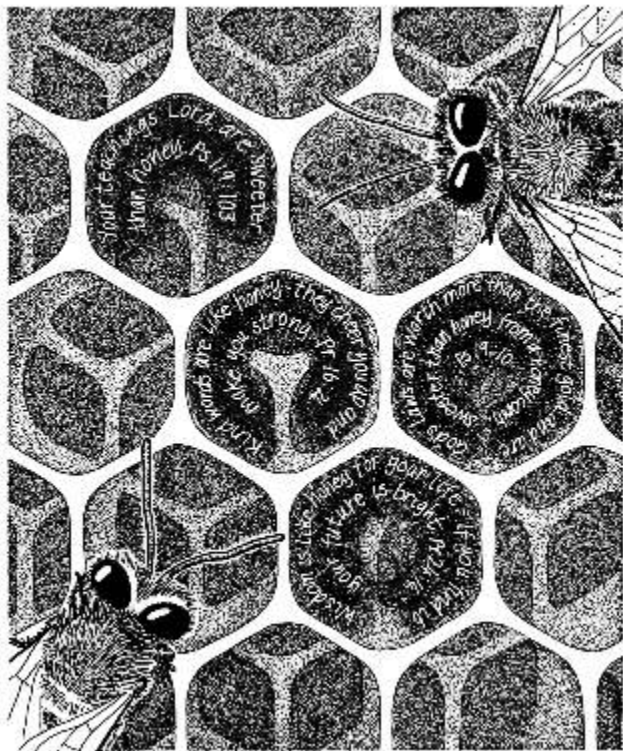


PEWTALK 40_P

July 2017



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES

Christine who we hadn't seen at Church for a little while due to her son having been involved in a car accident and the arrival of a new granddaughter drew the 100 Club on Sunday. Again the Dighton name was a winner. This time John and Joan's son and daughter in law. I reassured our Churchwarden and one or two others on Sunday that their tickets were in the Drum. Remember that the big draw for £50 will take place at the Fete. Hope to see you there. At the moment we have 44 subscribers. Please renew your 100 club ticket and if possible sell a ticket for us. At £10 per year with 12 monthly draws (10 for £10 and 2 for £50) it is an excellent and harmless fund raiser much easier than Pickled Onions Jams etc. And if we sell 100 tickets raises £800.

Once again, St. Catherine's will be a venue for the Thurrock Art Trail which runs this year from the 15th to the 30th July. The PCC have agreed that the church will be open each day from 3 - 7pm with the exception of July 22nd when we have a wedding and so will be open from 5 - 7pm. This year's artists are Tim Harrold and John Espin and their show is entitled "Mind Changelings". (See the advert on the inside back page.)

Earlier in the Month the Thurrock Gospel Choir are presenting a Summer Celebration featuring the audio-visual worship musical "Into all the World". There are 4 performances. Saturday 1st July at 7.30pm at St. Cedds in Crammavill Street, Sunday 2nd at 4.30pm at the Salvation Army in Clarence Road,

Wednesday 5th at 7.30pm at St. Mary and St. Peter church in Wennington and Sunday 9th at 7pm at the Aveley Methodist Church in Shannon Way.

The Thurrock foodbank have supermarket collections on 8th July at Tescos in Lakeside and 15th July at Sainsburys, Chafford Hundred. On both occasions volunteers are needed either for the 10am - noon or noon to 2pm shifts. If you feel that you might be able to help let Chris or Kim know. These collections are for a much shorter period of time than has been the case in the past and therefore the quantity of food collected is likely to be significantly down. If you would like to donate food the current shortages include, tinned fish, fruit, rice pudding and pasta sauce as well as long life fruit juice, sponge puddings and dried mashed potato.

Those readers that remember Rev. Rosemary Pritchard might like to know that she is home from Burkina Faso for a few weeks. At a recent talk at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Basildon she spoke of her journey to where she now is helping with Bible translation. It was clear to all that she is very much enjoying the work which is making use of her language skills. As she concluded she explained that she was pleased to be back in Britain but was also looking forward to returning to her home in Africa.

Just a reminder that we have our weekly drop-in at St. Francis on Wednesdays at 10.30am. If you or someone you know would like some company - welcome!

The interregnum - where are we now?

As I write this piece on the 23rd of June I know that there have been no applications for the post of Assistant Priest in the parish by the closing date. I also know that our Parish representatives; Colin Strong and Sheila King have been invited together with the Area Dean to a meeting on 26th June with the Archdeacon of Southend. Clearly we cannot know what the outcome of this meeting might be but what must be true is that the interregnum will continue for some time yet and so the care of the parish is largely in the hands of our Churchwardens (Colin and Sue) and the PCC.

To date we have been able to continue our recent pattern of worship on Sunday and Wednesday largely through the good offices of deanery clergy but this is likely to change in the future months. We are now at the beginning of the holiday season (one of the reasons why Canon Paul did not retire until the end of August last year) which means that there are fewer priests in the deanery to cover our services. The next few months will also see Rev. Andy Hudson and Rev. Ruth Cartright taking up new posts outside the deanery and Fr. Justin Hutcherson, who has celebrated with us on many occasions, is hoping to find the right post for his first incumbency. All of this, together with the fact that there are fewer available priests in the Bradwell episcopal area (or for that matter the diocese) to cover vacancies and holidays, mean that it is quite likely that there will not always be a service of Holy Communion every week. However, there will always be an opportunity to join together for worship every Sunday at 10am in St. Catherine's. This is vital as the mission of the Church of England is to serve the needs of its parishioners and one way that this is done is to maintain regular congregational services in the parish church

Clearly, this situation will increase the work of the Churchwardens, Parish officers and the PCC and so your prayers and continued support would be much appreciated.

Please pass on the message that St. Catherine's and the St. Francis Centre in Linford are still open for business.

Chris Ford - acting chairman of the PCC.

Sport in the Bible

Golf: I have finished the course (2Timothy 4:7)

Cricket: Peter stood up with the Eleven (Acts 2:14)

Football: Solomon supported: Queen of the South (1Kings 10:13)

The Church Football team motto: So we make it our goal to please him whether we are at home...or away (2 Corinthians 5:9)

Diocesan Advisory Committee - Design Awards 2017



Canon Paul and I attended the award ceremony at the Diocesan Office. It was a beautifully sunny day and following a light buffet the Bishop presented the awards. The DAC Chairman commented that the submissions for 2017



were the best ever and he congratulated the congregations of the Essex Churches who received awards. We received a Highly Commended Award for Development and Restoration as did Ben Downie our Architect and the Contractor Bakers of Danbury. Our Certificate is on display in St. Catherine's. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the project.

Norman

"Springwatch"

As the editor of Pewtalk I have often thought that it would be a good idea, living where we do, to have some kind of monthly "nature notes" - I am sure we used to some years ago. In the past I have asked Ray, the ranger at Coal house Fort, whether he would like to be a contributor but it was not his thing. However this month I have been fortunate enough to observe some natural events that I think may be of interest.

Kim and I used to walk around the fort every day when we had our Labrador "Allegretto". However, without her, our walks have become less frequent and not always at the fort. One of the things that we miss is the ever changing natural beauty of the birds and plants that can be found there.



One day in June we found ourselves on the SSSI and noticed that the orchids were still in bloom. Now we are not plant experts and so probably could not identify all the varieties that I understand are there, but we certainly saw spotted orchids, bee orchids and pyramid orchids - all very beautiful and slowly colonising a larger area. On the same visit we saw a flock of gulls displaying very strange behaviour in that they were swooping and wheeling in the air over the marshes, often at a very low level; very much like swallows or swifts feeding on insects - what was that all about?.

We spoke to the ranger about this behaviour which had apparently been mentioned by others but his research had found nothing to explain what was going on. We also mentioned the increase in the orchids and Ray told us that someone had apparently dug up one of the larger pyramid orchids - why do people do this - particularly given that the plant needs a very special environment to thrive!

At home we have a number of bird feeders and so are used to watching their activity while sitting in our conservatory or garden. For the past several weeks we have noticed robins going in and out of our garage and on one occasion noticed a very scruffy looking bird sitting on a bit of fencing just outside. Eventually we realised that it was one of the chicks taking its first foray into the big wide world as we noticed an adult bird obviously encouraging it to take its first flight. A few days later, assuming that the nest would now be empty, I was in the garage sorting a few things out and found the nest carefully built among some paint tins. Then I found a second nest built among some power tools and containing 4 eggs. We have been watching the progress from time to time and as I write the chicks must be within a few days of fledging. They have been totally unfazed by my comings and goings. But robins seem to be happy nesting in the midst of humanity since, as we were visiting a garden centre recently, we came across a notice which advised "Do not disturb - Robin's nest" on one of the plant displays. And sure enough snuggled amongst the pots of plants was a robin sitting on her nest.

The recent very hot weather seemed to encourage another bird behaviour that I had not seen before. We have a makeshift "bird bath" and recently, what appear to be baby blue tits, have taken to using it en-mass. It is just like a group of children playing together in a paddling pool. I have never seen so much splashing of water and shaking of feathers in scenes of obvious enjoyment - I have counted as many as seven birds bathing at the same time.

Chris

When the Vicar won Wimbledon

June each year sees the start of Wimbledon "Lawn Tennis" wrote J.B.Priestley. It is a name with the mildest associations. "It suggests a companion pastime to croquet, a late-Victorian thing, bright with petticoats and delicately clouded with curates" So it was that with the development of Wimbledon's All England Lawn Tennis Club from its beginnings in 1869 as a Croquet Club, at which "Gentlemen are requested not to play in shirt sleeves when ladies are present" with the addition of tennis courts to the grounds, the new game gained ascendancy and the first Wimbledon Tennis Championships took place in 1877.

It was the third tournament of 1879 that the Revd. John Thorneycroft Hartley Vicar of Burneston in Yorkshire won the All-Comers Gentlemen's Singles out of an entry of 45 competitors beating the Irish Champion Vere St. Leger Gould in three sets and he repeated the feat in the following year beating Herbert Lawford three sets to one. This year the prize is £1 million - that would pay the parish's family purse for a few years.

Norman

More from Manila

In the June edition of Pewtalk I wrote more about our impressions of Manila and the way of life that we observed when we were there and explained that we were there to support the work of the "Kanlungan" charity which works with the street children. In this article I will describe some of the work of the charity and the part we played in the two weeks that we were there.

Our first introduction to the children was when we visited the charity's home in Benitez Street. As well as being the administrative headquarters of the charity it is home to children who are referred to them. At the time that we were visiting there were some 18 children but they can accommodate more if needed. The children living here can range in age from 2 or 3 up to early teens and live as one large family. They are looked after by house mothers and fathers, together with teachers and social workers. They can have been referred to Kanlungan for a number of reasons - abuse - neglect - abandonment and seem very happy to be there. They live in dormitories, have a programme of education, assist with the household chores and have regular times of worship. We met them first on the top floor of the building which is largely an open air play area which they clearly enjoy using. When we arrived the children welcomed us with songs and dance and introduced themselves by giving us their name, age and what they hoped to do when they grow up. The mission team responded in kind (including singing with actions) and we then met the children as individuals and had the opportunity to play and talk with them.

While the children are at Benitez Street they are assessed and by living together gain in social skills. Some of the them are involved in prosecuting their abusers and the social workers are able to support and coach them as they have to appear in court and face their abusers - I can't begin to imagine what this must be like for a young girl particularly where pornography lies at the heart of the abuse.

When a child is judged to be ready, and assuming that they haven't been reconciled with their family or adopted, they are moved to either the girl's or the boy's house. These houses then become the children's new home. In the case of the girls they all attend school but the boys are divided into those that can cope with school and those that might struggle. For these latter they are taught about agriculture and farming on the farm which forms part of the boys home property. Here they grow coffee (which is eventually used in the KSEM coffee shop in Manila or sold locally) and pepper. We bought some coffee and pepper.



Our initial visit to the girls home followed the same pattern as at Benitez Street in that the girls introduced themselves and welcomed us with song and

dance - we responded in kind! Once again we had time to sit and talk / play with the girls who again covered a wide age range. We only visited the boys home when we went there to take part in the "Mini Olympics" at the end of our visit and that will be part of a later article.

At each of the homes that we visited, not only did we meet with the children and interact with them but we were fed as well. While this might not seem like much in this country, where we were the cooking was done on a couple gas rings in a very small kitchen and apart from the 20+ visitors the staff were also cooking for the children. As the visitors, we responded by a couple of us going to the local shop and getting enough ice creams for everyone. I guess you can imagine how this went down!

There is so much more that I could write - particularly about the work we did out on the streets but that will have to be another article.

Chris

Poppies at Shoebury

It was great to see The Wave of Poppies at Shoebury beach. The Poppies from the original display at The Tower of London were still an impressive sight. You couldn't get that close but the display had a particular meaning for us because at 7pm each evening The Last Post was played. On a few occasions our friend's daughter played in memory of her brother who was killed in a Tornado crash over the Moray Firth. The display ended on June 25th with a service; sorry that it is too late to let readers of Pewtalk know. (Details on the Southend Website)

Norman

Church Commissioners announce 2016 financial results

The Church Commissioners for England recently announced the publication of their 2016 financial results. The total return on its investments in 2016 was 17.1%, compared with the previous year's return of 8.2%. Over the past 30 years the fund has achieved an average return of 9.6% per annum.

In 2016 disbursements by the Commissioners totalled £230.7 million, accounting for approximately 15% of the Church's overall mission and ministry costs. This represents an increase in church expenditure of 5.6% from the previous year.

The Church Commissioners' funding is targeted towards mission opportunities and those areas which are most in need, as well as meeting on-going responsibilities for bishops, cathedrals and clergy pensions.

FROM THE JUNE MEETING OF THE P.C.C.

The PCC met on the 19th June with all members present.

Correspondence had been received from Canon Paul with regard to grants available for the repairs to the exterior of St Catherine's. It was noted that there were several options and the PCC would need to decide what route to take once our architect had prepared an up-to-date condition report. We had also received an e-mail advising that repairs were to be carried out on the Rectory in Somerset Road and quotes were being sought by the Diocese who are responsible for any costs. The wardens had also been advised that Bishop John was stepping aside because of his ill health and the Archdeacons would be picking up much of his workload.

Colin Strong advised that the faculty for the new "ashes" area had been approved by the DAC and he would be posting the statutory notices. He also said that he had had a very useful meeting with Bakers with regard to the outstanding "snags" and that a meeting would be held shortly with Ben Downie to formally agree the work.

In his Treasurer's report, Norman reminded the PCC that our account balances were still unusually high because we still held money that would eventually need to be paid to Bakers. He was concerned that we should keep an eye on our day by day running expenses to ensure that our costs could be covered by our monthly income. He also advised that a letter of thanks had been written to all our regular (envelope) donors.

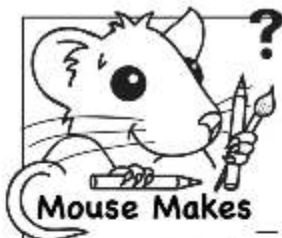
Pam Painter submitted the notes of the recent Social Committee meeting and the

PCC finalised arrangements for the Summer Fete. Norman and Sheil also tabled the idea of a "gift and exhibition weekend" which was something done at Sheila's mum's church in Stainland.

The main topic for discussion was Bishop Stephen's "School for Disciples". Kim, Chris, Sue together with David and Sandra Gunn had been to one of the Bishop's training sessions some time ago. The Bishop's position is that the church should be a place where discipling of new and established Christians is the major focus. We meet together for worship and to reinforce our own faith so that we can nurture others. Part of the support material that had been provided at the Bishop's training evening included a checklist for PCC's to think about what was going on in their church and parish to encourage folk to develop their faith.

When we considered our own situation there was some things that already do. Some that we could do better and some that we ought to think about.

After thinking about the fact that we have had no candidates for confirmation in recent years, our discussion concentrated on the things that we could perhaps be better at. These included our preparation of families for Baptism, our difficulties with organising regular teaching for children - Sunday School, our Bible Study with the Linford Methodists. and our monthly Family Service. We agreed to think further about this topic and have further discussions when we meet again in July.



What should not be hidden under a bowl?

Matthew 5:14-15



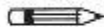
Who was welcomed back?

Luke 15: 11-32



What ate the seeds that fell on the path?

Matthew 13:3-23



What was lost?

Matthew 18:12-13



What did the wise man build his house on?

Matthew 7:24-27



What is the kingdom of heaven like?

Matthew 13:45-46



DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus often used simple stories called **parables** to teach people about God, His Kingdom and about how God would like us to live.

In His parables Jesus used objects and pictures of the world around Him to help people to understand.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can read Jesus' parable stories in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke but only Luke records the parables of *The Lost Coin*, *The Good Samaritan*, *The Prodigal Son*, *The Friend in Need* and *The Rich Fool*.

MIXED UP PARABLES

Which parable picture word goes with which?

NARROW GOATS
SHEEP GATE
WHEAT BRANCHES
MUSTARD COIN
LOST TREASURE
GOOD WEEDS
VINE SON
HIDDEN SAMARITAN
PRODIGAL SHEEP
LOST SEED

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

Find the parable pictures in the word search

INVISIBLE • WHEAT • WEEDS
SEED • TREASURE • GATE
HOUSE • ROCK • SAND
PEARL • COIN • FIG • TREE
SHEEP • GOATS • WINE
TAX COLLECTOR
LAMP • PHARISEE
SHEPHERD • SAMARITAN



PARISH DIARY FOR JULY

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



2 Jul	3rd Sunday after Trinity "The Family Service" Baptism of Paisley and Jamie Martin	10am 2pm
5 Jul	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
6 Jul	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
9 Jul	4th Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion	10am
11 Jul	Bible Study group at Linford Methodist Church	8pm
12 Jul	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
13 Jul	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
15 Jul	Thurrock Art Trail at St. Catherine's, daily to 30th	3pm - 7pm
16 Jul	5th Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion Baptism of Aariya-Rae McCulloch	10am 2pm
19 Jul	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
20 Jul	Foodbank at St Francis	11am - 1pm
22 Jul	Marriage of Luke Jerram & Sonia Bois	3pm
23 Jul	6th Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion	10am
26 Jul	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
24 Jul	PCC Meeting at St. Catherine's Drop In at St Francis	7.30pm 10.30am - noon
27 Jul	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
30 Jul	7th Sunday after Trinity Parish Communion St. Catherine's open afternoon	10am 2pm - 5 pm

FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 21 MAY Jessie Oakley Mountain
- 4 JUNE Harlee Thomas & Elbiee Rhys Totterdell
- 18 JUNE Edie May Glover

BURIALS

- 12 MAY Beverley A. Crane

Summer Greetings from Linford Methodist Church

I for one will am very happy for this current heat wave we are experiencing to continue, it is wonderful to be out in the sunshine enjoying Gods wonderful world.

News from our Church is brief this month.

Yippee Club is on the 6th July, 4.30 – 6.00, for 5 – 11 year old children, our theme this month is Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Tuesday 11th & Thursday 13th are the last dates for the Toddler Group this term we will be celebrating the summer with our usual picnic in the garden please come along to Toddler group any Tuesday or Thursday between 9.30 – 12.00 to get further details.

Marian

01375 851989

Email 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, 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 and Weddings 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

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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 July 2017

21st August 2017

17th September 2017