

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.

23rd July 2017 6th Sunday after Trinity

St. Mary Magdalene – the woman with a past by David Winter

On 22nd July Christians all over the world commemorate probably the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. There was something in her background that has always fascinated people. All we are told about her 'past' is that Jesus had cast 'seven devils' out of her, but on that slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of 'fallen women'.

Some see her as the woman 'who was a sinner' who washed Christ's feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that 'she had been forgiven much' and consequently 'loved much'. Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. No one who has heard or read it could surely fail to be moved by her tearful encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden on Easter morning, the man she had taken to be the gardener revealing Himself in one word, Mary, as her beloved Teacher.

The problem with a good story – and hers is as good as it gets – is that people can't leave it alone. Down the centuries she has been John the Apostle's fiancée until he left her to follow Christ. She has gone with Jesus' mother and the same John to live in Ephesus and died there. In art and literature she has become an alluring, sexual figure, disapproved of by the mother of Jesus. There is no historical evidence whatsoever for any of this. In fact, the Gospels suggest the two Marys were close in their shared devotion to Jesus.

Her popularity is shown in the fact that 187 ancient churches in Britain are dedicated to her, and a college at both Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a 'past' is no reason not to have a future.

COLLECT for 6th Sunday after Trinity

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sun 23rd July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Holy Communion celebrated by Canon Rev. Mike Lodge
Wed 10am Holy Communion celebrated by Revd. Tara Frankland
10.30am- noon “drop in” for tea / coffee and chat
Thur 11.00am–1pm Food Bank at St. Francis with refreshments
Sat 12noon to 2pm **WELCOM forum** fun day at the Memorial Park

Sun 30th July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Holy Communion celebrated by Fr. Peter Rabin
2.00pm-5pm Church open for tea and cakes

N.B. The Thurrock Art Trail exhibits are in church can be viewed daily between 3 and 7 pm (to 30th July)

THE BIBLE READINGS at OUR SERVICES

Sunday 23rd July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

10am Genesis 28. 10-19 (**OT p25**)
Romans 8. 12-25 (**NT p153**)
Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43 (**NT p14**)

Sunday 30th July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

10am Genesis 29. 15-28 (**OT p26**)
Romans 8. 26-end (**NT p154**)
Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52 (**NT p14**)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon 2 Corinthians Ch6 v1 to Ch7 v1
Tue 2 Corinthians Ch7 v2 to end
Wed 2 Corinthians Ch8 v1 to 15
Thur 2 Corinthians Ch8 v16 to Ch9 v5
Fri 2 Corinthians Ch9 v6 to end
Sat 2 Corinthians Ch10

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 week, once again our thanks are due to our Archdeacon, the Canon Revd. Mike Lodge who is presiding over our service of Holy Communion today.

On Wednesday, it is Revd. Tara Frankland who will be celebrating Holy Communion for us. I think that this is Tara's first visit to St. Francis but she has been with us at St. Catherine's on many occasions during this interregnum.

Next Sunday our communion will be celebrated by Fr. Peter Rabin from St. Nicholas, South Ockenden who has helped us at St. Francis for the past two weeks.

Although last week we only had a trickle of visitors to the Thurrock Art Trail at St. Catherine's it continues until the close next Sunday evening.

A reminder that next Sunday the church will be open as usual for our regular, monthly tea afternoon. It is going to be hard to predict how busy we might be as, on the one hand, it is the last afternoon of the Art Trail, and on the other, we have a road closure (**see below**). However if you are able to help on the afternoon or by making cakes, please let Sue Spiers know.

Next Sunday, Thurrock Council propose to close the road outside the "George and Dragon" public house from 8am to 5pm. This means a very long diversion for anyone trying to reach St. Catherine's or Coalhouse Fort from Buckingham Hill Road and possibly a very busy "Beechcroft" and "Halt Drive" rat run. Whether it does take place on

the day, with both the fort and ourselves being open, remains to be seen.

The new rota of those helping during our Sunday services covering August 2017 to January 2018 is at the back of church for those that have not had it by email. If there are any problems with it generally then let Chris know but if it is just the case that you cannot make a particular duty please arrange a swap and let the Churchwardens know so that they are prepared.

The PCC meets on Monday 24th at 7.30pm at St. Catherine's. The agenda has been e-mailed to members and is on the porch noticeboard.

A reminder that the foodbank relies on donations from local people to be sure that there is enough food for those that are in a crisis situation. The current shortages at the warehouse are:- Long Life Fruit Juice, Tinned Fruit, Sponge Puddings, Noodles, Cup a Soup, Tea Bags, Pasta Sauce (**there is plenty of pasta**), Tinned Rice Pudding, Dried Mash Potato, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Fish

And finally our Parish picnic is planned for Sunday 13th August and this year will be at St. Catherine's after the morning service. All are welcome.

OUR WEEKLY SERVICE TEAMS

	23rd July	30th July	6th August
Sunday	6th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	7th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Service	HOLY COMMUNION	HOLY COMMUNION	FAMILY SERVICE
Leader	Norman	Sheila	Kathy
Celebrant	Canon Revd. Mike Lodge	Fr. Peter Rabin	
Prayers	Kathy	Kathy	Pam
Readers	Sheila & Chris	Carol & William	Janice & Jessica
Sides-people	Sue S & Hazel	John & Carol	Holly & Paul
Offertory	John & Carol	Holly & Paul	
Communion Assistants	Kim & John	Barry & Kathy	
Teas	Hazel	Gena	Patricia
Cleaning			Chris, Kim, Paul, Hollie