

THE PARISH OF EAST and WEST TILBURY

and LINFORD

THE REPORT OF

THE WORK & ACTIVITIES

Of the PARISH

2016

**Our Church's *PURPOSE* is to *Worship* God,
and to *grow* through developing as disciples, bringing other
members of God's family into our Church, and demonstrating God's
love and care.**

Churchwardens' report for the year ended 31st December 2016

2016 was a year of change for the parish. With the completion of the building work at the end of 2015 (apart from the carpets and final “snagging”) we started the year back in our fully re-furbished parish church. On February 28th the Bishop of Bradwell rededicated the building for God’s use and installed Canon Paul as Rector of the parish. Canon Paul’s incumbency was to be short lived as he announced at last year’s annual meeting that he would be finally retiring at the end of August 2016. We thank Paul from the bottom of our hearts for the tireless way in which he worked for the parish. Not everyone realises that Paul was essentially a volunteer and was really only required to work for 2 days each week plus Sundays. He was also entitled to 1 Sunday off each month.

And so, once again, the parish is without a priest. The Bishop has determined that the way forward is to appoint an associate priest to the parish while simultaneously Fr. David Rollins takes on the role of our Priest in Charge in addition to his position in the United Benefice of Corringham and Fobbing. While we are in interregnum our services are being covered by other clergy from the Deanery and the Diocese coordinated by our Area Dean Canon Darren Barlow. We are most grateful for this assistance which is entirely voluntary on the part of the visiting clergy who have no duty to cover our vacancy. To date the wardens have not had to take one Sunday service where a priest was required.

The Wardens and PCC have had a number of meetings with the Bishop of Bradwell and the Archdeacon of Southend and Canon Martin Wood about the procedure to be followed to fill our vacancy and a “Parish Profile” has now been prepared. Until our new ministry team is established we will not be considering linking in an MMU with other parishes.

2016 saw some changes in our pattern of worship. From the beginning of the year our Sunday communion services have included some lay leadership and from July we have had a “Family Service” on the first Sunday of the month instead of Holy Communion. Another innovation was that we distributed a Christmas card and a cereal breakfast bar to early morning commuters at East Tilbury station one morning before Christmas.

During the course of the year we have continued to speak with our architect about the work done at St. Catherine’s and the further (exterior) work that has been identified by his quinquennial survey. We arranged for the tower roofing to be replaced with added insulation and for the gaps between the porch and the main building. We continue to have conversations with Bakers about the performance of the heating system which we feel is not totally adequate.

We were again fortunate in 2016 to have the services of Billie and James in the churchyard helping with the grass cutting every Thursday.

The rest of this report outlines the life and work of the parish.

Colin Strong and Chris Ford

Electoral Roll 2016 / 2017 Report

People on Electoral Roll	73		
Residents	53	Non Residents	20
Added since April 2016	4	Removed since April 2016	0

If you aware of any changes to the displayed Electoral Roll please tell me.

Kathleen Bird (Electoral Roll Officer)

Gift Aid and Planned Giving 2016

The Gift Aid Scheme allows the parish to claim 25% on all donations from U.K. Tax payers. In addition from 2014 HMRC does allow us claim for collections in Church and for donations including ingredients for cakes /wool for knitted items etc. and for services funded by parishioners i.e. Broadband and for the “Easy fundraising” scheme.

The news for this year is better. For various reasons the number of regular weekly or monthly givers has decreased slightly to 27 individuals/families who give generously and regularly through the envelope scheme or by direct debit. Overall contributions have increased by almost 10% to almost the 2014 level. Loose collections are however up by £1500 which is reassuring. Tax Relief is down but this is due to the dates claims were processed by HMRC.

The full impact of 2016, a year of major changes and improvements, is difficult to assess but I am confident that a full year in our lovely warm refurbished Church will see our financial position improve.

The majority of the regular givers pay tax and have filled in the required declaration. If you have yet to fill in the required declaration please let me know,

Tax thresholds have risen and if you are no longer pay tax please make sure that we stop claiming tax relief in your name.

Thank you to all for your continued and generous support of the work of the Parish.

Norman

Thurrock Foodbank at the St Francis Centre

The parish continue to be great supporters of the Thurrock foodbank which exists to help people in Thurrock who find themselves in a crisis situation, by:-

- Regularly donating food
- Making cash contributions through our donation "buckets"
- Operating a food distribution centre at St. Francis in Linford
- Assisting with supermarket collections

The distribution centre is officially open on a Thursday morning between 11am and 1pm but we have also provided food on a Wednesday morning during the "drop in" session if clients have arrived with the relevant food voucher. We also work closely with Karen Dobson, our Local Area Coordinator by providing a friendly environment for some of our lonely and more vulnerable residents. Although this is not strictly a "foodbank" facility it is clearly part of our Christian ethos.

Chris Ford

The Wednesday "Drop-In"

After our Wednesday service of Holy Communion at the St. Francis centre the hall is swiftly transformed into a coffee shop. While some of the worshippers remain they are joined by a number of other local residents. At these weekly meetings information and stories are exchanged, technical advice is given regarding computers, mobile 'phones etc. and we also have a very well used book exchange. All are welcome and the event is funded by the donations of the visitors.

Chris Ford

St. Catherine's Flower report - 2016

To start 2016 we were looking forward to the rededication of St. Catherine's in February. Flower arrangements were donated by the Osborne Family for this occasion. Next came Easter and the Church looked beautiful with the Lillies donated by the congregation in memory of loved ones. Thank you to Carol and John Bell who arranged the Easter Garden on the Tomb which is always in keeping with the Easter Theme. Flowers were always put into

Church for our weekly Services and are economically used. Festivals are normally noted by the colours in the arrangements.

We had several weddings during the year and arrangements were depicted by the colours if the bride has asked for particular colour flowers.

The church was decorated for Harvest with Autumn Colours. November brings forth Remembrance and Poppies.

December brings looking forward to our Christmas arrangements and thinking of ideas with our arrangers about what we would like to do. Chris and Kim get the tree and with help decorate it. The Church was decorated on the Saturday before our Carol Service which was on the 18th December. The Grays Town Band accompanied us again as is our Tradition.

I would like to thank Sue Spiers for all her help and ideas; also to new recruit Kathy Bird and Veronica who sometimes comes along to help. We did have some young help from Evie and Richie. Thank you again to John and Gina that I can pick greenery from their gardens.

I will carry on arranging flowers in Church as time will allow, hoping that we can get a little more help.

We hope that we have made your Church inviting to the congregation and all our visitors

Many Thanks for your Support.

Pam Painter

Mothers Union Annual Report - 2016

As we approached 2016 with no Branch leader or Treasurer, I was acting as the contact with Chelmsford and the Deanery. Due to membership was now down to five members two of whom were unwell and not attending meetings its was decided to close the Branch. Those who still wished to carry on membership are now Diocesan members.

Pam Painter

Social Report - 2016

The social committee met twice in 2016.

We started the year with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Social Evening. February saw the rededication of St. Catherine's and Canon Paul's induction as Rector. A sumptuous buffet followed the Service. Lent Lunches were held in February and March which supported the Bishops Lent Appeal. These

were well attended by parishioners and friends. Our annual spring cake sale at the St. Francis Centre was well supported. This is one of our outreaches to the Linford Community and raises funds for the Church.

May saw the Rogation service and procession round West Tilbury. We were joined by friends of Grays Town Band who supplied the music accompaniment. After tea was served at West Tilbury village hall where we were joined by some of the villagers. A lovely warm afternoon was enjoyed.

June saw a community party for senior members of the community for the Queen's 90th Birthday. The end of June saw the return of our annual Summer Fete which was fun with lots of friendship and money raised for Church funds. In August we had the Family Picnic and the end of August saw us saying goodbye to Canon Paul with tea and cake.

The Harvest Supper in October at St Francis was an excellent Social evening for our congregation and our Methodist friends. The October cake sale was not as well supported and we discussed if it was time to think of something different. The Bazaar took place in December and was a good outlet to the community again it was at St. Catherine's and our carol services took place in St. Catherine's with another at St Francis refreshments were served after each one.

Hope you have enjoyed these events.
Many thanks for everybody's help

Pam Painter

Pewtalk and Parish Communications 2016

"Pewtalk", our monthly parish magazine continued to be published during the year. 125 copies are printed monthly, with 96 copies being delivered to subscribers in the parish by our band of dedicated distributors and the remainder are available at St. Catherine's and St. Francis for visitors to pick up.

The magazine consists of contributions from Canon Paul (during his time as Rector), the editor, parishioners and with articles from many other sources including "Parish Pump" (a resource for parish magazines) that we subscribe to. It includes our monthly calendar of events. As well as the printed version it is published on the parish website and we know from feedback that it is also read from there.

The success of the magazine is entirely due to the contributors and distributors and we thank them for their continued support. If you have an

article or an idea for an article that you feel would be suitable for our magazine feel free to contact the editor email pewtalk@talktalk.net. In addition to the regular "Pewtalk" we also produced leaflets throughout the year to keep parishioners and others up to date with the development of St. Catherine's. A "please take one" box on St. Catherine's gate had to be regularly re-filled. We also produce a weekly Newsletter, maintain a Parish Website (www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk) and are on the Church of England's website - "A Church Near You" - which is frequently accessed by people wanting to contact the parish and church.

Chris Ford (Pewtalk editor)

Sunday School

During the year we have re-started a Sunday School which aims to meet once a month when a sufficient number of children are available. With the current age profile of the congregation this tends to be grandchildren and friends. The programme is based on the Bible Society's "Roots" resource with a mixture of craft and bible teaching. We are very grateful to Kim and Jan for their efforts with this project. If you would like to know more, please contact Kim or Jan.

Links with other churches

We endeavour to work with the Linford Methodist church when and where we can. Some of our congregation, together with the Methodists and others, are involved with the "Open the Book" project at the Woodside Primary Academy in Grays and also the Methodists' "Yippee" club for children. We invite them to join with us in some of our services, particularly on Remembrance Sunday and our Carol services, and we invite each other to our social and fundraising events. We also have a shared monthly bible study and joint Lent group.

Deanery Synod Report for 2016/17

Sue Spiers and Kim Ford are our elected Deanery Synod representatives and Canon Paul was a member of the synod until his retirement. There were four Deanery Synod meetings during the year.

On 28th April 2016 the synod met at All Saints, Chafford Hundred and the speakers (Canon Martin Wood and Mark Spraggins - the new Diocesan Director of Finance) gave a presentation on the new Parish Share scheme

including the implementation plan. The Area Dean updated the synod on the “Transforming Presence” project and the fact that Bishop Stephen would be visiting the Deanery in March 2017 to run a “School for Disciples”. There was a discussion on the Deanery’s involvement in the Orsett show and whether the Thurrock foodbank could be incorporated in it.

On 13th July the synod met at St. Catherine’s where the main presentation was given by Mark Tiddy, the Bradwell Area youth advisor who spoke, and led a brainstorming session, on how we might encourage more young people into our churches.

The October meeting was on the 11th at St. Margaret’s, Stanford le hope. The speaker was Peter Hall from the Little Havens hospice who showed a video of the hospice’s work supporting families of children with life limiting illnesses. It is the only children’s hospice in Essex and supports Thurrock families. The Area Dean reminded the meeting that Bishop Stephen would be at St. Margaret’s in November for a Deanery conversation. He also reported on progress with the formation on Mission and Ministry units in the Deanery. Cathy Hasler and Wendy Mott had been accepted for training as local deployed ordained ministers. It was also noted that we were in interregnum.

The first meeting of 2017 was on the 23rd January at St. John’s, Corringham where Thomas Ware, a lay chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers in Tilbury Docks, gave an interesting talk on the work of the mission both in their Tilbury Dock premises and on visiting ships. Other business included a reminder of Bishop Stephens “School for Disciples” in March and Bishop John’s visit to the Deanery at Easter. It was also noted that as Jokey Poyntz was leaving the Deanery the contact for the Orsett show would be Revd. Sue Mann of Orsett, Bulphan and Horndon.