

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.

22nd April 2018 – 4th Sunday of Easter

St George and Hiccup and the dragon – *by the Rev Paul Hardingham*

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St. George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St. George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St. George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

COLLECT for 4th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 22nd April 4th Sunday of Easter | |
| | 10.00am | Holy Communion led by Rev. Laurie Blaney |
| | 12.30pm | Baptism of Charlie Paul by Canon Paul |
| Wed | 10.00am | Holy Communion at St. Francis led by Rev. Barry Johnson |
| | 10.30am- noon | Drop In (St. Francis) |
| Thur | 11am–1pm | Food Bank at St. Francis |
| | 6.30pm | Lower Thames Crossing meeting at Linford Methodists |
| Sat | 10am | Church cleaning – volunteers welcome! |
| Sun | 29th April 5th Sunday of Easter | |
| | 10.00am | Holy Communion led by Rev. Linda Peall |
| | 2.00 – 5.00pm | St. Catherine's open for tea and cakes |

THE BIBLE READINGS at OUR SERVICES

Sunday 22nd April 4th Sunday of Easter

10 am Acts 4.5 - 12 (NT117)
1 John 3.16 - end (NT 237)
John 10.11 - 18 (NT100)

Sunday 29th April 5th Sunday of Easter

10 am Acts 8.26 - end (NT 123)
1 John 4.7 - end (NT 238)
John 15.1 - 8 (NT 106)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon Luke ch2 v41 - end
Tue Luke ch3 v1 - 14
Wed Luke ch3 v15 - end
Thur Luke ch4 v1 - 13
Fri Luke ch4 v14 - 30
Sat Luke ch4 v31 - 37

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, Revd. Laurie Blaney returns to preside at our service of Holy Communion. We are grateful for Laurie's continuing help during our interregnum. At 12.30pm baby Charlie will be baptised by Canon Paul. Charlie's mum Vikki has invited all members of our church family to be at the service to celebrate and welcome Charlie.

On Wednesday Revd. Barry Johnson will be with us once again. Barry will be covering several Wednesday communions while Bob Magor is unwell. As usual the communion service will be followed by our "drop-in" for refreshments and "chat".

Next Sunday the Rev. Linda Peall (who is the lead Chaplain at Basildon Hospital) at will be back celebrating the Holy Communion once again for us.

Highways england will be giving a presentation on the Lower Thames Crossing at the Linford Methodist Church on Thursday 26th April from 6.30 – 8.30pm. This has been organised by the WELCOM forum so please support it if you can.

Next Saturday we will be having our monthly clean of the church. The PCC decided some time ago that it would be better to have a monthly cleaning session when anyone can help than leaving the existing teams of three or four to do it all. If you can spare a couple of hours on Saturday, please come and help keep our church clean and tidy.

Next Sunday being the last Sunday in April, St. Catherine's will be open for tea and cake and as usual

There is still time to sell tickets for our concert on May 5th which features "The Essex Music Man". Do encourage friends and family to support this fund-raising event.

At the annual meeting while formally recognising our Sidesmen / women, Darren Barlow mentioned that the Deanery have organised some training for welcoming people to Church. It is on Saturday 28th April and St. John's in Victoria Avenue from 9.30am to 3.30pm. If you think that you might be interested there is a flyer at the back of church.

Next Saturday (28th) there is an art exhibition on the theme of "Defence" at Coalhouse Fort. It opens at 11am and admission is free.

At our May Family Service, Julie Hobby who is one of the managers of the seamen's centre in Tilbury Docks, will be talking about their work.

Finally, a reminder from the editor that copy for the May PEWTALK needs to be with him by end of day on Monday 23rd April. Norman has done an item about the quiz night!

OUR WEEKLY SERVICE TEAMS

| | 22nd April | 29th April | 6th May |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 4th Sunday of Easter | 5th Sunday of Easter | 6th Sunday of Easter |
| Service | HOLY COMMUNION | HOLY COMMUNION | FAMILY SERVICE |
| Leader | Chris | Kathy | Kim |
| Celebrant | Revd. Laurie Blaney | Revd. Linda Peall | Julie Hobby (Speaker) |
| Prayers | Carol | Kathy | Kim |
| Readers | Kathy & John M | Veronica & Pam | Janice & Chris |
| Sides-people | Pam P & June S | Hollie and Paul | June C & Pam E |
| Offertory | Colin & Patricia | June C & Pam E | |
| Communion Assistants | Brenda & Pam | Norman & Kathy | |
| Teas | Patricia | Kathy | Kim |