

WELCOME to ST CATHERINE'S EAST TILBURY

If you are visiting or new to St Catherine's, please introduce yourself.

Please stay for refreshments after the service.

You can take this Newsletter home.

16th December 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

We all like a good story. When God wanted to grab our attention, He gave us a book of stories. The Bible is full of God's encounters with people. At Christmas, we remember the story of Jesus born in Bethlehem. But this story begins back in Genesis and as we go through the Old Testament books, there are many pointers to Him. Some prophets announced His coming, stating where He would be born, what He would be like and what He would do. They prepared the way for the arrival of the Holy Child.

Perhaps, Mary, on seeing her old cousin Elizabeth pregnant, reminded her of the amazing conceptions and births which God had given to Sarah, Rachel and Hannah. And now the angel Gabriel had announced that she, of all women, would bear the Messiah. No wonder Mary praised God with all her heart.

The Christmas story is so attractive, with memorable ingredients: angels; poignant dreams; a pregnant mum on a long and tough journey; the lack of a clean room at an inn and a stable for a birth. The story has a wealth of characters: an innocent young girl, a kindly older man, bright angels, rough shepherds, wealthy men from the East and a tyrannical ruler out to kill the baby. And over all hangs that mysterious lone star that marked the place where Jesus lay!

But the story of Jesus doesn't end here. He grew up. Jesus became the teacher and miracle worker – He became the Messiah. It culminated with His death, resurrection and ascension. This is a story of sacrificial love. A Saviour who died on a cross to remove our sin and give us eternal life.

And the story hasn't finished, as WE are its final part! Our response to the Christmas story determines our future. Are we living in the light of Christ, in service, worship and prayer? We are now part of God's continuing story and the last chapter has still to be played out. We are involved in it. Now, that is something to celebrate! *The thoughts of Lester Amann from Parish Pump*

COLLECT for 3rd Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sun	16th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	
	10.00am	Holy Communion presided over by Rev. Barry Johnson
	4.00pm	“Lessons and Carols” with Grays Town Band
Mon	1.00pm	Funeral of John Benson (Snr) led by Canon Paul Robinson
Tue	7.00pm	Linford Carol Service as St. Francis
Wed	10.00am	Holy Communion at St. Francis with Revd. Barry Johnson
	10.30am-noon	Drop In (St. Francis)
Thur	11am – 1pm	Foodbank at St. Francis
Sat	10am	Making Christingles in St. Catherine’s
Sun	23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent	
	10.00am	Holy Communion presided over by Rev. Barry Johnson

THE BIBLE READINGS at OUR SERVICES

Sunday 16th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

10 am Zephaniah 3, 14 – end **(OT 891)**
 Philippians 4. 4 – 7 **(NT 196)**
 Luke 3. 7 – 18 **(NT 62)**

Sunday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent

10 am Micah 5, 2 – 5a **(OT 880)**
 Hebrews 10. 5 – 10 **(NT 221)**
 Luke 1. 39 – 55 **(NT 54)**

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon 1 Thessalonians ch5 v1 - 11
Tue 1 Thessalonians ch5 v12 - end
Wed 2 Thessalonians ch1
Thur 2 Thessalonians ch2
Fri 2 Thessalonians ch3
Sat Jude

For help or information contact: Mr. Colin Strong, 36, Sydney Road, Tilbury, Essex. RM18 7PD **‘phone: 07591 708955 Email:** warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com
Parish Website: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk
Please let Colin know of people in hospital, to visit, or who would like Communion at home.

This Sunday Rev. Barry Johnson will be celebrating Holy Communion at our 10am service. After the service there will be tea / coffee and time to chat. You are, as always, very welcome to stay.

This afternoon we will be holding our annual service of **“Readings and Carols”** at 4pm. As usual the **“Grays Town Band”** will be providing the accompaniment and after the service there will be refreshments of mulled wine or soft drinks and mince pies.

On Monday at 1pm we have the funeral of **John Benson’s** father here at St. Catherine’s.

On Tuesday at 7pm at St. Francis we will be holding our annual Linford carol service to which all are welcome so do invite friends and family.

On Wednesday we have our usual mid-week Communion service which will be celebrated by Revd. Barry Johnson. It will be followed at 10.30am by our “drop-in” for refreshments and “chat”.

Next Sunday, our 10am service will be a **Holy Communion**, celebrated by Rev. Barry Johnson. Everyone is welcome and it will be followed by refreshments as usual.

A big thank you to those who were here on Saturday to decorate the Christmas tree and the church for our Christmas celebrations. A special thanks to Evie and Richie

who once again made sure that the tree looks lovely.

If you would like to support St. Luke’s Hospice this Christmas. Please sign their card which is at the back of church and make your donation. Basically the card is from those who have signed it to the whole congregation.

The PCC agreed that we would distribute Christmas cards and “breakfast bars” at the station on Friday 20th. If you would like to help please let Kim or Chris know.

Chris wants to confirm the names of those who are involved in church as readers, leading our intercessions, acting as sidesmen / women, bringing the offertory to the altar or serving teas. At the back of church there are lists of the names of current volunteers. Please put a tick or cross against your name to show whether you are happy to continue. If you would like to volunteer for the first time just add your name. Any changes will be reflected in the next rota which will commence in February.

Please get material for the January Pewtalk to Chris a.s.a.p so that he has time to edit it around Christmas.

On Saturday at 10am in church we will be making the Christingles for our Christmas Eve service. There are a lot to make so if you can spare an hour help is needed!

	16th December	23rd December	30th December
Sunday	3rd Sunday of Advent	4th Sunday of Advent	1st Sunday of Christmas
Service	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY COMMUNION
Leader	Janice	Kim	Sheila
Celebrant / Speaker	Rev. Barry Johnson	Rev. Barry Johnson	Rev. Barry Johnson
Prayers	Geraldine	Chris	Kim
Readers	Kim & Kathy	Geraldine & Carol	Pat & Norman
Sides-people	John & Veronica	Pam P & Sue S	John & Joan
Offertory	John & Joan	June C & Pam E	Colin & Patricia
Communion Assistants	David & Kim	Pam & Norman	John & Kathy
	Kim	Hazel	Patricia