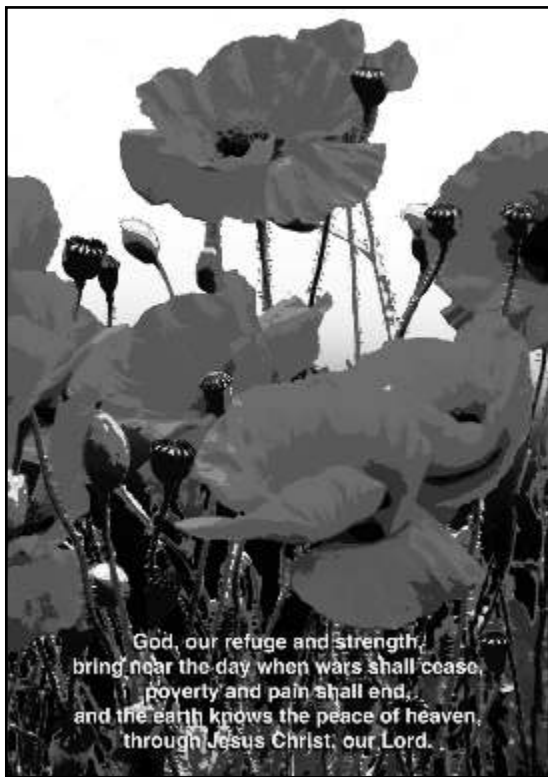


# *PEWTALK* 40<sub>P</sub>

November 2016



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: [www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)

# BITS AND PIECES

Although for many of us Christmas still seems a long way off (although the shops started their seasonal advertising and promotions some time ago) Advent the Christian season of preparation for the celebration of our Saviour's birth falls at the end of the month. This hopefully explains why Bishop Stephen's Christmas message is in this edition of Pewtalk.

In recent years our friends at the Linford Methodist Church have started our preparations with a seasonal puppet show presented by "Energise". This year is no exception and, especially if you can be in the company of children, it is well worth being there on 27<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm.

While on the subject of Christmas, here is a note of the services:-

- \* Service of Lessons and Carols at 4pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at St. Catherine's
- \* Linford Carol Service at 7pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at St. Francis
- \* Christingle service at 4pm on Christmas Eve at St. Catherine's
- \* "Midnight" Holy Communion at 11.30pm at St. Catherine's
- \* Christmas morning Holy Communion at 10am at St. Catherine's

Apart from the usual activities at St Catherine's the church was visited by two quite disparate groups in

October. On the 7<sup>th</sup> a party of Thurrock teachers could be found using the building as an exciting place to include in the maths curriculum. The pillars were used in calculations involving  $\pi$  as well as in exercises in estimating height. Hazel Sacco, Thurrock's Museums and Heritage Officer, was very pleased with the session and it may be that we have school classes visiting in the future for the same purpose. On the 21<sup>st</sup> Hadleigh U3A spent an hour in the church learning about what had been done in the recent project to add the kitchen and toilets and provide heating and seating. They were particularly impressed with the heating and the general welcoming nature of the building.

**100 Club:** This months draw made in Church by Pam England was won by Wendy Strong, Mum of Brandon and Rayne.

Two very supportive families are regular winners but all tickets do go in the draw. Only one more draw before the draw for £50 at the Bazaar on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to join and be eligible for both £50 draws there is still time - contact Norman King.

Thinking of the Bazaar it will, as last year, be held in St. Catherine's from 10.30am to 2.30pm. The building will be open on Friday evening for those stall holders who would like to set up then.

# Christmas message from Bishop Stephen

"Oh I wish it could be Christmas every day" goes the song. To which many may respond: "Be careful what you wish for!"

But what might Christmas each day look like in a world frayed at the edges, fraught with uncertainty and struggle?



Just imagine the everyday opportunity to share time together, offer hospitality, express our appreciation to each other, to remember and pray for those less fortunate, to show our togetherness and celebrate a wonderful event.

And yet the birth of Jesus is more than a wonderful event. It is the supreme act of giving that reminds us of our own humanity, our own vulnerability, of the child that is within us all, full of hope, generosity and anticipation.

Instead of celebrating Christmas once a year, why not put it at the heart of our lives, ministry and mission throughout the year?

That is why I do wish it could be Christmas every day.

So – have a peaceful, blessed and very special time. And let the bells ring out for Christmas!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Cottrell".

The Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell - Bishop of Chelmsford

## **November News From Linford Methodist Church**

First of all some dates for your November Diary:-

Every Tuesday and Thursday in November 9.30 – 12.00 Toddler Group, cost £1 per adult which gives you unlimited tea and coffee and 50p each child you bring which provides a healthy snack and drink at 10.30.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 4.30 – 6.00 is Yippee Club for ages 5 – 11. The theme this month is Angels and at the end of the session we may even let off some fireworks.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, commencing at 10.00 am is the Christmas Craft Sale at the Church with many stalls including Thurrock Potters and the Sewing Groups

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 3.00 – 4.00 pm we kick off the Advent season with the ever popular Energize Puppets getting us all in the mood for Christmas. Suggested donation £1 per child which will all go to Little Havens Hospice.

Some of you may remember last month the news of our new friend in Australia, Wes Hooper. I took the liberty of sending him the link for the St. Catherine website so he could read Pewtalk. Pleased to report back that he did and he was very pleased to see that St. Catherine's support the Samaritans Purse as well. His Church has just sent off 395 boxes their best effort ever. Although it was some 14 years ago Bob and I were in Australia we were surprised on our travels that, even if the town we were driving through only had a handful of properties, every town had a police station and at least one large thriving Church.

Latest News – Stop Press!!

We would like to thank everyone who came along to the first ever Sing along at Linford Methodist Church on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. I think I can safely say it was a success with lots of tea/coffee and cakes being consumed and lots of singing as well. Here are some of the comments we received from our feedback forms:



“Liked the singing. Friendly company”

"My mum and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves very much and would love to come again if you run this event again. There was a lovely friendly atmosphere"

"I enjoyed everything, just everything..... I really enjoyed myself today"

"What a fantastic afternoon! Please do this again"

"That everybody was involved, all ages and all coming together – friendly"

*Marian*

### **Norman's thoughts on the Battle of Hastings**

Recently the 950th Anniversary of the battle at Battle Abbey in Sussex was remembered by a re-enactment of William the Conqueror coming from France to claim the throne. Why do I mention it? Because with my name I was disappointed not to be invited!

Like most people we think that our name is unique. The first time that made me realise my name was slightly historic was when my Mum came to a function at school and the history mistress said you must be William The Conquerors Mum!

When I retired from work at Milton Keynes I was taken for a drink in a Pub in Dunstable - "The Norman King". I was presented with a picture of the Pub but the landlady refused to give me a free drink.

And finally on this theme, last month I had to find a new company to prepare our memorial plaques, on giving my name the engraver said that was his Grandad's name.

Do you have a pub or engravers sharing your name?.

### **Only kidding!**

There's a story that when the Good Lord was making the earth he stopped in a cloud above Scotland with the angel Gabriel. The Good Lord pointed down and said, "This is going to be a great land: it will have majestic mountains, purple glens, running streams of crystal-clear water filled with salmon. It will have golden fields of barley, from which the inhabitants will brew an amber-coloured whisky so delicious others will travel hundreds of miles to drink it. And, for the future I'll give it oil under its seas, coal under its hills, gas..." "Hold on," Gabriel interrupted "are you not being overly generous to these Scots?" The good Lord shook his head and replied, "No. Wait until you see who their neighbours are"

## FROM THE OCTOBER PCC MEETING

After the September meeting, both Kathy Bird and Janice Fawsitt had offered to help lead our services if they could have some training. Since then the Bradwell Area have arranged a day's training "Wings for Worship" on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Each Parish has been allowed three places and Kathy, Jan and Kim will attend for us.

Since the last meeting there had been several items of correspondence

- \* A reminder from the Diocesan Office about the statistical return which is needed in January. The reason for the reminder at this time of year is that there is data required in relation to church attendance in October.

- \* We had received a request from the Bishop of Bradwell to meet with the PCC on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November to discuss how the process of replacing Canon Paul should proceed.

- \* Sheila had received correspondence relating to the "Suspension of the Living" which is the technical, legal procedure involved in the appointment of a new priest in charge.

- \* The Thurrock registrar had reminded us that the quarterly marriage return was due. Luckily, Revd. Darren Barlow was at the

PCC and dealt with this after the meeting - thank you Darren!

- \* Chris had received an email from Darren which detailed clergy cover for all of our services to the end of the year (inc. Christmas) except for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November when all the Bradwell clergy are required to be at a training day. (Subsequently Revd. Max Blake offered to take the service.

Colin and Chris and Darren told the PCC of the meeting that they had had with Bishop John the day before. The Bishop described it as simply an opportunity to talk about the process of making an appointment for ministry in the parish. One option that is being considered is for Revd. David Rollins ( Rector of Corringham and Fobbing) to become formally the priest in charge but with an associate "house for duty" priest living in the house in Somerset Road. If this was to be the solution the intention would be that this parish would be able to share the resources of the combined leadership team of both parishes.

Colin and Chris reported that they had had a meeting with Canon Paul and the architect to deal with a few outstanding matters and "snagging".

## **All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed**

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,  
And made converse and walk with thee,  
And with thy saints here and above,  
With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost;  
The several vessels of thy fleet,  
Though parted now, by tempests tost,  
Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end,  
Shall be my company above;  
And thou, my best and surest Friend,  
Who shall divide me from thy love?\*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

\*(Maurice Frost (ed.), *Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern* (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.

## **Increase in ministry numbers is necessary and achievable.**

There has been concern for some time about the numbers of candidates coming forward for ordination in the Church of England which is one reason why there is a shortage of clergy. However a recent report indicates that the required increase is possible.

Dioceses are responding to the call to work towards a 50% increase in candidates for ordination, with new posts and new procedures.

A review of numbers in ordained ministry over the last 67 years shows that the 50% increase in candidates for ministry by 2020 agreed by the General Synod in February, 2015, is needed to stabilise and increase the numbers ministering in parishes, chaplaincies and new forms of church.

The Church of England is seeking to increase by half the numbers training for ordained ministry and to sustain those numbers for a decade: an increase from about 500 to 750 by 2020. At the same time, the Church is also seeking greater diversity among those training for ministry. This will better reflect the communities where the Church is working, in terms of age, gender and ethnic and social background.

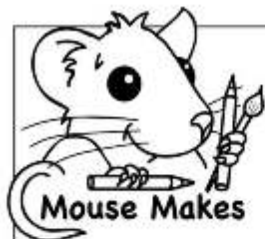
Encouraging more young men and, especially, young women, as well as more Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) worshippers to consider ordination will help the Church of England hit its aspiration of an extra 50% new clergy each year, according to a recent report on ordained vocations statistics.

The statistical review shows that, while similar numbers of men and women are being recommended for ordination training each year, women are testing their vocations at a later age and tend to retire sooner than the men. Currently, women recommended for training are, on average, significantly older than the men recommended. The majority of younger paid clergy are men, while, among older clergy, more are women. The Church is encouraging women to test their vocations younger.

The projections illustrate a steady decline in the total pool of clergy if the current trends in ordinations and retirements continue.

Currently, around 500 candidates for ordained ministry are recommended for training each year. By 2020, it is hoped to increase this number to around 750.



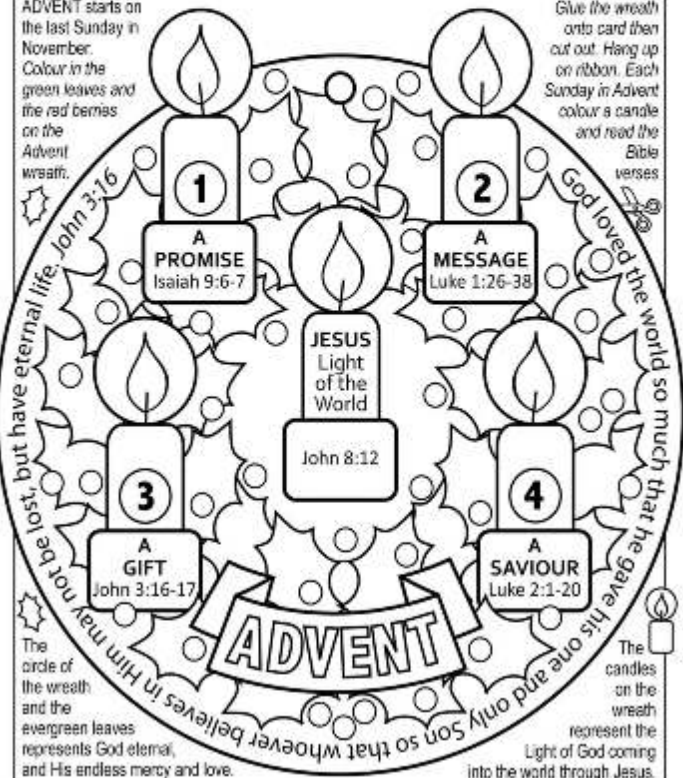


Jesus is coming, ADVENT is here!  
Advent is the time we celebrate the arrival of Jesus, who is God's Son and our Saviour. In Advent we remember  
**God's promise to the world,**  
**God's message to Mary,**  
**God's gift to us and**  
**God's promise come true in Jesus.**



ADVENT starts on the last Sunday in November. Colour in the green leaves and the red berries on the Advent wreath.

Give the wreath onto card then cut out. Hang up on ribbon. Each Sunday in Advent colour a candle and read the Bible verses



John 3:16  
A PROMISE  
Isaiah 9:6-7  
3  
A GIFT  
John 3:16-17  
The circle of the wreath and the evergreen leaves represents God eternal, and His endless mercy and love.

God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.  
2  
A MESSAGE  
Luke 1:26-38  
4  
A SAVIOUR  
Luke 2:1-20  
The candles on the wreath represent the Light of God coming into the world through Jesus.



## PARISH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

*Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's*



2 Nov	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
3 Nov	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
4 Nov	PCC meet with Bishop John at St. Francis	7.30pm
5 Nov	Wings for Worship course at St. Gabriel Pitsea	9.45am-4pm
6 Nov	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY before ADVENT</b> Family Service	10am
8 Nov	Bible Study at Linford Methodist Church	8pm
9 Nov	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
10 Nov	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
13 Nov	<b>REMEMBRANCESUNDAY</b> Parish Communion <b>REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at the BATA MEMORIAL</b>	9.45am 10.50am
15 Nov	Transforming Presence with Bishop John at St. Margaret's, Stanford le Hope	7.30pm
16 Nov	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis Foodbank at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon 11am - 1pm
20 Nov	<b>SUNDAY before ADVENT</b> <b>Parish Communion</b>	10am
21 Nov	PCC Meeting at St. Catherine's	7.30pm
23 Nov	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
24 Nov	Foodbank at St. Francis <b>WELCOM</b> Forum meeting (Methodist Church)	11am - 1pm 7.30pm
27 Nov	<b>1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> <b>Parish Communion</b> <b>"Energise" Advent puppet show at</b> Linford Methodist church	10am 3pm
30 Nov	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
1 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
3 Dec	<b>Christmas Bazaar at St. Catherine's</b>	10.30-2.30pm
4 Dec	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> <b>Family Service</b>	10am

The "Friends of Gobion's Park" have a fundraising event on Saturday 3rd December at 10am.

"We are organising a Christmas walk/run starting at Gobions Park East Tilbury along the sea wall to St Catherine's Church (around 2.7 miles)

There is a Christmas Bazaar at the church afterwards if you wanted to have a look. Christmas fancy dress is optional but very much encouraged. Suitable for all including families."

You can download a sponsor form at:- [friendsofgobionspark.org/christmas-sponsored-walk-or-run](http://friendsofgobionspark.org/christmas-sponsored-walk-or-run)



**St. Catherine's CHURCH**  
**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
This year at  
**St. Catherine's Church**  
Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

**TEAS, CAKES,**  
**PICKLES & PRESERVES,**  
**TOMBOLOS & RAFFLE**  
**WHITE ELEPHANT, BOOKS**  
**GAMES, etc.**

St. Catherine's church can be found adjacent to Colchester Road at Colchester Road, East Tilbury, Essex.  
[www.friendsofgobionspark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgobionspark.org.uk)

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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: warden.chris.stcatherines@tesco.net

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E: warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com

## Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road  
Linford

Stanford le Hope  
SS17 0PU

Tel: 01375 675863

e-mail: pewtalk@talktalk.net

## 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*

*22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016*

*18<sup>th</sup> December 2016*

*22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017*