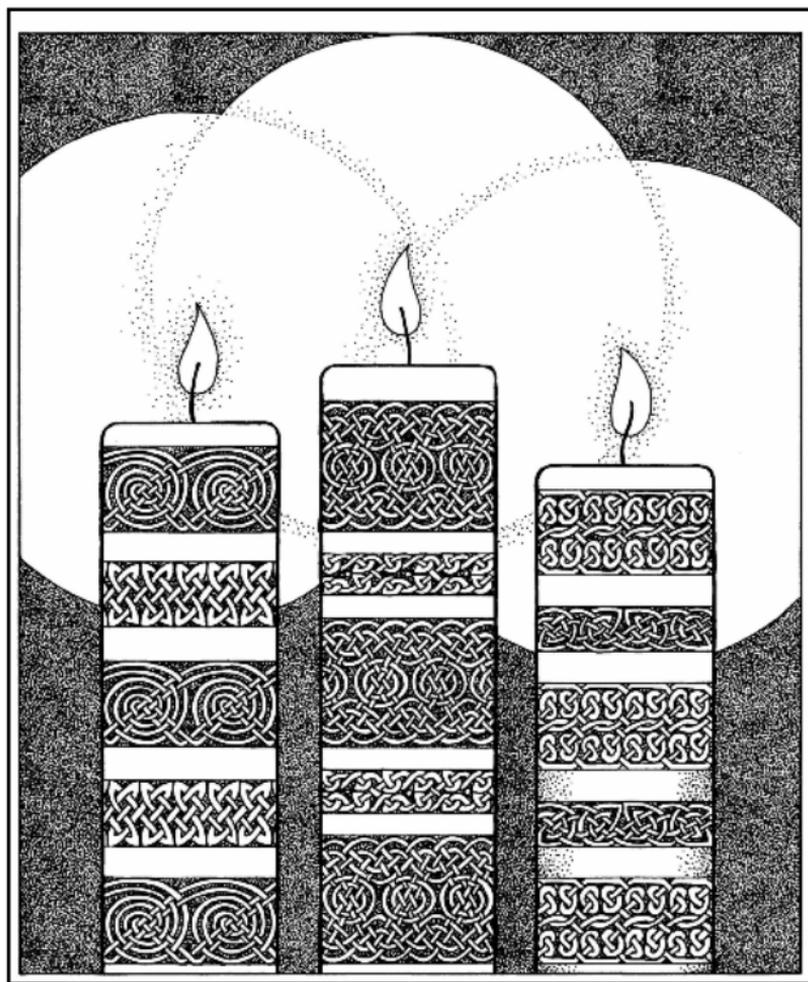


# *PEWTALK* 50<sub>P</sub>

December 2020



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

# BITs AnD PiECes

**PEWTALK** has been delayed this month as we waited to understand the implications of the end of "lock-down" and the start of "Tier 2" restrictions. You will read elsewhere that one of the affects is that we will not be able to have our usual Christmas services. However I would just like to thank all the contributors and distributors who do so much to bring our monthly parsh magazine out every month.

*Chris*

**100 Club** - The 100 Club winner was drawn by Kathy's grandson Richie at the November family service and the winner was Brenda Hall who is a long time subscriber to Pewtalk as well as the 100 club.

**The shoebox appeal** resulted in a total of 34 boxes that were delivered to the reception depot at Rayleigh Cricket club on 9<sup>th</sup> November. In addition enough cash was donated for a further 21 boxes giving a total of 55 Christmas boxes for overseas children. Thanks to all for a really special effort and Pam England for knitting over thirty sets of hats and gloves during the lockdown.

**From Valerie Schwarz;** a big thank you from Leslie and myself for everyone's prayers during Leslie's illness and a big thank you to Revd. Marshall for her visit as that strengthened his resolve no end and thank God he is now in remission and only

has a chemo maintenance injection every 8 weeks - thank you everyone....

**and Pat webb** would just like to thank everyone for buying tickets for her Xmas tree raffle and to say that it raised £80. She says that she is amazed and delighted by the response. *The raffle will be drawn at the Family Service on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Ed*

**Our Easyfundraising** efforts have been slowly growing over time. In the last 12 months (to September 2020 when we received the latest payment) £110 was raised in this way for parish funds. We now have a total of 14 supporters and November was particularly busy with around 100 donations with some £27 which will be part of the statement amount to be paid in February next year. To date the parish has benefited to the tune of some £720 which in these difficult times is very much appreciated.

**In the days before COVID** the churchwardens appointed for the year were "sworn in" at a special service known as the Archdeacons visitation during which they are officially welcomed as officers of the church. This year this was not possible and instead it fell to Revd. Michèle to perform the ceremony at the Family Service on 1<sup>st</sup> November during which Colin and Kathy were formally recognised.

## 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.**

## Reflections from The Rectory

Some weeks ago now I was called upon to provide some childcare for my grandson Charlie. As he came skipping out of school he proudly told me 'Nanny, I'm the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel in the Nativity and I've got to say,

**'Behold the star – see how it shines!'**

As you might imagine I was full of pride and offered my congratulations. But, I was also filled with sadness because this year I am extremely unlikely to receive an invitation to go and see said nativity play.



We are, of course, still in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic and so for all of us Christmas will look and feel very different this year.

Our preparations may feel slightly less joyous; there will be conversations to be had about who will be part of our 'Christmas Bubbles' and for those on furlough or in unemployment concerns over how Christmas will be paid for.

So perhaps a time of quiet preparation during the weeks of Advent is called for.

The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year. The word Advent comes from the Latin '*Adventus*' which means '*arrival*'. As we journey through advent we reflect on the *arrival* of the baby born in Bethlehem over 2000 years and the promised return of our Saviour Jesus at a time as yet unknown.



Every Sunday in Advent we light a new candle on the advent wreath. The lighting of the candles increase our sense of anticipation and we look forward to the 'Christlight', the white candle at the centre of the wreath, being lit on Christmas Morning. The circular greenery of the advent wreath is a reminder of God's never ending love for us. For many there may have been cause to ask 'where is God' in this year of pain and turmoil. For others the love of God has been their source of comfort and sustenance.

And in keeping with a quieter time of advent preparation and because of the social distancing regulations that are still in place for public worship we have had to change the normal pattern of services in December. We **will not** be able to hold our Carols and Candlelight Service, the Christingle Service or the mid-night communion.

But we will be having a Service of Readings and Music for Advent (Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm), a Crib Service (Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm) and an early evening Christmas Eve Holy Communion (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm). If you would like to attend any of these services you **MUST** book in advance as seating is limited. Please call me on 01375 671754 or email me on: [mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk)

Whatever you do this Christmas I hope it is a time of blessing for everyone. Gifts and presents are lovely but being together with loved ones, friends and family, in person, with the help of technology or though precious memories is what is really important. And let us all keep in our prayers those who have been affected by Covid-19, those who work in the

NHS and those in their care, the scientists working on the various vaccines and those in authority who make difficult decisions on our behalf in order to keep us safe.

**'Behold the star – see how it shines'**

May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas.



Every Blessing,

*Revd Michèle.*

**Remembering - Norman King**

November 11, the date on which The Great War officially ended has been the date for the whole country to remember those both in the armed forces and the many civilians who died in wars since 1918.

I remember in my early years services at St. Catherine's with men in black overcoats and hats and Mr. Dorton the leader of The East Tilbury British Legion Group laying the wreath and Mr. Clarke lowering the flag during the playing of the last post.

Remembrance services have continued ever since initially at the Church attending with the Sunday School children. In later years following the opening of the War Memorial at a service attended by all local dignitaries and great music played by the band of the Royal Marines. The remembrance act on the Sunday in November attended by local organisations has been in two parts starting correctly in St. Catherine's, often with the last post played by a soldier often a young man from the village, followed by a march from the Church to the War Memorial where we were met by residents and veterans including some from the Burma Star association.

Last year was for me particularly memorable as the number attending was a record with Local Councillors and so many young people from Scouts, Brownies, Rainbows, Linford Wanderers etc. attending and asking questions.

Of course this year has been different, watching the service at The Cenotaph and other programmes has been an effective remembrance but I am sure that like me we all look forward to meeting as a Community and taking part in a Service. We must never forget those who sacrificed so much to ensure our freedom.

*It was unfortunate that this year it was not possible to have the usual service of Remembrance at the Bata Memorial. Because of the very real risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, the Church of England, Thurrock Council and Essex police would not allow such events.*

## **Bishop Peter's Christmas message: The Difference of Christmas**

Because of the pandemic Christmas is going to be different this year and that will be so hard. As I write, we don't exactly know how, but it is likely that we won't be able to gather fully as families; no big parties and celebrations; our Christmas worship together will be limited. Added to that many more families than in recent years will struggle to buy Christmas presents or even put a Christmas dinner on the table.

Christmas 2020 will be different. Yet the truth is that the first Christmas was very different too. The heart of that difference was and remains that Christmas is for outsiders. Everyone gathered in that stable when Jesus was born was an outsider: the shepherds were outside the strict religious rules of the day because of their dirty job with the sheep; Joseph and Mary were in all probability marginalised because Mary was pregnant before marriage. And the Christ Child himself came from totally outside – from the glory of heaven to earth, to be born outside amidst the mess of our humanity. So if you feel an outsider as Christmas approaches, this same Jesus and his church is there for you and any others who feel isolated or neglected.

So however we celebrate this Christmas, the challenge is to make a difference to those amongst whom we live. If you truly want to make a difference this Christmas then:

- Mend a quarrel; apologise if you were wrong; forgive someone who has treated you badly.
- Give something away – anonymously.
- Help out at a foodbank
- If we are allowed to, visit someone who is lonely or in need, or e mail, or even write to them. Christmas cards and e mails are going to be so important this year.
- Tell someone who needs to hear it that you love them.

Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement. That is the Christian difference. But there is also something to receive at Christmas too: that gift is Christ himself. After the angel appeared to the shepherds, Luke says this:

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." And they did exactly that. However we celebrate Christmas this year we must, with the shepherds, once again go to Bethlehem and peek inside that stable door to see the wonder of all wonders – that the Almighty God loves us enough to come amongst us as a weak and vulnerable baby, born on the outside. A baby who grew up to die on a cross outside the city wall for our sins and rose mightily from the dead to give us hope for our futures.

God has left Jesus outside on the doorstep of all our lives. The question, as with all babies left on doorsteps, is who will open the door and take him in?

That is the difference of Christmas ....

## End of the Cruise Maritime Dream.

Like most of you I wear many hats. One of them is to manage the Tilbury Cruise Terminals Coffee Shop for the passengers of cruise ships and the terminal's staff.

I know we have some cruisers in our congregation and I thought you might like to catch up with the latest outcome for these loved ships, which have created many happy memories.

Unfortunately like many business's Coronavirus has brought the decline of the cruise company CMV.

Their ships, Astoria, Astor, Vasco Da Gama, Magellan and The Columbus have been docked at Tilbury since March.

The original crew have now been repatriated and the ships have a small skeleton crew servicing the ship's needs.

In September the UK Admiralty Court ordered the sale of the ships at auction.

The Columbus sold for \$5.321 million and then resold to Seajets, a Greek/Cypriot passenger and freight company sailing in the Aegean Sea. She is expected to leave Tilbury within the next week. I for one will miss seeing her as I drive towards Tilbury.



Seajets also bought The Magellan for £3.431 million and she has left Tilbury and is sailing to Gibraltar.

A new Portuguese cruise company Mystic Cruise bought The Vasco da Gama for \$10.187 million. They are building their fleet with the aim to rebound back after Coronavirus. She is still berthed in Tilbury but will leave us before Christmas

The Astor has been sold for \$1.7 million and unfortunately is due to be scrapped in Turkey.

The Astoria is a grand old lady, she was built in 1948, and has attracted attention because of her history. She collided with and sunk an Italian liner Andrea Doria in 1956. The Astoria is owned by a Portuguese bank and was chartered out to CMV and is not part of the auction.

I look forward to the time when cruise ships will once again sail into Tilbury Terminal, until then we are working very hard at The Seafarers Centre, wrapping Christmas presents to give to our hardworking seafarers this year.

*Kathy*

### Patricia Strong's scones

Having cooked scones for many years the normal way I then came across this different recipe and they are really nice and quick to do.

#### **You need:-**

- 3 Cups of self raising flour
- 1 Cup of double cream
- 1 Cup of Sprite or Lemonade



#### **Method:-**

1. Preheat oven to 200 °C or ( 400 °F )
2. You put the flour in large mixing bowl.
3. Add the cream and Lemonade and mix to combine everything.
4. Turn the mixture out onto a well floured board and knead with a little extra flour until smooth ( the mixture is very sticky initially.)
5. Use your hand to flatten the scone dough out to about 1 inch (2-3 cm) thick and cut into rounds with floured scone cutter
6. Place scones onto a lined baking tray so that they are just about touching and then bake for 15 to 20 minutes.
7. Scones are cooked when they are golden brown and easily pull apart where they are joined.

You can use sparkling water instead of Lemonade but you then need to just add a small amount of icing sugar. They are also good if you add fruit, or chocolate chips.

Good luck hope you enjoy them as much as we do.

*Patricia*

#### **And the story of mince pies**

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.



***WE know that Christmas has to be difficult and different this year but none the less we wish you a blessed time and all the very best for the New Year - and lets never forget the old slogan "JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON" .....Ed***

## FROM THE NOVEMBER PCC MEETING

Once again the PCC had to meet on 27<sup>th</sup> November using the "ZOOM" video conferencing software. Although this is not anything like the same as when we meet in person it did mean that everybody could be at the meeting.

As this was the first meeting since the ACPM there were a number of formal decisions that had to be made.

The following officers were appointed:-

Lay vice-chair: Chris Ford  
Secretary: Sheila King  
Treasurer: Norman King  
Electoral Roll Officer: Kathy Bird

Parish Safeguarding: Geraldine Riddles

Janice Fawsitt volunteered to "shadow" Kathy in her Electoral Roll Officer duties to find out what is involved.

It had been agreed at the ACPM to approach Peter Chandler to see if he would once again be our Independent Financial examine and Norman agreed to get in touch with him.

The Standing Committee (which exists to deal with urgent matters between PCC meetings) should consist of the parish clergy, wardens and two members of the PCC. In our case it was agreed as Revd. Michèle, Colin Strong, Kathy Bird, Norman King and Chris Ford.

The meeting agreed to continue to adopt the national and diocesan policy and practice guidance in relation to

safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Having dealt with formal matters the meeting went on to consider the implications of the government guidance for Tier 2 areas as Thurrock is now in this tier.

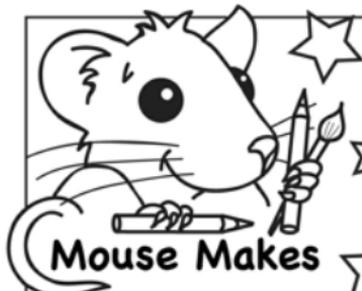
It was noted that public worship can resume and that weddings and funerals can also take place albeit with restrictions on numbers attending. It is also possible to continue to run the Linford distribution centre of the Thurrock foodbank in St. Francis. The regulations also allow for some youth activities to re-start including some that would use St. Francis.

The PCC decided that:-

1. Public worship would resume on Sundays at St. Catherine's from 6<sup>th</sup> December with two services on 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Because of the limitation on numbers people should pre-book their attendance with Revd. Michèle.

2. Because of the importance of the foodbank operation in St. Francis and in the expectation that it would be busier with unemployment rising and in the run up to Christmas, there would be no mid-week communion, community "drop in" or other activities. Revd. Michèle would advise the external users of this decision.

3. With the various restrictions that exist it would not be possible to have "Christingle", "Lessons and Carols" or Christmas Eve "Midnight" services.



# Mouse Makes

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

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

"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".*

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14



A picture to colour for Christmas. Colour in one star each day as you count down to Christmas!

### Norman Richard Coker 1927 - 2020 - by Paul Smith

Norman Coker was born in Grays on 27th January 1927. His enthusiasm for music started at a young age with his older siblings all playing the radiogram and their most treasured piece of furniture was a black upright piano.

His sister Lily was the only one allowed to touch it until Norman was seven years old, and his mother arranged for a lady to come round every Saturday to give him piano lessons.

Norman also loved drawing and began copying characters from his comics. He showed his drawings to his piano teacher who gave him some piano music with an ink drawing of Beethoven on the front cover. The following Saturday he showed his drawing to her and she advised his mother to enter him for Art College one day, which he did in due course.

During a birthday visit to St Paul's Cathedral with his parents Norman made a chance meeting with an artist who impressed him deeply with her work. The following year, in 1938, he watched The Cutty Sark sail down The Thames for the last time, with his brother Charlie, as it was being transferred to Greenhithe. His brother told him, "you will remember this all your life."

The outbreak of war interrupted Norman's piano practice and he moved to Glasgow with his family where he had no piano for two and a half years. Norman found employment working as part of a crew on board an old boat that conveyed pilots to and from their ships, moored outside The Clyde estuary. His boat had been built in 1909 and was sturdy enough to get him through the worst storm to hit the area in forty years. His skipper never left the wheelhouse as they rode out the storm, facing the wind and enormous waves for thirty six terrifying hours. One false turn would have capsized their boat. Norman went back to work again two days later.

In 1943 Norman returned to Grays with his family, and later joined The Irish Guards. He soon formed new friendships with other jazz musicians and resumed his piano lessons under Madame Gosnal, and later, from Norman Stenfalt. The acquaintances made through Norman Stenfalt gave him the confidence and kickstart to pursue his career professionally, and he accompanied many great performers from his jazz club in Thurrock.

He received the sad news that his brother Charlie was killed in action at the end of the war in Antwerp. Norman painted The Cutty Sark in full sail, in his memory. Every one of his paintings told a story.

Norman also showed his entrepreneurial side when he began his own window cleaning round in Grays High Street. He married his beloved Doreen in 1951, and together they had their bungalow built on land they purchased in Linford. Norman was the best of company and a stalwart supporter of his local community, and went on to run Basildon Golf Club.

He followed his musical and art passions with tremendous alacrity. He was the beating

**Cont. On the bottom of next page**



**As a result of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic there will be no public worship at St. Francis during December 2020. It is also not possible to have our usual Christmas "Christingle", Carol, or Midnight services this year. There are services planned for the Sundays leading up to Christmas but they will be subject to change if the COVID situation changes 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:-**

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

#### Occasional Offices during September

**Baptisms**

None

**Weddings**

None

**Committal of ashes**

None

**Funeral**

27 Nov      Lee Ceurvels at Basildon Crematorium

heart of the jazz scene locally and had built a reputation for playing smooth, sophisticated music. The Rembrandt Gallery in Amsterdam frequently commissioned his work and described him as a romantic impressionist. Norman also painted Princess Anne's favourite horse Doublet, as well as, a painting that he presented to Prince Charles. Both paintings are now in The Royal Collection and his art students also loved and respected him. They found him completely avuncular and joyful.

Norman Coker was the most engaging and charismatic, quintessential gentleman. He delighted everyone with his witty one liners and entertaining anecdotes. Norman also loved nature, his cats and dogs, and all other creatures. He will be deeply missed by his family and everyone who knew him.

*Norman Coker was a regular subscriber to PEWTALK for many years.....Ed*

# The Parish

## 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 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, Weddings or Funerals please contact the Priest in Charge.

## The Churchwarden

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

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

KATHY BIRD T: 07920 794716

E:- [warden.kathleenbird@yahoo.com](mailto:warden.kathleenbird@yahoo.com)

## Pastoral Assistant

David Gunn T: 01375 768202

## PEWTALK 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:

PATRICIA STRONG

[patricia.a.strong@outlook.com](mailto:patricia.a.strong@outlook.com)

## Copy Dates for Pewtalk

20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021