

# PEWTALK 50<sub>P</sub>

October 2020



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

# BITs AnD PiECes

## 100 Club

The first winner of the 100 Club year was Wendy Strong our Churchwardens daughter. Wendy has been one of our luckier contributors winning a couple of times including once the £50. I'm sure that she will spoil Brandon and Rayne. The support for the 100 Club has been great raising over £300 for Church funds. Thank you and remember if you have not bought a ticket you still have the nine chance of winning of £10 and two of £50.

Norman

## Table top Sale

Many thanks to Kathy and Jeannie for manning a table top sale at St. Francis in Linford on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September as one of the locations on the "Linford & East Tilbury Boot Sale Trail". As we were unable to hold a summer fundraising event this year the £51.50 raised for parish funds is very welcome.

## Annual Meetings

Our annual parish meetings will be held as part of our 10am Sunday worship at St. Catherine's on 25<sup>th</sup> October. These meetings need to be held to, amongst other things, accept the accounts and report of our activities for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. We also need to elect churchwardens and representatives to the Thurrock Deanery Synod although we do not need to elect members for the P.C.C. as it has been decided that the current members will continue until the 2021 annual meeting. All parishioners are eligible to attend the meetings although only those recorded on the parish's electoral role are able to vote for the Deanery Synod representatives. Given the

current COVID-19 restrictions it is recognised that not everyone who might like to attend will be able to. If you have a question that you would like raised at the meeting but are unable to attend in person please let Revd. Michèle have it by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## End of British Summer Time

This year British Summer Time ends at 01.00 a.m. on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October and so our clocks need to go back 1 hour on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. Forgetting to do this risks arriving at church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> an hour earlier than planned!!

## Remembrance Sunday

This year Remembrance Sunday is on 8<sup>th</sup> November and given the current COVID-19 regulations (which are only likely to get more extreme....**Ed**) it will not be possible to hold the usual act of remembrance at the Bata Memorial. There will however be our usual service at 10 a.m. at St. Catherine's.

## St. Catherine's Churchyard

It is not always appreciated that the maintenance of the churchyard at St. Catherine's (and the building itself) is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council and no one else. One of the issues that occur from time is that a tree survey has to be obtained to ensure that they are safe and healthy. The recent survey showed that there was work to be done including the branches of the sycamore tree that overhang the road. Just to put these things in context the church is looking at quotes in the region of £2,000 for the work required and this at a time when the church's sources of income are much reduced.

## Reflections from The Rectory

### 'Thanksgiving'

The year has turned its circle,  
The seasons come and go.  
The harvest all is gathered in  
And chilly north winds blow.  
Orchards have shared their treasures,  
The fields, their yellow grain,  
So open wide the doorway—  
Thanksgiving comes again!  
(by Anonymous)



And indeed on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October we held our Harvest Festival at St Catherine's to give thanks for the Harvest and to bring our donations for the Thurrock foodbank.

Harvest Thanksgiving is a relatively modern addition to the church calendar. Its origins are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of 'Lammas Day' by the Revd R.S.Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. Lammas or 'Loaf-mass' (*derived from the Anglo-Saxon Hlafmaesse*) was an English feast in origin, held on 1<sup>st</sup> August as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass (Holy Communion) of that day. While the ceremony ceased at the Reformation, reference to Lammas Day continued in the Prayer Book calendar and the tradition of giving thanks revitalised by Revd Hawker. The Cornish priest chose the first Sunday in October as a Christian response to coincide with the 'harvest home' secular celebrations. Harvest Festival Church celebrations were recognised officially in the Church of England in 1862.

Harvest Festivals often include a Harvest Supper or Lunch. Indeed last year we had a splendid bring and share harvest lunch at St Catherine's with all those in attendance going home with very full tummies. Sadly this year because of the various restrictions places of worship have to follow a harvest lunch was not possible.

In years past the traditional gifts brought to church would have been boxes of fresh home grown produce and distributed to the needy of the parish. Today we still seek to meet the needs of others via the Thurrock foodbank.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Volunteers sort food to check that it's in date and pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need. Over 40,000 people give up their time to volunteer at foodbanks. Foodbanks partner with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health

visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a food-bank voucher. Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food.

In this parish we host a foodbank at St. Francis in Linford every Thursday 11am-1pm. The volunteers greet every client with kindness, compassion and a reassuring smile.

A weekly shopping list can be found on the Thurrock foodbank website and is also included in our parish newsletter. Donations can be dropped off at St. Francis on Wednesday's 10am-12noon or Thursday's 11am-1pm. Every tin of beans and every box of tea-bags helps a person in need.

Harvest Festival is indeed an opportunity to give thanks to God for the wonder of the created world. To give thanks to farmers and food producers who work tirelessly to provide all that we might need. And in amongst the harvest celebration a moment to pause to consider how we might be the answer to another person's prayer and give what we can to sustain others.

In the Harvest Hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' we hear the following words:

We thank thee then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seed time and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
For all thy love imparts,  
And what thou most desirest,  
Our humble, thankful hearts.

*Refrain:*

All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord,  
For all his love...

Stay safe and keep well,

Every Blessing, *Revd Michèle.*

### **A prayer for all those affected by corona virus**

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

### Norman's Reflections on Staycation

Last month I reflected on the pluses and minuses of the Lockdown. This month September I have been thinking of our Staycation holidays / breaks. Sheila and I had identified 2020 as a Holiday year and we planned to maximise holidays before my advantageous travel Insurance expires in February 2021. Obviously Coronavirus made a significant difference as we had to cancel our first 14 day cruise and trips to Portugal and Majorca. We are still waiting for a refund from Easy Jet but otherwise we have not lost any money. Staycation has therefore taken over. This week we should have been in Majorca so we have compromised with special meals at home Paella and Dover Sole, meals out enjoying lunches at Heybridge Basin, The Peterboat in Leigh-on-Sea and Maldon. We tried to visit the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Maldon but it was impossible as their Church Organ had been away for repair and young people were bringing the clean/restored pipes into Church. The lorries were from Germany and Lithuania so with my Treasurers hat on I was glad we didn't have a large pipe organ to repair. We are now looking forward to a more exciting staycation with a few days in Suffolk next week and a family get together in Dorset in November to meet our Nephew, his wife and their new baby daughter (born in July), our niece and her husband with their Labrador and our Sister in Law. We now have to work out a schedule to make sure that we obey the "Rule of Six" (Babies count but Dogs don't). Our four days in Kent in December will hopefully be O.K. and I am sure that things will be better in 2021.

#### Now even more plastic

There is growing concern in the Government, among campaigners, and among scientists over how coronavirus has sparked an increase in single-use plastics.

Not only are millions of disposable masks and gloves now 'out there', but there has been also a huge increase in disposable cutlery, sachets and containers.

One study by UCL estimates that in the UK alone, if every person used a single-use face mask every day for a year, it would create an additional 66,000 tonnes of contaminated waste, and 57,000 tonnes of plastic packaging.

Two environment ministers, Lord Goldsmith and Rebecca Pow, have said: "We are actively thinking across the Government and NHS whether we can safely reuse PPE and we are aware of other countries who have begun looking at the potential to decontaminate and reuse it."

Scientists warn that it could take up to 500 years for polypropylene face masks to degrade. Meanwhile, according to some estimates, 129 billion masks and 65 billion plastic gloves are being used each month worldwide.

***To help reduce this problem Patricia Strong is making colourful fabric, washable masks that can be found at St. Catherine's or St. Francis. They are excellent and all that she asks is for a donation to church funds. Thanks Patricia.....Ed***

## Shoebbox Appeal 2020

Hopefully we will continue to support the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" shoebox appeal during these difficult times.

Bearing in mind shopping for toys etc., the need to sanitize hands before packing a box and items not to be included (sweets, toothpaste, used toys) there are alternatives to preparing a box at home.



Donations can be sent for boxes to be made up, a box costs £20 which includes all processing.

This can be done individually by going on line to Samaritan's Purse "shoebbox" appeal ([www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/)). You will then be able to track where your box has gone.

There will be a collection box in church from mid October for cash donations, this will then be sent as a donation from the church to purchase ready made up boxes.

If you have already started to collect things and want to go ahead with your box this is welcome and any boxes received at St. Catherine's by 8<sup>th</sup> November, so long as we are permitted to do so, will be taken to the distribution centre which has limited opening times this year.

Pam England has a supply of hats and mittens she has made.

We haven't bought any more flat pack boxes so have a very limited supply.

Thank you for your support

*Norman and Sheila*

### Churches enjoy Zooming

Most churches who used digital channels during lockdown, in order to keep in touch with their congregations, found that their favourite platform was Zoom.

A recent survey by Ecclesiastical found that Zoom was used by 78 per cent; Skype by 12 per cent, and other platforms, including WhatsApp, by eight per cent.

Nearly one third of churches who used digital channels have also reported an increased attendance at their virtual services.

That has led to some 38 per cent of churches saying that they would continue to use digital channels, even now that churches are physically open again.

*Several churches in Thurrock have been using "Zoom" either instead of their usual services or to reach members of their congregation that are unable to attend in person. We have used it to ensure that our P.C.C. meetings can take place.....Ed*

### Harris in the outer Hebrides - Chris Ford

Every year for the past several years Kim and I have visited the Wigtown at the end of September for the book festival. This year we extended our Scottish trip by visiting the Isle of Harris (somewhere Kim had wanted to explore for some years) for the week before.

As it is a long way to drive and we had to take a ferry from Skye to get to Harris we made the journey over four days. On the first day we drove to Carlise and stayed overnight before, on day two, we drove on to Skye. This leg of the journey took much longer than planned as heavy rain a few days before had closed the usual routes over the "rest and be thankful" pass and we had to be convoyed on very minor roads. Eventually reaching Portree we were pleased to be staying for a few days in a hotel with wonderful sea views - and with particularly good weather.

The ferry from Uig on Skye to Tarbet on Harris was uneventful with calm seas with the only disturbance being the sound of any number of car alarms going off as the ship gently rocked from side to side. However all the noise didn't seem to worry the dolphins (or was it porpoises) that we saw from time to time during the crossing.

Harris proved to be a beautiful island if you like a very rugged, rocky landscape with mainly very rough grazing for sheep and we were blessed with very good weather for the time of year.

The cottage that we had rented was "Seaside Cottage" and it lived up to its name with the back garden forming part of the shore line. The view out of the kitchen window was stunning with the sea loch in the foreground and the hills / mountains behind. We spent a great deal of time just watching the gannets and cormorants fishing. The gannets were really spectacular. I had seen them in nature programmes on the television but close up, in real life you could see just how they are able to change their wing formation from that of a soaring configuration to what is effectively a spear as they enter the water. The cormorants use a different technique of just duck diving and, when they surface with a fish, the gulls would quite often steal the fish from out of their beaks.



Harris is sparsely populated and restaurants few and far between but there were three roadside snack wagons that we used. "Lorna's larder" did a very good scallop and black pudding roll while "TasteNSea" had langoustine on there menu and "Sam's seafood shack" cooked whatever fish was available that day and did a nice line in seaweed roast potatoes - we didn't go hungry.

Possibly the greatest surprise to the visitor is the beaches. Vast expanses of white sand with crystal clear sea; very much as the travel brochures show the Caribbean although the water of the northern Atlantic is considerably colder.

All in all we had a great week and intend to return to explore more of Harris and the other islands of the Western Isles.

### **Moral questions from the pandemic - the Ven. John Barton**

You may have missed it at the time. The movie 'Contagion' didn't make much of an impact when it was released for public viewing in 2011. Perhaps it was thought to be unrealistic. It was about a highly contagious, unknown virus, transmitted by an infected bat to a pig in a Chinese marketplace. From there it spread like wildfire round the world.



It was fiction then of course, but not so far-fetched as to be distant from reality, as we now know. Deadly viruses, and the plagues they cause, have been part of world history since time began. In the early days, when travel between continents was infrequent, their spread was slower and usually confined to local regions.

The way the film's imaginary plot develops bears an uncanny resemblance to what we have experienced this year. Panic buying empties supermarkets, whole populations adopt social distancing, scientists work flat out to identify the virus and then search for a means to combat it. Meanwhile, millions are infected, and quarantines are imposed.

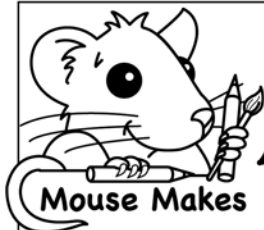
The story progresses far beyond the reality which is familiar to us. The irresponsible use of social media and false rumours of a cure lead to the looting of pharmacies. Emergency food supplies are ransacked, law and order break down. Troops police the streets. Then there's a breakthrough: a vaccine is discovered. But that raises a new moral problem: who will get it first and what would be a fair distribution system?

The movie is still available via Netflix, or you can buy a DVD online. Despite the inevitable carnage of the pandemic and the suffering it portrays, it contrives to have a relatively happy ending.

In real life, we haven't got that far yet. But, please God, we will. After all, most deadly diseases are now under control and both vaccination and immunisation are part and parcel of everyday life; old 'uns take it for granted that their GP will summon them for an anti-flu jab each winter.

But we may face an ethical dilemma when it comes to a vaccine for Covid-19. If there's an initial shortage, who should get it first? Should money come into it? Are Christian principles applicable?





## Mouse Makes

"GOD is the one who gives seed to those who **plant**, and He gives **bread** for food. And GOD will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."

2 Corinthians 9:10

Jesus said:  
 "The kingdom of heaven is like a \_\_\_\_\_ **seed** that a man took and sowed in his **field**. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild \_\_\_\_\_ come and nest in its branches."

Read  
 Matthew  
 13:31-32

Jesus said:  
 "You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree

"Go jump into the lake" and it would do it!"  
 Luke 17:6

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."

1 Corinthians 3:7

Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.



How many different seeds can you find?



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

Find the words in **bold** on this page in the word search





**PARISH DIARY FOR OCTOBER**  
Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



**We are now open for public worship at both St. Catherine's and St. Francis. With COVID-19 we have procedures to ensure that the buildings are safe. Please take care to follow the directions when you arrive. The Wednesday "drop-in" will also restart in a COVID safe manner with "Table service" refreshments.**

1 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis ( <b>N.B. no coffee morning</b> )	11.00am - 1.00pm
4 Oct	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity and Harvest Festival	
	<b>Harvest morning worship</b>	10.00am
	Committal of ashes of Barry Palmer	3.00pm
	Harvest Holy Communion	4.30pm
7 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10.00am
	Community support "Drop In" at St. Francis	10.30am - noon
8 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis ( <b>N.B. no coffee morning</b> )	11.00am - 1.00pm
	Funeral of Derek Turner at Basildon Crematorium	3.30pm
11 Oct	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	
	<b>Parish Communion (N.B. no refreshments afterwards)</b>	10.00am
14 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10.00am
	Community support "Drop In" at St. Francis	10.30am - noon
15 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis ( <b>N.B. no coffee morning</b> )	11.00am - 1.00pm
18 Oct	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	
	<b>Parish Communion (N.B. no refreshments afterwards)</b>	10.00am
21 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10.00am
	Community support "Drop In" at St. Francis	10.30am - noon
22 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis ( <b>N.B. no coffee morning</b> )	11.00am - 1.00pm
<b>25 Oct</b>	<b>*** British Summer Time ends - clocks go back ***</b>	<b>1.00am</b>
25 Oct	Last Sunday after Trinity	
	<b>Parish Communion (N.B. no refreshments afterwards)</b>	10.00am
	<b>(Includes parish annual meetings)</b>	
28 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10.00am
	Community support "Drop In" at St. Francis	10.30am - noon
29 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis ( <b>N.B. no coffee morning</b> )	11.00am - 1.00pm

### Occasional Offices during September

#### Baptisms

None

#### Weddings

None

#### Committal of ashes

19 Sep Margaret Beadle

#### Funeral

18 Sep John Haywood

21 Sep Phyllis Cunningham

28 Sep Thelma Bonsor

29 Sep Lesley Cade

#### **R.I.P. Derek Turner**

Sadly, Derek Turner who was a stalwart supporter of the Wednesday "drop-in" passed away on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. He had been ill for some time and before that had found the lock down quite difficult. He will be sadly missed by the Wednesday folk and others who new him. His funeral will be taken by Revd. Michèle on 8<sup>th</sup> October at Basildon crematorium at 3.30 p.m.. Because of the current restrictions it will be a private affair.

#### **Give away the Jesus story as told by Mark**

The Talking Jesus research showed that for 27% of practising Christians, reading the Bible for themselves was a key influence in their coming to faith. As a result of the research, HOPE Together decided to find out what Bible a non-Christian would pick up and read.

When 800 non-Christians were asked this question, the majority wanted something short, well-designed and contemporary in look and feel. Based on this evidence HOPE Together and Biblica have published a beautifully illustrated version of Mark's Gospel, designed in a magazine-style and printed on quality paper, making it an attractive gift to give away to friends, colleagues and family, people who visit your church and those in your community who are exploring faith.

Order copies from the [HOPE shop](https://hopetogether.org.uk/shop) [hopetogether.org.uk/shop](https://hopetogether.org.uk/shop)

# 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](mailto:mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk)

## 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, Weddings or Funerals please contact the Priest in Charge.

## The Churchwarden

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E:- [warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com)

## Pastoral Assistant

David Gunn T: 01375 768202

## PEWTALK Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road

Linford

Stanford le Hope

SS17 0PU

Tel: 01375 675863

e-mail: [pewtalk@talktalk.net](mailto: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:

PATRICIA STRONG

[patricia.a.strong@outlook.com](mailto:patricia.a.strong@outlook.com)

## *Copy Dates for Pewtalk*

*23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020*

*22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020*

*20<sup>th</sup> December 2020*