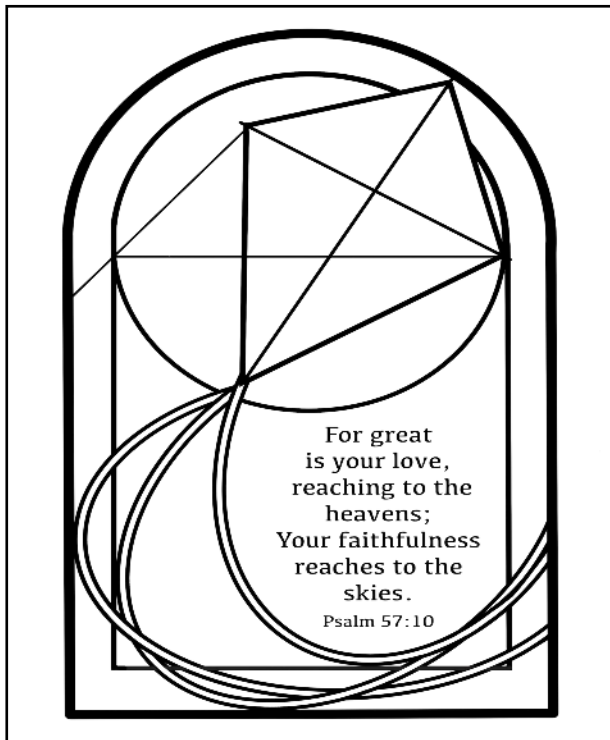


# *PEWTALK*

£1

August 2025



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

# BITs And PiECes

**100 Club** - Sheila and I were away on Holiday on July 6th when Michèle made the draw for £50. On my return I was delighted when Michèle told me that the winner was John Dighton. John and his family have supported the 100 Club from the start and have had a few winnings. I have yet to win even £10 the Minimum !! .

A number of members have already renewed their tickets. If you have yet to rejoin the first draw will be on August 3rd.

Please support the 100 Club if you can. If you have friends and family beyond the congregation who might be interested in supporting the Church in this way please explain the 100 Club and invite them to join. There are two chances of winning £50 and ten chances of getting back your £10 . Good luck in August.

*Norman*

## **We are supporting the Tearfund Big Quiz**

**Night** once again this year - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October at St. Catherine's. As in previous years we assemble at 6.30pm for the quiz to start at 7pm. Although the usual table is for 6 people as far as we are concerned, 'the more the merrier' - it is for a very good cause after all. The tickets are £7,50ea and available from Chris and Kim Ford. They are available on the door but if you are planning to join us do let us know so that we can have the church set up ready and remember that if there are less than 6 in your group or you are coming alone it isn't a problem for us to find you a team!

**And once again** we will be packing Christmas shoe boxes for the charity Blythwood Care. Last year we were able to send 27 boxes and this year it would be wonderful if we could send more. We have ordered 40 flat pack boxes in readiness and if you would like one they will be available later in church. More details for this appeal can be found on the Blythwood Care website at:-

[www.blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal/](http://www.blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal/)

**Another charity** to support is the MacMillan Cancer Support and Claire Frend is planning her annual event for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at St. Francis.

**A reminder that** the Orsett show is on the first weekend of September at the showground. The Thurrock Deanery will have its usual marque with children's activities, refreshments and an opportunity for quiet in a busy day. Short periods of worship will take place during the afternoon. If you are at the show why not drop in and see us?

**Following up on** the articles about St. Catherine's over the years John Blackbond has provided some more information. Apparently the chimney that was pointed out in one of the pictures last month was for a coke stove which was located adjacent to the hand pumped organ of the time. Additionally John says that when he got married in 1959 there was some uncertainty when the invitations were being prepared and he was dispatched to the church to check whether it was St. C's or St. K's! The question of the old gas supply in the vestry cupboard is still open. Any knowledge?

## **A prayer for all those affected by sickness and ill-health**

*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.*



## Reflections from The Rectory

In the Gospel reading set for the last Sunday in July we hear the disciples say to Jesus, *'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.'* He said to them, *'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.'* (NRSV translation Luke 11:1-13)

This conversation between Jesus and the Disciples is also recorded in the Gospel of Matthew and so we see it as significant. And the prayer that Jesus gives to them is of course what we know today as The Lord's Prayer.

I wonder if it is a prayer that you yourself say on a daily or occasional basis. It is certainly a prayer included in nearly every service that happens at church be it on a Sunday, at Wedding & Renewal of Vows services, Baptisms, Funerals or Committal of Ashes services, at Remembrance services, Christmas and Easter services and more.

Many of us will have learnt it at Sunday school and once learnt is never forgotten. In a previous parish I used to go and do a short service at the local Care Home where as you might expect many of the residents were living with Dementia of some form or another. Many of them struggled to remember the fine details of daily life but as soon as I said, 'Our Father, who art in heaven' they all joined in and knew every line off by heart. This I found deeply moving and inspiring.

But, what are we doing when we say the Lord's Prayer? Why did Jesus give us this prayer to say instead of another?

The prayer begins, **"Our Father in heaven"** – although God is in heaven he is also near to all of us and he is where we will all eventually be when our earthly lives are done.

It goes on, **"Hallowed be your name"** – this calls us to show respect to God and all that he has made in creation.

And then, **"Your kingdom come"** – God's kingdom is one of peace and love and this is what we want for our noisy, chaotic and war-torn world.

Next comes, **"Give us this day our daily bread"** – here is an opportunity to ask God for what we need and not the things we want.

And then, **"Forgive us our sins or trespasses ~ as we forgive those who sin or trespass against us"** – not always an easy line to put into action! It's easy to forgive those we like but much harder to forgive those who have really hurt us.

It goes on, **"Save us from the time of trial or deliver us from evil and temptation"** – sadly our world is not perfect and none of us travel through life without ups and downs but God promises to be with us through those challenging moments.

And in conclusion, **"For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen."** The prayer ends as it began by keeping God as our focus.

In every generation there has been a need for prayer and this time is no different. We are reminded daily in news broadcasts that there are many nations at war with one another and many of our brothers and sisters living in poverty and despair.

It may not feel as if our prayers are heard or if heard not answered. Ours is not to reason why but in faithfulness continue to pray and where we can become the answer to another person's prayer.

For these trouble times here is a prayer you might like to say yourself alongside the Lord's Prayer in whichever version you most like to use.

**God of mercy, look with compassion  
on all who are affected by the present conflicts.  
Grant insight to hardened hearts,  
comfort to the fearful,  
protection to those in danger,  
and hope to those who are despairing,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**



Stay safe and keep well, Every Blessing,

*Revd. Michèle*

#### **John Mason Neale, hymn writer and re-writer**



If you are the sort of person who looks at the small print beside hymns in the hymnal, then you may recognise the name J. M. Neale. For not only did he write some of our most beloved hymns, but he also translated many dozens more from the Latin, old German, or old French. J. M. Neale was so prolific, in fact, that fully one-tenth of the hymns in our *English Hymnal* are his.

So, who was he? Born in London in 1818, educated Trinity College Cambridge, and ordained in 1841, he was aiming for the parish of Crawley. But chronic ill health left him too weak for parish life, and so he was appointed warden of an alms-house in East Grinstead, where he lived and worked for the rest of his life.

Neale used the peace and quiet of his job to good effect: producing *All glory laud and honour*, *Jerusalem the golden*, *O happy band of pilgrims*, *The Day of Resurrection*, *O come*, *O come Emmanuel*, and *Christ is made the sure foundation*, among many many others.

But Neale's writing of hymns was only part of his wider passion for the worship and liturgical practices of the Early Church. At a time when Anglo-Catholics were 'in fashion', Neale provided an important balance by reminding the Church of its largely forgotten Eastern heritage.



**Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> 2025**

**6.30pm for a 7pm start**

**St. Catherine's Church, East Tilbury Village,  
RM18 8PB**

**Tickets @ £7.50 ea. available from Chris and Kim Ford**

**email: [kimandchris.ford@outlook.com](mailto:kimandchris.ford@outlook.com)**

**'phone: 01375-675863**

**Come alone or with family / friends**

**Bring table snacks / drinks – tea / coffee / cake at the interval**

**[tearfund.org/quiz](http://tearfund.org/quiz)**

**Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom  
t: +44 (0)20 3906 3906 e: [info@tearfund.org](mailto:info@tearfund.org) f: [Facebook](#) t: [Twitter](#) /Tearfund**

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**tearfund**

### The July 'Large' open afternoon

We had the second of our 'go large' open afternoons on 27<sup>th</sup> July during which we served ploughman's lunches from noon to 2pm and our usual tea and cakes thereafter. The



event was very well supported to the extent that we had to send out for extra supplies for the lunches and ran completely out of cake in the afternoon. However there was an additional attraction in that, during the morning service, a swallow swooped through the open door and took up temporary residence in the church. Although all the lighting was turned off, the light from the doorway was not sufficient to encourage it out again. The bird was seemingly happy in its new

surroundings but clearly was trying to find a way back to its nest. Valerie organised 'bird catchers' with long poles and nets from the South Essex Wildlife Hospital (set up by Sue Schwar) to try to remove it but after a couple of hours they had to give it best and left. Shortly after they had gone the bird found its own way out and, we believe, took up residence in its nest which was spotted in the church porch. The photo is pretty indistinct - and you might need a magnifying glass - but it is in the top left corner of the flint stonework.

### Dick and Dorothy Collen R.I.P.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> October Dick and Dorothy Collen's ashes were interred in the Churchyard at St. Catherine's and a few of the congregation that remembered them joined with the family to say a very last farewell.

They were both remembered for their service to the church with Dorothy the organist, choir mistress and 'chief cook and bottle washer' and Dick as a loyal Church warden and churchyard 'groundsman'. Before and after Revd. Michèle led the short service of committal many memories were shared between the family and members of the congregation.

### Holiday reading by David Pickup

When I go away, I first write a list of things to pack. I pride myself on being able to pack quickly; just throw some spare clothes in a bag, toothbrush, other things I need and of course plenty to read. My experience tells me I need at least a book a day. I take old books which I have read, guidebooks and maps about the place I am visiting, and some of the books from my pile of 'to read'. My family says I spend too much packing time on what books to take and not clothes – which is probably just criticism.

When I was on holiday recently, disaster struck as I had read everything that I had with me. You never know how long a book will last you. Some you can read in a few hours and others do not get going. That forces you to buy more books or see if the place where you are staying has anything interesting on the bookshelf.

So, I found myself in a medieval town church looking around and they did have some second-hand books for sale. Sadly, there was not much of interest for me this time, but I live in hope. It is interesting to nose around churches and look at the mugshots of the PCC members and clergy. They all look incredibly young!

It is lovely to see a cared for, busy church. It stands out a mile, even in an empty building, you feel the love and spiritual warmth. One place I was tempted to take volumes from the bookshelves, but it was a church library, not a sale. So why don't churches start a little book shop in church?

### **Christian media owner calls on Elon Musk to become more accountable**

*by Peter Crumpler*



Sir Paul Marshall, an evangelical Christian and prominent British media owner has called on Elon Musk and the bosses of other social media platforms to publish the algorithms that determine the visibility of posts – and to become more accountable.

Speaking in a lecture at Oxford University, Sir Paul, a leading investor in TV channel GB News, and owner of The Spectator magazine and UnHerd, the news and opinion website, called on the Big Tech platforms to make major changes to the way they operate.

He said, “Social media platforms like X, Bluesky or Meta should be required to publish all the algorithms that they use to analyse or influence our preferences. Elon Musk believes in open source and transparency for manufacturing. He should do the same for X.

“We should all be able to know how the algorithms work which place certain stories and characters in our timeline and not others.”

Sir Paul also called on the platforms to become more accountable. He explained, “Social media platforms should be regulated as common carriers. Under the current regulations, they are exempted from any of the responsibilities of a traditional publisher. They have power without responsibility. Effectively, those who post are treated as publishers.

“The platforms cannot be held to account for what is published, yet they still enjoy many of the powers of a publisher.

“This is wrong, and platforms need to have less power and more accountability. At the very least, there need to be constraints around them such as you would impose on a bank or a railway. They should not be allowed to refuse or suspend accounts or to actively demote the visibility of a post, unless it is in clear breach of the law.”

Sir Paul is a leading philanthropist, supporting a wide range of charities. He is known as a member and supporter of Holy Trinity Brompton Church, London, the home of the internationally successful Alpha Course.

He was giving a lecture hosted by The Pharos Foundation, an Oxford-based research institution and educational charity.

Sir Paul explained: “The key overriding principle for me is to ensure that there is a golden thread of responsibility and accountability running through everything, whether that be the platforms, the publishers or self-publishing individuals.”

### The July Meeting of the P.C.C.

The July meeting of the Parochial Church Council took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July at St. Francis with all members present.

After an opening time of prayer the minutes of the June meeting were agreed with no issues.

In the churchwardens report Chris outlined the progress being made on the electrical inspections of the two churches and the quotations that had been received for the inspection of the trees in the churchyard at St. Catherine's. It was agreed to ask Alan Mitchell to undertake the survey. It was noted that a 'smart' electricity meter had been installed at St. Catherine's and the new broadband connection at St. Francis was working well with the previous Talktalk contract now terminated. The churchyard continues to be largely maintained by the excellent community payback team and Les, Valerie and Robin had been tidying up at St. Francis.

Norman presented his treasurer's report which showed that our financial position was sound and he clarified a few points raised by members of the council. He also explained that he wished to have our banking signatories revised as there had been changes in the congregation and P.C.C. over the years. It was agreed that the four signatories should be Norman King, Chris Ford, Les Schwar and Revd. Michèle.

In her Electoral Roll report Valerie noted that two names had been added giving a current total of 37 members.

Reporting on safeguarding matters Kim said that she had completed all her obligatory training as our safeguarding officer and Revd. Michèle said that she and Kim would meet to review any further requirements.

A report of the last Deanery Synod was given and the main points are set out in last month's magazine. Revd. Michèle said that details of the recent General Synod meeting were available on the C of E website.

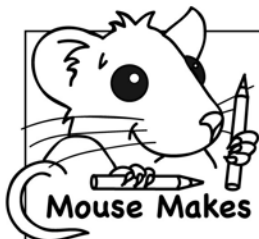
In her report, Revd. Michèle noted that there had been a Deanery Pentecost service at All Saints Belhus Park which Robin, Chris and Kim had attended. Since the last meeting she had conducted three committal of ashes and one funeral. There had been a visit to St. Catherine's by the East Tilbury Beaver Scouts. She had taken a home communion for Brenda and Barry Gowers. There had been another joint service with the Linford Methodist congregation, the first 'extended hours' open afternoon had taken place and bible study sessions had been held.

She then went on to advise the meeting of planned future dates and a number of new dates were agreed and can be found in this magazine.

Under A.O.B. It was agreed to elect Carole Harris as a sidesperson and it was also agreed the Revd Michèle and Chris would look into the faculty requirements for replacing the oldest ashes memorial.

The next meeting dates were set for 15<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November and the meeting closed with prayer.





"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many...

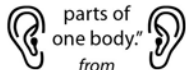
...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

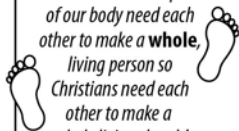


"Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body."

from  
Romans 12:1-7



Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!



Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY  
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE  
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS  
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



## PARISH DIARY FOR AUGUST

*All services and events may be changed in the light of any new developments.*

*Please see our weekly newsletter for the latest Information. It can be found on our*

*Website: [www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)*



2 Aug	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's Committal of ashes	10.00am-12noon 11.30am
3 Aug	<b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b> Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
6 Aug	Holy Communion at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
7 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
10 Aug	<b>8th Sunday after Trinity</b> Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
13 Aug	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
14 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
17 Aug	<b>9th Sunday after Trinity</b> 'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's Baptism at St. Catherine's Café Communion at St. Francis	10.00am 12noon 4.30pm
20 Aug	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
21 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
23 Aug	Wedding rehearsal at St. Catherine's	2pm
24 Aug	<b>10th Sunday after Trinity</b> Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
27 Aug	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
28 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
28 Aug	Wedding at St. Catherine's	12noon
31 Aug	<b>11th Sunday after Trinity</b> Joint service with Linford Methodists at St. Francis 'Go Large' Open afternoon with refreshments at St. Catherine's Churchyard volunteers welcome	10.30am 12.00noon-4pm

### **Future Dates for your diary**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September** - Harvest 'bring and share' supper - 5pm.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September** - Harvest celebration at St. Catherine's - 10am

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September** - Claire Frend MacMillan coffee morning at St. Francis - 9am

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October** - Filling Blythswood shoe boxes - time TBA

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October** - Blessing of the shoe boxes at St. Catherine's - 10am

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October** - Tearfund Big Quiz Night at St. Catherine's - 6.30pm

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** - Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving at St. Catherine's - 3pm

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November** - Remembrance Sunday

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November** - Joint service at the Linford Methodist's church -10.30am

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Fayre at St. Catherine's - 10am - 2pm

### **'Life Events' during July**

#### **Baptism**

None

#### **Weddings**

None

#### **Funeral**

3 July Sarah Jean Wallace

#### **Committal of Ashes**

5 July Sandra Marion Rider

16 July Bernard & Elsie Megran

26 July Dick & Dorothy Collen

### **We've said it before and we'll say it again**

**The Payback team** led by Simon have done it again!

Their hard work has paid off as the church yard has never looked so neat and tidy.

Visitors have also remarked how everything looks so trim and well kept which is all down to Simon and his team. All of us at St Catherine's thank you for the marvellous job you all do.

*Valerie*



If you would like to support the work of the parish and the churches of St. Catherine and St. Francis, this QR code will take you to our 'Give A Little' donation page.

## The Priest in charge

REVD. MICHÈLE MARSHALL

The Rectory

24, Somerset Road, Linford

Stanford-le-Hope

Essex, SS17 0QA.

Telephone: 01375 671754

email: [mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk)

## The Usual Service Pattern

- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday's, 10am at St. Catherine's, Holy Communion
- ♦ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's, 10am at St. Catherine's, Family Service and at 4.30pm at St. Francis, a service of Café style Holy Communion.
- ♦ 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays a joint service with the Linford Methodist congregation

Wednesdays 10.00 a.m. at St. Francis 1<sup>st</sup> of the month Holy Communion,

other Wednesdays, Morning Prayer

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

## Our Churchwardens

CHRIS FORD T: 01375-675863

E:- [chris.pewtal@outlook.com](mailto:chris.pewtal@outlook.com)

LES SCHWAR T: 07758-461380

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T: 01375 675863

E: [pewtalk@talktalk.net](mailto:pewtalk@talktalk.net)

## St. Francis Centre

The centre is available for hire at very reasonable rates. To discuss availability please contact Sheila King at:-

[sheila.kingbookings@outlook.com](mailto:sheila.kingbookings@outlook.com)

## *Copy Dates for Pewtalk*

*22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025*

*19<sup>th</sup> September 2025*

*22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025*