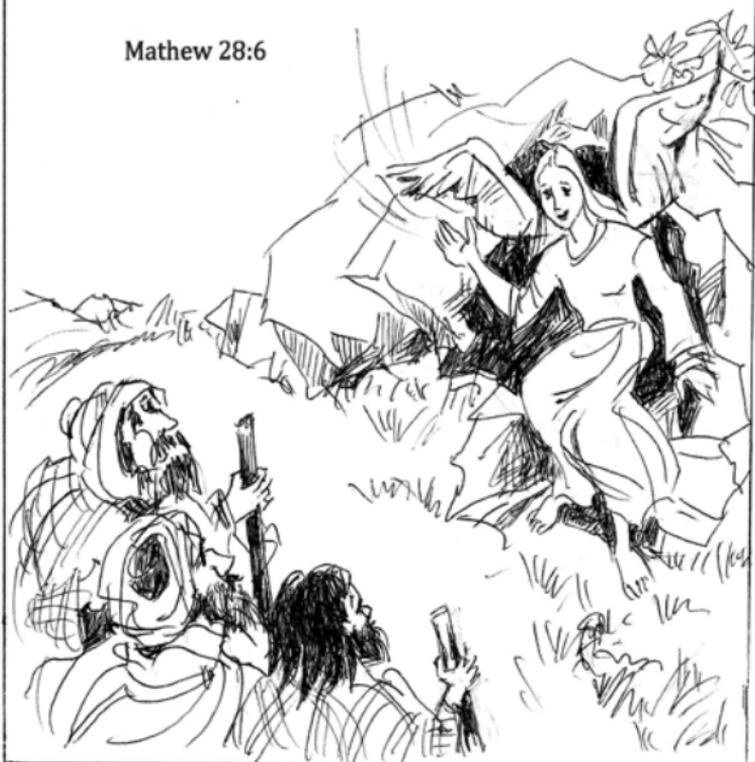


PEWTALK 50_P

April 2021

"He is not here,
He has risen!"

Mathew 28:6



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

This month, with the COVID-19 infections in Thurrock very much reduced on what they were we plan to collect the annual subscription for 2021. As previously the price is £6 - and delivery for those that we deliver to, is free!

100 Club - Not being able to attend Church for sometime we did get a bit behind with 100 Club draws. We were delighted to be back in March and made three draws. The winners were :

January : Andrea Kaye (Pam Painter's daughter)

February: Brenda and Barry Gowers

March: Julia Crone (Friend of Pam England)

Amazing how often the same names are drawn some people are naturally lucky in raffles etc. Doesn't include me ! We still have one £50 draw in June. I must thank everybody who has supported the 100 Club which has helped in such a difficult year for our finances *Norman*

Easyfundraising - From time to time in the magazine we encourage those who buy on-line and wish to support us to use the "easyfundraising" app when making purchases. We now have 15 registered supporters and although many of the donations are quite small, £812.60 has been raised over the years and all at no expense to those making the purchases! It really is a case of "every little helps". If you do not support the church in this way but would like to there is a link on the "About us" page of our website.

Our annual meetings - will be held on Sunday 9th May after the morning service.

It may seem a very short time since our last meeting which was held in the autumn but we are now back on the usual timetable rather than the "COVID" one of last year. In preparation for the meeting the church electoral roll is open for revisions from 11th - 24th April. If you would like to be added to or removed from the roll or just for more information just contact Janice Fawsitt on 07957184799 or jfawsitt81@gmail.com. Nominations are now open for the position of Churchwarden and for members of the Parochial Church Council. For more information contact Revd. Michèle or one of our wardens.

Open afternoons at St. Catherine's are planned to resume on the 4th Sunday of the month from 2 - 4pm (COVID-19 restrictions allowing). St. Catherine's has been organised in a COVID secure fashion and is a very safe space. All visitors are very welcome but whether and when we will be able to serve refreshments remains to be seen.

Bible Study Course - following the success of our Lent Course we will continue with our biblical studies on 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings. April dates will be Tuesday 13th & Tuesday 27th at 7.30pm via "Zoom".

Shoebox appeal - Norman and Sheila have received a thankyou for our shoeboxes "Thank you so much for blessing children with shoebox gifts in 2020. In recognition of the joy you have given children, we wanted you to be amongst the first to see our new Operation Christmas Child 2020 Special Report.". The internet link to the web page is very long and so it has been added as a link on the home page of the parish website.

Reflections from The Rectory



'I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.'

This verse, as I am sure many of you will know, is the first verse from the poem,

"I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (also commonly known as **"Daffodils"**) by the poet [William Wordsworth](#). It is believed the poem was inspired by an event on 15th April 1802 when Wordsworth and his sister [Dorothy](#) came across a "long belt" of daffodils near Ullswater in the Lake District. Written sometime between 1804 and 1807 it was first published in 1807 in ['Poems, in Two Volumes'](#), and a revised version was published in 1815. Whatever its inspiration it is a beautiful poem and at this time of year we see for ourselves 'dancing daffodils' in gardens and hedgerows.

Spring has officially sprung, the birdsong is cheerily welcoming the dawn and 'Gardener's World' is back on a Friday evening inspiring us to find solace in nature and growing things. All is well with the world. Well, perhaps not completely yet, but it does feel as if we are on a different path now and that hope is on the horizon.

This time last year lockdown had begun. We were learning to live in a new way. Public worship had been suspended, our buildings closed and our weekly activities cancelled. Much about life would be a challenge. Holy Week and Easter would be observed at home.

A year on and we are beginning to emerge and return with caution to the things we hold dear. Our services at St Catherine restarted in March and everybody glad to be back in our beautiful sacred space. Holy Week in 2021 will by necessity have fewer services than normal but we will observe the 'Last Hour at the Cross' on Good Friday and look forward to sharing our first service of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

Once again through the pain of having to practise our Christian faith differently we will gain a greater understanding of the sense of isolation Jesus felt on Maundy Thursday as the disciples betrayed, denied and left him. We will truly know the darkness of Good Friday as the world changed and those closest to Jesus could do nothing to help him. And we will know the true joy of Easter Sunday and the love that came as a result of the greatest sacrifice. As the Easter acclamation says 'Alleluia! Christ is risen ~ He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!'

Stay safe and keep well, Every Blessing, *Revd Michele.*

A prayer for all those affected by corona virus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Churchwarden's Report

Spring has sprung and today the sun is shining and the daffodils are in bloom.

It is with great pleasure St. Catherine's can announce our 10.00am Sunday services have resumed. During March a morning service, with plans to restart Holy Communion on Easter Sunday (subject to any government changes to the Covid recommendations) Each Sunday sees many members of our congregation enjoying the Lent services. We plan to restart Wednesday services at St Francis on Wednesday 7th April.

Reverend Michèle facilitated a zoom Lent Group meeting on Tuesday evenings for 6 weeks during February and March, this followed: "A Passion for Christ" written by Michael Baughen. During these sessions up to 12 people attended, we predominantly covered Corinthians, we have read, discussed, reflected and related the readings to our personal and faith experiences. The reading and discussions topics covered were:

- Sharing in the suffering of Christ
- Seeking love in the church of Christ
- Spreading the aroma of Christ
- Shining with the light of Christ
- Showing the life of Jesus in our mortal bodies
- Serving with a passion for Christ our Saviour

I think I can say on behalf of all of us, thank you Michèle, this has been an opportunity to take time away from the world and focus on our individual and collective relationship with God.

As many of you will know, on Easter Sunday, flowers will adorn church for the first time since Lent began. We have a tradition of offering the congregation the opportunity to buy a Lily in remembrance of their deceased family members.

And just a little post script last month I wrote to you about our Facebook page and said that we had 158 people that followed our page, thank you one and all, we now have 174 people who follow us.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever.

With blessings, *Kathy*

Norman in "lock-down" - a final report?

It does look as though we are progressing and controlling the affects of the Covid virus. I therefore hope that this note will be my last in Pewtalk before restrictions start easing.

As a great deal of my working life I worked in a laboratory and lab workers including me are habitual makers of lists and keepers of diaries. I have therefore kept lists, planned and decided to work on various projects during the lockdown. Among the projects have been a BBC Spanish Course, The Family Tree and Couch to 5k. Progress has been varied.

Spanish has proved very difficult and I have been tempted to give up, thinking a lot of Spanish people speak English and I have always managed to get a drink and something to eat in Spain. I will go on and hopefully get to Part Two in the next few months. When I am tempted to give up I remember a visit with Mum and Dad to Denmark many years ago. No problem in Copenhagen everybody spoke English but further North we had problems. I couldn't read the menu, was it the name of the chef or a vegetable and I couldn't read or understand any signs and posters. It was frustrating so I'll keep trying with the Spanish.

The Family Tree has been less of a problem as I am the only one born south of Manchester and the family hardly moved from a village in West Yorkshire or Greater Manchester. When my mum and dad moved to Essex in 1936 because the cotton industry in Manchester (known at the time as Cotonopolis) was struggling they were regarded as adventurous long distance travellers.

Thankfully to date I have not discovered too many black sheep.

The 1921 Census results will be available early next year and It will be interesting to find out a little bit more as I think that my Mum had both a sister who died before my grandad returned from the army and a brother who was stillborn. Like many of her generation my Nanna didn't say much about the difficult times she had experienced.

Couch to 5k in 9 weeks is on hold. I have bought some trainers but I am waiting for better weather or that is my excuse.

A "thank you" from our treasurer

For many years we have provided weekly envelopes for those that wish to make regular donations to Church Funds.

A number of our congregation use them and many have been very generous and maintained their regular giving over the past year. This has been most important as our largest expenses i.e. The Family Purse/ Insurance and Gas and Electricity Bills still had to be paid. Despite not being able to run any Fund Raising events (Garden Party / Bazaar / Concerts / Quiz and without the additional collections at occasional services including weddings, funerals etc. our deficit for 2020 was only £1,400. Thank you to everybody for their contributions.

We have some sets of envelopes available and if you would like a box please let me know. It does not mean you have to contribute every week.

It will be lovely to be able to enjoy so our social events at some point in the future and I look forward to the Boules Competition (Sheila won last year) and with less enthusiasm to preparing pickled onions and jam.

Norman King

100 years of the PCC - the Ven John Barton considers a beloved, national institution....

It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC - congratulations - you are a hundred years old this year!

Divine Intervention? A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in.

When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, please will you pass me the broom?'

Archbishops in the Spectator: Church in changing times

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have recently written an article for the Spectator magazine, responding to the recent media coverage asking: 'Where is the C of E?'

The Archbishops say: "Let us offer an answer. ... the Church of England has been a bedrock of faith, love, hope and compassion in this country for centuries through wars, plagues and pandemics — we still are, and we will go on being just that.

"You can imagine our shock, then, when we read in the media about what is supposedly happening... That the parish system, with its beautiful vision of serving every inch of the country and every person in it, is being systematically dismantled. That clergy are being made redundant. That there are plans to somehow centralise everything and for services, even beyond Covid, to be online rather than in person.

"So let us try to set the record straight. There are no plans to dismantle the parish network. We are committed to our calling to be a Christian presence in every community.

"...Yes, there are hard decisions currently being made across many dioceses. Overall some stipendiary posts will be lost. ...But the aim is to make each parish and each Christian community sustainable. If that doesn't happen, there really will be no Church of England.

"...There are rascally voices around who want to undermine the church — it was ever thus. But the real story is that we so believe in that vision of serving every inch of the country, and every person in it, that we are having to expand what it is to be the church."

The Parable of the Butterfly

As a butterfly flew overhead, one caterpillar said to the other. "You'll never get me up in one of those things." Yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. The chrysalis hardens and you'd think for all the world that the caterpillar is dead, but one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to writhe, the top cracks open and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after flower, as if to show off its vivid colours to the bright blossoms. Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination. Perhaps because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of resurrection.



FROM THE MARCH P.C.C. MEETING

The Parochial Church Council met via "ZOOM" on the 17th March with all members attending.

After opening prayer the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November were approved and there were no matters arising.

The first item of new business was to formally record the various decisions that had been made to suspend public worship during January, February and March 2021 because of the COVID-19 regulations. Revd Michèle then explained her understanding of the current government "roadmap" with particular relevance to our church.

The meeting then discussed the arrangements that had been made during Lent and agreed plans for Good Friday and the restart of Holy Communion at St. Catherine's from Easter Day.

In recent times there had been a number of requests to site benches in the churchyard. The committee agree to no more than three benches with their siting and style to be agreed by the priest in charge and the wardens. The damage to St. Catherine's kitchen windows and their imminent repair was noted as well as the tree surgeon's visit planned for 29th March. The P.C.C. was advised that some church items that had been stored in a local garage since the development work were to be stored in the upper vestry and that the latest "quinquennial" survey report was still awaited from the architect.

Revd. Michèle explained that changes to the way C of E marriages were to be registered were to be implemented shortly although the local clergy had a number of concerns that to date could not be answered.

The meeting then discussed how we might open up use of St. Francis and agreed that the mid-week communion would restart on 7th April. It was also agreed that we would renew the broadband contract and upgrade it to a faster connection.

Revd. Michèle updated the meeting with progress on the sale of part of St. James' churchyard.

The meeting then went on to discuss the arrangements for this year's annual meetings which will be held on Sunday 9th May after the morning service.

The treasurer, Norman King, gave an update on the financial position and explained that during lock-down although most of the regular contributors had been able to maintain their giving our income had fallen with the lack of fundraising events, weddings etc. However most of our expenses like the "parish share", insurances (including the excess on our window claim) and utilities continued. He was also able to report that the annual accounts to the end of December had been produced and independently examined with the examiners certificate issued.

There being no other business the meeting closed just after 9.30pm



Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of **Jesus** in the word search?

SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17



KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14

PROPHET

Luke 24:19



PRIEST

1 Timothy 2:5

ROCK

1 Corinthians 10: 4

LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9

AMEN

Revelation 3:14

LIFE

John 11:25-27

MESSIAH

John 1:41

SHEPHERD

John 10:11

LIGHT

John 8:12



WORD

John 1:1-50



BREAD

John 6:35

CREATOR

1 John 1:3



CHRIST

Matthew 16:16

SAVIOUR

John 3:16-17

HOLY ONE

Mark 1:24

VINE

John 15:5



DOOR

John 10:9



WAY

John 14:6

LAMB

John 1:29



V L I F E W D
 D I A L A R O C K
 C M H M O M S R E H C
 H E O B R E A D O O R
 R S L W D N V I N E E
 I S Y A P R I E S T A
 S I O Y P R O P H E T
 T A N J E S U S T D O
 S H E P H E R D E B R
 K I N G O F K I N G S
 D S O S O N O F G O D
 L I G H T



PARISH DIARY FOR APRIL
Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



As a result of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic there are still some restrictions in place. To find the latest information please look at the weekly newsletter, copies of which can be found on the gate at St. Francis and St. Catherine or on the church website.

1 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis (N.B. no coffee morning)	11.00am - 1.00pm
2 Apr	Good Friday - "The last hour at the cross"	2.00pm
3 Apr	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's	10.00am - noon
4 Apr	Easter Day Easter Day celebration of Holy Communion (N.B. no refreshments afterwards)	10.00am
7 Apr	Holy Communion (St. Francis) N. B. no community support "drop in" at St. Francis	10.00am
8 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis (N.B. no coffee morning)	11.00am - 1.00pm
10 Apr	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's	10.00am - noon
11 Apr	2 nd Sunday of Easter Parish Communion (N.B. no refreshments afterwards)	10.00am
13 Apr	"Zoom" Bible study	7.30pm
14 Apr	Holy Communion (St. Francis) N. B. no community support "drop in" at St. Francis	10.00am
15 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis (N.B. no coffee morning)	11.00am - 1.00pm
17 Apr	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's	10.00am - noon
18 Apr	3 rd Sunday of Easter Parish Communion (N.B. no refreshments afterwards)	10.00am
21 Apr	Holy Communion (St. Francis) N. B. no community support "drop in" at St. Francis	10.00am
22 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis (N.B. no coffee morning)	11.00am - 1.00pm
24 Apr	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's	10.00am - noon
25 Apr	4 th Sunday of Easter Parish Communion (N.B. no refreshments afterwards) St. Catherine's open afternoon	10.00am 2.00 - 4.00pm
27 Apr	"Zoom" Bible study	7.30pm
28 Apr	Holy Communion (St. Francis) N. B. no community support "drop in" at St. Francis	10.00am
29 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis (N.B. no coffee morning)	11.00am - 1.00pm

Occasional Offices during March

Baptisms

None

Weddings

None

Committal of ashes

None

Funeral

17	Mar	Rosina Maud Sheers at Pitsea Crematorium
31	Mar	Robert Stephen Frederick Bacon

Easter faith in atheist Russia

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him.

Where did the Easter Bunny come from?

The Easter bunny is a gentle figure of folklore, who seems to have first come from the German Lutherans.

They depicted him as a rabbit who brought coloured Easter eggs to children. The idea of an egg-giving hare went over to the United States in the 18th century, when Protestant German immigrants in the Pennsylvania Dutch area told their children all about the 'OsterhaseL

Hase means hare, and according to the legend, only good children found the hare's gifts of coloured eggs which were placed in the nests that they had made in their caps and bonnets before Easter. The Easter bunny became a prominent symbol of Easter. Rabbits as prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of new life.



The Parish

The Priest in charge

REVD. MICHÈLE MARSHALL

The Rectory

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Stanford-le-Hope

Essex, SS17 0QA.

Telephone: 01375 671754

email: mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk

The Services -

Sunday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals please contact Revd. Michèle Marshall

The Churchwardens

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St. Francis Centre

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

PATRICIA STRONG

patricia.a.strong@outlook.com

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

24th April 2021

24th May 2021

24th June 2021