

PEWTALK 40_P

December 2016



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

This year the Childrens' Society boxes raised £102.76. A magnificent sum. Thank you to all who contributed. Keep up the good work.

June Schroeder.

The boxes for the **Poppy Appeal** and the collection at Bata War Memorial raised a total of £79.

100 Club

The draw was made in church on November 6th and it was very much a home win for one of our Churchwardens Chris Ford. Remember that the big draw for £50 will be made at the Bazaar in St. Catherine's. Please come and support our principal fund raising event. You may be the big winner.

Shoebox Appeal

Sheila and I were delighted to be able to take 58 boxes to the Baptist Church in Billericay. A wonderful effort and our best ever parish total. I think we might have had more when the Primary School took part. If you have requested information on the box destination or the lucky recipient please let me know .

In the past I have received an E Mail which gave access to a video of children opening their boxes- lovely to see the happy faces of children receiving their gifts.

Norman

From time to time we have mentioned "Transformation Thurrock" in these pages. This is a grouping of Christian individuals and churches that are committed to seeing unity of our local churches leading to transformation and Christian revival in Thurrock. For several years it has been run on a shoestring through the tireless effort and commitment of Tim Harrold. It is also the driving force behind the weekly Thurrock Leaders prayer group which meets each Thursday morning in a different location each time. Recently, application was made to the charity commissioners to get charitable status and on 23rd November this was obtained after several attempts to get approval.

As this is the last edition of "Pewrtalk" of 2016, I would like to thank the various contributors and distributors for helping to make the regular production of the magazine possible. I hope that you have enjoyed reading it and hope and trust that interesting material will continue to come my way in 2017. But for now, on behalf of the congregations at St. Catherine's and St. Francis may I wish all our readers a very happy and meaningful Christmas and all the very best of health and happiness in 2017. If you would like to join in our Christmas celebrations the details of our services are on the inside back cover.....*Ed.*

Thoughts of your editor December 2016

***“So this is Christmas
And what have you done
Another year over
And a new one just begun”***

Well actually we are in the season of Advent. However, John Lennon's lyrics seem very appropriate for a time when it is suggested that, as Christians, we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and take time to reflect on our understanding of what he has done for us.

Lennon's song continues to wish that the world were a better place and to suggest ways in which, as a global society we fail to live up to the Christian values.

Recently I was talking with Pat Webb as we were helping with the Linford foodbank and she made the point that in all of the, fabulously expensive, Christmas advertising for the supermarkets and other stores none of them made any reference to the true meaning of Christmas. Instead of concentrating on the love that we should have for one another they simply encourage us to spend more and more on what, very often, can be meaningless gifts.

This disconnect between what Christians understand of Christmas when compared with the rest of Society resonates very much with me as I write this piece. Tomorrow I will be reading 1 Corinthians chapter 13 at the wedding of Marina and Gareth. I imagine that we all know the passage which speaks of the various aspects of love and the part that it should play in our lives. I guess that it is seen as advice to the wedding couple but in reality the Apostle Paul is reminding us all of the challenge of “love your enemy” and “love your neighbour as yourself”.

So what shall we do this Christmas? As the song says “I hope you have fun, the near and the dear ones, the old and the young” but as we join in the revelry let's not forget ***the reason for the season*** as the old saying goes.

Chris

UK solar panels generate more electricity than coal in the past 6 months!



Research by Carbon Brief found that solar generated nearly 7,000 gigawatt hours of electricity between April and September, about 10 per cent more than the 6,300GWh produced by coal during the same period.

The first ever day when solar produced more than coal was only on 9th April – when there was no coal-fired electricity for the first time since 1882. But then May became the first ever month when this happened.

This is fantastic to see for renewables and hopefully this will happen again next year during the summer months.

The Pilgrims Trail

When Norman and I are in Mallorca we always visit Lluc Monastery, high in the Sierra Tramuntana. After our journey on mountain roads with hairpin bends we arrive at this oasis of calm and tranquillity, except for the large car and coach park which is heaving with dozens of coaches and cars too many to count.

After a much needed coffee we venture off on the pilgrims trail, a beautiful walk with wonderful views and huge stone 'stations of the cross' on the way. Where are all the crowds? Certainly not here! This circular walk takes us back to the large sanctuary buildings with many facilities.

There is choir school, the children have wonderful outdoor facilities as well as music and formal education, the choir sings for the public in the Basilica each day.

There is also accommodation for 'Pilgrims' these are now modern units but you can still see where pilgrims used to stay with accommodation for their animals underneath.

Once back to inside this lovely building the words of the 'Pilgrims Friend' in Spanish, Italian, English and maybe more, are on the walls. I read this and am always moved by the words.

Sheila

Pilgrim Friend

Come to the shrine;
"Walk towards splendour
Your God walks with you".

Prepare your heart
and leave
with trust and joy,
alone or with your brothers,
but Come.

Walk in the footsteps of your
ancestors.

Whoever you may be,
in God's house there is a place
for you;
you have brothers to meet,
Saints to follow,
Mary to listen to
and the mysteries of the Church
to live.

If you thirst for joy peace and
justice,
if you thirst for love and
forgiveness

Come and drink the living water
from the fountain of salvation.

You who are young and full of
enthusiasm
or you who are ill and wretchedly
suffering,
you who are feeling
marginalised,
as well as you who are blessed
with a pleasant family life,
Come and be illuminated by the
light of the Gospel.

Go
and come back reconciled
comforted,

Proclaim the Good News
to your brothers:
God loves us
and awaits us.

Walk towards splendour;
your God walks with you.

News from the Linford Methodist Church

Greetings from all of us at Linford Methodist Church. November proved to be a busy month at our Church with a very successful Yippee Club plus Fireworks, busy Toddler Groups and our first attempt to turn one Sunday into Café Church. Café Church is where you sit and eat during the service and have as many cups of tea and coffee as you would like. Bob and I have taken our Grandchildren to their local Anglican Church where they hold Café Church every week in the church hall at the same time as communion service in the Church.

Siyon our youngest Church attendee was 1 year old at the beginning of the month and we had a fantastic feast after our service provided by his Mum and Dad, Shamila and Sujeeth. Can't wait for him to be 2.

The last Yippee Club for the year will be held on Thursday 1st December the theme will be Christmas. Also on Friday 2nd December we will be

holding a Messy Church, bit like Yippee but for all the family so Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers can come along get Messy doing crafts and then sit down to a meal together with all the children.

Toddler Group Parties will be on Tuesday 6th December and Thursday 8th December 9.30 – 12.00 for all regular members of the Group.

On Sunday 18th December we will be holding our Carol Service at 10.30 followed by a sit down cooked Christmas Dinner. All welcome but please let me know if you are coming as we may have to go and catch another Turkey.

We will be having a short service on Christmas Day at 10.00 followed by Carols at Merrie Loots, all welcome.

All the Church Family at Linford would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Marian

01375 851989 Email marian.kuyper@btconnect.com

Remembrance Sunday

Following a said service in Church Fr. Justin Hutcherson led the Remembrance Service at The Bata War Memorial. I'm told that it was well attended by our uniformed organisations including many very young people.

Sheila and I could not attend this year as we were on Holiday in France. It was interesting to see that all the village memorials had wreaths of flowers not poppies and red white and blue ribbons the national colours.

We were staying in a village which saw fighting in the great war and a small field where a 20 year old resistance fighter was shot in 1944. We paid a visit to the First World War Museum in Meaux . A very large museum featuring mock ups of the trenches, the very basic medical facilities etc. it was thought provoking and well worth visiting. Two particular things struck me. A banner saying the War to end all wars and lists of war since the Second World War Vietnam Bosnia Syria etc and remembering a man I worked with who always described the First World War as The Great War and said how could we expect a second such horrendous event less than 25 years later.

We must never forget.

Norman

Bishop Stephen visits the Deanery



The Church of England
Instructed and laic London
Diocese of Chelmsford

Bishop Stephen, the Bishop of Chelmsford met with the clergy and laity of the Thurrock deanery on Tuesday 15th November at St. Margaret's, Stanford le Hope to give the deanery the opportunity to discuss with him the progress of the "Transforming Presence" project.

Bishop Stephen opened by saying that our start point should be "What sort of church does GOD want us to be?". He explained that, with its emphasis on the parish, the Church of England was to be found everywhere and it ought to be a transforming presence. He continued by explaining that 5 years ago there was no plan as this was uncharted territory however some key thoughts have emerged. What does it mean to be a distinctive Christian presence inhabiting the world? How do we disciple? How do we serve with accountability so that we can appreciate progress being made. The need to re-imagine ministry. Above all we need to grow in discipleship.

He then went on to explain some of the issues in the Diocese and the actions taken to deal with some of them. New archdeacons had been appointed in an effort to provide more support to parishes and the annual visitation (the diocesan review of all parishes) has had its emphasis shifted more to spiritual progress. The "reader" ministry had been changed to one of "licensed lay ministry" which has increased the number of people coming forward. More folk are enrolling for the course of Christian studies and also for ordination.

However there is a looming problem with 50% of the clergy due to retire in the next few years. As there is no wish to close churches this has led to the formation of Mission and Ministry Units (MMUs). The idea behind the MMU is that a group of parishes come together to share their resources both ordained and lay so that they are better able to support both ministry and mission in the area that they cover.

During the meeting the Bishop took questions. He was asked whether there was money in the Dioceses to support parish initiatives. In his answer he explained that the only money that the Diocese has comes from the parishes and further said that the majority of parishes were subsidised by the few. However he did say that there were some funds available from other sources. He was also asked about support for parishes that did not accept women priests and he set out the Anglican position which allows for this situation. However he also went out of his way to thank the female clergy present for their invaluable contribution.

FROM THE NOVEMBER PCC MEETING

Our PCC met on Monday 21st November at St. Catherine's and a number of topics were dealt with.

The PCC had met with Bishop John, the acting Archdeacon, Mike Lodge, Canon Martin Wood, Darren Barlow and David Rollins on November 4th. The object of the meeting was to discuss how a new priest for the parish might be appointed. The plan, as outlined in last month's magazine, is that an Assistant Priest (House for Duty) should be appointed to live in the Rectory in Somerset Road with their primary focus being our parish. Fr. David Rollins would be appointed Priest in Charge of our parish and therefore be the responsible priest whilst keeping his position as Rector of the United Benefice of Corringham and Fobbing. Canon Wood outlined the process by which appointments are made and explained that, as a first step, we needed to set up a group of 4 or 5 representatives to meet with him and start the preparation of a Parish Profile. To this end the PCC nominated Chris, Colin, Sheila, Jan and Sue to meet with Canon Wood and Fr. David on the afternoon of the 29th November.

As part of the process of moving forward, Colin and Chris have been invited to a meeting with the benefice wardens in January.

Kim and Chris reported on the Deanery meeting with Bishop Stephen at St. Margaret's - see the report elsewhere in this edition of "Pewtalk".

In line with the Diocesan plans the Thurrock Deanery have been encouraging parishes to group together in "Mission and Ministry Units" (MMU). In the past we have held conversations with the local parishes to see to what extent we could work together. We have now been invited to join discussions with Corringham & Fobbing, Horndon, Bulphan & Orsett and Stanford le Hope to see what is possible. The PCC agreed this approach.

With regard to the various building matters, Norman reported that he had still not had the final account (excluding the retention) from Bakers as our architect was still dealing with some queries. It was agreed to go ahead with the re-roofing of the tower, to include some insulation, using grant money from the Listed places of worship fund). It was also agreed that St. Francis would be re-decorated internally between December 26th and January 6th. It was also agreed to see if a volunteer team could be found for the exterior.



Read the Christmas story
in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in heaven



a baby wrapped in cloths

and on earth peace,

sign to you: You will find

good will to all. A Saviour



a Messiah, the Lord. This will be a

has been born to you; He is the



Eastern star, white and bright,
In the darkness a shining light,
Points to Jesus, God's precious Son,
Our Lord and King, our Saviour has come!

Shepherds hear the Angels sing;
"Glory to the heavenly King,
Peace on earth, good will to all."
Come to Jesus the Saviour of all.



PARISH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



2 Dec	Christmas Bazaar preparations	7pm
3 Dec	Christmas Bazaar at St. Catherine's	10.30-2.30pm
4 Dec	2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT Family Service	10am
6 Dec	Bible Study at Linford Methodist Church	7pm
7 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
8 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
11 Dec	3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT Parish Communion	10am
14 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
15 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
18 Dec	4th SUNDAY of ADVENT Parish Communion	10am
	Service of Lessons and Carols	4pm
21 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
22 Dec	Foodbank at St Francis	11am - 1pm
24 Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE "Christingle" Service First Holy Communion of Christmas	4pm 11.30pm
25 Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY Parish Communion	10am
28 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
29 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
1 Jan	2nd SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS Family Service	10am
4 Jan	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
5 Jan	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm

FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

6 NOV Baptism of Amelia Rose Finch

WEDDINGS

26 Nov Wedding of Gareth Parker and Marina Keating



You are invited to our Christmas Services

Sunday, 18th December at St. Catherine's Church, East Tilbury Village at 4 p.m.

A traditional service of "Lessons and Carols" with the Gospel taken and before a glass of mulled wine and mince pie.

Tuesday, 20th December at the St. Francis Centre, Linford at 7.00 p.m.

A service of carols and readings followed by refreshments.

Saturday, 24th December (Christmas Eve) at St. Catherine's at 4 p.m.

Our usual "Worship Service" which is an opportunity for the children to hear the story of the Nativity and to take part in the creation of our Christmas stock. There is a moment during the service when the church is lit by the light of the Christmas longings and feelings of Christmas.

Saturday, 24th December (Christmas Eve) at St. Catherine's Church at 11.30 p.m.

Traditionally the first service of Holy Communion for Christmas when we can celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our God and His world here for year to year.

Christmas Day at St. Catherine's Church at 10.00 a.m.

A Christmas family communion service with carols.



Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an aeroplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was her reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?" "Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"

ST. CATHERINE'S

The Priest in Charge

The Parish is without a priest at the present time.

All enquiries should be made to Churchwarden, Chris Ford:

Telephone: 01375 675863

E-mail: warden.chris.stcatherines@tesco.net

The Services

Sunday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's
Except 1st 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: warden.chris.stcatherines@tesco.net

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E: warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com

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

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kathleen.bird@live.co.uk

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