

PEWTALK 40_P

March 2017



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES



A New Facebook Page has been opened for the church by Kathy Bird, Please share this link with your contacts so they can keep up to date with 'what's on' here at St Catherine's and St Francis. Search for ,St Catherines Church, East Tilbury to view the page. It can also be accessed from a link on the first page of our website. Any suggestions or links you would like added please forward to Kathy. Mobile and E Mail links for Kathy are on the back cover of Pew Talk.

The February 100 club winners were Neil and Jan Fawsitt Congratulations first time winners.

On Ash Wednesday, 1st March there will not be a service of Holy Communion at St. Francis in the morning but instead Canon Martin Wood will led a service of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes in St. Catherine's at 7.30pm

The Thurrock foodbank which we have supported since its inception is suggesting a way in which you can support them if you plan to give something up for the season of Lent as we prepare for Easter. You will see elsewhere in Pewtalk their poster which explains the idea. The foodbank team would very much welcome your support.

A reminder that the Parish annual meetings are on Monday 24th April at 7.30pm in St. Catherine's. The Area Dean will be with us and during the meetings we need to elect our Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and members of the PCC. Please pray for the success of these meetings and for those that may be

considering standing for election to one of these positions.

Paul Ruskin, a regular member of the St.



Catherine's congregation, is running in this year's London marathon on 23rd April and is seeking sponsors to help him raise money for the Neuro Foundation which is the UK

charity that aims to improve the lives of people with neurofibromatosis (NF). His wife, Hollie, suffers from the condition NF1.

There are approximately 25,000 people in the UK diagnosed with NF1 and there is currently no cure for NF. Treatment involves regular monitoring and dealing with any problems as they occur. In many cases treatment can help people live a full life with neurofibromatosis, however there's a risk of developing serious problems such as certain types of cancer which can reduce life expectancy in some people by 15 years.

NF1 is the most common type of neurofibromatosis, affecting about 1 in 3000 births so any money raised will be greatly appreciated and hopefully will help towards research and further treatments.

If you would like to help Paul with his effort you can give on-line through Virgin Money Giving at uk.virginmoneygiving.com and search for Paul Ruskin. Alternatively Paul can be contacted on 07506-128560.

From the Wardens - March 2017

Although we are still in an interregnum life goes on very much as usual, largely through the good offices of Canon Darren Barlow, the Area Dean for the Thurrock Deanery, and the clergy of Thurrock and the wider Diocese. Apart from our usual services we are also still having Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and Burials. Although this comes as no surprise to the regular congregation we do meet some who do find it surprising.

We are also playing our part in the community. Recently, St Catherine's was used for presentations and consultations about future plans for Coalhouse Fort. The meeting had been originally planned for the East Tilbury Library but since the recent arson attack the venue was switch to the church. The organisers were very impressed with the building as a venue for this kind of meeting and were very pleased that we could host it. However there were two gentlemen in particular who thought it a lovely building "very peaceful and calming", "quite a surprise when you come in", but they didn't seem to understand that it was primarily a place of worship and in use every Sunday. The church will be in use again on 30th April as a venue to support the Coalhouse Fort project. On that evening, after our usual tea afternoon there will be a function to mark the end of the project. During the evening the invited guests will hear presentations covering the life of the project so that those who represent the funders can see and appreciate how and where their money was used.

Turning back to the subject of the interregnum, we are in the process of producing a Parish Profile which will form the basis of any subsequent advertising for an Associate Priest for the Parish. To make this real we need input from parishioners to set out what are perceived to be the main needs and challenges in the next few years together with a view of the gifts that we might hope that a new priest can bring. One of the reasons for an interregnum is to give a breathing space for us to consider where we go from here!

As a result of a recent meeting with Fr. David Rollins (who will be our Priest in Charge once the new Associate Priest is appointed) and Canon Martin Wood (who is the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Advisor) a series of questions were devise for us to consider. You will find these in this magazine and if you would like your thought considered just fill them out and send them in.

Can we also draw your attention breakfast at the "Ministry Cafe" on 18th March (see the invitation on the inside back cover). This is an opportunity for us to explain to others how we minister in our church, whether by reading, leading worship, leading prayers or helping with Baptisms, Weddings etc., and to hear how other churches do things.

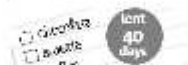
Chris

Give it up for Foodbank

Thurrock foodbank would like to encourage you to live simply and sacrificially by giving something up this year for Lent and then donating either that food item (long life products only) or the money that you would have spent on that luxury item to us.

Here are some ideas of things you could give up for Lent...

- Eating meat & fish*
- Dairy / eggs / cheese*
- Sugar in your tea or coffee
- Biscuits / cakes / desserts*
- Fruit juice*
- Chocolate*
- Cigarettes
- Alcohol
- Newspapers / magazines
- Using your car for journeys under 1 mile



*Please only donate long-life food to us - no fresh food products or any other items.

**Donations can be taken to a number of places across the borough, please check our website for details: <https://thurrockfoodbank.org>

Alternatively, another way to support us is by doing the give 40p for 40 days challenge and donating the money to us at the end of Lent.

Please make cheques payable to Thurrock foodbank and send to 2-4 Chase Road, Carrington, S51 7QR

Please be creative with your Lent ideas and thank you all for your support!

Survey to the worshipping community of St Catherine and St Francis

As we look ahead to the appointment of our new priest, there are all sorts of questions to answer

- What sort of person will our new Associate Priest be?
- Now that our church buildings are fit for purpose, what is the next step?
- Looking ahead to the future what are the three issues/developments for the Parish?

What can we achieve in the next five years?

Please number (1,2,3) what you think are the top three priorities for our churches

Make contact with those moving into parish in new housing developments
Use the opportunities offered for mission by those visiting Coalhouse Fort
Forge relationships with the local schools and build relationships with children and their families
Build better links with the uniformed organisations in the parish and other youth initiatives
Engage in the social needs of the wider community e.g. Foodbanks, debt counselling, regeneration issues etc.
Find ways to teach the faith to new Christians
Organize teaching opportunities for the current worshipping congregations; so that people are more confident in faith
Help people deepen their prayer life
Other – are there any other priorities that we missed?

Our new associate priest will need to work collaboratively with the United Parishes of Dongham and Fanning and the Ministry Teams there and in this period, our his or her primary concern will be to minister to and engage in the local community of E & W Tilbury and Linford

What sort of person might fit into this role?

Please indicate the top three gifts or skills that you think would enable our next priest to flourish here. Please number (1, 2, 3) what you think is most important to help our priest fit our current shepe

Outreach – being able to help us link with the local community

Mission – being able to help us share the Gospel outside our church walls

An inspiring preacher – help us understand and live out the Gospel

A good communicator – enable those in our churches to be fully engaged and those outside to find out what is going on

Have a depth of spirituality – a holy person who can inspire holiness in us

A broadness of churchmanship – help us to welcome anyone and everyone, no matter what, if any, their church background might be

A pastoral heart – who can help us to love each other and to love our neighbour as ourselves

A gifted teacher – who can help us to share our faith with others

Leadership skills – who can help our churches to flourish in the new way that ministry will be done here

Other – is there anything we missed? Please add it here

When you have completed the questionnaire, please return it to the Editor, Chris Ford whose contact details are on the back page of the magazine. Thank you.

Some Holiday reading - not yours necessarily - but mine!

A few years ago when it was suggested in church that when I went on holiday I could happily sit (or lie) in the sun all day, just reading books there was a certain amount of disbelief. However for the most part it is true and when Kim and I were in Sri Lanka that is exactly what we did. To be honest I cannot remember all the books that I read but I found two particularly interesting and thought that they might appeal to others. So here they are.

Stuart - a life backwards by Alexander Masters

Wow; what a powerful story. This is the biography of Stuart Shorter, by his own admission a chaotic homeless person. Kim and I had first heard something of this story when we heard the writer talking at the Wigtown Book Festival last year but reading it is something else.

The book opens with Stuart telling Alexander that the book is boring and that he has got to start again and do better. To quote him "Alexander, sort it out - you're the writer. I just done the living". And so Alexander does re-write it but this time backwards with the story starting with Stuart as he is and then chapter by chapter back through his life to, finally, his childhood between the ages of 0 -10. Stuart says on several occasions that he cannot identify when he became the person he is but as we read back into his history it becomes clearer and clearer that he has had much more than just a difficult life. Some of his experiences are quite appalling.

Reading the book has left me with two overwhelming thoughts. The first is that I must be very careful how I judge (if at all) some of the people I come across but rather should think "I wonder what they have been through?". The second is that there is an awful lot wrong with our Society when much of what Stuart had to suffer went undetected until it was far too late.

I thoroughly commend this book; it may not be an eye-opener to you but it certainly was to me.

Coles to Jerusalem: A pilgrimage to the Holy Land by Kevin Jackson

Clearly a completely different book on a very different subject. I was drawn to it because, again I had heard Rev. Richard Coles speak at Wigtown and I had read his autobiography.

The book is an account of a trip to the Holy Land led by Rev. Coles in the company of some of his parishioners and other friends. The writer is a non-Christian friend who narrates the pilgrimage in diary form almost from the outside. I found the descriptions of the journey and the observation of Richard Coles quite fascinating. Certainly not a heavy read but fun none the less.

Chris Ford

FROM THE FEBRUARY PCC MEETING

The PCC met on Monday 20th February at St. Catherine's with what was a fairly short agenda. The main points that were discussed follow.

Colin and Chris as our churchwardens had met with Fr. David Rollins and the Corringham and Fobbing wardens just to start to get to know each other as when our new Associate Priest is in place he or she will be working with the Corringham and Fobbing team as well - and we will be working with them no doubt.

The Electrical work at St. Francis has been completed and Colin advised the meeting that current legislation requires that the emergency lighting is on when ever the building is in use. To that end there are individual switches at each of these lights and we should try to ensure that they are turned on when we arrive and off as we leave.

In the absence of Norman who was on holiday, there was just a general discussion on the Parish Finances and the need to ensure, where we can, that our income at least keeps up with inflation.

The Parish Profile was discussed. Chris had produced an update description of the Parish, its buildings and activities in preparation for a meeting with Fr. David Rollins and Canon Martin Wood the next day.

The Parish annual meetings arrangements were discussed an all were asked to produce their input for the annual report a.s.a.p. So that Chris could put it all

together. Chris told that meeting that Norman and Sheila had done most of the work on the accounts in readiness for the audit.

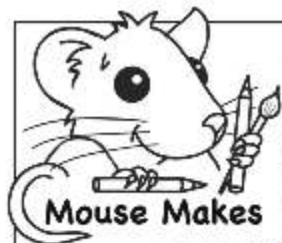
The Deanery Synod report was given by Sue and Kim who told the meeting that the speaker had been from the Seafarer's Centre in Tilbury Dock. They are very willing to provide speakers for local churches and this led to a discussion about how such speakers might usefully be used at our Family Service.

Colin Strong gave the PCC an update on the progress with the snagging items with particular reference to the oak platform and the smell that arose from the incident when the tower roof was being repaired. Chris advised that he, and Ben the architect, were still waiting for Bakers response to our concerns about the heating.

Colin reported on progress with the new ashes memorial area in the churchyard. He had sent off details of the memorial plaques to the DAC for their approval.

Under AOB arrangements were made for the Shrove Tuesday pancake evening and dates for the Lent lunches were set as 11th March and 1st April. There was also a brief discussion about the provision of "brown" road signs to point to St. Catherine's. Colin agreed to look into it again.

The next meeting was set for 25th March at St. Francis



Mouse Makes

SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.



ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**. It is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance. In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone. For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.



Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called **LENT**



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil *three* times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.



- 1 The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**
- 2 The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**
- 3 The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



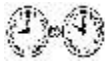
Dear Lord,
Please forgive me for

.....
Amen



PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's

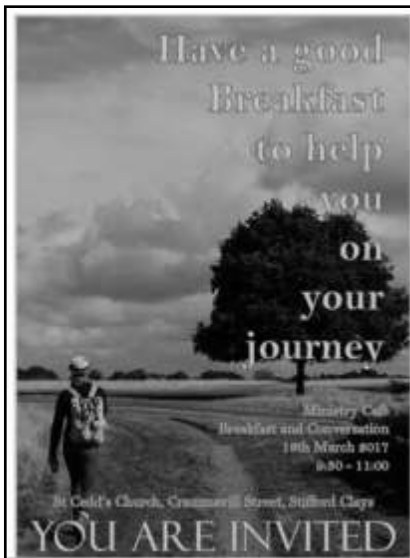


1 Mar	ASH WEDNESDAY No Holy Communion (St. Francis)	
	Drop In at St. Francis	10.30am - noon
	Holy Communion and service of "ashing"	7.30pm
2 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
3 Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer at Our Lady, Star of the Sea in Tilbury	2.00pm
5 Mar	4th 1st Sunday of Lent "The Family Service"	10am
7 Mar	Lent group at St. Francis	8pm - 9pm
8 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
9 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
11 Mar	Lent lunch at St. Francis	12noon
12 Mar	2nd Sunday of LENT Parish Communion	10am
14 Mar	Lent group at St. Francis	8pm - 9pm
15 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
16 Mar	Foodbank at St Francis School for Discipleship with Bishop Stephen at St. Peter & St. Paul, Grays	11am - 1pm 7pm for 7.30pm
18 Mar	Ministry Cafe at ST. Cedd's, Crammavill Street Marriage of Steven Whyman and Jenna Oram	9.30am - 11am 12noon
19 Mar	3rd Sunday of LENT Parish Communion	10am
21 Mar	Lent group at St. Francis	8pm - 9pm
22 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
23 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
25 Mar	Cake Sale at St Francis	10am - noon
26 Mar	MOTHERING SUNDAY (don't forget British Summer time TODAY!) Parish Communion	10am
28 Mar	PCC meeting at St. Francis	7.30pm
29 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
30 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm

FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

5 FEB Baptism of Cian Hemi Raine



Ministry Cafe

On Saturday 18th March we are all invited for Breakfast at the "Ministry Cafe" in St. Cedds, Crammavill Street, Stifford Clays. The idea is that as we enjoy our breakfast we can meet with other Christians and share our experiences of ministry in our church. The idea is that in this way we can find out how other churches deal with leading services, worship and intercessions, reading the bible in the service, welcoming members of the congregation as they arrive etc.

It is hoped that in this way we may all benefit from the experience of others as well as sharing our experiences.

And we are told that the breakfast will be good as well!

Seen in some Church Notices (not ours)

On Wednesday during the Ladies Liturgy Group Mrs. Johnson will sing "Put me in my little bed" accompanied by the Vicar.

Don't let worry kill you, let the Church help.

Remember in prayer, the many who are sick of our church and community.

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: rd r r

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E: rd r

Editor

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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:

KATHY BIRD

07920 794716

kathleen.bird@live.co.uk

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

20th March 2017

17th April 2017

22nd May 2017