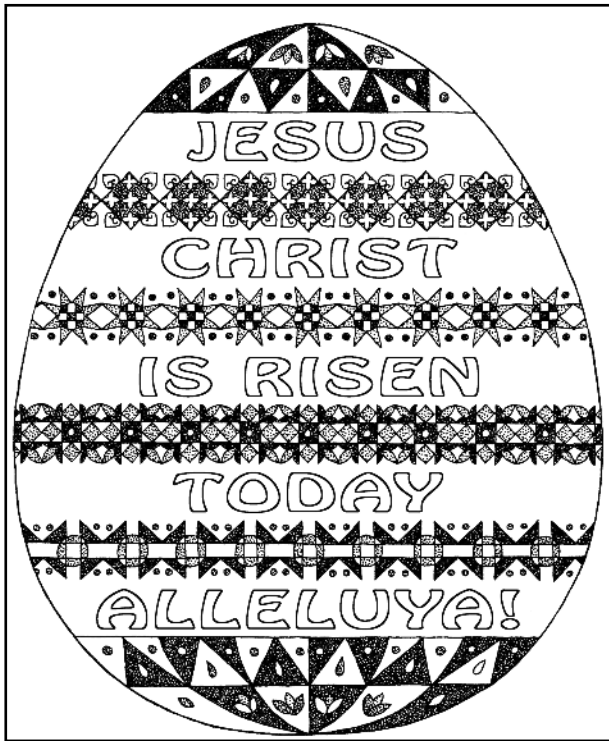


PEWTALK

£1

April 2025



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

100 Club - The March winner was Julie Guest. Julie and family are long time supporters and it was lovely to have her as our March winner following the Baptism of Julie's first Grandchild Benjamin in February. *Norman*

On Sunday 23rd March we had our second joint service with the Linford Methodist Church congregation. Although this was not the 5th Sunday because the 30th March was Mothering Sunday. On this occasion the joint service was led by the Methodist minister, Rev. Fiona Smith at the Methodist Church and was preceded by a breakfast of bacon sandwiches and a hot drink for those that fancied it - many thanks to the cooks! It was much enjoyed and we look forward to our next joint service.

Our first two Lent meals in aid of our Lenten charities consisted of a lunch of soup and bread at St. Francis on 8th March which was well attended. Although we refer to them as 'austerity' meals there is always plenty for 'seconds' and even 'thirds' in some cases. The second meal was a supper of baked potato with a variety of fillings held at St. Francis on the 22nd. To provide some entertainment we played several rounds of 'beetle' both before and after the meal. Many of the folk attending had not heard of the game but they very soon got the idea! In April we have our last two meals, on Saturday 5th at St. Francis and on Palm Sunday, after the morning



service, at St. Catherine's. These will both be soup and bread and everyone is welcome.

If worship and food are your thing we have an 'agape' meal on Maundy Thursday at St. Francis at 6.30pm and from May, our regular café communion at St. Francis will resume at 4.30pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

News from the Thurrock foodbank - The foodbank continues to be busy and it is expected that, with the government's changes to welfare payments, the demand will only increase. While the demand is increasing, donations of food are reducing as donors themselves feel the pinch. To bring a bit of Easter joy to the clients the foodbank has an Easter Egg appeal. They have also been given funding to employ someone to help with fund raising. The details are elsewhere in PEWTALK if you or someone you know is interested.

Just to note that the Spring COVID-19 vaccinations are open for over 75's from April 1st.

On Easter Saturday, 19th April - 2-3.30pm at St Catherine's, 'Come and make an Easter Garden', a lovely Family Event with lots of crafts and activities focusing on Holy Week and the Easter Story. Please see the sign up sheet at church to book a place for your child/children or send Revd. Michèle an email.

Our open afternoons restart on Sunday 27th April and continue throughout the summer with the last one in August. This is an chance to explore St. Catherine's and the churchyard,

A prayer for all those affected by sickness and ill-health

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.

Reflections from The Rectory



Our Journey through Lent continues as we head towards Holy Week and Easter Sunday on 20th April. As part of our preparation we have been following a Bible Study course based on 'The Prayers of Jesus'. The prayers are said at significant moments in Jesus life: when he is called to attend his friend Lazarus; when he is in the Garden of Gethsemane and finally on the Cross. But the first prayer we looked

at was The Lord's Prayer. Jesus gives this prayer to his disciples when they ask him how they should pray. Jesus tells them to go to a quiet space, to pray simply and to speak to the heavenly Father. Because a great many of us having been using this prayer for as long as we can remember it has become familiar and we would not think of it as being a radical way to pray. But, when Jesus taught it to the disciples he was telling them to pray in a new and different way. During the session we took each line of the Lord's Prayer and thought about what is being said.

Our Father in heaven – by using the term 'Father' we are reminded we have brothers and sisters around the world who also share in this prayer.

Hallowed be your name – we start not with our concerns but by honouring God.

Give us today our daily bread – Jesus knows our physical and spiritual needs.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us – we all want to be forgiven but we also have to forgive others.

Lead us not into temptations but deliver us from evil – we live in a world not as God designed it and there is temptation behind many a door.

The kingdom, the power and the glory – we end the prayer by coming back to God.

At the end of the session we were encouraged to have a go at putting The Lord's Prayer into our own words. Here are prayers from Pat, Tula and Bryce (Tula and Bryce have been preparing for Confirmation where we also looked at the Lord's Prayer).

Our Father who is in heaven and in our hearts your name is holy.

We pray that the way things are in heaven is the way that things should be on earth.

We trust that you will provide us with our basic needs and Holy Communion.

You forgave freely those who crucified and wronged you.

Help us to forgive those who may have wronged us.

Help us to overcome any bad temptation and give us strength to resist evil.

You are our Sovereign Lord, creator of all things.

We acknowledge your greatness, your power and we glorify you for ever and ever. Amen.

(Pat's prayer)

Our Creator, looking over us from heaven.

His reign shall rise, His peace will bloom.

At home, as it is in the Divine Kingdom.

Every crumb from you we share.
Teach us to accept, to love, to grow.
As we accept those who don't us,
Guide our hearts on paths ever bright
Lead us, Lord, to the holy light. Amen. (*Tula's prayer*)

And from *Bryce*, The Lord's Prayer in Japanese which he is teaching himself:

ten ni ora reru watashi tachi no chichi yoi 、 anata no mei ga agame ra re masu you ni . anata no mikuni ga rai masu you ni . anata no mikokoro ga ten nioite okonawa reru you ni 、 chi nioite mo okonawa re masu you ni . kyou watashi tachi ni nichigoto no kate wa o atae kudasai . soshite 、 watashi tachi no zai wa o yurushi kudasai . watashi tachi mo watashi tachi ni zai wa okasu mono wa yurushi masu . watashi tachi wa yuuwaku ni ochiira se zu 、 warukara o sukui kudasai .

I think you would agree they are beautiful and very thoughtful prayers. Perhaps next time you use the Lord's Prayer you might think a little more deeply about the words you are saying and praying.

Back to Lent – we still have a few more **Lent Lunches** if you are able to join us: **Saturday 5th April, 1pm at St Francis** and **Sunday 13th April 12noon at St Catherine's**.

And then in Holy Week we move through three special days.

Maundy Thursday 17th April 6.30pm at St Francis: *we gather for a 'bring and share Agape Meal with Holy Communion'. As we sit and eat we reflect on the time that Jesus did the same thing with his friends the disciples for the very last time.*

Good Friday 18th April 2pm at St Catherine's: *we come to a time of quiet reflection and the Last Hour at the Cross Service. Through music, hymns, bible readings, poetry and times of silence we remember the sacrifice Christ made for us all.*

Easter Saturday 19th April 2-3.30pm at St Catherine's:

come along for our 'Come and make an Easter Garden' family event with lots of crafts and activities focusing on the story of Holy Week and Easter. *Children must be accompanied and it would be helpful if you could let us know if you plan to come along.*



Easter Sunday 20th April 10am at St Catherine's: *on Easter Sunday we gather as a Church family to rejoice in the resurrected Lord and His triumph of love over death. Join us for our Easter Sunday All-age Holy Communion.*

Stay safe and take care and every Blessing,

Revd. Michèle

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr



Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

If you would like to support the work of the parish and the churches of St. Catherine and St. Francis, this QR code will take you to our 'Give A Little' donation page.



Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

will take place on Sunday 11th May 2025, 11.30am at St Catherine's

This year, 2025, sees the preparation of a new Electoral Roll. All names will need to come off the current electoral roll and everyone must re-apply so that they are included on the new Electoral Roll.

Electoral Roll membership cannot carry over when a new roll is prepared so it is important that everyone who wants to re-apply, completes an electoral roll form.

The renewal of the Electoral Roll will take place Wednesday 26th March – Sunday 20th April.

Under the Church Representation Rules, a lay person is entitled to have his or her name entered on the roll, if the person – (a) is baptised, (b) is aged 16 or over, and (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish. The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months. The third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

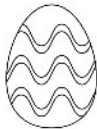
If you would like to apply to join the Electoral Roll then please speak to our Electoral Roll Officer Valerie Schwar.

At the annual meetings Church Wardens & PCC members are elected.

Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.

Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.



This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

The March Deanery Synod meeting

The Thurrock Deanery Synod met at St. Mary's, Little Thurrock on 27th March and the visiting speaker was the Revd. Sandra Eldridge who is the volunteer Chelmsford Diocesan Environmental Advisor and she is clearly passionate about the subject.

She opened her presentation by reminding us that, due to climate change we are seeing a changing pattern in our seasonal weather with wetter autumns and hotter summers and that this is affecting every aspect of the natural world. As examples of the affect of the changes in the environment she said that Britain now had some 78% less insects than it did 20 years ago. A young girl, Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah had died of Asthma and the coroner had recorded the fact that a major cause of her death was air pollution. In 2024, parts of India had 24 consecutive days with temperatures of over 40 degrees centigrade and on 19th July 2022 the UK recorded its hottest ever day at over 40 degrees.

She then explained that the evidence for global warming can be found in cores taken from the ice in Antarctica with which it is possible for scientists to deduce the state of the climate up to 10,000 years ago. To illustrate the problems that the world faces Sandra showed two maps of the world. The first showed the carbon emissions per capita for each country and the second showing the vulnerability to the affects of global warming. These showed quite clearly that those doing the most damage are predicted to be affected the least - 'climate injustice'

She went on to talk about the Church of England's commitment to 'net zero' by 2030, to which the Chelmsford Diocese has also committed, and the various ways in which parishes can be supported in their efforts to meet this target. One of these is the energy footprint tool which is used to record a parish's energy consumption each year enabling parish, diocese, and the national church to assess what progress is being made. Sandra highlighted two churches that had come up with ways to lower their footprint, St. Gabriel's, Aldersbrook (my teenage church as it happens) where they had installed solar panels on the Church hall's roof and a Thaxted church where they had used thick curtains and draught excluders to keep heat in the building.

The next part of her presentation was about the 'ECO church' initiative of A Rocha UK. Using their questionnaire it is possible for a church to measure how well they are doing in caring for God's creation in five areas, i.e. worship and teaching, buildings and energy, land and nature, community and global engagement and lifestyle. As improvements are made in these areas there are a series of awards - bronze, silver and gold. Currently there are two churches and the cathedral in the diocese that hold a gold award.

In her final observations Sandra spoke about the issues of justice with the relatively rich, 1st world, less affected and more able to cope with the issues and parts of the world, particularly in Africa, that will become uninhabitable and lead to mass migration.

In a final appeal she asked that the deanery find an Environment Advocate to take over from Revd. Sue Mann who has had the role for some time.

**You know you
want to quit.**

**We know
you can.**

It's never too late
to quit smoking.

For free quitting
support search
'smokefree'.



**Better
Health**

Smoke
free

Contacts:

www.thurrock.org.uk/help-to-stop-smoking/stopping-smoking
'Phone 0800-292-2299



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
 Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
 and showed us the resurrection to
 come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
 "Jesus ...is not here, for He
 has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6



Jesus is here

Jesus said:
 "Where two or three
 come together
 in my name I am
 there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
 the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
 and *21:1-14*

REDEEMER
 EASTERPI
 SAVIOURS
 ULTIMJAE
 RIEDELIN
 RVJESUSS
 EEWBSPEP
 CCLOISSN
 THOSANNA
 IRROHYEU
 OIDNPPWS
 NSGOTELL
 KTAFOAIO
 IYOGJCFR
 NUJOYEEB
 GOODNEWS



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
 "I will come back
 and take you to
 myself so that you
 will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
 LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
 RESURRECTION
 PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
 CHRIST • SON OF GOD
 HOSANNA • PRAISE
 GO TELL • EASTER





PARISH DIARY FOR APRIL

All services and events may be changed in the light of any new developments.

Please see our weekly newsletter for the latest Information. It can be found on our

Website: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

2 Apr	Mid-week Holy Communion at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
3 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
5 Apr	Committal of ashes at St. Catherine's Lent lunch at St. Francis	11.00pm 1.00pm
6 Apr	5th Sunday of Lent Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
7 Apr	Bible Study & Fellowship Group at St. Francis (Lent course)	10-30am-noon
9 Apr	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
10 Apr	Electrical inspection at St. Catherine's Foodbank at St. Francis	from 9.00am 11.00am-1pm
13 Apr	Palm Sunday Holy Communion at St. Catherine's Followed by a Lent lunch at	10.00am 12.00noon
14 Apr	P.C.C. meeting at St. Francis	2.00pm
16 Apr	Mid-week Holy Communion at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
17 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis 'Maundy Thursday Agape Meal' at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm 6.30pm
18 Apr	Good Friday 'Last Hour of the Cross Service' at St. Catherine's	2.00pm
19 Apr	'Easter Saturday Family Activity Afternoon' at St. Catherine's	2.00-3.30pm
20 Apr	Easter Sunday All Age service of Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
23 Apr	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
24 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
25 Apr	Electrical inspection at St. Francis	from 9.00am
27 Apr	2nd Sunday of Easter Holy Communion at St. Catherine's Open afternoon with refreshments at St. Catherine's	10.00am 2.00-4.00pm

28 Apr	Bible Study & Fellowship Group at St. Francis	10-30am-noon
30 Apr	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon

There were no 'Life Events' during March



Job Opportunity

FUNDING OFFICER

Starting May 25

Approx. 10hrs p/w £7280 pa

An exciting opportunity has arisen within Thurrock Foodbank to become a Funding Officer.

This essential role is needed to provide financial support to realise our vision towards a hunger free future. We are seeking a person who can be at the heart of our community, bringing our cause to life and able to build lasting business and individual donor relationships.

Established in 2012, Thurrock Foodbank has been a major player in the distribution of food to those in need throughout Thurrock. Part of the Trussell Trust network, last year we distributed 7474 parcels of which nearly 50% were children.

In addition to emergency food, we also want to continue to be best placed to help vulnerable people with any other life or well being issue, making available the "more than food initiatives" that aim to move people away from crisis and helping them stand on their own two feet again. We do this through our 10 distribution centres.

Which ever way you look at it - all of the above needs ongoing financial backing and support.

If you think you could be our Funding Officer and you believe that you can meet the necessary fundraising targets, we'd like to invite you to apply for an application pack which is available by contacting Thurrock Foodbank at :-

tcfadmin@thurrockcf.org.uk

Essential Information:

Closing date : 9am Mon 14th April 25 Interviews : Immediately After

Thurrock Foodbank is part of Thurrock Christian Fellowship - which is an Equal Opportunities and Living Wage Employer.

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

The Usual Service Pattern

- ◆ 1st, 2nd & 4th Sunday's, 10am at St. Catherine's, Holy Communion
- ◆ 3rd Sunday's, 10am at St. Catherine's, Family Service and at 4.30pm at St. Francis, a service of Café style Holy Communion.
- ◆ 5th Sundays a joint service with the Linford Methodist congregation

Wednesdays 10.00 a.m. at St. Francis 1st of the month Holy Communion,
other Wednesdays, Morning Prayer

For Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals please contact Revd. Michèle Marshall

Our Churchwardens

CHRIS FORD T: 01375-675863

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PEWTALK Editor

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St. Francis Centre

The centre is available for hire at very reasonable rates. To discuss availability please contact Sheila King at:-

sheila.kingbookings@outlook.com

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

22nd April 2025

22nd May 2025

22nd June 2025