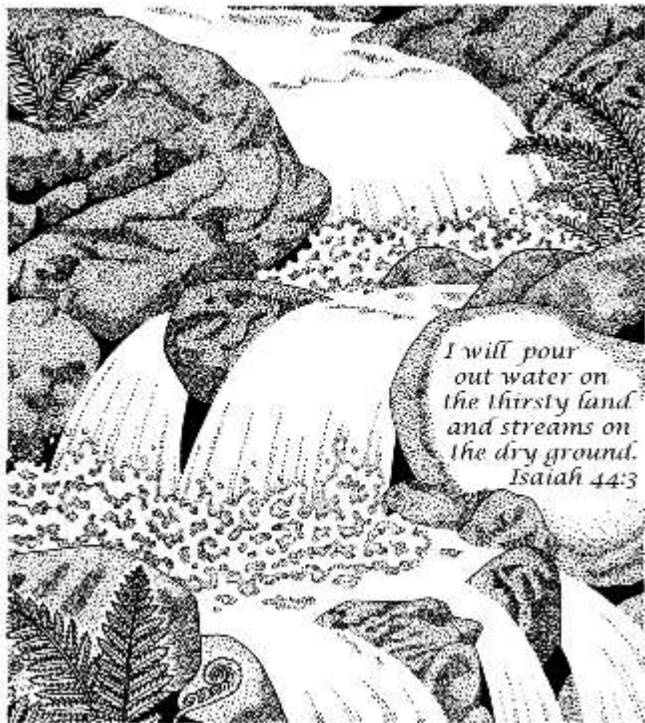


PEWTALK 50_P

March 2018



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES

There were two events in support of the Bishop of Chelmsford's Lent appeal in February. The Shrove Tuesday pancake night was very well attended and raised £50 in donations. The first Lent austerity lunch when we were joined by Canon Revd. Ivor Moody and our local Methodist minister, Revd. Brenda Gutberlet and £40 was raised. There is another Lent lunch on Palm Sunday, 25th March.

A reminder that this year "Women's World Day of Prayer" service is at 2pm on Friday 2nd March at St. John the Baptist church in Dock Road Tilbury. If you would like more details about this event please contact Patricia Strong.

The Parish now has a Pastoral Assistant, David Gunn. David was commissioned by the Archdeacon of Southend, Canon Revd. Mike Lodge at our morning service on 25th February. If you or anyone you know would appreciate a visit from David, his telephone number is 01375-768202.

At the February PCC meeting it was agreed that it would probably be better and easier for all those involved (who are not getting any younger) if, instead of teams of four cleaning St. Catherine's every three weeks or so, we organised an "open" cleaning morning on the last Saturday of a month. The first of these will be at the end of March on 31st at 10am. Do come and join us if you can and get the church spick and span for Easter.

There is still one outstanding issue with the work done on St. Catherine's in 2015 which is a very infrequent leak from the kitchen roof. It only seems to occur

when there is a strong wind from the West during heavy rain. Our architect and the contractors are in discussion as to what might be the cause - Bakers and their roofing sub-contractor having already done some investigations which were inconclusive. Watch this space for more news.

Last Good Friday apart from our own "Stations of the Cross" service, we hosted our local Baptist friends as they held a quiet period of refectation and some refreshments after they had joined together for a walk in the Coalhouse Fort Country Park. They will be repeating this event and if you would like to join them in their walk it starts at 2pm.

This year the parish annual meetings will be on the evening of April 10th at 7.30pm at St. Francis. At the first meeting we are required to elect our Churchwardens for the year and at the second we hear of the work of the PCC during the year and elect new councillors. To elect PCC members you need to be on the Electoral Roll of the parish. If you are not but would like to be please contact Kathy Bird

Mothering Sunday this year is on March 11th and, following our usual practice, we will be holding our "Home made" cake sale at St. Francis on Saturday 10th March from 10am - noon. Please support the bakers by coming with your friends and family.

A Final thought. If you plan to be in church on time for the Palm Sunday service, you must remember to put clocks forward an hour the evening before.

Bisop Stephen's Easter message



Share a bit of Easter 'foolishness'

When was the last time you shared a bit of good old-fashioned Christian 'foolishness'?

Many early Christians eagerly embraced the label 'foolishness' for the good news they shared about Jesus. They didn't think the Gospel was nonsense, though. They simply saw that, by the usual standards of the world, the story of the cross and resurrection was 'foolishness'. Today, in a world obsessed with material success, the cross has lost none of its 'foolishness'. Today, in a time when hope seems in desperately short supply, the 'foolishness' of the resurrection remains as powerful as ever.

So, this Easter, I want to challenge all of us to rediscover, celebrate – and most importantly – *share* the delicious 'foolishness' of the cross and resurrection with those around us.

The cross is 'foolishness' because it is a sign of complete failure by the usual standards. Things looked different when Jesus arrived triumphantly at Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, however. As he was heralded by great crowds, Jesus seems to be the epitome of success. But that was one day at the start of a very long week.

As the days went by, success disintegrated and faltered into Good Friday, when Jesus's death on the cross was to redefine the depth of worldly failure. He seemed a failure through the betrayal and denial of his closest friends, a failure in his condemnation by the political and religious authorities and the crowds, a failure in the anguish and humiliation of his public torture, a failure in his pathetic criminal's death on a cross - suffocated by the weight of his own broken body. Truly, from the foot of the cross the sign above his head, 'The King of the Jews', seemed so foolish as to be laughable.

At Easter we discover that this 'foolishness' shouldn't be accompanied by the laughter of derision, however, but rather by the laughter of great joy: the laughter of hope fulfilled beyond any expectation. The 'foolishness' of the resurrection is that the terrifying absence of Jesus's body from the tomb tells of the eternal presence of the risen Christ! *At that*

moment, the 'failure' of the cross is revealed to be God's great triumph – a success beyond our imaginings.

If we share this 'foolishness', we become beacons of resurrection hope in a world paralysed by fear of failure. If we cherish this 'foolishness', we are liberated to be disciples who know that whether we succeed or fail by the world's standards, the risen Christ is present with us. In our triumphs and joys, our disappointments and disasters, and even in our death, the risen Christ is there. He is with us because in the cross and resurrection the world's greatest failure was shown to be the eternal triumph of God's love. *That* is a 'foolishness' that world needs to hear in every generation. So let's share it.

— Steve Dunlop



A "Real" Easter Egg

The new look 2018 Real Easter Egg range is available to order now. People are being asked to buy one as a special gift for a family member or friend as a unique way of sharing the story of Easter.

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable

projects.

This year the Original and Dark eggs come with an A5 Easter story activity book which has 24 pages. Illustrated by Martina Peluso, the book will delight children and adults. The Special Edition comes with an olive wood holding cross keyring from Bethlehem and a simple guide to Easter.

A Hunt Box is also available with six midi eggs and a 12 page cross shaped Easter story-activity booklet. For larger groups, the Sharing Box comes with 30 midi eggs and 30 copies of the cross shaped Easter story-activity booklet.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 but the supermarkets turned down the idea at first. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders to fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to make The Real Easter Egg.

To date, more than one million eggs have been sold with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools. The rest have been sold through independent retailers and supermarkets.

The success of The Real Easter Egg has meant that the production of Fairtrade chocolate has moved to the UK. Over £250,000 has been raised from sales for charitable causes.

Where to buy: The whole range can be ordered online at www.realeasteregg.co.uk or from Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk, TLM trading.com, Embrace the Middle East. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stock.

You can also buy the blue Original egg from Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons and Asda.

See the full shop list or order at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

THE WAY I SEE IT: Mothers and Mothering - the thoughts of Canon David Winter

The American invention, "Mother's Day", will be celebrated on Sunday 11th March, though the cards, boxes of chocolates and reservations for deliveries of flowers will be in the shops long before. It's a very nice idea, as most of us love our mothers dearly and welcome a chance to celebrate their importance in our lives.



I say "American invention", because long before Mother's Day there was a Christian event, marked nowadays in the Church Calendar, with the title 'Mothering Sunday'. It's still widely observed in churches on the fourth Sunday of Lent, and yes, that's 11th March, too.

The difference between them is subtle but profound. 'Mother's Day' is about who she is, particularly in our lives. 'Mothering Sunday', as its rather awkward name implies, is about a quality which we recognise in mothers but can be present elsewhere – to 'mother' someone.

We have all needed mothering, from time to time, and not simply when we were tiny and helpless, literally dependent on our mothers for our sustenance and survival. During the years of the last War I was 'mothered' by my grandmother. Sometimes a friend acts in this role for us, when we feel lonely or helpless. 'Mothering' means caring deeply, sustaining, supporting, whatever the cost.

That is why God, whom we usually call 'Father', is sometimes spoken of in the Bible as 'mothering' us, gathering us in His arms of love, even feeding us like a mother. On 'Mothering Sunday' we celebrate so much more than our own beloved mums. We celebrate the whole glorious notion of care, compassion and nurture. And of that care, very often our own mothers are the very best examples.

Beware tough laws on phones in cars

It is now nearly a year (April 2017) since the Law clamped down on motorists who use their phones at the wheel. But many drivers may not realise that the laws also extend to using mobile phones as satnavs.

Although it is not illegal to use a navigation app, drivers face prosecution if they touch the handset for any reason, while they are at the wheel, even if the vehicle is not moving. The maximum penalty has doubled, to a £200 fine and six points, or even disqualification.

Pete Williams, road safety spokesman for the RAC, says: 'More has to be done to educate drivers that any use of a hand-held phone at the wheel is both illegal and presents both a mental and physical distraction that could ultimately cause a crash and the loss of life.' In 2015 there were 22 deaths on the roads, simply due to drivers



Thurrock foodbank provides emergency food supplies to local people in crisis within the borough. Foodbank fills a real and ongoing need in our local area, but we need food donations, financial gifts and more volunteers to help collect and distribute the food. If you can assist, just email volunteering@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk

Emergency food for local people in crisis. Thurrock people help give Thurrock people

BIG DEMAND FOR FOODBANK

Although we received a lot of donated food during the autumn and just before Christmas there has been a huge demand in the number of people we need to help over the winter, so the stocks of food take a real consecutive hit as we grow.

To make sure we continue to have enough food to meet the needs of those who require it, here are two practical ways you can help.

1. Every time you go shopping, buy items from the list on the right and take them to your usual collecting point, or to our warehouse in Corningham.
2. Give money for food items directly to Thurrock foodbank. We can then shop on your behalf to buy the things we urgently need.

MICROWAVE DONATIONS

Thurrock Foodbank was in urgent need of microwaves to help those in crisis in the borough living in temporary accommodation or hostels who were unable to heat the food provided from Foodbank. Thurrock Council's Adult Social Care Service donated the funds to buy them from their annual Beer Lunch to Thurrock Foodbank. Also, a team within the Adult Social Care Service informed a colleague, Tami Fawcett who works in Children's Services, that they would like to donate the money they would have spent on their Name Sains present to the foodbank. Tami, who is on the Foodbank Governance Team, suggested the same purchase microwaves. She put the challenge on across the Council to see if other teams would like to do the same. As a result Thurrock Council Individual staff and team contributions enabled Thurrock Foodbank to receive a total of 17 Microwaves! Amazing. Thank you.



SHORTAGE FOOD ITEMS

We are in need of some of the following items to help us provide a reliable and sustainable food service to our community. Donations of specific items requested are gratefully received and much appreciated. Help us to help others.

- ❖ long-life fruit juice
- ❖ sponge puddings
- ❖ pasta (lasagne)
- ❖ tinned fruit
- ❖ tea bags (family-size packs)

It would really help get to work with our food to give us the best possible quality of life and health as there is no other alternative.

EASTER FOOD

If you are planning to donate any Easter food items this year such as Easter Eggs we need to receive them as soon as possible so they can be packed and sent out to the distribution centres before Easter is well.

WANT TO HELP OUT? CONTACT US TODAY

Can you spare a couple of hours to help with the emergency food collection or give a big donation this February? It is still open for donations to our website www.thurrock.foodbank.org.uk

Thurrock Foodbank
140-142
High Street
Thurrock, Essex



The Children's Society



At the last Deanery Synod meeting there was a speaker from the Children's Society who provided the following information about Children's lives in Thurrock.

- * There are 32,272 children living in the constituency.
- * There are 1,027 children known to children's services in Thurrock because of abuse and neglect
- * According to police recorded data for sexual offences against children in the Essex Police area, 1,149 sexual offences were committed against children in 2015/16.
- * The Children's Society estimate that there are 4,000 children living in 2,300 families with problem debt in Thurrock.
- * 27.5% of children in the constituency live in poverty (after housing costs), compared to a national average of 30%.
- * Based on the latest prevalence survey that estimates that 1 in 10 young people aged between 5 and 16 had a clinically diagnosed mental health problem, there would be around 2,000 children this age in need of support in Thurrock.
- * There are 450 unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the care of local authorities in the East of England.

The Society is working to address these issues both here and nation wide. If you would like to support the work of the Society, June Schroeder is our parish contact.

The Family Service

It was in June 2016 that saw the first of the recent, lay led, "Family Service"s on the 1st Sunday of the month. The reasons for introducing this service were twofold. In the first place it was recognised that in the future it would be increasingly difficult to get ordained cover for every Sunday service. In the second place there was a view at the PCC that, if we were to try and encourage new people to find out more about the Christian faith, they might find our Holy Communion service hard to relate too.

Each month the talk is given by a member of our congregation and at the February service, Norman and Sheila used "Candlemass" as their topic. They had lots of information to share and served crêpes (which is a Candlemass tradition in France) at the end of the service. If you, someone in your family or friends would like to find out more about what goes on in St. Catherine's please do encourage them to join us especially if they are concerned about what might be behind the door. We don't bite!

FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE P.C.C.

The PCC met at St. Catherine's on 19th February and the following matters were dealt with.

Referring to the minutes of the January meeting, Colin Strong and Geraldine told the meeting that, at long last, the Diocese had agreed to David Gunn becoming a Pastoral Assistant for the parish. David would be commissioned by the Archdeacon during the morning service on 25th February. Colin also advised that the Diocesan Registrar had asked for some more information about St. Catherine's churchyard in connection with the faculty application for the "Billinghurst" ashes memorial.

Canon Paul Robinson had been in touch with the Churchwardens with details of how the PCC might proceed to complete the external works at St. Catherine's for which there is still a faculty. It was agreed that, as this would be a significant commitment, a meeting with Paul to discuss the details would be sensible. Sue Spiers agreed to get in touch with Paul.

Chris Ford quickly updated the PCC on the revision of the parish profile. He had been in touch with the Area Dean about his revised input and asked the meeting to read the existing document and pass any suggested changes to him a.s.a.p.

In the Churchwarden's report, Colin advised that all March services and Easter were now covered and he was working on the rest of April. He advised there was to be a meeting with our architect and Bakers on 21st to discuss the "leak" from the kitchen roof. Sue Spiers then introduced a discussion on the new Data Protection regulations that will become law in May. The Diocesan advice is that we need to obtain specific permission from the congregation / parishioners before

we can send out information of services / events etc. Chris Ford is looking at the forms that will need to be completed but we will also need to establish a database, filing system and appoint a data protection officer.

During a review of the Easter services, there was a discussion about our "Stations of the Cross". There was a suggestion that we might incorporate this into a walk around the Coalhouse Fort country park, with "stations" along the way - in this way demonstrating to a wider public what Good Friday is really about. However it was felt that the age of our congregation might preclude this and so it was agreed that the service would be in St. Catherine's as in the past.

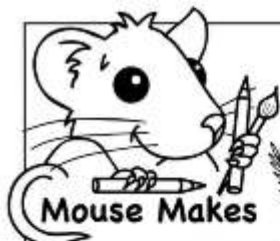
Norman reported that the latest Bakers bill had been paid which had reduced our balances considerably. He also advised that the accounts for 2017 had now been examined and found to be fine.

Sue and Kim briefly reported on the last Deanery Synod report. They told the meeting that there had been a presentation by a representative of the Children's Society. The other major item was the Data Protection changes.

Pam briefed the meeting on the successful Pancake night and reminded all that we need to advertise the Quiz Night and concert as well as getting the tickets sold.

It was suggested and agreed that we should invite the uniformed organisations to join with us for some of our Family Services.

Finally there was a discussion on the cleaning of St. Catherine's. It was felt that rather than expect teams of four to do it all we should switch to a system where once a month all are invited to join a cleaning party.



Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers



READ Matthew 21:1-11

Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10

READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7





PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



2 Mar	Women's World Day of Prayer service at St. John the Baptist, Dock Road, Tilbury	2.pm
4 Mar	3rd Sunday of LENT <i>The Family Service</i>	10am
6 Mar	LENT Study at Linford Methodist Church	7.30pm
7 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
8 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
10 Mar	<i>Sale of Homemade Cakes at St. Francis, Linford</i>	10am - noon
11 Mar	MOTHERING SUNDAY Parish Communion	10am
13 Mar	LENT Study at Linford Methodist Church	7.30pm
14 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
15 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
18 Mar	5th Sunday of LENT Parish Communion and Sunday School Baptism of Luna Alana Churchman	10am 12.30pm
20 Mar	LENT Study at Linford Methodist Church	7.30pm
21 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
22 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
23 Mar	Visit by U3A "Homeless response" at Sockets Heath Baptist Church	11am 7pm

**** 24 Mar Clocks go forward tonight *****

25 Mar	PALM SUNDAY Parish Communion <i>Followed by a Lent lunch</i>	10am
26 Mar	PCC meeting at St. Catherine's	7.30pm
27 Mar	LENT Study at Linford Methodist Church	7.30pm
28 Mar	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
29 Mar	MAUNDY THURSDAY Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm

PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH (cont)

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's

29 Mar	MAUNDY THURSDAY Communion	7.30pm
	WELCOM forum meeting at Linford Methodist Church	7.30pm
30 Mar	GOOD FRIDAY "Stations of the Cross" at St. Catherine's	1pm
	Join Sockets Heath Baptists and others for a walk in Coalhouse Fort park followed by a service of reflection led by their minister, Ashley Lovett and refreshments.	2pm
31 Mar	EASTER EVE Cleaning St. Catherine's for Easter	10am

FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

None in February

Funerals

23 Feb	John Walsham (at Corbets Tey)
28 Feb	Dorrie Crisp

London Marathon



Paul Ruskin has been in touch to say that he is running in the London Marathon for the 3rd and (he says) the last time this year. As in previous years, he is running for "The Neuro Foundation" which is the charity that supports people like Paul's wife Hollie who suffer from Neurofibromatosis. There is an internet site for donations. It is :-

uk.virginmoneygiving.com/PaulRuskin



The Parish

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.

The Churchwardens

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

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

SUE SPIERS T: 01375 845394

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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 March 2018

23rd April 2018

23rd May 2018