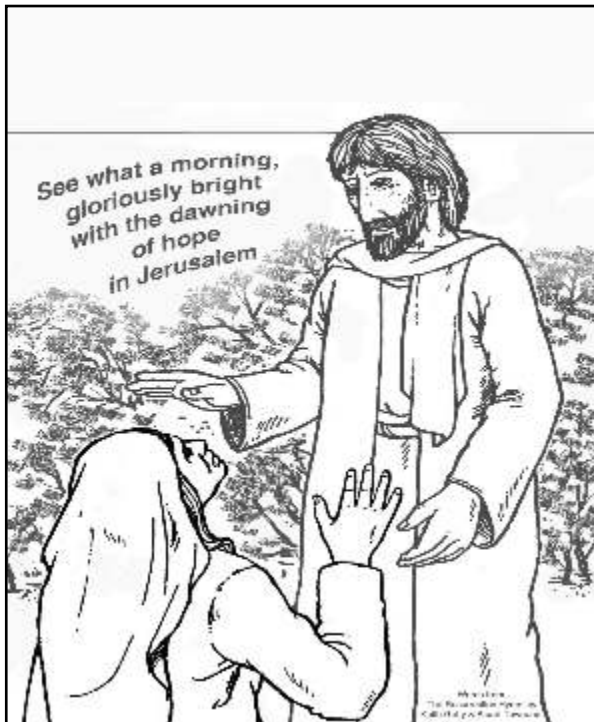


# PEWTALK 40<sub>P</sub>

April 2017



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: [www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)

# BITS AND PIECES

## Received by Norman from "Operation Shoebox"

Dear Norman,

It was nice to catch up with you again today, on the phone. A huge Thank you, to you and your church family for all the Shoeboxes packed and sent. At the Rayleigh warehouse, we checked 6,123 boxes (4,767 the previous year) and packed the crates onto a lorry returning to Bulgaria. What a thrill, to be a part of giving joy to so many needy children.

Attached is the News Sheet and to hear Livia tell her own story, search on Google "The Livia Satterfield Story".

God Bless you,

(The attached news sheet, which I know is very small print, is elsewhere in the magazine.....**Ed**)

### 100 Club result

The winner for March, drawn by Brandon, was Joan Dighton. who is not too well. The prize is only £10 but hopefully she can buy a little present and soon be well enough to be with us at St Catherine's or St. Francis.

**The Linford Methodist Church** are unable to hold a "Yippee" club in April as most of their volunteer helpers are away on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**The Easter weekend** sees the start of the 2017 openings of St. Catherine's for afternoon teas on Easter Sunday and the Bank Holiday Monday. We look forward to seeing our regulars back and being

able to catch up on their news after the winter break.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April** will be particularly busy at St. Catherine's. After our morning service of Holy Communion, we have a baptism at noon. This is followed by our end-of-month tea afternoon and finally there is an event to mark the completion of the Coalhouse Fort project in the evening. A wonderful example of how our re-ordered church can be used for the benefit of all.

**Beware, beware the "scammers" are back.** They are using both telephone and e-mail approaches. If someone 'phones to tell you that there is something wrong with your computer, it will be a scam. They cannot possibly know that there is a problem - so just hang up. If they e-mail and tell you that there is a problem with your account / contact details etc. **DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINKS** in the e-mail but delete it and if you are concerned telephone your supplier using a number that you know to be theirs.

**The second Lent lunch of soup and bread** will be on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in St. Francis at noon. We had thought to have it in St. Catherine's but there is a Baptism on that day and so we will be in Linford.

Please keep Bishop John Wraw and his family in your prayers. He now knows that there is no further treatment for his cancer - only palliative care.

Please note the earlier copy date for the May Pewtalk. I need an earlier start next month if it is to be out on time.

## ***From the Wardens - April 2017***

This will be the last piece that I write as a warden of the parish as I will not be standing for election at the Annual Parish meetings on 24<sup>th</sup> April (which are in St. Catherine's at 7.30pm). Apart from any other reason, I will have served the parish for six years which is the maximum length of continuous service allowed by the Church of England's rules.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> there are two meetings to consider, both of which give an opportunity to vote for individuals who have the care of our Parish. This year in the absence of a priest in charge, Canon Revd. Darren Barlow, the Thurrock Area Dean will be with us.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners is where the Churchwardens are elected. The Churchwardens (there can be two of them) are responsible, together with the priest in charge, for the day to day running of the Parish, for the fabric of the Church buildings and the spiritual health of the Parish.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is where the church family receives reports of the life of the Parish for the previous year including the annual financial accounts. At the meeting this year, we have to elect 2 people to represent the parish at the Deanery Synod, the members of the Parochial Church Council, together with our sidespersons etc.

For me, these meetings are a vitally important part of life of our Church and the wider Parish for which, as the Parish Church we have responsibilities. If you feel the same way please think about them and pray for their success. If you are not on the Electoral Roll, but would like to be able to vote please contact Kathy Bird, or one of the wardens.

Please also consider whether you are being called to serve in any capacity. If you want more information or just a chance to talk, feel free to speak with Colin Strong, myself or a member of the PCC. Nomination forms are available in St. Catherine's.

Meanwhile the interregnum continues and by the time you read this, I hope that our Parish Profile will be with the Bishop for his comments / approval. It will then need to be approved by the PCC before being posted on the Diocesan website, formally declaring the vacancy. I would like to thank all those who have helped with input to the profile, and particularly those that answered the questionnaires.

Finally, I wish to record my heartfelt thanks to everyone for their help and support over the past 6 years. It has not always been easy but it has always been a privilege to serve the parish. I hope and pray that we will all be able to offer our support to whoever is elected in April.

*Chris*



# Operation Christmas Child

*You made a difference.....*

Every year millions of children in need around the world receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. We know you took an opportunity to share an experience that will help to help the lives of children in need around the world.

For many of our recipients, the shoebox gift is a life-changing gift to receive. They have never before, and they are experiencing a precious gift for the first time. Imagine a variety of the time.

It is amazing to witness the joy and excitement of the children who have longed to receive a gift that would help them in their daily lives. We know you did a good deed that will help to help the lives of children in need around the world.

Also, 50 of 200 shoeboxes (or 60,000) of the shoeboxes, Africa and China are now available to be donated to a variety of recipients.

The shoeboxes that are now available through the shoebox gift are. It is a gift that is a gift that will help to help the lives of children in need around the world. It is a gift that is a gift that will help to help the lives of children in need around the world.

### Testimonial from leaders of The Greatest Journey programme in Romania.

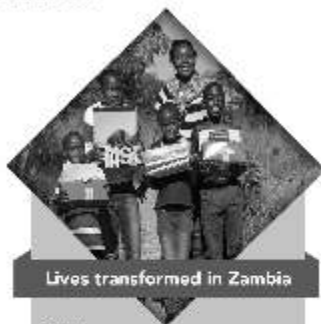
Thank you for the shoeboxes that were donated to the children in need in Romania. The shoeboxes that were donated to the children in need in Romania. The shoeboxes that were donated to the children in need in Romania.

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### Lives transformed in Zambia

#### Emma

Emma is a young girl who received a shoebox gift from the USA. She is happy to receive the gift and she is grateful to the people who helped her.

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#### Simon

Simon is a young boy who received a shoebox gift from the USA. He is happy to receive the gift and he is grateful to the people who helped him.

#### Victoria

Victoria is a young girl who received a shoebox gift from the USA. She is happy to receive the gift and she is grateful to the people who helped her.

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#### Mwaka & Charity

Mwaka & Charity are two young children who received a shoebox gift from the USA. They are happy to receive the gift and they are grateful to the people who helped them.

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The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate that there is a simple way to make children around the world, and especially the most disadvantaged, experience the love and joy of Christmas.

## A couple of Cheshire Churches - by Sue Willis



Recently I, my husband and a few friends had a weekend holiday in the lovely city of Chester and visited its magnificent cathedral with its outstanding masonry work and stained glass windows. Whilst visiting we were really fortunate because the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra were practicing for a concert that evening. Beautiful music in a most appropriate setting.

On the day of our departure we visited a most wonderful church in Nantwich called St. Mary's. Nantwich means "Vale of Salt" and in the Roman times it was famous for this vital commodity. The church is in the centre of the town and dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. One of the magnificent sights in this church are the canopies above the choir stalls - the carvings are over 600 years old and are among the finest examples of medieval carving in the world.



Two items stayed with me after the visit; the dole bread chest which was used to keep the bread which was distributed to the poor on Sundays - note the reference to the modern terms "Dole Queue", "on the bread line" and "dole out". There was also a stone ledge running all the way round the church. Early congregations were not seated but the sick, elderly or infirm could rest there - hence the expression "the weakest go to the wall! I'm pleased to report that this church is well used and when we visited there were schoolchildren visiting and taking notes. It is well worth a visit.

*Many thanks for your contribution Sue. I agree that St. Mary's is well worth a visit, as is Nantwich.....Ed*

## And.....from a totally different part of the world...

Pleased to report that the Kuypers have returned safe and well from their winter adventures in Asia. We spent most of our time in Langkawi, Malaysia reading books and doing lots of swimming. We did have a two week trip into Indonesia to the island of Sumbawa where our son David is planning to live. The island was very different from anywhere else we have visited with the northern part taken up with large open cast mining and the south sporting some of the best surf waves in the area, the reason for David making it his home, and also for the large number of Australian visitors waiting to catch the wave.

It is a very green jungle covered island with a huge amount of rainfall especially the two weeks we were there. Monkeys, Cows, Goats and Wild Dogs roam the roadside looking

to nose through the rubbish and cause havoc with the mainly motor bike traffic. Not really ready for 5 star hotels or tourists but no doubt that will change in the years to come.

Islam is the main religion with beautiful mosques everywhere, at least two per village. It amused me greatly one Friday lunchtime when it was the call to prayer and all the men were at the mosque with their sons, some as young as two years old. The mosque was crowded so there was an overspill of men and boys into the car park. In the back row were two boys standing behind the adults and like many a church service in this country not really paying attention to what was going on. For them it was much more fun trying to trip each other up when they were supposed to be bowing and then when on their knees wiggling their bottoms in the air and doing their best to push each other over. As soon as the service finished they were off running around the parked bikes and cars with their friends with a football they had hidden away. Boys will be Boys the world over.

*Marian Kuiper*

### Bishop Stephen's School for Disciples

It is not often that a Diocesan Bishop visits a Deanery to lead a training session it is more usual to find that you need to travel to Chelmsford or elsewhere for such events. However, on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March a sizeable contingent of people from the parishes of Thurrock came to the Grays parish church to hear what the Bishop had to say. There were 5 of us from St. Catherine's.

After opening worship, led by Canon Martin Wood the meeting got down to busy with the Bishop explaining that as Christians we are to "inhabit the world distinctively" and in this way to disciple others.

The local church is the place where we can learn and increase our faith so that we can go out and make disciples. Hence the idea that our churches should be "schools for disciples".

The Bishop used as an example of his thinking - pickled onions. Having spent a few moments being given various recipes by members of the congregation he explained that he felt that the church should be a **preservative** to help us hold onto the faith we have received. It should be **flavouring**, offering the world something new and beautiful. And it should be **light** showing the way to Christ and the way to true humanity. He also suggested that, as the vinegar when pickling the onions changes and transforms them, the church should be transforming us.

As we left each church that was present received a "goody bag" of material to help us make the most of our opportunities to transform ourselves and others. It also included a jar of **pickled onions** prepared by the Diocesan Mothers' Union!!

## Church Finances 2016-2017



Finances, personal and national are always reviewed in April each year. The Church is no different and as Treasurer I have to prepare the accounts for approval and examination by an independent examiner. The last two years have been unique as we have had an enormous amount of work done in the Church both internally and externally. The accounts have not therefore been typical. We have had generous grants to facilitate the work which has made St. Catherine's a warm comfortable Church suitable for use by the whole parish and the local community for a number of years.

The Church finances depend on the regular weekly giving by the congregation and others and collections at services. We have lost some of our regular givers in the last couple of years but generous newcomers and increased giving has meant that the total has increased from the 2015 figure. Remember that we can claim gift aid on all these donations which adds 25% provided that the donor is a taxpayer.

Our annual fund raising events did well in 2016 and are a valuable part of our outreach to the community as well as helping our finances and churchyard maintenance.

In the last few years we have been able to receive donations from other bodies when making purchases. This costs the purchaser nothing and the sums add up quite nicely. The local Co-op Supermarket has a community card scheme which directs funds to St. Catherine's via a Community Card. If you get in touch with me I can let you have a Community Card.

Chris has written before about "easyfundraising" and "easysearch" where retailers make donations when you buy on line or in some cases in store. We currently have only 2 or 3 regular users of this system (not as yet including me). These donations are not insignificant and have raised £300 approx. from Hastings Direct / Holiday Inn / Gatwick Car Parking / Cafe Nero etc. plus small donations from Amazon and ebay. These donations can also be Gift Aided by tax payers which raises an additional 25%.

To use this facility search on-line for "easyfundraising", register and look for "St. Catherine's - East Tilbury" as your nominated charity. It will be a great help. For more information speak to me or preferably our computer expert Chris.

On behalf of the PCC I would like to thank all those who support us so generously.

*Norman*

### Friends of Gobions Park

Jan Fawsitt is appealing for knitters to help Friends of Gobions Park by knitting chick egg cosies for our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. (I have done my best to reproduce the pattern from the handwritten version I received, all offers and any queries; contact Jan on 07957 184799 - *not me.....Ed*

#### Chicks for Charity knitting pattern

Use size 9 pins and double knit wool

Cast on 20 stitches. Increase one stitch at the beginning of each row until 32 stitches.

Cast off 11 stitches at the beginning of the next row. Knit to end.

Cast off 11 stitches at the beginning of the next row (leaves 10 stitches). Knit to end.

Knit one row.

Increase 1 stitch each end of next two rows.

Knit 3 rows straight.

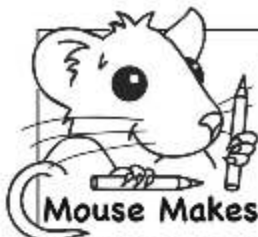
Decrease one stitch each end of next two rows. Pull wool through remaining stitches.



Easter Sunday at Gobions Park  
16th April 12-4pm  
Funday with Bizzy Bouncers  
and the Easter Bunny!  
Come join us  
Inflatables, Burger Van,  
Easter Egg Hunt, Raffle,  
Tombola and a guest  
appearance from the  
Easter Bunny!







**Mouse Makes**

Colour in the cross, cut out and glue onto card to make an Easter card.



**HAPPY  
EASTER  
✝  
JESUS  
IS ALIVE!**

Read the Easter story  
in Luke 22-24



"God loved the world  
so much that he gave  
his one and only Son  
so that whoever  
believes in Him may  
not be lost, but have  
eternal life."

John 3:16



+ **THE CROSS** +  
is a symbol of  
**DEATH**

It reminds us how  
God's Son, Jesus, was  
put to death by being  
nailed to a cross.

+ **THE CROSS** +  
is a symbol of  
**LIFE**

It reminds us  
that Jesus has  
risen from the dead  
and is alive with  
God in heaven.



+ **THE CROSS** +  
is a symbol of  
**LOVE**

It reminds us  
God loves us so much  
that through His Son  
Jesus we can become  
God's children too.

+ **THE CROSS** +  
is a symbol of  
**HOPE**

It reminds us that  
as God's children we  
will one day be with  
God in heaven.



## PARISH DIARY FOR APRIL

*Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's*



2 Apr	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
	<b>"The Family Service"</b>	10am
	Lent lunch at St. Francis	12noon
	Baptism of Esmé Alice Haughton-Gordon	2pm
4 Apr	Lent group at St. Francis	8pm - 9pm
5 Apr	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
6 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
9 Apr	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	
	<b>Parish Communion</b>	10am
12 Apr	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
13 Apr	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	
	Foodbank at St Francis	11am - 1pm
	<b>COMMUNION of the LAST SUPPER</b>	7.30pm
14 Apr	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
	<b>Good Friday morning - Stations of the Cross</b>	10am
	Grays Baptist churches visit to St. Catherine's	3pm
16 Apr	<b>EASTER DAY</b>	
	<b>Parish Communion</b>	10am
	CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOON	2 - 5pm
17 Apr	CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOON	2 - 5pm
19 Apr	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
20 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
23 Apr	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	
	<b>Parish Communion</b>	10am
24 Apr	Parish annual meetings at St. Catherine's	7.30pm
26 Apr	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
27 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
	WELCOM forum meeting at Linford Methodist Church	7.30pm
30 Apr	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	
	<b>Parish Communion</b>	10am
	Baptism of Tallulah Charlotte Christine Gurnham	noon
	CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOON	2 - 5pm
1 May	CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOON	2 - 5pm

## FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

### **BAPTISMS**

**5 MAR** Baptism of Oliver Jay Svagera

**19 MAR** Baptism of Zach William Homer

### **Marriages**

**18 MAR** Steven Thomas Whyman & Jenna Louise Oram

## The Church Bell

At the back of the Church you can see the Church Bell dated 1629 which is securely fixed to the floor near the vestry doors - the oak plinth that it sits on being made by one of Bakers' carpenters when the church was re-ordered in 2015. The older ones among us can just about remember the bell being hung on the outer wall of the Church in a small wooden cover. Why mention it now?

The bell was cast at Whitechapel Bell Foundry, the world's most famous bell foundry and Britain's oldest manufacturing company and listed in the Guinness World Records. Sadly the foundry will close in May.

After St. Catherine's the foundry cast in 1752 the Liberty Bell for Philadelphia a symbol of U.S. Independence and Big Ben in 1858 after the 1856 cast cracked.

The Whitechapel team designed the bell used at the start of the London Olympics which at 23 tonnes was too big for their furnaces and was cast in the Netherlands.



## Letter to God

A Sunday School teacher invited her children to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, We had a really good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

# ST. CATHERINE'S

## The Priest in Charge

The Parish is without a priest at the present time.

All enquiries should be made to Churchwarden, Colin Strong:

Telephone: 07591 708955

E-mail: [warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com)

## The Services

Sunday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's  
Except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month when we have  
"The Family Service"

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
For Baptisms and Weddings please contact Chris Ford in the first  
instance.

## Churchwarden

CHRIS FORD T: 01375 675863

E: rd r r

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E: rd r

## Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road  
Linford

Stanford le Hope  
SS17 0PU

Tel: 01375 675863

e-mail: [pewtalk@talktalk.net](mailto:pewtalk@talktalk.net)

## St. Francis Centre

The centre is available for hire for regular events when not used by the Church. To check availability please contact:

KATHY BIRD

07920 794716

[kathleen.bird@live.co.uk](mailto:kathleen.bird@live.co.uk)

*Copy Dates for Pewtalk*

*17<sup>th</sup> April 2017*

*22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017*

*22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017*