

PEWTALK 50_P

May 2020



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

Pewtalk

Once again, this month we are posting out PEWTALK to those that we cannot contact by other means. The note with last month's edition suggested that we could email the magazine, it could be accessed from the church website or collected from church gate. We did receive a few email addresses but realise that we do not know who is choosing to read the magazine on the website or collecting it from the church. It would be good to know who is using either of these latter methods as it would reduce our postage costs. Please let us know either by email to pewtalk@talktalk.net or by calling 01375-675863.

100 Club

The draw was made at home and I made sure that Sheila couldn't see the tickets when she made the draw. The winner was Janice Fawsitt's Uncle who has supported St. Catherine's for a some time. Hopefully it won't be long before I can give him the winnings via Janice.

Norman

Donations

The Pancake evening and the Lent Lunch raised £120 for the Bishops Appeal. As we were unable to hold the second Lent lunch I have, with Revd. Michèlle's agreement, sent £150 to the Diocese finance department. The "Five Talents" appeal is to provide support for people in Northern Kenya. It will train twelve groups across our link Diocese Marsabit, predominantly women, to create savings and loans cooperatives which will help them to become more financially independent,

develop businesses and ensure that their children can access education for themselves.

Norman

Norman and I were due to visit Yorkshire in May to visit friends and family and attend St Andrews Church Stainland where we were married 48 years ago. This has been cancelled so I contacted the Parish Priest with a message for the many friends we have made in the congregation over the years on our visits. They have adopted the same pattern of a weekly news letter and watching the BBC Sunday worship. It was good to know they are all well

Sheila

We have written about "**Easy fundraising**" on several occasions in Pewtalk but it is perhaps a good time to remind readers about how it works particularly when we are less able to visit "bricks and mortar" shops and are buying on-line. How it works. Many retailers with an on-line presence support charities through the easyfundraising website. It is easy to use and can be accessed via the "About us" page of our website. Since we registered St. Catherine's some years ago we have raised over £600 at no cost to the folk who have used it. If you would like more information just give Chris a call on 01375-675863.

Just a reminder that during the national lockdown our churches still have to be closed. This also applies to the churchyard at St. Catherine's apart from those that wish to visit a grave. Sadly this means that we are not allowed to maintain the graveyard at present and it is therefore very overgrown.



Reflections from The Rectory

The life of a Church of England minister is broad and varied. No two days are ever the same and it is my privilege to journey with people in the happiest of times and the saddest too.

The life of a Church of England minister during a Corona virus pandemic continues to be broad and varied and very, very busy.

I know that many people think Vicars only work on Sundays and have the rest of the week off but let me reassure you this simply isn't true – even when our churches are closed for public worship!

During the weeks following the lock down restrictions on 23rd March I have been doing my best to care for the flock albeit in a different way. I am now emailing or posting out the weekly newsletter that contains the Bible readings for the week, my reflection in place of a sermon and a list of the hymns we would have sung if we had been together. *And speaking of hymns, I have started a new feature 'My Favourite Hymn', in which members of the congregation can let me know what their favourite hymn is and why they like it and it will appear on the front page of the newsletter.*

The newsletter also includes up to date information regarding church life during this time of lock down, words of encouragement and prayers for those affected by the corona virus.

In addition to creating the newsletter I am at St. Francis on Wednesday and Thursday mornings for the Foodbank. As you might imagine Foodbanks are very busy at the moment. But, needing to come to the Foodbank can sometimes be a difficult thing for a person to do. So a reassuring and friendly smile from myself, Kim and Kathy can set a person at ease. A box of food can help to fill the gap when Universal Credit has been delayed. We are living through an extraordinary time and we all need a helping hand now and then.

Much of a Parish Priest's time will be spent on what we call the Occasional Offices. That is Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals. At present we cannot hold services in church so weddings and baptisms due to take place in April and May have been rescheduled. But I was able to officiate at a wedding in a couple's home by permission of an Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Marriage. It was both a joyous and moving service and very special. There have also been three funerals which took place at the crematorium. By necessity

they have been small and intimate occasions and will be followed up with Celebration of Life services at St Catherine's when we can go back to church. Then all of the family members will be able to attend and everyone can celebrate being together again.

And in addition to all that I have been doing in the parish I have continued in my role as hospital chaplain to the patients and staff of St Andrew's Healthcare in Essex. Caring for the spiritual well-being of patients and those who care for them is really important. As chaplains we work alongside other members of the multi-disciplinary team and together focus on looking after the patients body, mind and spirit. It is hugely rewarding and humbling to see how a prayer or word of scripture can bring a sense of calm to people in difficult situations.

So as you see the Church maybe closed but I have not been idle. And as I have been going about my work and ministry during this time of lock down I have been reflecting on the fact that so often in our modern world putting others before ourselves seems to be an old fashioned idea and not in keeping with personal gain. But the arrival of the corona virus pandemic has made many people stop and think. This shared time of challenge has enabled us to re-engage with the value of what it means to be a good neighbour and it is to everyone's benefit. I have found myself recalling the following words,

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Stephen Grellet 1773-1855)

Stay safe and keep well,

Every Blessing, *Revd Michèle.*

The Machine stops - by E.M. Forster

This was a short story, written in 1909, that I read as part of my GCE English course. Wikipedia describes the story thus:-

"The story describes a world in which most of the human population has lost the ability to live on the surface of the Earth. Each individual now lives in isolation below ground in a standard room, with all bodily and spiritual needs met by the omnipotent, global Machine. Travel is permitted, but is unpopular and rarely necessary. Communication is made via a kind of instant messaging/video conferencing machine with which people conduct their only activity: the sharing of ideas and what passes for knowledge."

The book is available from Amazon or can be downloaded from:-

https://manybooks.net/titles/forstereother07machine_stops.html

Given the pandemic, climate change and the impact of the internet and social media I think this is a great read during the lockdown. *Chris Ford*

What's up during the "lock down"

Revd. Michèle asked for any stories about what we are all getting up to during these unprecedented times when we are advised to "Stay at Home, protect the NHS and save lives". Her are few that have been passed to me in the last few weeks.

Valerie Doyle writes:-

"Well Pat and I have stayed home as instructed apart from trips to the hospital - and there will be no more of those.

But yesterday Pat went to the Post Office in order to post off the manuscript of a book I have written during the lockdown to a company who say they will self publish on my behalf. I have given them full instructions plus the necessary fee, of course, so if all goes well in a few months Linford will be flooded with a little book entitled "Valerie and her men" - definitely not for Pewtalk!

Elsewhere, **Daphne Barnes**, has been provided with a rather lovely garden seat at the front of her house and when the weather has been fine, which has often been the case, she happily sits there enjoying the sun and a good read. If you are out exercising and pass Siddons Close look out for her and stop for a chat (observing social distancing of course). As Daphne cannot be with us at St.Francis on a Wednesday or Thursday morning she told us that this short excursion away from her television makes for a very pleasant change.

Terry Waite spent four years in solitary confinement in Beirut. He says: "In isolation, it is easy to become introspective and depressed. All of us, when we are honest and examine ourselves critically, will discover things about ourselves of which we are not especially proud. I had to learn how to grow a greater acceptance of myself and work towards a deeper inner harmony.

".... Today in lockdown, it's important to keep yourself well. Don't slob around all day in pyjamas and a dressing gown. Dress properly and develop a routine. It's important to have a structure – get up at a certain time, eat regular meals and so on.

"If you have faith, then that will give you resources to draw on", especially if you know some hymns, psalms and prayers by heart. "When I was captured, they were there to call on."

Recently Ruth Turnnidge told Kim that she had spent a few days at Warner's Holme Lacey hotel and during her visit had been on their tour of the house which is very grand and of great age. It has many architectural features which the person leading the tour, who is the Head Gardener and has been there for many years, took much time to describe. From time to time his talk included anecdotes about people and places in the various rooms.

Apparently while describing the ornate plaster work in one of the rooms he enquired whether anyone in the group new where the word "plastered" to describe a drunk had come from. His explanation was that the plasterers used beer in the making of their plaster and much of it got diverted elsewhere!

Remembering

I was very interested to read a note from Chris in last month's magazine remembering his mother not being able to take him out as a baby in early 1947.

I remember 1947 with different feelings. As I was a war baby we had a brick air raid shelter with a blast wall in front of the shelter door. The wall must have been six foot high and the snow was very near the top. It was snowballs with the Robinson boys most days which ended with me rushing home with frozen gloves for my grandma to dry them and warm my hands by putting them under her arms and in warm water. Don't tell but, years before, Nanna Silk, as she was known, had twice let me go behind the blackout curtains to watch the aeroplanes.

The second memory is very appropriate at the moment. In 1953 I was going to school in Grays.

We broke up for the summer holiday on Wednesday and on Thursday I told my Mum that I had an awful sore throat. It was a time when Doctors visited and Dr Ward came and diagnosed Scarlet Fever which was an identifiable disease. A Council official came and decided that as I was an only child I did not have to go in to hospital as long as everything I touched was burnt and that I stayed at home and had no contact with others especially children. Comics and books were left by the gate and after feeling ill for a few days I was looking for something to do. Luckily the BBC were broadcasting ball by ball "Ashes" cricket on the radio and I started a scrapbook and had a scorebook. Dr. Ward, as a Canadian, knew nothing about cricket but he pretended to be interested. My Dad went up to Yorkshire to see the family but was unhappy at being away and came back after a few days. He brought, as a present, a small bat signed by the Australian team which only went from the Garage recently. When there was no cricket I started French Knitting on a cotton reel with four pins - it went round the house and people left wool to keep me busy. After about four weeks I was okay to go out. My hair grew quickly in those days so I had to be smuggled in to see the barber, Uncle George, before my Mum decided we should have a break. We went to Burnley to see my adopted Auntie and it rained every day but her brother managed to get me some Burnley players autographs. They were a really top team at the time and we regained the "Ashes" so there was as always some good news.



I went back to school the palest in the class but I hadn't missed a day at school. Little consolation.

Norman

The picture is of Don Bradman and Sid Barnes during the 2nd test at Sydney when they both scored 234 - unfortunately they were both playing for Australia!



Florence Nightingale – the founder of modern nursing

Tim Lenton looks back on a great lady

Florence Nightingale was born 200 years ago, on 12th May 1820. Best known as the Lady with the Lamp who saved many lives in the hospitals of the Crimean War, she was also a social reformer, a statistician and the founder of modern nursing.

She was named after the Italian city of her birth, but the family moved back to England the following year, and she was brought up in Derbyshire. Here – and elsewhere – she had several experiences that she believed were calls from God to devote her life to the service of others.

She never married, but among her several close friends was Sidney Herbert, who became Secretary of War and helped to make her work in the Crimea possible. Some claim that she reduced the death rate in hospitals there from 42% to 2%. She introduced hand-washing and other hygiene improvements, but she never claimed personal credit for reducing the death rate.

Her work inspired nurses in the American Civil War, and in 1883 she became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1907, she was the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit. She died in 1910. Her image appeared on the reverse of £10 banknotes issued by the Bank of England from 1975 until 1994.

It is a fitting tribute to her that the emergency hospital just opened at the ExCel Centre in London is called the NHS Nightingale Hospital.

Poor Tokyo – it seems to have a tough time with the Olympics! By Tim Lenton.

How World War II stopped Tokyo's Olympic Games in 1940

This year's Tokyo Olympic Games have been postponed for a year because of coronavirus. But 80 years ago, the Tokyo Games scheduled for May 1940 were cancelled completely, because of World War II. Originally rescheduled for Helsinki, they were eventually abandoned, and the Olympic cycle did not restart until 1948 in London.

The cancellation proved to be a wise decision, because by the same month, May 1940, the war had escalated dramatically. On 10th May Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned and was succeeded by Winston Churchill, and between then and 28th May Germany invaded Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Also, on 10th May Germany dropped its first bombs on England, at Chilham and Petham, near Canterbury, and on 13th May Churchill gave his first speech in the House of Commons, saying: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

The next day the Home Guard – Dad's Army – was established, and by the end of the month the battle for Dunkirk was raging, with nearly 340,000 soldiers being rescued by a makeshift fleet of about 800 boats, crossing the English Channel to avoid the onrushing German army. This prompted the phrase 'Dunkirk spirit', still in frequent use today.

Eyam

I prepared a article on the village in Derbyshire for last months magazine. The famed village suffered an epidemic of bubonic plague in 1665-1666. The villagers in a extraordinary act of self sacrifice cut themselves off from the outside world to prevent the infection spreading. Joan Plant who is aged 73 and a retired Churchwarden who can trace her family tree back to those times when 260 villagers died, says she see the village coming together in so many ways. On Good Friday a neighbour left three hot cross buns by the gate and Joan has delivered scones and cut flowers to those being in need of some cheer. From communities all over the country countless stories of families coming together and neighbours helping each other in these difficult times are coming to light.

Eyam is looking ahead to survival from a second great epidemic. Throwing a giant street party seems to be the consensus view on an appropriate celebration.. There will be a service at Cucklet Delph where they gather each year on August Bank Holiday to remember how they came together during the plague. History is repeating itself and sadly the wife of the current incumbent Revd. Gilbert has coronavirus - please remember her in your prayers.

I am sure that like Eyam, East Tilbury and West Tilbury and Linford will celebrate the end of the current corona virus outbreak with a special joyous service and let's all enjoy thinking of other ways we can give thanks and celebrate.

Norman

Remembering VE Day - by David Winter

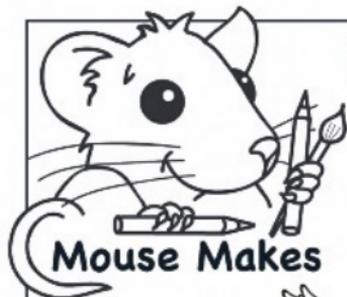


I was 15 in May 1945, when Britain celebrated VE Day. It stood for Victory in Europe and followed an agreement by the Allied powers following the German surrender. Needless to say, although the war with Japan was not over, it was a noticeable moment. No more bombs, missiles and blitz – and the 'boys' would come home!

I have two very clear memories of the day itself. The first was the street party which took place in our road on a housing estate in North London. With official permission, the road was closed off, tables were set up, food and drink were served. We spent the afternoon in races and competitions. Dads, mums, teenagers and children then sang the wartime songs, and 'Jerusalem' and 'God save the King'.

The other memory is an image of a sailor kissing a young woman - surrounded by happy laughing people. This iconic photograph was in one of the papers the next day, then on camera newsfeeds and is in just about every journalistic library. Somehow it captures the mood of the day – freedom, warmth, the good things of everyday life.

VE Day did indeed mark a turning point, though not everything was going to be easy in the post-war years. But the hideous shadow of war had gone and 75 years later it has yet to return to these shores, thank God.



"The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also
 behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read
Galatians
 5:13-26

How many
 other words can you find
 using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF
 THE SPIRIT?**



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

Which
 symbol goes
 with which fruit?



LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE



PARISH DIARY FOR MAY
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 May	4 th Sunday of Easter Family Service led by Revd Michèle	10.00am
6 May	Holy Communion at St Francis Community "Drop In" at St Francis	10.00am 10.30am - noon
7 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am - 1.00pm
10 May	5 th Sunday of Easter Parish Communion	10.00am
13 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Community "Drop In" at St. Francis	10.00am 10.30am - noon
14 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am - 1.00pm
17 May	Rogation Sunday Parish Communion Rogation procession through West Tilbury	10.00am 3.00pm
20 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Community "Drop In" at St Francis	10.00am 10.30am - noon
21 May	Ascension Day Foodbank at St. Francis Holy Communion	11.00am - 1.00pm 7.30pm
24 May	7 th Sunday of Easter Parish Communion	10.00am
27 May	Holy Communion (St Francis) Community "Drop In" at St Francis	10.00am 10.30am - noon
28 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am - 1.00pm
31 May	Pentecost - Whit Sunday Parish Communion	10.00am

FROM ST. CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

none

Weddings

21 April Gary Low & Jill Atkinson

Committal of ashes

None

Funeral

3 April June Clifford

7 April Lesley Moffat

17 April Pat Simmonds

24 April Paul White

Pringle Doodey - R.I.P.

Pringle was a regular visitor to the Wednesday morning "drop in" when she lived in the parish and even when she moved away would pop-in when visiting family here. Pringle's granddaughter told Julie Guest that "Pringle Doody sadly passed away after a short illness in St Andrew's Hospice in Scotland on 14th April 2020"

Easter flowers

On the Tuesday after Easter Norman and I went to Billericay to do some errands As I passed Waitrose at 9.30 in the morning there were five people waiting to go in so I joined the short queue. On the way in there was a stand of flowers so I picked a bunch then thought 'we are going to leave magazines on Linda's doorstep so I could take her some flowers'. Linda phoned to thank us and related the story of flowers she had sent to her sister in law in Marlow as she couldn't make her usual Easter visit. The flowers were to be delivered on Maundy Thursday. Linda waited for the 'thank you' phone call and at 5 p.m. looked on line to check that they had been delivered. Yes they had and there was a photo of them being left on the doorstep. My brother doesn't have a black door was Linda's reaction so she phoned him. ' Ah yes I know the door' he said and so he went to the house, a little elderly lady came to the door and said 'some really kind person called Linda has sent me some flowers for Easter she must have known I was on my own'. What could he do except say "I was just coming to check you are OK and have everything you need - enjoy the flowers".

One very happy lady.

Sheila

The Parish

The Priest in charge

REVD. MICHÈLE MARSHALL

The Rectory

24, Somerset Road, Linford

Stanford-le-Hope

Essex, SS17 0QA.

Telephone: 01375 671754

email: mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk

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.

The Churchwarden

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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 May 2020

22nd June 2020

22nd July 2020