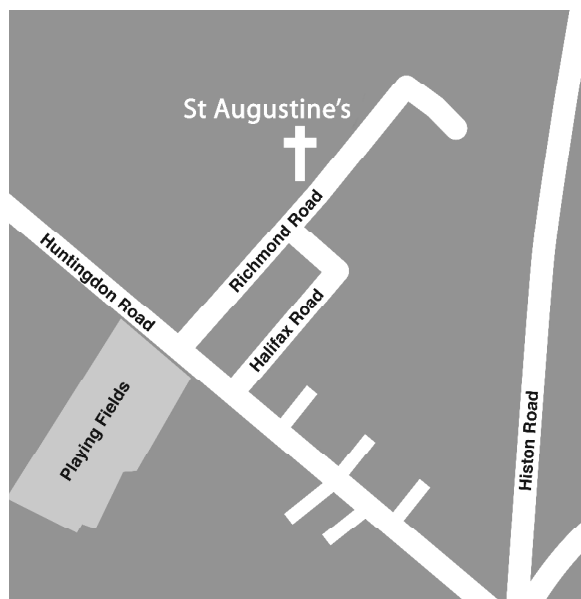
On this Feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the Ascension parish will be delighted to welcome you and your pet to a special morning service at St Luke's Church, Victoria Road.

Please ensure that you have your pet restrained on a leash, in a carrier or in their normal secure housing. There is parking behind the church and a garden where you can stretch your legs (2 or 4 or more!). If your pet is unusual or unusually large, please contact the parish office. Refreshments provided after the service



'Birds Beasts and Tall Tails' from 12noon to 1.15pm

Following the service you are invited on a Guided Walk into town, led by a qualified Green Badge guide. Discover the animals hidden in Cambridge's streets and colleges, - real, imaginary, mythical and ghostly.



Separate publicity will also appear for each event on our web sites:
www.churchatcastle.org and www.stas.org.uk

All feedback and ideas for our current and future programmes are welcomed.