

PEWTALK 50_P

June 2020



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES

100 Club

The May winner was Geraldine Riddles Parish Safeguarding Representative. The first win for a member of the PCC for sometime. Geraldine and family have worked very hard for the last few years raising funds through the Quiz and concert evenings. A home win in every sense.

Thurrock foodbank

As regular readers will know, the parish operate a distribution centre for the Thurrock foodbank on a Thursday morning from the St. Francis Centre in Linford. As you might have read elsewhere, over the last couple of months, the demand for our food parcels has soared as many people have found their livelihood seriously impacted by COVID-19.

When churches were instructed to close an exception was made for food banks to continue to function. Although many of our regular volunteers at Linford were unable to continue due to age or other vulnerabilities keeping them in isolation Kathy Bird, Kim Ford, Revd. Michèle and, on occasions, Julie Guest have kept the food flowing. The foodbank works with a voucher system and, since many of the voucher givers have been in lockdown a completely new process has had to be developed in co-operation with the Local Area Coordinators. As the demands for food have increased we have doubled the stock of food that we hold at St. Francis and, if needed could now supply 4 single people, 4 couples, 4 families and 4 large families in any one week. To date we have never totally run out! This increase in stocks and the fact that the foodbank is

the only use of St. Francis at present means that our storage has been able to expand into the main hall. The distribution of food still takes place on Thursday's from 11am to 1pm and it is also possible to leave food donations at St. Francis on Wednesdays between 10am and noon during which time we also take delivery from the warehouse. However we must emphasise that the building is only open for foodbank purposes until further notice.

Looking more widely, the Tilbury, West Thurrock and Stanford distribution centres have had to close for lack of available volunteers but thankfully the Thurrock Christian Centre and Sockets Heath Baptist Church have been able to take on these sessions. Clearly we are unable to hold supermarket collections at this time and so we increasingly rely on other sources of food. The response from the public has been wonderful as has the support from many supermarkets and other retailers including Amazon - when TK-Maxx closed their store they donated all their food items to the foodbank!

Favourite Hymns

Revd. Michèle has been featuring people's favourite hymns in our weekly newsletter. If you have a hymn that has special meaning for you or you just like, do let her know as, at the time of writing, she is running low on suggestions. In a similar vein if you or your children / grandchildren etc. have been doing colourings or paintings while kept indoors she has offered to laminate them and display them on the fence at St. Francis.



As I was preparing to sit down and write my reflection from The Rectory an email arrived in my inbox from Bishop Peter. Peter is the Bishop of Barking and Acting Bishop of Chelmsford. His email said the following,

'Many of us were expecting to hear the Prime Minister say something about places of worship, alongside shops and parks, in his statement on Thursday evening regarding the easing of lockdown restrictions. On scientific advice, the Government has however, decided church and other faith buildings must remain shut to the public until at least 4 July, which is targeted as the next milestone for easing restrictions beyond the current announcements.

I know that, like me, a lot of people will feel disappointed and frustrated by that. While, of course, the Church is not a building, for many people our sacred spaces are incredibly significant in their lives and faith as well as being at the centre of community life, especially at times of deep need as at present.

The Church of England bishops, led by the Bishop of London in this case, continue to work with the Government to ensure that we can begin to reopen our places of worship in a phased way as soon as it is deemed safe and practical to do so. Active planning is in process to that end, and detailed advice is being developed to help local churches plan for the practical challenges of enabling opening for individual prayer, weddings, funerals and other important rites to take place and then, in due course, a resumption of public worship services.

So, hard as it is, I continue to ask for your patience and co-operation as we await further announcements during the course of June.' + Peter.

I think Bishop Peter's email really captures what so many of us are feeling at the moment and I know so many of you are longing to get back to gathering and worshipping at St Francis and St Catherine's.

However, I have been pondering about the extended delay in church life resuming and it struck me that many in our congregations, here in this parish and beyond, will be in those high risk groups shielding for longer than the rest of us because of age or medical history. So, if we were allowed access now to our churches, not all of the church family would be able to come and perhaps the Government and the scientific advisors have this in mind.

And as I continued to ponder on this I came to the decision that this was only right. Sunday worship would not feel complete without everybody being able to attend. Much better to wait just a little longer so that when we return we do so as a family with everybody being able to return to church for worship, friendship and fellowship.

In the meantime I would encourage you to find a 'sacred space' where you can draw close to God wherever you are. It could be a quiet room in your house. It could be as you listen to a favourite piece of music. It could be with you as you go for your daily exercise. It could be as you participate in an act of worship being broadcast on the BBC or live streamed from the Diocese or the Church of England. Or, like me, you could find it first thing in the morning, seated in the shady part of the garden with that first cup of tea, watching and delighting in the birds that come to feed. Nature is a great sacred space and at the moment it is really flourishing so enjoy it and let it calm and soothe you. We will be together again soon. In the meantime.....

'Let nothing disturb you,
Nothing make you afraid:
All things pass,
God remains.
Be patient,
And you will attain your heart's desire.
With God your own,
You cannot lack,
God suffices.'

(from The Wisdom of St Teresa of Avila)

Stay safe and keep well,

Every Blessing, *Revd Michèle.*

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.

What's up during the "lock down"

Here are some more insights into what parishioners and members of our congregations have been getting up to recently. First up Geraldine Riddles.

I am president of Orsett W.I. and three or four times a week I send emails to our members talking about everyday things that may be going on or affecting me, What our members are enjoying at the moment are our 'keeping in touch' newsletters that are attached to every email. Sometimes it is hard for Sue, our secretary who produces the newsletter, and myself to think of new things to put in them, but we are asking ladies to send us their experiences of lockdown, which aren't always forthcoming. We are asking for their own family recipes and anything else that may be of interest to our ladies. We have also been getting updates from one of our members 'The Perils of Pauline', which are very funny. She is a lady who has her hair and nails done regularly, but of course she does not have that luxury at the moment. She tells us the trials and tribulations of her 'do it herself' beauty regime which are not always completely successful. We always look forward to her next instalment. Sue and I are also phoning our ladies, especially those most vulnerable, to check that they are ok and being taken care of.

One of our ladies, who works in a supermarket (not a million miles from here), where customers have been very rude with almost violent behaviour at times, especially when there were restrictions on the number of certain items. They have had staff walk out because they are fed up and probably frightened by having to put themselves at risk every day, so are short staffed. Every frontline worker deserves a medal for keeping this country going through the very tough and difficult circumstances of this pandemic. Frontline workers can be anyone from cleaners to doctors, from postmen/women to delivery people and everyone in between, including of course our supermarket workers and our foodbank volunteers. We should be proud of each and every one of them.

And from Norman King

One of the things that we have been advised to do is to have a structure to the day. As a Chemist who worked for many years in a laboratory I have always been a habitual list maker.

At the start of the lockdown I decided that I should have some cookery lessons and follow the BBC Spanish course (DVD and two books) which I have had for many years.

So far progress has been limited. I have made a Lasagne for which I received good marks and a commendation for the white sauce but Sheila was frustrated with the time I took weighing everything as though I was still in the lab.

Spanish is proving difficult with formal and informal forms of saying the same word and the pronunciation needs a flexible tongue. I will keep going but it will be a long time before I can make you a meal and the Spanish all speak English anyway!!

We are so grateful for being able to enjoy the lovely weather in our garden and enjoy the birds. Goldfinches on our TV aerial - we now know their song, Great Spotted Woodpecker on the peanuts our resident Robin and Blackbirds feeding their young on the lawn. A bonus that we would not perhaps have enjoyed in "normal times" .

Jesus calming the storm of Covid-19 - the Ven John Barton

The BBC 'Today' programme that was broadcast on Good Friday included an interview with Hylton Murray-Philipson, a survivor of Covid-19. He had been on a ventilator in Leicester Royal Infirmary, "reduced to the state of a baby".

The programme presenter, Nick Robinson, invited him to describe memories of his time in intensive care. When he said one of the images he had, in a moment of great distress and struggle, was of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee, and he would like to think this was Jesus coming to him and helping *him* in his hour of need, Robinson suggested this was partly because of the powerful drugs he had been given, "which play tricks with the mind".

Later, Robinson apologised and said he didn't mean to demean anyone's faith. But what he had said also betrayed ignorance. While it is true that pain-killing drugs can cause hallucinations, these side-effects are rarely pleasant. It is not uncommon for patients to become agitated, anxious, confused and even prone to violence. Their physical pain will have been reduced, but that may have been at the necessary cost of mental disturbance; the overriding experience being more like that of a storm, than of a sea being calmed.

Back in the 1960s, it became fashionable for some groups to promote the use of illicit drugs because of the temporary sensations they induced. John Lennon of the Beatles said he had "such an overwhelming feeling of well-being, that there was a God, and I could see him in every blade of grass. It was like gaining hundreds of years of experience in 12 hours."

In his new book, 'Morality - Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times', Rabbi Jonathan Sacks chronicles the devastating long-term effects of leisure drugs. He includes cannabis, which he calls a 'gateway drug', because most of those who become serious addicts later, began with it.

So what was it that Hylton Murray-Philipson actually experienced, when he was at death's door in that hospital intensive care unit? He knew the biblical story of seasoned fishermen, fearful of their lives because a sudden squall threatened to swamp their boat. Did he recall their alarm because Jesus, asleep in the stern, appeared to be unconcerned at the very moment when divine assistance was most needed? Did not his coronavirus-induced distress match theirs?

The Gospels relate that Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. Is that what Hylton experienced, too? He says it was.

Norman reflects on Rogation Tide

For many years the Parish has celebrated Rogation Sunday the day when the Church has traditionally offered prayers for God's blessings on the fruits of the earth and the labours of those who produce our food.

I have read that the word Rogation is from the Latin rogare "To ask"

Historically ,the rogation days (the three days before Ascension Day)were a period of fasting and abstinence and asking for God's blessing on the crops for a bountiful harvest. Less of us today are directly involved in food production so it is good particularly this year to be reminded of those who work in the food industry whilst remembering our responsibility for the environment.

Traditionally a common feature of Rogation days was the ceremony of beating the bounds, in which a procession of parishioners led by the minister would proceed around the parish boundary and pray for it's protection in the forthcoming year. We have for many years held a Rogation Sunday procession in West Tilbury accompanied by Grays Town Band. Sadly that will not be possible this year this year but we must give thanks for the wonders of creation such as livestock, fields, orchards and gardens.

I like this prayer for Rogation tide :

Lord we give thanks for your loving kindness towards us.

Bless the good earth and make it fruitful.

Bless our labour and give us all the things needed for our daily lives.

Bless the homes of our parish and all who live within them.

Bless our common life and our care for our neighbours.

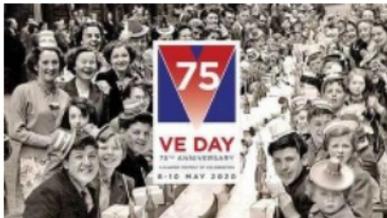
Hear us good Lord. Amen

Rogation Sunday was of course on May 17th this year but of course we were unable to hold our usual service in West Tilbury.....Ed

A few years ago Pat and I went on a week long coach holiday during which I gave the other passengers the following teaser and told them I would give them the answer when we got back or they could come and tell me the answer and I would tell them if they were right. I regret to say that I had to tell everyone (there were one or two who didn't want to know) when they got off the coach in Grays. "A man died and went to heaven where he discovered that everyone was naked and everyone was about 21 years old. He met up with his wife, who had died a few years earlier and as they wandered around heaven he suddenly said: "Oh look, there 's Adam and Eve How did he know that the couple he pointed out were truly Adam and Eve? "

Submitted by Valerie Doyle and answer next month.....Ed

VE Day



With the national lock-down in place for the pretty much the whole of May the 75th anniversary celebrations of VE day had to be, of necessity, on a much smaller scale than might have been the case and bore no comparison to those in 1944. However the occasion was marked in a variety of ways.

Norman King writes:

I don't remember VE Day but my Mum told me that I was at the Queen Elizabeth Avenue street party . My Great Grandad Luther (Good name for a C. of E. churchgoer and more recently a BBC Series) aged 84 who lived in No. 42 was the oldest person in the avenue and had pride of place at the head of the table. I checked the Bata Reminiscence and Resources centre but there were only three photographs two of the party in King George and one in Bata Avenue, so I can't confirm my attendance.

This year on the 75th anniversary we had a social distance party in Fieldway sitting in the front garden and we were lucky that professional entertainers who live a few doors away gave an afternoon concert on their drive and returned at 9.15p.m. For "We'll meet again". It was a good day with many memories both happy and sad for everybody.

Also, to mark the occasion Revd. Michèle produced a memorial display in the porch of St. Francis. (See picture)

As you walked around the streets it was apparent that the significance of the day had not been forgotten. In Somerset Road there was a street "picnic" with strict social distancing and with the benefit of a disco with two enormous speaker stacks in the front garden of the house opposite the Rectory.

Speaking personally, I can vouch for the celebrations at our end of Northumberland Road which started at 11a.m. and didn't conclude until "We'll meet again" had been sung at 9.30p.m. Both the adults and children having an enjoyable day in the sun even if we did need to keep well away from each other! *Chris Ford*



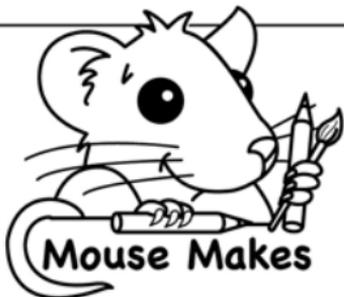
The following is an actual call centre conversation....

Customer: "I've been ringing you on 0700 2300 for two days. Why didn't you answer?"

Travel agent: "Where did you get that number from, sir?"

Customer: "It's there on the door to your Travel Centre."

Operator: "Sir, they are our opening hours."



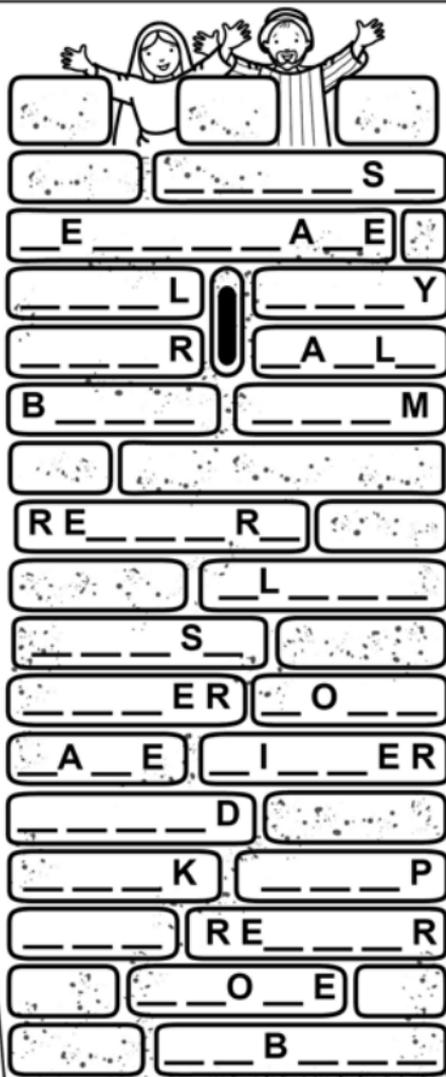
When Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins he sat down and wept. For days he fasted and prayed before God.

Finally the opportunity came for him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, but it was not going to be easy...

READ Nehemiah's story in the *Old Testament* book of **Nehemiah**, chapters 1-7

Here is Nehemiah's list of all the things that needed to be done to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Fill in the missing gaps on the tower to help rebuild the wall.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRAY | <input type="checkbox"/> GATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RUBBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> BEAM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REPAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> BOLT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORE | <input type="checkbox"/> BAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILD | <input type="checkbox"/> STEP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WORK | <input type="checkbox"/> TOWER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STONE | <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TIMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> POOL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WALLS | <input type="checkbox"/> FINISH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOOR | <input type="checkbox"/> DEDICATE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROOF | <input type="checkbox"/> DOOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CELEBRATE | |



How many gates were repaired?
Who re-built them?

How long did it take to finish the walls?



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



While it is highly unlikely that any of this month's programme will take place because of the Coronavirus pandemic I thought it good to know what was planned and perhaps, to have our own events at home to coincide with them. Just to be clear, at the time of writing our churches are still closed until further notice..... Ed

3 Jun	Holy Communion at St Francis	10.00am
	Community "Drop In" at St Francis	10.30am - noon
4 Jun	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am - 1.00pm
7 Jun	Trinity Sunday	
	Parish Communion	10.00am
10 Jun	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10.00am
	Community "Drop In" at St. Francis	10.30am - noon
11 Jun	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am - 1.00pm
14 Jun	1 st Sunday after Trinity	
	Parish Communion	10.00am
17 Jun	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10.00am
	Community "Drop In" at St Francis	10.30am - noon
18 Jun	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am - 1.00pm
21 Jun	2 nd Sunday after Trinity	
	Parish Communion	10.00am
24 Jun	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10.00am
	Community "Drop In" at St Francis	10.30am - noon
25 Jun	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am - 1.00pm
28 Jun	3 rd Sunday after Trinity	
	Parish Communion	10.00am

We are all aware of the strapline "You should have gone to Specsavers, but this was apparently seen in an opticians shop window:-

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

FROM ST. CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

none

Weddings

None

Committal of ashes

None

Funeral

15 May	Elsie Elizabeth Hampshire
26 May	Ellen Lavinia Plom
28 May	Margaret Jean Kennedy

Margaret Robinson - R.I.P.

Sadly Canon Paul's wife, Margaret died at home on 20th May after a short illness. Margaret was a member of the Mothers' Union for some time and many of us will remember her for her cheese scones but my lasting memory will be of conversations with her when she told me about her dealings with "moon rock" - yes the real stuff!.....*Ed*

Charles Dickens - prolific writer with a social conscience - *Tim Lenton*

Popular Victorian novelist Charles Dickens died 150 years ago, on 9th June 1870. His books include *The Pickwick Papers*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *David Copperfield*.

He died of a stroke in Gad's Hill Place, his country home in Kent, when halfway through writing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. The last novel he completed – most of them were written in regularly released parts – was *Our Mutual Friend*, in 1865.

He had been born in Portsmouth in 1812, the second of eight children. His family were relatively poor, and his mother wanted him out at work, so he never received a formal education. Nevertheless, he edited a weekly journal for 20 years and wrote 15 novels, as well as many other stories, articles and letters. He was also a staunch social campaigner, particularly for children's rights and education.

As could be deduced from one of his most loved works, *A Christmas Carol*, he was a firm believer in Christian elements such as compassion and redemption, and he loved the New Testament, while having little time for the Old or for organised religion. His parents were nominal Anglicans. He is said to have wanted his stories to be seen as 'parables' emphasising the teaching of Jesus.

The Parish

The Priest in charge

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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 the Priest in Charge.

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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

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Copy Dates for Pewtalk

22nd June 2020

22nd July 2020

24th August 2020