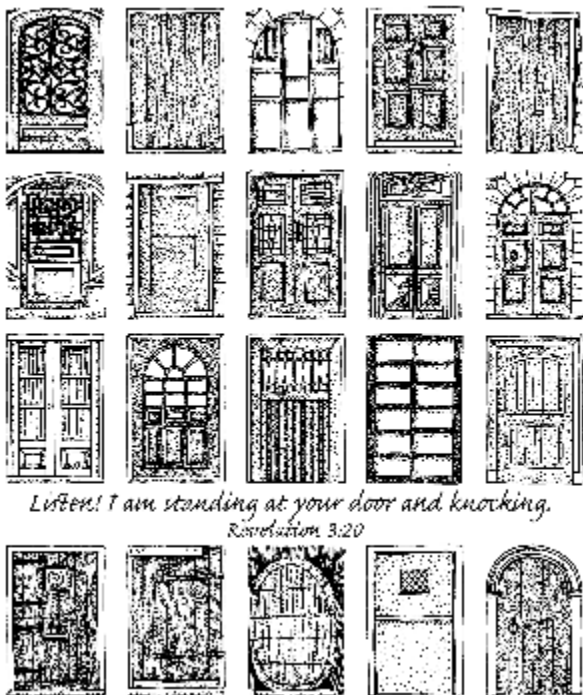


PEWTALK 40_P

January 2017



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES

100 Club

The Bazaar in St.Catherines was a great day raising £1200 for Church Funds. Sam, Pam Englands Grandson made the draw and the winner of the £50 was Stuart Kay from Corringham. Congratulations Stuart. That is the last big draw but there are still six chances of getting your £10 back.

Coop Community Cards

As Treasurer I have recently received a cheque for £15 for the money spent on the St. Catherines Community Card. Like Tesco "Every Little helps" us to pay our bills. If you would like a card let me or a member of the congregation know. There are many such schemes which help charitable causes at no cost to the purchaser. Chris and I have discussed various schemes and will put the information together for a Pewtalk in the New Year.

Norman

It is some 5 years since the St. Francis building in Linford was refurbished and it was / is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Over the Christmas / New Year period the inside will be re-decorated. The electrical installation has been checked and to bring it up to the latest specification one or two improvements will be made in February. The outside of the property will be "spruced up" later

in the year, hopefully using volunteers from outside the church.

Early in January it is planned to re-new the roofing of the "tower" at St.. Catherine's . At the same time insulation will be incorporated which should mean that the upper room can be kept warm a little more easily for the comfort of the Sunday "bean counters"

On the morning of Friday 16th December between 6.45 and 7.45 a.m our parish was represented by Sue Spiers, Pat Webb, Jan Fawsitt, Chris, Kim and Marian and Bob Kuyper (from our Linford Methodist friends) at East Tilbury station where, in the course of the hour they gave out cards with details of the Christmas services and a "breakfast granola bar" to 200 commuters. Nearly everyone was happy to accept this early (in every sense of the word) Christmas gift.

The Church Council (PCC) has its next meeting on the 9th January and one of the topics will relate to the appointment of a House for Duty assistant priest to serve in the parish. For this appointment to be made we need to produce a document know as a Parish Profile in which we describe the parish, what it stands for and how the church sees its role in the wider community. If you would like some input to this process please let one of the wardens or our PCC secretary, Sheila King know.

Bishop Stephen's New Year message 2017

“Ring out the old, ring in the new!” goes the saying – as though the old year was something to be chucked into the nearest rubbish bin.



Of course the New Year gives us a chance to plan and hope for what it may bring. But we all know that nothing mystical happens at the stroke of midnight. Nothing removes the challenges we may need to face, the world we witness in its brokenness as well as its beauty, with all its separateness and disunity as well as its love and togetherness.

Might there be another way of looking at the old year? Instead of just throwing it away, perhaps we should try sorting the items from the past that can be recycled into a separate bin so that we help make a better future.

So as well as a time of looking forward, the New Year can also be a time to pause, reflect and take stock of what has gone before. A time when we can think about our own personal share in building a better place to belong, when we can pray for peace, act to end suffering and show friendship with each other, our families and the communities we live in.

Then as the New Year dawns, we can be refreshed and rejoice in celebrating our own contribution to building a better place for all God's creation.

And, if we place God at the heart of our reflections, we will be strengthened in our resolve: “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed New Year

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "+ Stephen Cottrell" with a flourish at the end.

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell - Bishop of Chelmsford

St. Catherine's Bazaar

Although as I write this it seems an awful long time ago, it was only the first Saturday in December that we had our annual Christmas Bazaar. As last year, it was held in the church after a team of people had re-configured the chairs and added the tables on Friday evening. The event itself was a great success with many of our visitors being very complimentary about the building and our use of it. When I say success I am personally happier with the friendly atmosphere and the opportunity for folk to get together than I am with the financial result. Having said that the church also needs funds if it is to continue serving the parish and the some £1,200 raised is a great help. Or those interested in these things the raffle winners were:-

1st Pat Webb
2nd "Ann P"
3rd Dorothy c/o Mitchels
4th "Kim"

And the guess the weight of the cake which weighed 2.062 kilos was won by Kiki Deal whose estimate was the closest.

A big thank you to everyone involved in the event whether setting up, packing away and getting ready for the Sunday service, manning stalls or just supporting us. I am personally very grateful.

Chris Ford

Carol Services

St. Catherine's looked beautiful for the Carol service on the Sunday before Christmas. The Acting Archdeacon of Southend (Canon Mike Lodge) preached and our good friends from Grays Town Band played for the Carols. The St. Catherine's Singers' days of practice were rewarded and their three songs accompanied by Canon Paul were entertaining. The Christmas music and chat which accompanied the warm mulled wine and copious mince pies made it a lovely start to the week. The collection raised £116 for Little Havens Children's Hospice. The Carol service at St. Francis was well attended by our friends from the Methodist Church and members of our Drop-In family. Canon Paul again played for the service which included all the Traditional Carols.

Norman

Christmas at St. Catherine's



Although the Parish is in an interregnum we held all our usual services to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

On Christmas Eve afternoon we had the traditional "Christingle" service which had a congregation of over 200. The service was organised and run by members of the congregation and Canon Paul once again provided the music for us. As usual, the children provided both the "band" and "choir" for several of the carols with Jan, Sue P and Geraldine leading them with the actions. Some 150 Christingles had been made and were distributed to those that wanted one and finally chocolates were discovered on the Christmas Tree. Later that day (at 11.30pm to be precise) Midnight Mass was celebrated by Fr. Justin Hutcherson from Corringham and Fobbing with some 50 parishioners in attendance.

Christmas morning was another opportunity to take Holy Communion with Canon Martin Wood celebrating on this occasion.

We would like to thank everyone involved, (especially the visiting clergy) in the arrangements for our Christmas celebrations this year.

Savings clubs & financial education for primary schools

A network of savings clubs and financial education in primary schools across England has been recently launched with backing from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

LifeSavers, a programme promoting financial education and savings clubs administered by credit unions in primary schools, is on course to reach 30,000 children by the end of 2018 after a successful pilot scheme.

LifeSavers gives children practical experience of money management through saving small, regular amounts of money in savings clubs administered by credit unions.

The scheme encourages support from parents and volunteers and provides teacher training and resources to help schools integrate financial education across the curriculum.

The programme is a partnership between the Archbishop of Canterbury's Just Finance Foundation and Young Enterprise, the enterprise and financial education charity.

A grant from Virgin Money will enable LifeSavers to reach 120 more schools by 2018 in six areas including the North East, Nottinghamshire, South East London and West Yorkshire.

An additional funding boost from the Government announced earlier this year will enable the resources and learning to be shared with many more primary schools across the country.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "How we think about and use our money is central to a fulfilled and contented life. That is why I strongly support this exciting initiative to encourage children to develop positive attitudes towards money and the habit of saving. This programme has the potential to make a significant difference to the lives of millions of children and future adults."

The man who created Greenwich Mean Time

The British mathematician and astronomer Sir George Biddell Airy died 125 years ago this month. Not a household name, he nevertheless had a long-term effect on everyone's lives by establishing Greenwich as the location of the prime meridian, through calculations made using an immensely accurate telescope he invented called the Airy Transit Circle.

Greenwich Mean Time became legal time in Britain in 1880, and was adopted in principle as the basis of universal time in 1884.

Sir George was not so much a brilliant scientist as a meticulous engineer and a self-taught expert in many areas, including theology. His wife Ricarda, who he met on a walking holiday and proposed to after two days, was the daughter of the Rev Richard Smith, private chaplain to the Duke of Devonshire. After being initially rejected by Mr Smith, because of his limited means and prospects, he persisted in his suit for six years until he was successful.

Sir George was elected president of the Royal Astronomical Society four times, for a total of seven years between 1835 and 1864. No other person has been president more than four times.

He was famous (or notorious) for the care and foresight with which he planned his life. He made a careful note of everything that occurred in his life or interested him, and never threw anything away. These records still exist.

Marian Kuyper thinks it's a Small World

As Bob and I embark once again on our winter holiday I wonder who we will bump into this year.

Some years ago when our children were just 9 and 11 we went to Florida and much to their disgust I insisted on going on the "It's a Small World" ride in the Disney theme park – too tame for them, at that age they were already into the white knuckle rides.

The next day we bumped into a family from Linford in the biggest supermarket ever in Florida. I had as usual misplaced the children so was doing my school gate trick of yelling out their names at the top of my voice. A Linford lady came running around the corner unable to believe her eyes that we were there. It was my voice that she had recognised and for one awful moment thought she had been transported back to the school gates.

The next year, in the middle of France, in a very deserted castle we climbed to the top of a tower and there we bumped into not only the other tourists visiting the castle but a Linford family we knew very well.

Fast forward the children have flown the nest and we are off by ourselves in Tenerife and see a large advert advertising a boat ride with our daughter and her friends posing on the boat. They had been in Tenerife the year before and unbeknown to them their faces had been plastered all over the island.

2008 backpacking in remote Nicaragua we go on a boat trip with four Dutch ladies, they live in the same town as Bobs cousin and yes they are very good friends of the family and were just as surprised to meet us as we were to meet them.

2014 The only Western tourists on a beautiful beach in Myanmar (Burma) when suddenly a young man appeared on a motor bike and sat at the same bar as us. Yes he was from Essex, Southend to be precise and has a restaurant called "Billy 100" on the seafront at Thorpe Bay.

January 2016 diving in the Philippines Bob gets "buddied" with a diver with the same experience as him, she lives in Benfleet and has a market stall in Pitsea.

However much you might like or hate reality shows it was really uplifting to see a local lad, Courtney Woods, make the final of The Apprentice and to see Linford on the BBC. Nothing annoys me more than Linford being called Stanford le Hope even the Post Office denies Linford exists. There was Steve and Maureen being interviewed about their son and showing us the head office of Courtney's business (his bedroom). Well done Courtney for surviving even a week of Alan Sugar.

Many Congratulations to yet another young lady from East Tilbury, Anne- Marie Nicholson, who has topped the music charts this Christmas with the Clean Bandit's song "Rockabye Baby"

So it really is a Small World and is up to us and all the people we know worldwide to keep it safe and beautiful.

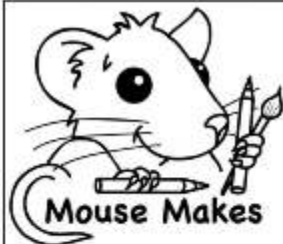
At this lovely time of year we remember earlier days. My memories include carol singing on the Bata Estate. A number of Czechoslovakian people lived on the Estate and outside their houses we sang "Good King Wenceslas" and "Rocking" - it paid off. For the same reason my Mum always put some of the little children (The Rockers) at the front of the Christmas Tableau to sing Rocking. This was years before "Mods" and "Rockers" clashed at the seaside towns.

Bethlehem

At Christmas we all hear about Bethlehem. Many years ago Sheila and I went from our Holiday in Cyprus on an overnight cruise to the Holy Land. The ship docked in Haifa and there were coaches from Nazareth I don't know why that surprised me but coaches from where Jesus lived! After seeing various holy sites in Jerusalem we were taken to Bethlehem a short journey which again surprised me I thought of a long distance and perhaps a desert. The town is dusty with the inevitable souvenir shops. Manger Square is plain and the Church over the birthplace of Jesus is quite stark but very busy even in mid summer. Two spiral staircases take you down to the star representing the birthplace. Somehow Sheila and I were separated getting to the staircase and there was no chance to turn round but we arrived at the star at the same time which was both amazing and something I think about many times but especially at Christmas.

Norman

"Rocking" or "Little Jesus, sweetly sleep" is an old Czech carol - Ed



"This is the day the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be happy today!"

Psalms 118:24

"Oh, Teach us
to live well!
Teach us to live
wisely and well!"

from Psalm 90:12 MSG

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.



Seek his will in all
you do, and He
will show you which
path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Always be full of joy.
Never stop praying.



Whatever happens,
always be thankful."

1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Be kind and loving to each other,
and forgive each other
just as God forgave you in Christ."

Ephesians 4:32



"The Lord has told you... what he wants
from you: to do what is right to
other people, love being kind to others
and live humbly obeying your God."

Micah 6:8



Cut out these Scripture
verse cards to remind
you this new year of how
God wants us to live.



PARISH DIARY FOR JANUARY

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



1 Jan	2nd SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS Family Service	10am
4 Jan	No Holy Communion or Drop in as St. Francis being redecorated	
5 Jan	Foodbank at St. Francis but no "drop in" Transformation Thurrock meeting at St. Catherine's	11am - 1pm 9am - 3pm
8 Jan	EPIPHANY Parish Communion	10am
9 Jan	PCC meeting at St. Catherine's	7.30pm
11 Jan	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
12 Jan	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
15 Jan	EPIPHANY 2 Parish Communion Baptism of Paige Danielle Morter	10am 2pm
17 Jan	Bible study at Linford Methodist Church	8pm
18 Jan	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
19 Jan	Foodbank at St Francis	11am - 1pm
22 Jan	EPIPHANY 3 Parish Communion	10am
25 Jan	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
26 Jan	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
29 Jan	EPIPHANY 4 - CANDLEMASS Parish Communion	10am
1 Feb	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
2 Feb	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm

Not all free!

The nursery school teacher was teaching her class about living in a democracy. She said: "One of the things we should be happy about is that, in this country, we are all free." One little boy stood up in protest. "No," he said indignantly. "I'm not free. I'm four."

News from Linford Methodist Church

First of all we wish all the residents of Linford and East & West Tilbury a Happy and Healthy New Year.

No Yippee Club this month as all the volunteers are having a well-deserved rest but Toddler Group will start back on 17th January, 9.30 – 12.00, come for the whole session or just a part whatever your nerves are strong enough for. This group is open to all parents, grandparents and carers who have in their care children between the ages of 0 – 5. Come along and make some new friends costs have not changed £1.00 per adult which gives you unlimited tea and coffee and 50p per child which includes a healthy snack and drink at 10.30. Lots of different toys for the children to play with, to see photos and up to date messages sign in to our Facebook page "Linford Toddler Group".

And now a big thank you to Anna for taking such an excellent Carol Service, I for one really enjoy singing all my favourites old and new this time of year. Next thank you to Janet and Beth for providing a wonderful meal on Sunday 18th December, sorry Bob and I had to dash off to the hospital for yet another scan on my leg and not do any washing up (ha ha)

The money in lieu of Christmas cards and donations for the Christmas Dinner amounted to £202.00 which we will be given to the Whitechapel Mission.

With the sale of knitted toys and donations at the Energize Puppet show we raised £179.22 for Little Havens Hospice.

Thank you so much for your continued generosity for these two worthwhile charities.

Later on this year we hope to hold another Sing-along afternoon with tea and cakes and of course in May will hopefully be holding our annual Christian Aid coffee morning.

For more information go to our web page:-

www.methodist-sec.co.uk/linford

Marian Kuyper

Marian.kuyper@btconnect.com

ST. CATHERINE'S

The Priest in Charge

The Parish is without a priest at the present time.

All enquiries should be made to Churchwarden, Chris Ford:

Telephone: 01375 675863

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

The Services

Sunday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's
Except 1st Sunday of the month when we have
"The Family Service"

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

Churchwarden

CHRIS FORD T: 01375 675863

E: warden.chris.stcatherines@tesco.net

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E: warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com

St. Francis Centre

The centre is available for hire for regular events when not used by the Church. To check availability please contact:

KATHY BIRD

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

22nd January 2017

20th February 2017

20th March 2017