

PEWTALK 50_P

May 2018

God makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from His storehouses. Psalm 135: 7

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way. Exodus 13: 21

God covers the sky with clouds. He supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow. Psalm 147: 8

"Can you count the clouds or pour out their rain?" Job 38: 37

A bright cloud covered them and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My Son and I love him. Listen to him!" Mark 9: 7

And while they were watching, Jesus was taken up into a cloud, and was hidden from view. Acts 1: 9

EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES

Its sad to have to report that vandals have caused damage at St. Catherine's. The Perspex front to our notice board has been broken in two places and on Sunday 15th April we discovered that a glass marble had been used to smash the glass in one of our Chancel windows. It is so sad when such mindless damage is done to an ancient building leaving the church congregation to deal with the aftermath.

100 Club

The 100 Club was drawn by Martin Wood. A bit early because Sheila and I are on Holiday for two weeks and then in Somerset for our nephew's wedding. The winner was Pam Painter our former Churchwarden- definitely a home win. There are still a couple of draws including of course the draw for £50 at the Fete. July will be the date to renew your ticket.

Norman.



Their annual Christian Aid coffee morning is being held on Saturday 5th May at Linford Methodist Church from 10am to noon. This is

our opportunity to support this charity and our Methodist friends.

Rogation Day this year falls on Sunday 6th May and as in previous years we will be processing through West Tilbury village in the company of Grays Town Band. For those who have never been to this event, it is an ancient tradition whereby the church uses the occasion to pray for and bless the sea, the land and all those who live and have their livelihood. We make our way from West Tilbury churchyard, where we pray over

the river, to the village hall, for refreshments, by way of several village locations. If you would like to join with us we meet at the lychgate of the old St. James church.

As a result of the various donations made during Lent and the Easter season, £130 was put towards Bishop Stephen's appeal to provide a water bowser for Farmers in Africa to provide a reliable source of water for their animals and crops and locally £70 to St. Luke's hospice.

The May Sunday School session will be on 20th May. If you have children / grandchildren / friends children that would like to attend please let Kim know so that she can organise the materials required for the session.

And finally.....



The Resurrection of Jesus - a confirming view.

During an interregnum the morning communion service on Easter Day is one of the most difficult to get cover for. There is obviously a great demand for Priestly cover, at a time when many retired clergy may be away with friends and family. In our case we were fortunate that the Revd. Peter Hillman was available and willing to preside for us at St. Catherine's.

During his sermon Peter used a quotation from a man named Charles W. Colson who would be familiar to those of us that remember the United States presidency of Richard Nixon and the "Watergate" scandal of the early 1970s in which Colson was embroiled. He subsequently became an evangelical Christian and founded the Prison Fellowship International and The Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview. He wrote more than 30 books and spoke at venues around the world

He received 15 honorary doctorates, and in 1993 was awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, the world's largest annual award (over US\$1 million) in the field of religion, given to a person who "has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension". He donated this prize to further the work of Prison Fellowship, as he did all his speaking fees and royalties. In 2008, he was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President George W. Bush.

So much for the man but what was the quotation?

"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible."

This struck me very powerfully at the time and has stayed with me ever since. Because of his involvement in the Watergate scandal Chuck Colson must have had a real insight into the issues involved in maintaining a falsehood for any length of time and as he says it was impossible for the Watergate conspirators to maintain their lies for 3 weeks let alone 40 years. It seems to me that sometimes we need these little reminders to reinforce our faith - or at least I know that I do.

Thank you Peter Hillman and Charles (Chuck) Colson for giving me some confirmation of the resurrection of my Saviour.

Chris Ford

Claim your Power of Attorney refund



Hundreds of thousands of people in England and Wales who took out a Power of Attorney (POA) could be due a partial refund of between £34 and £54 on their fees. If you took out two POAs - one for health and one for finances — then you will get a refund for each. If you filled in a form wrongly and had to resubmit and pay another full fee, you will get a refund on that, too. You need

to make only one claim. Couples who took out POAs can both claim. Refunds are due to those who paid fees between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2017. If you paid a reduced fee the refund will be half as much. The person taking out the POA – the donor — or the attorney can claim, but the money will be paid to the donor. More information at gov.uk, search 'power of attorney refund'.

If you paid the fee between:-

Refund for each POA

April and September 2013	£54
October 2013 and March 2014	£34
April 2014 and March 2015	£37
April 2015 and March 2016	£38
April 2016 and March 2017	£45

Easter at St. Catherine's

Easter is always a very special time for the Church and it is very difficult to arrange for Clergy to take services during an Interregnum.

The Maundy Thursday Communion service is when we remember the last Supper. Canon Martin Wood presided and explained the Holy Oils collected that day at Chelmsford Cathedral. There are three oils, one used in the Consecration of Churches, and at Baptisms, the second "The Oil of Gladness" is olive oil mixed with a small amount of Balm used at Confirmations and the consecration of a Bishop and the third "Oleum Infirmorum" used when blessing the sick.



Following the service the Church was stripped of ornamentation and we departed in silence symbolising the fact that the disciples left Jesus after the Passover meal.

Good Friday, when I was young, used to be remembered by a very solemn hour in Church and it was a bit miserable. Recently we have celebrated the Stations of The Cross. This year Chris led the service, we walked round the Church which was decorated with pictorial representations of Jesus' journey on Good Friday. At each

station a there was a Bible reading followed by a prayer and reflection on the journey to Calvary.

The readings were not miserable but thought provoking and made me reflect on my behaviour and values. Late in the afternoon members of the Baptist Church who had arranged a walk at Coalhouse Fort came in to Church for refreshments and reflection.

Easter Sunday was, as always, special. The Paschal Candle was lit and the light of Christ was carried into Church by Revd. Peter Hillman who lives in Benfleet but works as Director of Youth Services at St. Marks College at Audley End. Peter was most impressed with the refurbishment of the Church and delivered a very positive and uplifting Easter message in his sermon. There were plenty of chocolate eggs, unfortunately we didn't have enough children to eat them all but the seniors did there best to help.

Thanks to the Churchwardens, Visiting Clergy and Chris for what was a special Easter in St. Catherine's. *Norman*

UK is at moral and political 'tipping point'

Brexit could just be the catalyst that tips Britain into succumbing to 'British introspection, xenophobia, and self-pity, if a self-regarding attitude leads to economic failure and international impotence, as well being morally wrong in and of itself.'

So warns the Archbishop of Canterbury in his new book, *Reimagining Britain: Foundations for hope**. He warns that already 'the cracks in society have begun to show, expressed in crime, in the growth of intolerance, and above all in an inward-turning.'

Justin Welby wrote the book to contribute to the debate on the future of the country, particularly after Brexit has happened. He stresses that his vision for the future is based on Christian values of cohesion, courage and sustainability. 'If we pretend we do not have a Christian tradition and heritage, we start in a vacuum.' He urges Churches and Christians to 'be confident in what we believe'.

'The UK grew from Christian roots; my hope is that in the future it rediscovers the power of the narrative that has shaped it for so long and set its values so deeply.'

The Archbishop also said that he did not see how sharia could 'fit within our legal system', as it 'comes from a very different background of jurisprudence to the one from which British law has developed over the past 500 years.'

* *Reimagining Britain: Foundations for hope*, by Justin Welby, Bloomsbury, £9.99



Having read Norman's article about Malta in the last issue of 'Pewtalk' I thought you might be interested to read about my recent visit to the same island. It was published in the April/May version of the Methodist 'Messenger' magazine.

OUR MALTESE EXPERIENCE

This February half term, husband Kevin, and I flew to Malta, in search of some winter sun! We had visited the island several times in winters past and experienced mild weather, with sun most days. Alas, not this year!

Our hotel was located on a cliff edge overlooking Ramla Bay, which is adjacent to St. Paul's Bay. In the taxi from the airport, the weather deteriorated as we travelled to our destination. Heavy 'April Showers' gave way to persistent, torrential rain and a howling wind. This pattern of weather was to continue for the first three days of our holiday. From our bedroom on the third floor, which had a wide vista of the sea, one could imagine St. Paul's boat being buffeted on the enormous waves in a windy thunderstorm, and the consequent shipwreck. There is a church built on the spot where the shipwreck is thought to have occurred.

There are many churches on the island of Malta. It is said that one could visit a different church on every day of the year! On our third morning we braved the inclement weather, we took a taxi to visit the church at Mosta, which has the third largest unsupported dome in the world. Its other claim to fame is the fact that a WW2 bomb fell directly upon the building in 1942 but didn't explode - truly regarded as an 'act of God'. Being the first day of Lent, we arrived during the Ash Wednesday service for a nearby Catholic primary school. It reminded Kevin of similar services he attended whilst teaching at a Catholic school in Upton Park. He duly went up to have a cross of ash drawn on his forehead.

On Thursday there was an improvement in the weather. We decided to travel into Valletta, Malta's capital, and also 2018's European City of Culture. Besides shopping - the large M & S was a highlight for me (not Kevin) - we visited Garrison Park, with its booming cannons and The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. This Cathedral became the headquarters of the Knights of St. John and Jerusalem from the early sixteenth century. By being based in Malta they were in the centre of Europe. They were the Christian 'United Nations' of their time - eight European countries joined together to protect the passage of pilgrims to Jerusalem. Our St. John's Ambulance charity has its roots in this order, their monks tended the sick pilgrims. They still use a version of the Maltese Cross as their emblem.

Friday was the one day of glorious weather - blue sky all day! This was fortunate as we had pre-booked a trip to Gozo, a twenty minute ferry ride away. This excursion involved visits to two churches. The first was the relatively new Rotunda church, completed in 1971, which, like the church in Mosta, had a large unsupported dome, but slightly smaller. The enduring importance of the Catholic religion towards the end of the last century is shown by the size of this church in a small town. The other church visited, dedicated to

the Madonna, was famous for being the only ever place on Gozo where a pope conducted a service - Pope John Paul 2!

On Sunday, our last full day, we visited Marsaxlokk for the market. Situated on the harbour, it was originally just a fish market but now takes up all available space encircling the village church. Whilst we were there, the bells rang out, at eleven, to call the faithful to Mass. Many locals attended with the market continuing outside. Sunday trading obviously isn't an issue there!

We departed our hotel very early the next morning. The weather was the same as we arrived - WET!

Cathy Beckwith (a musician at Linford Methodist Church)

Norman's thoughts on our Quiz Night

Geraldine Riddles with the help of all her Family arranged a Fund Raising Quiz Night for April 5th in St. Francis. The Hall was packed and some people had to nip out for chairs. I was in The Village People team, the first round was a struggle for us and we found out later we were not alone, especially those that had played their Joker. Our team which was mainly from St. Catherine's congregation had a good round with the Joker on questions relating to Easter. The evening was great fun and raised £370 for Church Funds. Thanks to Geraldine's Family for a wonderful effort.

Not content with all that work Geraldine has arranged a Concert with "The Essex Music Man" in St. Catherines on May 5th. Please come along if possible for what should be another great evening.

Well dressed!

Where do you go to hear the terms pettling, flowering, barking or puddling? Derbyshire, or course – where the tradition of 'well dressing' goes right back to 1394, when two annual displays in Tissington and Buxton began. Nowadays, there are dozens of well dressings held across Derbyshire each summer.

So - how does one dress a well? First, you take hard board, and wet it for up to three weeks. Then clay is puddled into just the right consistency and mounted on the board. The clay is then barked (dot to dot) so that you can plan the display in great details. Next, pettling – when flower petals, dried fruit and veg is pricked out onto the clay board. Finally the display is mounted next to the historical well.

Well dressing can be a reminder to thank God for the blessing of water, as well as a fun activity for the whole community, and it certainly keeps an old tradition alive and well. It can also raise money for charity. In many communities the churches join in by offering to organise hymns and prayers at the well dressing, as well as some tea and cake. One lady who had gone through a difficult time was so warmly welcomed by the church when she visited her local well dressing that she went on to join the church.

FROM THE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS

Tuesday April 10th was the date set for this year's annual church meetings which were held at the St. Francis Centre in Linford. Sadly, but not unusually, the meetings were supported by the few rather than the many!

In the absence of a Priest in Charge of the parish meetings were chaired by the Area Dean, Canon Revd. Darren Barlow. In opening the evening Canon Barlow explained that as a result of church law there are in fact two meetings. The first (the Annual Meeting of Parishioners), sees the churchwardens elected by the parishioners and this year, as last, Colin Strong and Susan Spiers were elected unopposed.

At the second meeting (The Annual Parochial Church Meeting) rather more business is dealt with. One of the most important tasks is to receive the annual report of the churches finances, property and activities. For a number of years these reports have been available well before the meeting so that those attending have had time to read them in advance. The reports were accepted by those attending. If you haven't seen a copy of the reports and would like to read them, they are now available on our website stcatherinesthurrrock.org.uk or at St. Catherine's.

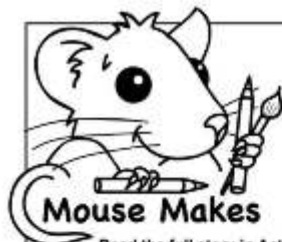
After the reports had been dealt with the Area Dean spoke. He explained the latest position with regard to the selection and appointment of a Priest in Charge (House for Duty) for the parish. He explained that although we had

advertised the position twice without success, we were not alone. The Mardyke team had advertised for a Priest for Purfleet (a paid position) and they had also failed to attract applications on both occasions that they had advertised. He explained that, because our post had changed (with Revd. Rollins unable to act as our Priest in Charge) a revised parish profile had been produced and the Diocese had agreed to pay for the revised Church Times advert. Finally he congratulated the PCC and parish on the way in which they have kept things going so successfully during the continuing interregnum.

The meeting then went on to elect the Parochial Church Council members for the coming year. Those elected, again unopposed, were Patricia Strong, Kathy Bird, Pam Painter, Geraldine Riddles, Sheila and Norman King, Jan Fawsitt and Chris Ford. The PCC will consist of those elected *plus* the churchwardens and our Deanery Synod representatives who are Susan Spiers and Kim Ford. Our sidesmen and women were re-elected en-bloc by the meeting and Mr. Peter Chandler was re-appointed the parish's "Independent Examiner of Accounts" for the coming year.

Under any other business Norman King echoed the Area Dean's comments and made particular reference to the successful programme of Lent and Easter services.

The meeting closed with the assembled company joining in saying the grace.



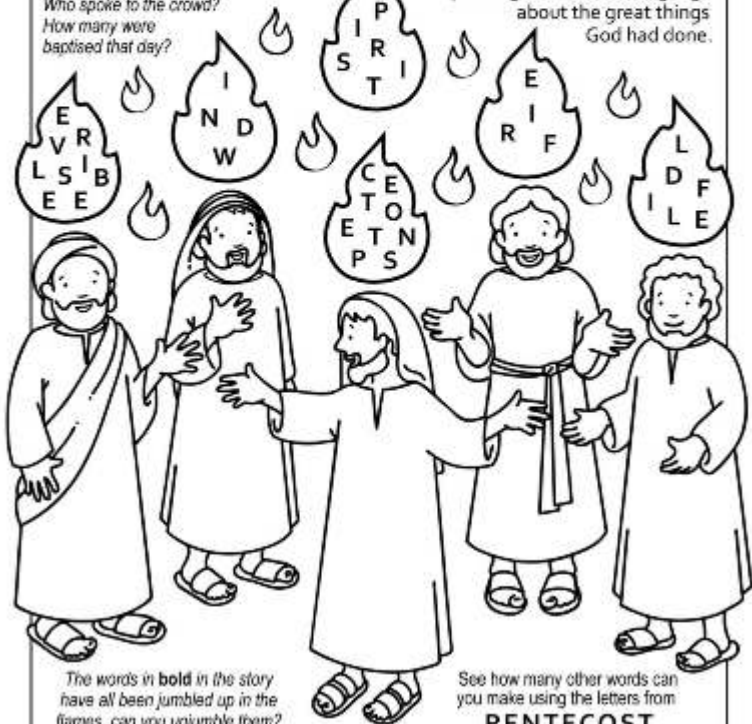
Mouse Makes

Read the full story in Acts 2

Which city were they in?
Which countries had people come from?
Who spoke to the crowd?
How many were baptised that day?

It was the festival of **Pentecost** and the Apostles and other believers were all together in one place, when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like flames of **fire** which spread out and touched each person. They were all **filled** with the Holy **Spirit** and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

A crowd gathered outside, they were excited and confused because each of them heard the **believers** speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.



The words in **bold** in the story have all been jumbled up in the flames, can you unjumble them?

See how many other words can you make using the letters from **PENTECOST**



PARISH DIARY FOR MAY

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



2 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
3 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
5 May	Christian Aid coffee morning at Linford Methodists "The Essex Music Man" at St. Catherine's,	10am - noon 7pm
6 May	6th Sunday of EASTER Family Service (<i>Julie Hobby will be speaking about the Work of the Sailors' Centre in Tilbury Dock</i>) Rogation celebration at West Tilbury Village	10am 3pm
7 May	St. Catherine's open afternoon	2pm
9 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
10 May	ASCENSION DAY Foodbank at St. Francis Holy Communion	11am - 1pm 7pm
13 May	7th Sunday of EASTER Parish Communion Baptism of Eilonwy Willow Perry Thurrock foodbank cream teas at St. Catherine's	10am 1pm 2pm
16 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
17 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
18 May	Visits to St. Catherine's by East Tilbury Primary School	11.15am; 1.45pm
20 May	4th PENTECOST Parish Communion and Sunday School Baptism of James Robert Edwards	10am 1.00pm
23 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
24 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
26 May	Church cleaning - volunteers needed	10am
27 May	4th TRINITY Sunday Parish Communion Church open for tea and homemade cakes	10am 2pm
28 May	St. Catherine's open afternoon	2pm
30 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
31 May	Foodbank at St. Francis WELCOM forum meeting at Linford Methodist Church	11am - 1pm 7pm

FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

22 Apr Charlie Paul Crickmay

Funerals

None in April

Burials

None in April

Thurrock foodbank

The foodbank have a number of events planned in May as part of their "Foodbank fortnight".

On Sunday 13th, at St. Catherine's, cream teas will be served from 2 - 4pm - price £5 per person. Come and help the foodbank's funds

If you volunteer in any way to support the foodbank then there is the annual event for volunteers at St. John the Evangelist, North Grays on the Tuesday 15th at 7pm. All volunteers are welcome to come and be brought up-to-date with recent events.

On Saturday 19th there is a Quiz Night at the URC church in Bradleigh Ave with the fun starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 and to book a place call 01375-416200 or email to:- warehouse@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk.

There is an evening specifically for folk who donate food or cash. This is in the form of a "Soup and Sweet" event on Monday 21st at 7pm in the church hall at St. Margaret's, Stanford le Hope. To book a place email the warehouse as above.

If you have never seen the warehouse operation at 2 - 4 Chase Road, Corringham there is an opportunity on Wednesday 30th from 11am - 2pm.

And finally there is a thanksgiving service at Sockets Heath Baptist church on Sunday 3rd June at 6.30pm. Anyone with any interest in the foodbank is welcome to come and give thanks to God.

The poster is for a concert titled "The Essex Music Man" by Angelo Tsocos. It features Sarah Deller on Saxophone. The event is held at St Catherine's Church East Tilbury on Saturday 5th May 7 for 7.30pm. The poster includes contact information for the warehouse and a small logo of a treble clef with musical notes.

Just

An evening with

The Essex Music Man

Angelo Tsocos

with

Sarah Deller on Saxophone

at

St Catherine's Church East Tilbury

Saturday 5th May 7 for 7.30pm

Time 8.30pm

For more information contact the warehouse

Warehouse: 01375 416200

warehouse@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk

St. Margaret's, Stanford le Hope: 01375 416200

St. John the Evangelist, North Grays: 01375 416200

St. Catherine's, East Tilbury: 01375 416200

www.thurrock.foodbank.org.uk

Logo: A treble clef with musical notes.

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

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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

23rd May 2018

23rd June 2018

22nd July 2018