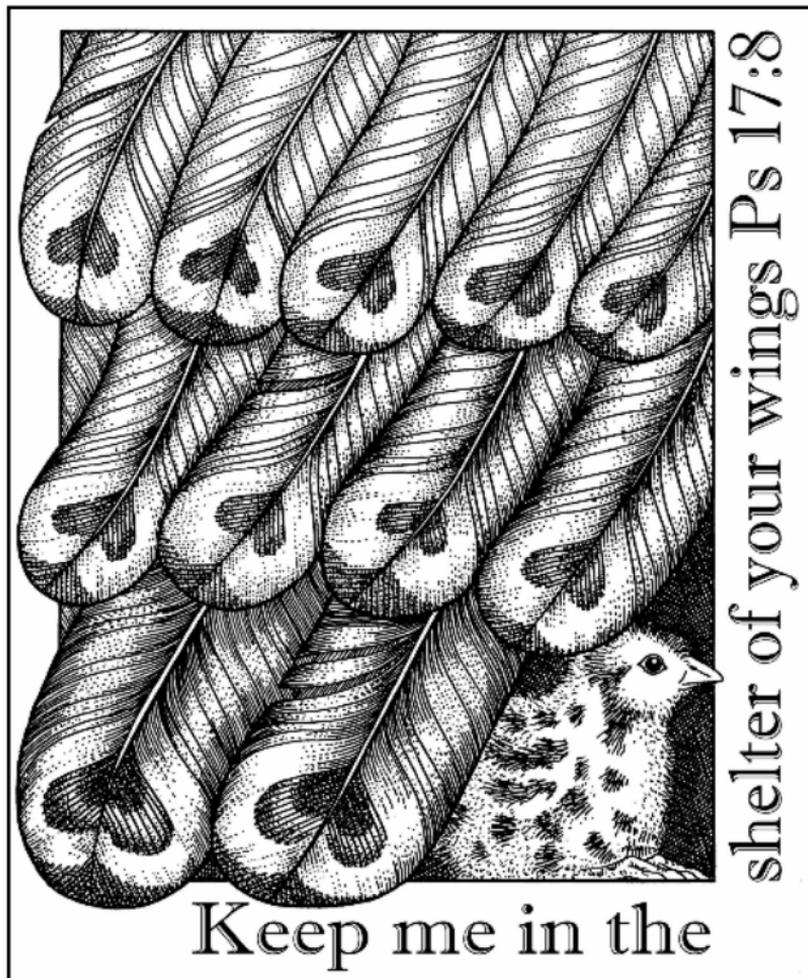


PEWTALK 50_P

February 2021



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiEces

My apologies for the delay in producing this edition of PEWTALK but we wanted to get the most up-to-date information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on worship at St. Catherine's. However, at the time of writing things are still not totally clear and much will depend on viral transmission rates.

100 Club - In a similar fashion the corona virus has disrupted our usual schedule for the 100 club draw. The usual number of draws will take place and hopefully we will be able to record two lucky winners next month.

Fairtrade fortnight - 22nd February to 7th March - It has been a terrible year for farmers and workers in the global south.

In 2020, on top of the pandemic, they had to deal with the growing impact of climate change: more droughts and crop disease, locusts, floods, fires, and heatwaves. No wonder their harvests were shrinking.

Yet with the help of Fairtrade, many of these producers of food, drinks and cottons can be equipped to meet more everyday needs, and to deal with the challenges facing them.

So this month, why not visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and see how you can send some support.

The Thurrock foodbank continues to be very busy during this current lock-down. At St. Francis we increased our stock of food to be available for distribution by a third just before Christmas to ensure that we could meet the need. Even then there have been some weeks when we have nearly run out of our stock. In the year 2020 the Thurrock foodbank fed a total of 8,274 people of which 3,691 were children. The crises that led people to seek help were caused by a variety of issues including difficulties with benefits, debt, delayed wages, homelessness and sickness. All the clients that we meet at St. Francis are just so grateful for the help that they receive which is provided by the generosity of residents of Thurrock.

Church Action on Poverty - Sunday 21st February - This month you can join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action, on behalf of those who are struggling with poverty. Society should be "founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power," says Church Action on Poverty.

For free resources to encourage prayer and fund-raising, go to: www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/.

Pray with Granny

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, Granny?"



Reflections from The Rectory

"February brings hope for spring, a longing for love, and a chance to say goodbye to all the pain pecking in your heart due to the cold old days."

I'm not sure to whom this quote is attributed but I rather like it and think it holds much truth. I for one am always so relieved when we reach the end of January for it is always such a long, cold, grey and miserable month that must be endured. This January we have also had the additional stress and strain of being in lockdown number 3.

So welcome February we are very pleased to see you! For as we make our way through the coming weeks the mornings and evenings get increasingly lighter, we will hear the bird song return to our gardens and witness the emerging early spring flowers. Hope is strengthened with every new green shoot that appears and every bud that opens.

And regards the Coronavirus pandemic there is hope here too. For by the time you read this edition of Pewtalk a great many of you will already have received your first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. The vaccination roll out programme has been nothing short of a miracle and there are so many people working exceptionally hard to ensure our well-being. Specially constructed vaccination centres, GP surgeries and local pharmacies are all playing their part. The vaccination centre that I attended (normally a Racecourse) was overseen by the Army and so as you might imagine run with military precision. And by way of encouragement for those of you who maybe fearful of such things my vaccination was painless, had minimal side effects and truly put a spring in my step. Soon, we will return to a life we once knew.

So February bids us look forward. In the church on the 2nd February we bid farewell to Christmas and Epiphany and look ahead to the weeks of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

At the moment I am not sure what services and events we will be able to have during Lent and the Easter season. We are 'following the science' as they say and when we feel it is safe to resume public worship and Sunday morning services we will do so. At present we feel it is wise to be cautious. The rates of infection in Thurrock are coming down which is excellent news and we hope to be able to have St. Catherine's open for private prayer on Ash Wednesday (17th February) and the Sunday afternoons thereafter during the weeks of Lent. The details of services and church opening times will be in the weekly newsletter and on the website so please keep checking. When St Catherine's is open do please come and use the beautiful and sacred space to be calm and still for a while.

So, I hope like me, you will enjoy February looking ahead to brighter, warmer days and the signs of hope that will emerge and unfold all around us.

“February brings hope for spring, a longing for love, and a chance to say goodbye to all the pain pecking in your heart due to the cold old days.”

Take care and stay safe.

Every blessing to you all,

Revd Michèle.

Do me a favour? - by David Pickup, a solicitor

I just had an email from a clergyman, saying, “Hi” and asking me to do him “a favor”. I replied to say yes, of course. I then began to wonder why he had not said what sort of favour it was, and why he was asking me.

I decided to telephone him and find why he had not explained. His wife answered and said: “Is it about the fake email?” I could tell from her tone of voice that I was not the first caller.

This was a scam of some sort and probably the favour was to send money. The same day someone else in the same parish had their accounts hacked. The email addresses used were correct, but if had looked carefully I would have noticed he would not spell “favour” like that and not say “hi”.

This all makes me quite cross, because these scammers are playing on church members’ kindness. A friend of mine also got the email and was upset that someone else was in trouble. We need to be aware of the risks and look out for messages of any kind which seem strange.

Criminals target churches and pretend to send emails from people in authority such as clergy, churchwardens or treasurers. They prey on our credulity and charity.

What should we do?

If you get a telephone call or email and you are not sure if it is genuine, use another form of communication to check.

It is a crime, so report it to the authorities. If it is connected to a church, tell your diocese or governing body.

The scammers must have got these addresses from somewhere. How easy would it be to get a list of the names and addresses of your minister, leaders and treasurer?

Lastly, carry on being generous and kind. These scammers should not stop us.

*One or two of our congregation have had similar e-mails purporting to come from Revd. Michèle so this is a timely reminder to think carefully if / when an unexpected message arrives in our in-box.....**Ed***

Norman's latest thoughts on "lockdown"

The second or is it perhaps the third lockdown has been extremely challenging. In the Spring we could enjoy the sunshine whilst working in the garden or walking, in our case round the estate or at Hyde Hall / Coalhouse Fort/ Concord Beach Canvey Island or our favourite Heybridge Basin. We could also eat lunch outside or socially distanced at Restaurants such as The Peterboat in Leigh on Sea.

The latest lockdown has presented different challenges. During the first one I sorted out the book shelves (not that they would be on TV or that I thought that Geraldine and Alan would need stock for the Christmas Market) but I had decided that it was a job that needed doing. The additional second/third lockdown problem is that most of the essential jobs have been done.

Sheila originally from Yorkshire has lived in Essex for nearly 50 years. She quickly recovered from the inevitable gnat bites and coping with different accents but she has recently suffered from me telling her about the early days in the locality and she thought that I should spread the suffering.

Until I was 11 years old the vast majority of my time was spent on the Bata Estate. Bata Preparatory School, playing football and cricket in Queen Elizabeth Avenue or behind the Hotel, tennis on the courts opposite the Nook Cafe (Now The Boulevards) or the swimming pool just off the roundabout. I was very keen on cycling and as well doing errands to the five or six Bata Shops.

I remember Mr. Speight the grocer, Dolly Tuck in the post office and the butcher Mr. Wilson? (Hope that the name is correct he was Mrs. Firsov / Margery's Dad) and Vic Coker in the snack bar with a juke box. Just round the corner was the barber Mr. Walden (Uncle George) who cut my hair initially whilst I sat still on a board.

I was always interested in sport and regularly watched football and cricket matches on the Sports Field. Excited when West Ham visited with many first team players and Pakistani test cricketers including Khalid Hassan (a student at the Bata college with John Blackbond) played for Bata.



Things changed when at 11 I had to travel to Grays for school. On the train at 7.40 the journey via Low Street Station and Tilbury Riverside was over 30 minutes, we waited for ages while the engine was turned round. When I was older I could get to school quicker on my bike. From the train I loved seeing the ships in Tilbury Stratheden, Orcades, Orion, Castle Line and Swedish Lloyd specials. Many people including a few from East Tilbury were £10 Poms going to Australia and when they left tears were shed as "Now is the Hour was played". I did get the England cricketers' autographs when they sailed in 1954 on the Orsova for the Ashes series which they won.

Grays has changed massively over the years and I have bored Sheila by telling her how when I was going to school Grays was a busy little town with established local shops. In the High Street Westwood Gentlemen's Outfitter, Gurnett the jeweller, Noads Records and TV, Marks and Murray Baker, Bastiani Ice Cream and more. The other side of the railway line just past the Church were Joyes (Clothing) and Horncastle (Dept. Store) and the slightly up market Ffrenchs Restaurant.

There were three cinemas "The State" which had a marvellous organ and has been featured on TV and in films, "The Ritz" and "The Regal". I remember when "The Regal" was showing a film featuring "rock and roll" groups popular in the 50s. I was sitting with boys from school and we were tapping / stamping our feet in rhythm whilst holding the back of the seats in front. The row of seats collapsed and we were thrown out.

A Positivity poem during lockdown by

Callum Potticary-Crickmay

I'll start this day with a simple list,
Of things in my life that I simply cannot resist

My favourite activities make me smile,
So I'll share them with the people I love,
But just for a while

We'll go for a bike ride to the park,
Where we laugh at the dogs that chase us
with a bark

We'll watch a funny film and eat some
sweets
while the fire glows and warms our feet

We'll go for a walk come rain or shine,
Wearing our sunglasses you'll hear no
whine,
In the rain I'll wear my mack,
when I go to meet my best friend Jack

I'll play my Nintendo Fortnite Game,
Friends and I make a squad where we try
and find Fame,
We battle together right to the end
Winners or not on each other we depend

These might seem silly to some,
but happy they make me become!

Life needs more Smiles
So grab them where you can
As you navigate life's trials!

This poem was written by Callum (who sometimes joined us at St. Francis on a Wednesday morning with his mum, Vikki) for a school project on positivity.Ed.

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.

Geraldine Riddles - my "lockdown"

I know a lot of us have changed since Covid first hit us. For those that may remember me before all this started, I was a bit heavier than I was happy with. I was a size 16 - there I've said it. I should be 14 or 14-16 to be happy and was gearing up to do something about it. Boom; "lockdown" hit and with my new mixer the cakes kept coming, but who was there to keep eating them? Yes, you've got it, me and my husband. Oh yes, Alan was very happy, he was in his element just loving this new way of life. I usually avoid cake making for the obvious reason, I like eating homemade cakes. So, no weight loss here, just gains.



Next came my broken ankle, and thanks to Sue "A" and a borrowed chair for the bath, with help from Alan, I was able to manoeuvre myself, picture it if you must, into the bath for a shower, and that could not have happened without my elephant's condom. Thank you, Amazon.

There I was grounded, not able to walk for some time, then when the D.V.T. was finally diagnosed, I had to have my feet up so much of the time. Even now I am at hobbling pace and the D.V.T. side of it tells my foot it needs putting up. So now I am like the size of an elephant, let alone his condom. Thanks to Amazon again I have been wearing some desirable tents and dresses. I can now get my crocs on, although not very elegant to go out in with my cut off bed socks and my 'fashion statement' dress. So, this is where I am at for now, and it looks like for some time, going by how my ankle feels, although I am doing my exercises that after my 'phone call appointment from the physio had been emailed to me.

Unfortunately, it didn't stop there, when I rested my crutch against the bath while I was at the sink, I stepped back on the lower half of my crutch and ended up with a broken foot, to go alongside my broken ankle. My mother always told me I was accident prone; I now totally agree with her!

A couple of days after the first crutch incident, I had rested my crutch against the sofa, I should have known better, well I tripped over it, got caught up with my light box (for SAD) and its cables and thought, I'm going down and there is nothing I can do about it. Well, there was, because you can make decisions in nanoseconds if you think it will be a better outcome, and I did just that. Somehow, I managed to steer myself away from the waste paper basket where I was heading, which was of course very handily near our chairs for all the chocolate wrappers etc. and face planted my chair instead, for which I was so very pleased with myself and eternally grateful. Well, the outcome of this was a wound, thankfully that was on the other leg. Unfortunately, although my husband and I did our best in treating it, I ended up with a badly infected leg, so I guess you can imagine what came next, out came the elephant's condom again.

So, as I was saying the person I was, to look at that is, no longer exists. My light brown bob with a fringe has long disappeared and turned into these long grey rats tails with no

fringe. I am hoping it will catch on and I will see a few more people looking a bit like myself!

As usual I had bought in so much stuff for Christmas, far too many goodies than needed of course, all ready for the allowed number of family, duly self-isolated so that they would all be safe with us in a socially distanced kind of way. Wrong, but that's fine, I didn't disagree with that, but that left me with so many boxes of sweets, cakes, double cream, Bailey's cream and thick brandy cream for the enormous Christmas pudding and two Christmas cakes. I had every vegetable under the sun and every item of salad and exotic cheeses, but what I did not have was meat or a turkey. That was all being organised and cooked in advance by my lovely daughter's in laws. I had no more shopping deliveries, so the big swap began.

My daughter hired a car to drive from London to pick up and drop presents and most importantly to bring us a turkey crown (they had ordered two) or we were going to have to become Christmas vegetarians. I was able to give away the double cream and some cheeses and a bit of veg, because they had managed to get their own. We still have loads of potatoes left and I keep forgetting to make soup with all the carrots that are gradually wilting in the fridge. The outcome of all this meant, we have had to eat all the boxes of chocolates, chocolate oranges, boxes of biscuits, box of Bailey's chocolates, which I must say were absolutely delicious, well except one that had almonds in it and tasted like marzipan, which I absolutely hate. The question is, do I spit it out or ride the storm. By the time I kept "umming" and "aaring" it was finished, so I said to Alan to make sure he ate the other one, as he loves marzipan, yuk!

So here we are, me feeling like a bloated elephant trying to hobble around and do my chores, until I get the message to sit down of course, treatment for D.V.T. is ongoing.

Just another little thought, I don't know if any of you watch Gavin and Stacey, well my family always have a laugh together and say that I am just like Pam (the matriarchal mum). After watching a few episodes, I had to admit, yes, that is me. (not to look at of course) apparently even my granddaughter when watching it has said, 'that is so nan'.

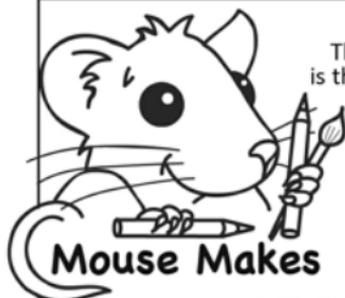
National Nestbox week

Our birds are short of nesting holes, and no wonder: gardens, parks and woodland are much neater than they used to be, and modern homes offer few crannies for nest building

National Nestbox Week, which is celebrated from 14th February each year, aims to encourage us to put up more nestboxes, and to consider planting shrubs or trees with fruit that birds eat. These can make all the difference to birds struggling to survive, especially blue tits, great tits, house sparrows, robins and starlings.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) offers a variety of ideas for building and placing nestboxes. Go to: <https://www.nestboxweek.com>





WHAT AM I?

The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next

E _ _ _ H

- What two things did God create first? *Genesis 1:1*

_ _ S _ _

- What was the Earth without? *Genesis 1:2*
- What came before morning? *Gen 1:5*

_ _ _ _ G

- Who is the creator? *Genesis 1:1*
- What was separated from light? *Gen 1:4*

_ _ _ _

- Which day did God finish work? *Gen 2:2*
- Who was created God's image? *Gen 1:27*

_ _ _ H _ _

- Who moved over the water? *Gen 1:2*

L _ _ _ _ S



By the **seventh** day God finished the work He had been doing. God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments the **forth commandment** said to *remember* the seventh Sabbath day, to *keep it holy* and set apart for God.



DID YOU KNOW?

The first word of the Old Testament in Hebrew is **bereshith** which means "in the beginning". The Greeks translated this word as **GENESIS** which means *creation, origin and generation*



FIND THE CREATION PAIRS
from *Genesis 1 and 2*

EARTH	MORNING
LIGHT	FRUIT
DAYS	SEA
TREES	NIGHT
LAND	FISH
EVENING	YEARS
ADAM	HEAVENS
DAY	DARK
BIRDS	WATER
SKY	EVE

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

Can you find these words in the word search?
GOD • HEAVEN • SPIRIT
FLY • DEEP • EARTH
DARK • DAY • LIGHT
NIGHT • STARS • SKY
SEA • LAND • BIRD
CREATURE • HUMAN
TREE • PLANT • SEEDS
FRUIT • GOOD • TWO





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



As a result of the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic there will be no public worship at St. Francis for the time being as we dedicate the premises to the foodbank distribution centre. It has also been decided not to have our usual services at St. Catherine's for the time being, as we attempt to minimise the risk of virus transmission. However we hope that at some point in February private prayer may be possible. The church is however still available for funerals (at the time of writing). 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)

Climate change has increased disasters

Climate change is largely to blame for the huge rise in natural disasters between the years 2000 to 2019. So says a recent report from the United Nations office for disaster risk reduction.

It goes on to warn that the earth is rapidly becoming "uninhabitable" to millions of people worldwide. Three quarters of a billion *more* people were hit by catastrophic events of nature over the past two decades than were affected in the preceding 20 years (1980 to 1999).

The UN report calls humanity "wilfully destructive" and says that too many governments have failed to take the threat of climate change seriously.

"It is baffling that we willingly and knowingly continue to sow the seeds of our own destruction, despite the science and evidence that we are turning our home into an unimaginable hell for millions of people."

Climate related disasters numbered 3656 during the period 1980-1999. This doubled to become 6681 in the period 2000-2019. Floods and storms have been the most common events.

2020 was not included in the data, but it saw one of the most active fire and hurricane seasons the US has ever experienced, as well as significant flooding in Asia.

Occasional Offices during January

Baptisms

None

Weddings

None

Committal of ashes

None

Funeral

None

Church Warden's Report

Dear friends, Coronavirus and Lockdown has given me a slow introduction and responsibility into the role of one of your church wardens.

Thank you Michele, Colin, Chris and Kim for their support and guidance.

My aim is to let you know any updates on the 'work behind the scenes'.

We visit the church regularly to monitor its security, which gives me the opportunity to tweak the Christmas flowers, which are still in good condition and provide a splash of colour in church. One mouse met its demise and has been disposed of by Chris, we smelt it before we found it !!!!

Michele has been involved in a Leadership Programme and was asked to invite 2/3 members of the church team to join in a zoom meeting on 19th January 2021. We had the opportunity to join a 10.00 or 19.30 meeting, I requested the 10.00 time if I had to use my brain.

Chris and I were free to join Michele in the meeting, which gave us the opportunity to brainstorm future parish projects. More will be revealed at a later date.

We have also received an email advising us that 2021 Southend Archdeaconry Visitation Service dates are available. It is hoped they will go ahead in July and dates are available to be booked for Clergy and Church Wardens.

Wishing you all good health, stay safe and look forward to seeing you back in church very soon.

With blessings

Kathy

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

The Services - *when not under COVID measures*

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, Weddings or Funerals please contact the Priest in Charge.

The Churchwarden

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E:- warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com

KATHY BIRD T: 07920 794716

E:- 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

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

22nd February 2021

24th March 2021

24th April 2021