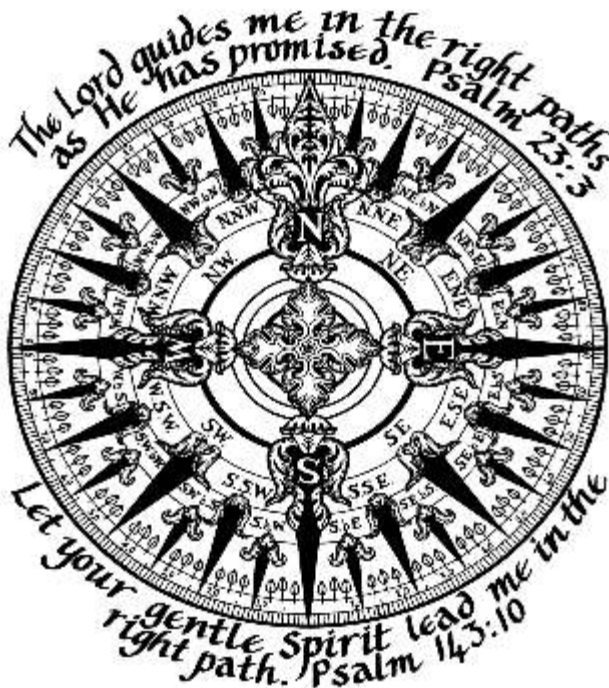


PEWTALK 50_P

January 2018



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES

100 Club

The big Christmas draw took place in St. Catherines' on Sunday December 9th. The Revd. Barry Johnson made the draw and the winner of the £50 was Joan Dighton. Joan has not been well so we hope that the win heralds a happy and Healthy 2018.

Christmas Card

For the last few years a number of the members of our congregation have signed a large Christmas Card at St. Catherines and made a donation to St. Lukes Hospice. This year I managed to lose the card and I was a bit late mentioning the card in the Notices at the end of the service. If you didn't receive the expected card please accept my apologies. We have at the moment received a number of donations including those from Pam England Janice and Neil Fawsitt John and Carol Bell and Sheila and I. At the time of writing £60 has been raised.

Norman

During the month of December two of our church family passed away. The funerals of both Dorothy "Dot" Colbert and Alan Painter will be taken by Canon Paul Robinson on January 4th. Alan's is at 10.45am in St. Catherine's and Dorothy's is at 2.40pm at the Pitsea Crematorium. Pam Painter has asked that, if you are attending Alan's funeral, she would like you to include some colour in your outfit.

Colin Strong has been working very hard to ensure that our normal pattern of services continues during the interregnum. This is proving more and

more difficult as the number of available priests is reducing. He is to be congratulated on getting complete Christmas cover with Tara Frankland leading our Christingle service, Peter Rabin celebrating at our Christmas Eve "Midnight" communion and the Archdeacon of Southend presiding on Christmas morning. He has also secured "cover" for all of our services in January and February and is now busy with sorting things for March.

This month's highlighted "scam" concerns an apparent telephone call from Her Majesty's Customs and Excise advising that:-

"This is Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs. We have been trying to reach you to let you know we are filing a law suit against you."

The message is then said to provide a list of options, such as: "To speak to your case officer, press one".

It is important to understand that there is no way that this would be the first contact from H M C & E so just hang up and ignore the call. **IT IS A SCAM!**

The Thurrock Foodbank warehouse is currently generally well supplied as a result of the recent Tesco supermarket collection and a number of significant Christmas donations. They also expect a further amount of cash and food as a result of the "Advent calendar" initiative. It is expected that during the rest of the winter, with the Universal Benefit changes, these stocks will be needed. The foodbank project team are very grateful for the donations received.



Bishop Stephen's New Year Message 2018

We used to measure time by the rising and setting of the sun and by the cycle of the moon. All this was apparent to the naked eye and needed little additional calculation. We called these days and months.

Then we observed the movement of the sun, and added years: and then, at some point, hours and minutes; and then named the days and months and numbered the years; and then clocks and calendars and, eventually, the pulsating throb of the mobile phone in your pocket telling you your next appointment is due and mapping all that you will do today, tomorrow and until you are no more. No wonder a wise African bishop asked why it is that we in the west have all the clocks, but they in Africa have all the time. We have become imprisoned by precision. Every moment is accounted for.

So Happy New Year! Happy new turning of the chapter from last year to this year. In one sense it is just another rising of the sun; but it is also an invitation to reflect.

How will I measure this New Year?

How will I measure my life?

Will it be by days and months? Or will it be by what I do in them and what I achieve? Or will it be by the love and generosity with which I do these things and inhabit these days?

So this is my prayer for the New Year: O Lord, teach me to measure my life in something other than years. Amen.

Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell
Bishop of Chelmsford



Thurrock Fostering have recently launched the 'Make a Difference' campaign because there is still a great need for more people to come forward and find out about fostering.

Do you think you could 'Make a Difference'?

Thurrock fostering are looking for people that could make a positive difference to a child's life – if you think that could be you, please get in touch with them to request an information pack:

They have a number of Drop in Sessions coming up soon, therefore, if you would like some more information you could come and have an informal chat with them and their Foster Carers. Or if you think somebody you know would be interested, please pass on the information.

Thursday 11th January 2018 10am to 4pm at Impulse Leisure Centre, Blackshots Lane, Grays RM16 2JU

Monday 22nd January 2018 5pm – 8pm at Chafford Hundred Church, Drake Road, Chafford Hundred

Tuesday 6th February 2018 9am – 4pm at Grays Town Centre

Alternatively, further information is available via the following methods.

Thurrock.gov.uk/fostering

0800 652 1256

[Facebook.com/thurrockfostering](https://www.facebook.com/thurrockfostering)



At the WELCOM forum meeting at the end of November the Lower Thames Crossing was one of the items on the agenda. It was said that the relatively low turnout at the public meeting held by the Thames Crossing Action Group (TCAG) on Sunday 26th November was because many people thought that it was "a done deal" and we could do nothing about it. However, a small group from the forum had, together with Stephen Metcalfe (our local MP) met with Highways England to talk about the impact of the route on our parish. As a result of these conversations they are convinced that Highways England are still open to detailed comments on the route and its impact. We may not be able to change the fact that it will be built but we may be able to mitigate the impact in some areas. So we need to become involved and make our voice heard! On the same topic some folk from the "Lower Thames Crossing Cultural Heritage Survey" visited St. Catherine's on Tuesday 28th November. They had asked only to view the exterior but Colin Strong made sure that they also viewed the interior to see just what had been done in recent years. If you would like to know more about TCAG there is a link to them from the home page of the parish website.

How did we celebrate Christmas?



Our Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday 2nd December and once again demonstrated the flexibility of the St. Catherine's building. On the previous Friday the chairs and tables were set up ready for the Bazaar and in the evening a number of the stall holders were able to set out their wares. The Bazaar was a great success both financially (with some £1,200 being raised) and socially as visitors were able to make new acquaintances and renew old friendships. By the end of the afternoon the church had been readied for the Family Service the next morning. The results of the main raffle were:-

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 st Prize | 265 | Patricia Strong | Large Hamper |
| 2 nd Prize | 210 | Rich | Small Hamper |
| 3 rd Prize | 195 | Pam Painter | Yankee Candles |
| 4 th Prize | 165 | Kim | Large Glass Candle Holders |
| 5 th Prize | 110 | Rebecca | Yankee Candles (June Schroeder) |
| 6 th Prize | 275 | Susan Philpott | Prosecco & Biscuits |
| 7 th Prize | 120 | Kai | Port, Mixed Cheeses & Crackers |
| 8 th Prize | 20 | Jenny | Box Chocolates |

and our thanks are due to everyone who was involved in any way as they contributed to the success of the event.

On Sunday December 17th we held our annual carol service with the support of **The Grays Town Band** who provided the accompaniment for the congregation's tuneful rendition of a number of favourite carols. It made a real difference to have live musicians rather than our more usual CD canned music! As usual, the proceedings were topped off with mulled wine and mince pies for those that wanted it. We are most grateful for the band's continued interest in this Christmas Carol service.

The Linford carol service was held at St. Francis on the evening of the 19th December and although a smaller gathering and with the carols accompanied by the dreaded CDs, the singing was just as lusty and the following refreshments just as enjoyable.

This year Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday, which made for a busy day at St. Catherine's. As well as our regular 10am service of Holy Communion we had our annual Christingle and crib service at 4pm and "Midnight" mass at 11.30pm. Although we are at present without a priest we were pleased to welcome Revd. Tara Frankland, who is team Rector of the Mardyke team ministry, to lead the Christingle service. As usual there was a large congregation of some 180 adults and



children who made a "joyful noise" as they sung carols, some of which were accompanied by the youngster's percussion section. As always the Christingles, that had been made by a team of willing volunteers the previous Thursday were much enjoyed. The midnight service of Holy Communion which was celebrated by Revd. Peter Rabin (also from the Mardyke team) was also well attended and marked the beginning of Christmas Day.

Holy Communion on Christmas Day was this year presided over by the Archdeacon of Southend, the Canon Revd. Mike Lodge who was kind enough to say how much he enjoyed coming to St. Catherine's and how much he appreciated the way in which the building had been brought into the 21st century.

As you can imagine all of these events involved a considerable amount of hard work by an army of people to whom we are most grateful.

Two years on.....

Since the contractors finished the original work in the church in November 2015 we have been concerned that the heating system has not been performing in a way which meets the architect's original specification. It was our considered view that the boiler was not providing sufficient heat. Bakers and their sub-contractor have always maintained that their design calculations and the system installed would provide the heating required.



After their last attempt to solve the problem as part of the "snagging", issues still remained, and the church was not getting to the design temperature. However, as a result of reviewing the data that we were able to supply (proving that the design temperature was not being reached) Bakers' sub-contractor attended site on Tuesday 5th December and eventually identified the cause of the problem.

It seems that "Vaillant", the manufacturer of our boiler, had erroneously supplied a number of boilers that had been commissioned with the wrong heat output. The church's boiler should have been supplying 65 kilowatts of heat but was only providing 46 kilowatts. The missing 19 kilowatts of heat being the equivalent of that required to heat a three-bedroomed house! Fortunately, it was possible to correct the problem on site, without replacing the boiler and hopefully the issue is now resolved..... but we will continue to monitor the heating over the next few weeks.

We will also now be able to determine the most cost effective way to heat the building - something we were unable to do while the system was unable to meet the specification.

The great North Sea Flood of January 1953 - by Tim Lenton

Exceptional weather conditions 65 years ago, on 31st January and 1st February 1953, created what has been described as the worst national peacetime disaster to hit the UK – the North Sea flood.

In England, 307 people were killed as the sea broke through along the East Coast, but Holland was even more badly hit: 1836 people died there.

The cause of the disaster was a deep Atlantic depression passing to the north of Scotland and moving southeast down the relatively shallow North Sea. Northerly gales forced sea water south at high tide, causing a tidal surge which locally exceeded 18.4 ft above mean sea level. (In normal conditions, 9 ft is considered very high.)

Because no warning system was in place, whole communities were unaware of the imminent threat. As well as the deaths in England and the Netherlands, 28 died in Belgium, 19 in Scotland and 361 at sea, including 133 on the ferry MV Princess Victoria.

As a result of the inundation, an official service for forecasting coastal flooding – the Storm Tides Warning Service – was established within the Met Office. It aims to forecast this kind of event five days ahead. Sea defences have also been hugely improved.

The photo shows The main streets of Tilbury under water during the February 1953 floods. This view looks towards Tilbury Town Station. In Tilbury, work soon began to deal with dislodged manhole covers, ensuring that no accidents were caused. However, while the manholes were drying out and telephone cables being checked for water damage, the next high tide occurred and re-flooded the area.



The 1918 'Flu pandemic - by Tim Lenton

Known as the “greatest medical holocaust in history”, the worldwide flu pandemic that followed the First World War started 100 years ago, and lasted from January 1918 to December 1920.

Sometimes known as Spanish flu because it received greater publicity at first in that country, its origins were unclear. At one time, it was thought to have originated in Kansas among poultry and pigs, but later a more virulent strain appeared simultaneously in France, Sierra Leone and Boston, Massachusetts.

Up to 20% of those infected died, as opposed to the usual flu epidemic mortality rate of 0.1%. Unusually, it killed mostly young adults and was widespread in summer and autumn.

"Virus" was a novel concept in 1918, and most of the world's doctors assumed they were dealing with a bacterial disease. They had no vaccine, antiviral drugs or even antibiotics, which might have defeated the secondary bacterial infections that killed most victims.

The disease claimed between 50 and 100 million lives, or between 2.5% and 5% of the global population. (World War I killed about 18 million people, World War II about 60 million.) It disappeared as suddenly as it arrived, possibly mutating into a less dangerous form of the virus.

Those beloved little red bricks - by David Winter

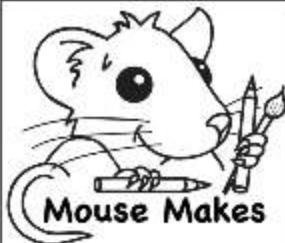
Sixty years ago this month a Danish company copyrighted a new toy. They called it 'Lego', Danish for 'leg godt', or play well. They can't have foreseen the enormous, world-wide enthusiasm with which these little red clip-together building blocks would be greeted by children from about two years old to early teens. Toddlers would clip them together and imagine they were houses or lorries. Older children would build progressively more sophisticated structures, many with cogs, wheels and battery powered motors.



Parents and grand-parents loved them, because they were a universally welcome gift, and even a youngster who already had some Lego was always glad to get some more. Mind you, little red bricks in odd places rapidly became a feature of many homes – under chairs and settees, in beds, and even turning up in the cat's tray or the bath.

Lego has been, for sixty years, a feature of any home with children. It was also, I admit, the inspiration for a little children's song which I wrote nearly 50 years ago, which was included in the BBC school song book. It was called 'The Building Song' and included the immortal lines Everybody's building, everybody's building, Everybody's building in a different way.

Not, I agree, exactly Isaac Watts, but the tune, by Roger Hurrell, was catchy and it became very popular at school assemblies. Yes, we are all building – lives, character, personalities, friendships. After all, 'made in God's image', what could we be but creator/builders? We gather, pick and choose – and like Lego, make something of all the bits!



Words to live by from Proverbs 3

*"My child, never forget
the things I have
taught you.
Store my commands
in your heart". vs1*



Don't ever forget kindness and truth
...then you will be respected and
will please both God and people.
from Proverbs 3:3-4 NCV

*Trust in God from the bottom
of your heart; don't try to figure out
everything on your own.*

from Proverbs 3:5 MSG



Don't assume you
know it all.



Run to God!

from Proverbs 3:7 MSG



Seek God's will in all you do and He will
show you which path to take.
from Proverbs 3:6 NLT

Honour God with everything you own;
give Him the first and the best.

from Proverbs 3:9 MSG



Cut out and colour these
Scripture verse cards
to remind you this new year
of God's wise ways to live.



PARISH DIARY FOR JANUARY

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



| | | |
|--------|--|------------------------|
| 3 Jan | Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis | 10am 10.30am - noon |
| 4 Jan | Foodbank at St. Francis | 11am - 1pm |
| 7 Jan | Epiphany Sunday <i>The Family Service</i> | 10am |
| 8 Jan | PCC meeting at St. Catherine's | 7.30pm |
| 10 Jan | Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis | 10am 10.30am - noon |
| 11 Jan | Foodbank at St. Francis | 11am - 1pm |
| 14 Jan | 2nd Sunday of EPIPHANY Parish Communion | 10am |
| 16 Jan | Bible Study at Linford Methodist Church | 8pm |
| 17 Jan | Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis | 10am 10.30am - noon |
| 18 Jan | Foodbank at St. Francis | 11am - 1pm |
| 21 Jan | 3rd Sunday of EPIPHANY Parish Communion | 10am |
| 24 Jan | Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis | 10am 10.30am - noon |
| 25 Jan | Foodbank at St Francis | 11am - 1pm |
| 27 Jan | WELCOM forum meeting at Linford Methodist Church Baptism | 7.30pm 4.00pm |
| 28 Jan | Presentation of Christ in the Temple Parish Communion | 10am |
| 31 Jan | Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis | 10am 10.30am - noon |



FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

3 Dec Penelope Roe Atkins-Barker

Funeral

13 Dec Mrs S. Gillan

The Most Beautiful Story

An atheist being interviewed on Radio 4 was asked how he spent Christmas. He said that he went to Midnight Mass. 'But you're an atheist', the interviewer said. 'Yes', he said, 'but what they celebrate at Christmas is the most beautiful story ever told of a Creator who sent his Son to share the life of His creation, to be born a baby, then grow into a man of amazing wisdom gentleness and love, who was executed by the authorities for contradicting the traditions of the time. His followers believe he rose from the dead and by His death and Resurrection He has made possible forgiveness and eternal life for everyone. It is a beautiful story that will be heard again this Christmas, in children's Nativities, in hymns and carols and sermons all over the country. People who stay away from church all year come to hear it, who can blame them? It is a story of hope and of heaven touching earth.

Maybe it takes a non believer to make us realise what a wonderful gift we all receive at Christmas?

Incentive to succeed

An old gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery. He had insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anaesthesia, he asked to speak to his son, to encourage him. 'Don't be nervous, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, and something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife.'



"Given the state of our health system, your name seemed rather appropriate."

ST. CATHERINE'S

The Priest in Charge

The Parish is without a priest at the present time.

All enquiries should be made to Churchwarden, Colin Strong:

Telephone: 07591 708955

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

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, Weddings or Funerals please contact Colin Strong in the
first instance.

Churchwardens

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

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

SUE SPIERS T: 01375 845394

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

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 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 January 2018

22nd February 2018

22nd March 2018