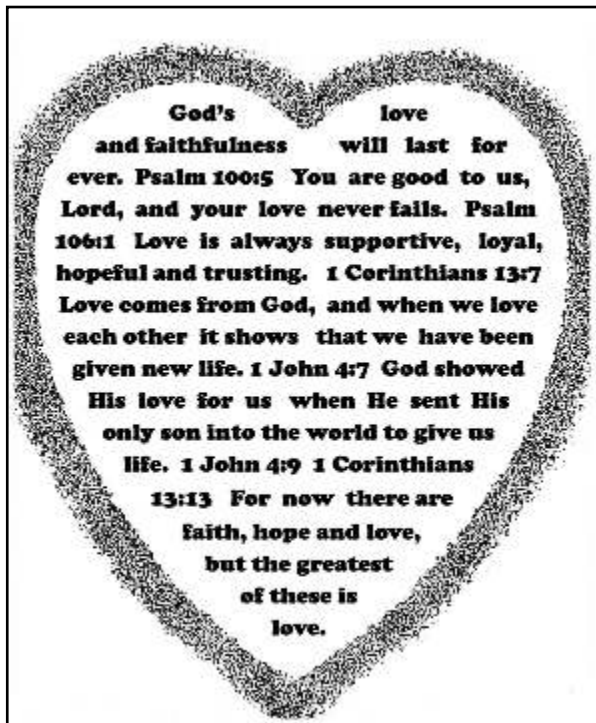


# PEWTALK 40<sub>P</sub>

February 2017



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

# BITs AnD PiECes

## **100 Club**

The first draw of the new year was made in Church on Sunday 8th and the winner was Chris Ford. Good to start with a home win.

*Norman*

**This Month our Bible Study** with our Linford Methodist friends at their church will be on February 21<sup>st</sup> and will be led by David Gunn. Everyone is welcome and we start at 8pm (a few minutes earlier for tea / coffee).

**Over the Christmas** break the St. Francis centre was completely re-decorated internally and our thanks are due to Mark and Rob who took such care of the fixtures, fittings and furniture while they were working there. The carpet has also been professionally cleaned and a new vacuum cleaner purchased.

**At St. Catherine's** the work completed in November 2015 has been formally inspected by the Architect and the wardens and the contractor, Bakers of Danbury, has been advised of the defects (or snags as they are known) that require attention. This work is now in hand.

The opportunity has also been taken to re-roof the Tower, incorporating some insulation at the same time - which is something that was not possible with the main roof. The gaps between the walls

of the porch and the main building are also to be repaired in the forthcoming weeks.

**It was a very sad day** when the East Tilbury Library was so badly damaged by fire not only putting it out of action as a Public Library but also destroying part of the collection of Bata Memorabilia much of it donated by members of the community. What was not initially understood was that the library also provided a place where residents could use the computers there to access the internet. For some this was the way that they carried out their "job searches" which is a requirement for them to continue to receive their benefits. Since the St. Francis Centre has a broadband connection a couple of elderly laptop computers have been made available on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and our Local Area Co-ordinator, Karen Dobson is making sure that those that need this facility are made aware that it is there.

**Shrove Tuesday** falls on the 28<sup>th</sup> February this year and we plan to have our annual Pancake Bonanza on that evening at St. Francis starting at 7pm. As it happens the 28<sup>th</sup> is precisely one year on from the re-dedication of St. Catherine's last year - so another reason to celebrate!

# Thoughts on the Interrugnum

Since Canon Paul retired at the end of August (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time) the parish has been in an interregnum - in other words without a Priest in Charge. However this doesn't mean that nothing is happening and all our services continue as normal including Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. We are very fortunate that the clergy in the Deanery have been more than willing to take services for us even over the Christmas season when they are all incredibly busy.

One of the unexpected benefits of this variety of ministers is that, as a congregation, we are able to experience many different approaches to worship even though we are still using the same service booklets that Canon Paul produced. The Church of England encompasses a wide range of understandings of the Christian faith with Anglo Catholics, Evangelicals, Charismatics etc. Each of these wings are represented amongst the Deanery's clergy and they each bring their particular "flavour" to our services.

Another great benefit is the way in which, in the absence of our own priest, we have to do far more for ourselves. We are fortunate that before he left us Canon Paul had encouraged us to play a bigger part in the life of the church. Today we not only have several members of the congregation helping with administering the chalice of wine at our services of Holy Communion but we also have six members of the congregation who are comfortable with leading our worship and one or two who are happy to give a talk at our monthly "Family" service.

This is all very encouraging and the annual statistics that we have to send to the Diocese each January show that the church is still very much alive in this situation.

Recently, Rev. Andy Hicks from North Stifford was preaching at our Wednesday morning communion service on the subject of spiritual gifts as written about in the letters of the Apostle Paul. He made the point that although we may not think of ourselves as "prophets" if you really look at the Old Testament ones, the majority of the time they were not predicting the future but simply encouraging the people. So lets be prophets in our parish and encourage one another during this interregnum

*Chris*

## **So that was Christmas - a New Year's begun!**

I love it that as I walk into my local Sainsbury's, the Christian faith is the first thing you see. From almost as soon as Christmas was over, opposite the entrance door, they have had a display of tray upon tray of Hot Cross Buns.



You can lament that traditionally they are really just a Good Friday delicacy intended to remember the day Jesus was crucified and died on the cross, or that if you ate hot cross buns every day from Christmas to Easter then it wouldn't be good for your health or your waistline, but there they are, the bun with the cross of Christ.

And they have another stack of them by the self-service tills, and loads more in the bread aisle. The instore bakery must be making hundreds if not thousands of them every day. Just think, Sainsbury's must make as many Cross of Christ buns as it has customers coming into the store. The Cross of Christ for every single person, Jesus loves us so much that he willingly died for everyone, whoever we are, whatever we've done, whatever our lives are like. Isn't that spot on the Christian gospel and Message?

And even better than that, Sainsbury's have another hot cross bun display where every bun has a name on it. The bakers at Sainsbury's will do a hot cross bun just for you, with your name on it – the Cross of Christ personally for you; Jesus loves you so much that he willingly died just for you, and for me too.

Just to be clear, I am not being sponsored by Sainsbury's to write this article! Asda, Morrisons, Tesco, Lidl and Aldi probably also have similar stacks. And you could make your own hot cross buns but let them do it for you, just as what Jesus did for us, loving us and forgiving us, he too did for you. The only difference is that, you have to pay for your Hot Cross bun at the supermarket. The love and forgiveness of Jesus is totally and completely free.

***I have no idea where this came from but I really liked it - Ed.***

## The Parish Christmas donations

As is our custom we made generous donations to Charity. Little Havens Hospice £116 Grays Town Band £80 and The Childrens' Society £100. The church congregation Christmas Card raised £40 for St. Luke's Hospice..

Christmas is a time for giving and remembering those less fortunate than others. There is a popular song "I wish it could be Christmas every day" that might be a bit much but it would be lovely to welcome more people to St Catherine's particularly for our Family Service on the first Sunday of the month.

### **St Valentine's Day**

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.



So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

## **It's that time of year**

So 2016 is behind us and the life of the church moves on. As we look forward to the season of Lent and all the celebrations at Easter we also have to remember the administration of the church. This year our annual meetings will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in St. Catherine's and the Area Dean, Canon Rev. Darren Barlow will be with us on this occasion. Our Treasurer, Norman, ably assisted by his wife Sheila are busy preparing the financial accounts for the auditor for presentation at the meeting.

There are in fact two meetings. One is a meeting for all parishioners to elect two Churchwardens and the other is for church members to hear the reports of the year's activities, to elect members of the Parochial Church Council and, this year, to elect two representatives to serve on the Deanery Synod.

In preparation for these meetings please:-

- \* Put the date in your diary
- \* Think and pray about nominations for Churchwarden, PCC member and Deanery Synod representative.
- \* If you want to be sure that you are entitled to vote at the second meeting check with Kathy Bird that you are on the parish's electoral roll.

But most of all please join us on the evening if you can.

*Chris Ford*

### **Our Churchyard**

Our ashes memorials in the churchyard are very nearly full and the PCC have applied to the diocese for a "faculty" for an area of the churchyard to be designated for the interment of ashes. On 24<sup>th</sup> January, Colin Strong met with members of the DAC, who deal with these matters, together with the Acting Archdeacon of Southend. They were supportive of the plans but commented on the fact that artificial flowers and other items that are not permitted in a churchyard were present. Colin explained that we allowed this purely at Christmas and that they would be removed in the near future. If you have artificial flowers or other items on a grave we would be grateful if you arrange for them to be removed as soon as possible. Thank you

# LA LA LAND

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WHIPLASH

## MOVIE MOMENTS

Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

### *'That's L.A. They worship everything and value nothing.'*

So says Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) as he walks through the Warner Brothers' back lot with Mia (Emma Stone) in the award-winning new film *La La Land*. These two star-crossed lovers, drawn together by their shared failures, develop a beautiful and beautifying relationship as they share their distinctive dreams for the future. He seeks to restore the popularity of jazz in a world of soulless commercial music. She seeks to restore the creative role of the actress in a world of formulaic soap operas.

But what choices will they have to make as they pursue their dreams? And what impact will this have on their lives?

The Times described this film as an *'intravenous shot of joy in the January darkness.'* And it certainly is that. But it is also more than that, as it raises questions about values and choices.

In one key scene Sebastian shows Mia how jazz musicians are spontaneous, with individual instruments suddenly taking the lead and driving the music in a different direction. In the same way, the film illustrates how life is messy as new opportunities take us in unexpected directions. But what are the core values that underpin the choices we make, and affect what we worship?



*La La Land* breaks the standard mould of formulaic movies. Instead of the customary three-act configuration where all is resolved in the final scenes, this has five parts – taking us beyond a conventional resolution. And the ending is deliberately enigmatic as we are left wondering about Sebastian and Mia's view of what could have been different if they had made other choices.

Whatever your perspective on life and love, *La La Land* is a bright and colourful musical extravaganza that will cause you to think about what we value and what we worship.

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.

**ETHOS  
MEDIA**.org

*La La Land* is in cinemas now, certificate 12A. Find screenings at [FindAnyFilm.com](http://FindAnyFilm.com)

FIND  
ANY  
FILM  
.COM



All times: All above board

## FROM THE JANUARY PCC MEETING

The PCC met for the first time in 2017 on January 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Catherine's church at 7.30pm.

Under "Matters Arising" it was noted that Kathy and Janice had both now led services. Chris and Colin reported on the meeting held with Martin Wood and David Rollins to discuss the procedure for the appointment of a "House for duty" associate priest to work in the parish. The next stage is for the PCC to produce a parish profile. Chris advised the committee that we now had a programmable thermostat to control the church heating and that the performance of the system was being constantly monitored as it did not seem to be meeting the agreed specification. It was noted that the Christmas Bazaar was a success both socially and financially. Colin briefed the meeting with the progress he is making with the faculty application for a new location for the burial of ashes.

Under "correspondence" it was noted that the quarterly marriage return for the Registrar had been dealt with and we had been reminded that the annual "Statistics for Mission" was due to be completed and sent to the Diocese. We had been advised that the Archdeacon Mina Smallman was retiring through ill

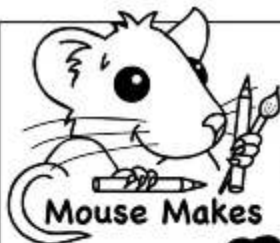
health and that Canon Mike Lodge had been appointed as Acting Archdeacon.

With regard to the work at St. Francis, the internal redecoration had been completed during which a small leak had been discovered in the heating pipework - this had been repaired by Chris. The electrical inspection had revealed several issues (none dangerous) and these are to be dealt with early in February. It was agreed to have the carpet professionally cleaned and to buy a new upright vacuum cleaner similar to that at St. Catherine's.

The Area Dean, Canon Darren Barlow had suggested that he would like to be present at the parish annual meetings. The suggested date of 20<sup>th</sup> April would have meant that Norman and Sheila could not be present. Subsequent to the meeting the date has been set for Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at St. Catherine's. It was noted that Chris would not be standing for the post of Churchwarden this year.

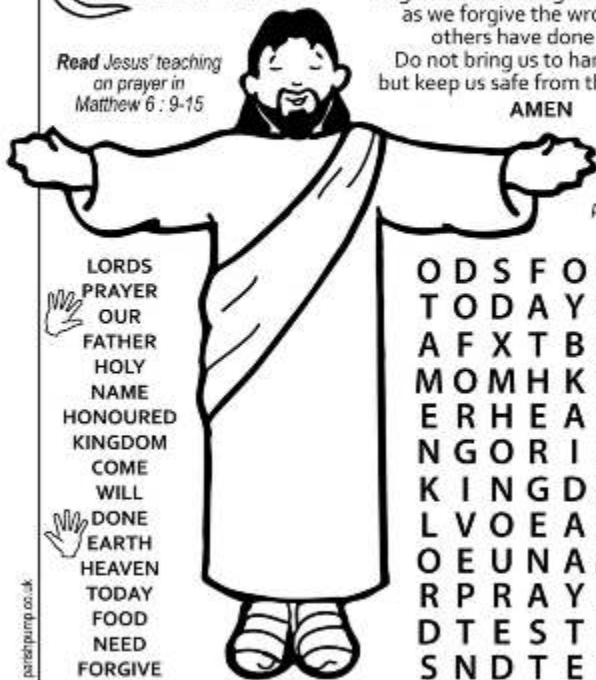
A meeting with the Architect had been held to produce a "snagging list" and this had been passed to Bakers for action. The re-roofing of the tower (with insulation) was on course and the heating performance is being discussed.





## Mouse Makes

Read Jesus' teaching  
on prayer in  
Matthew 6 : 9-15



## THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Father in heaven:  
May your holy name be honoured;  
may your Kingdom come;  
may your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.

Give us today the food we need.  
Forgive us the wrongs we have done,  
as we forgive the wrongs that  
others have done to us.

Do not bring us to hard testing,  
but keep us safe from the Evil One.

AMEN



Write a  
prayer of  
praise to God



LORDS  
PRAYER  
OUR  
FATHER  
HOLY  
NAME  
HONOURED  
KINGDOM  
COME  
WILL  
DONE  
EARTH  
HEAVEN  
TODAY  
FOOD  
NEED  
FORGIVE  
WRONGS  
TESTING  
SAFE  
EVIL  
AMEN

ODSFOODH  
TODAYGCW  
AFXTBPOR  
MOMHKVMO  
ERHEAVEN  
NGORISBG  
KINGDOMS  
LVOEARTH  
OEUNAMEO  
RPRAYERS  
DTESTING  
SNDTEHLF  
AEOTVOUR  
FENWILLD  
EDEHLYGR

Can you find all  
the words from  
the list in the  
wordsearch?





## PARISH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

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



|        |                                                                                    |                        |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Feb  | Holy Communion (St. Francis)<br>Drop In at St. Francis                             | 10am<br>10.30am - noon |
| 2 Feb  | Foodbank at St. Francis                                                            | 11am - 1pm             |
| 5 Feb  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before LENT</b><br><b>"The Family Service"</b><br>Baptism | 10am<br>2pm            |
| 8 Feb  | Holy Communion (St Francis)<br>Drop In at St Francis                               | 10am<br>10.30am - noon |
| 9 Feb  | Foodbank at St. Francis                                                            | 11am - 1pm             |
| 12 Feb | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before LENT</b><br><b>Parish Communion</b>                | 10am                   |
| 15 Feb | Holy Communion (St Francis)<br>Drop In at St Francis                               | 10am<br>10.30am - noon |
| 16 Feb | Foodbank at St Francis                                                             | 11am - 1pm             |
| 19 Feb | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before LENT</b><br><b>Parish Communion</b><br>Baptism     | 10am<br>2pm            |
| 20 Feb | PCC meeting at St. Catherine's                                                     | 7.30pm                 |
| 21 Feb | Bible study at Linford Methodist Church                                            | 8pm                    |
| 22 Feb | Holy Communion (St Francis)<br>Drop In at St Francis                               | 10am<br>10.30am - noon |
| 23 Feb | Foodbank at St. Francis                                                            | 11am - 1pm             |
| 26 Feb | <b>Sunday next before LENT</b><br><b>Parish Communion</b>                          | 10am                   |
| 28 Feb | Pancakes at St. Francis (eat what you like!)<br>Drop In at St Francis              | 7pm<br>10.30am - noon  |
| 1 Mar  | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>                                                               |                        |

## FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

15<sup>th</sup> January Paige Danielle Morter

### Secret Santa

I belong to Linford Ladies - there are about 30 of us - and one of our Christmas "things" is to have a Secret Santa. We each draw the name of a fellow member and buy that person a present. We then give out the presents at a meeting before Christmas.

I did not open my Secret Santa present until Christmas Day and I have to say that it was one of the best presents I have ever had. In fact, at our very first meeting in January, I stood up, asked for a bit of hush so I could thank whoever was the donor by saying that it was one of the best presents I have ever had and added "I shall use it every day, I shall

share it every day and, in the words of Sir Terry Wogan when he signed off on his last broadcast 'Thank you for being my friend'. In fact, thank you all for being my friend."

What was this wonderful gift? It was simply "The Friendship Book. A thought for each day 2017." I do use it every day by reading out that day's "thought" aloud - so I do share it with my husband Pat. So again, "thank you for being my friend and, of course, thank all you readers for being my friend."

*Valerie Doyle*

## PANCAKE NIGHT

28<sup>th</sup> February 7pm

at the St. Francis Centre

(corner of Lower Crescent and Somerset road, Linford)

COME AND JOIN US ON  
"SHROVE TUESDAY"  
FOR PANCAKES AND FUN - EVERYONE  
WELCOME

EAT AS MANY AS YOU  
CAN FOR A SMALL DONATION

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month when we have  
"The Family Service"

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

## Churchwarden

CHRIS FORD T: 01375 675863

E: 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

07920 794716

kathleen.bird@live.co.uk

## Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road  
Linford

Stanford le Hope  
SS17 0PU

Tel: 01375 675863

e-mail: pewtalk@talktalk.net

*Copy Dates for Pewtalk*

*20<sup>th</sup> February 2017*

*20<sup>th</sup> March 2017*

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