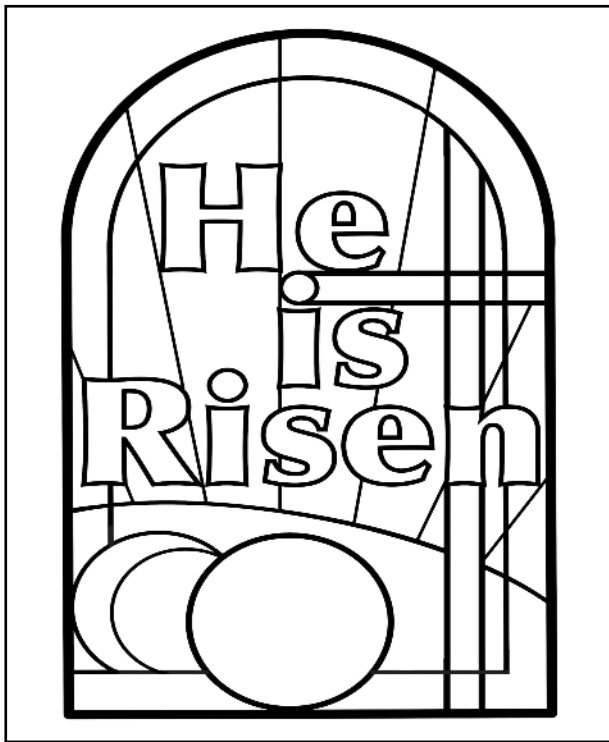


# PEWTALK

£1

April 2026



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: [www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)

# BITs AnD PiECes

**100 Club** - The March winners were Les and Val Schwar. Les had asked me on a number of occasions if their ticket was in the drum. Question answered and after recovering from the surprise the £10 was donated to the Church. Thanks from the Parish Treasurer for the Donation. *Norman*

## Our Holy Week calendar is:-

**Mauudy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – 6pm Agape Meal with Communion at St. Francis.

**Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – 2pm Last Hour at the Cross Service at St. Catherine's.

**Easter Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April** – 10am All age Easter Celebration with Communion.

You are very welcome at any or all of these events

**As we are now** in British Summer Time and the evenings are lighter, our Café communion service at St. Francis on the third Sunday of the month now starts at 4.30pm

**And April sees** the start of the St. Catherine open afternoons with the first on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April. They continue on 31<sup>st</sup> May; 28<sup>th</sup> June; 26<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August.

For the **April** Open Afternoon St Catherine's will be open **2-4pm** with tea and cake available. From May – August there will be Ploughman's Lunches from **12-1.30pm** followed by tea and cake from **2-4pm** with the 30 minute break

giving time to reorganise the kitchen and do the washing up!

**During Lent there were** a series of Lent lunches and a Lent Supper in both churches. These were all well supported with twenty or so diners at each event. The donations received were in aid of the Bishop of Chelmsford Lent charity appeal which is raising funds for Anglican Development Services of Mt. Kenya East (ADSMKE) to support their work in response to climate change and in environmental conservation across our five linked partner dioceses in Kenya.

**The annual Parish meetings** will take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am after the morning service. At these meetings the annual report is presented, two Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council members are elected for the coming year as well as two people to represent the Parish at the Thurrock Deanery Synod.

**Finally,** we wish all our readers a very happy and peaceful Easter as we remember our Saviour's resurrection from the dead. And let's remember:-



## 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

As I sit to write this month's reflection from the Rectory I do so the day before the Installation of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, at Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation.

It is a new chapter in the Church of England and very much breaking new ground. Never before in the Church of England has there been a female Archbishop and I for one am very excited about Dame Sarah taking up this post and role.

So, how old is the role of Archbishop of Canterbury? ~ The first Archbishop of Canterbury was St. Augustine who was sent by Pope Gregory the Great as a missionary to share the Christian faith with the Anglo-Saxons in 597AD (hundreds of years before the word "England" was coined). Augustine founded what is now Canterbury Cathedral and this became the principal seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury who now leads the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

What does an Archbishop of Canterbury's do? ~ The Archbishop of Canterbury is the senior bishop of the Church of England. They are the Leader of the Church of England – or "Primate of All England" which includes acting as a Chaplain to the King and sitting in the House of Lords. They are to be a "focus of unity" in the Anglican Communion which includes roles such as being convener and host of the Lambeth Conference. The Archbishop also has a national ecumenical role and will take a lead in building relationships with other faith leaders. And the Archbishop is a global Christian leader speaking on moral issues and advocating for Christians around the world.

What will happen during the Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury? ~ Archbishop Sarah legally became Archbishop of Canterbury in January but her installation at Canterbury Cathedral will mark the symbolic start of her public ministry in the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. In a service steeped in historic symbolism, she will be welcomed by church leaders from England and around the world as well as representatives from the nation and Commonwealth. During the service she will take her seat – or be "installed" – in two special chairs: first as Archbishop of Canterbury in the "Quire Cathedra" and then in the ancient chair of St. Augustine, as a sign of her role as Primate of All England and 'primus inter pares' (first among equals) of the Anglican Communion. The symbolic elements will also include Archbishop Sarah's arrival in which she will bang three times on the West Door of the Cathedral seeking permission to enter. The service will provide an opportunity for the whole church to pray for Archbishop Sarah as she begins this new ministry and it will also be the moment when she delivers her first sermon as Archbishop.

It all sounds a little daunting doesn't it! Whilst Dame Sarah has not been an Archbishop before she has held several senior posts since her ordination back in 2001 and before that in her role as the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She will have many transferable skills to bring to this new role.

Dame Sarah said of her vocation to nursing that it is 'an opportunity to reflect the love of God'. As a former nurse myself I whole heartedly agree with this sentiment and know that my role of parish priest has certainly been enriched by my nursing background.

As Dame Sarah steps into this new and very important role it is good to remember that we are all called to serve God and reflect his love in the world in a variety of ways.

The Installation of our new Archbishop of Canterbury takes place on a special church festival, 'The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary'. It was on this day that the Angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her that she was to bear the Son of God who would be called Jesus. Despite her fear and trepidation Mary courageously said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

Dame Sarah has responded to her new calling and we are invited to support her and her new ministry through our prayers.

*Almighty God,  
you call your Church in every age  
to proclaim the Gospel of Christ:  
look with mercy upon your servant Sarah,  
and grant that, as deacon, she may care for those in need,  
as priest, sustain us with the ministry of word and sacrament,  
and as bishop, guard the faith  
and build up the body of Christ in holiness.  
Give her wisdom and kindness  
that as archbishop, she may promote unity, seek truth,  
and lead us in the way of righteousness and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

Every blessing to all,

*Revd. Michèle.*

### **The March meeting of the P.C.C.**

The March meeting of the P.C.C. was held at St. Francis on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and having opened with prayer and approved the minutes of the January meeting moved on to deal with the usual reports.

In the wardens' report it was noted that there was an issue with the 'smart' electricity meter at St. Catherine's, work on the trees in the churchyard would start on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and on the same day St. Francis would have its quinquennial inspection. In his treasurer's report Norman said that the finances were healthy but that we must expect some large costs related to the St. Catherine's building as a result of the recent inspection. The Electoral Roll numbers had not changed and the Safeguarding Officer reported that there were no issues of concern.

In her review of activities since the last meeting Revd. Michèle advised that there had been one Baptism and there had been visits to St. Catherine's by year 1 of East Tilbury Primary School.

The Christingle activity had been well received and Lent had begun with an Ash Wednesday service and the first of our Lent lunches. There had also been a basket weaving workshop by 'Start Thurrock' in St. Catherine's. Looking forward, Revd. Michèle would be leading Easter assemblies at the school. Those at the meeting expressed their great pleasure at the continuing relationship with the school.

Looking forward the arrangements and in particular the key preparation dates for the annual meeting were set out along with a reminder to get any items for the annual report to Michèle / Chris a.s.a.p.

The final bit of business was to make the arrangements for the open afternoons and it was agreed that in April it would just be afternoon tea but for the May, June, July and August dates we would serve lunches but with a 30 minute break between lunch and tea. The next meeting was set for 13<sup>th</sup> April and the meeting closed with prayer.

### **Deanery Synod 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

The March synod meeting was held at St. Catherine's and the first part of the meeting was taken up with a presentation by Revd. Alexandra Podd who is the part time Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands and vicar of St. Paul's in Woodford Bridge. She spoke at length about the need for members of the church that felt the call to ministry, either ordained or lay, to be encouraged to ask questions of themselves and to seek the views of others. She reminded us of St. Paul's view that the church is one body made up of many parts and that whatever the ministry whether ordained or lay, leading the services or arranging the flowers they all go to make up the whole body.

She touched on the differences between the various ministries and encouraged us to 'nudge' those that we thought might have a calling. She mentioned the various resources on the Diocesan website including ' Vocation Sunday', vocation days and the vocations instagram page. In closing she reminded the meeting that our deanery contact is Fr. David Rollins.

The business part of the meeting included a report on the recent General Synod and some discussion on progress with the deanery suggestions to be put to the Archdeacon with to the deployment of stipendiary clergy in the future.

### **National Gardening Week - 28<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May**

Led by the Royal Horticultural Society, this annual premier UK celebration encourages everyone to experience the joy of gardening.



Aimed especially at beginners, events and activities are run up and down the country, offering tips, events, and resources to promote the health, wellbeing, and environmental benefits of cultivating plants. The RHS provides expert tips, how-to guides, and fun, easy gardening challenges to build confidence in new gardeners

More at: <https://www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk>

***Perhaps visit the local RHS gardens at Hyde Hall.***

## Warley Place - a place to visit

During a conversation with Judy Rood at one of the Wednesday drop-ins at St. Francis Kim learned of Warley Place as one of Judy's regular walks and so on one of our freeish Tuesdays we decided to investigate. We were not disappointed. The spring flowers, although a little past their best were a joy to behold and the frequent signs along the walk gave a real insight into the history of this house and garden. It was an hour or so very well spent

Warley Place is now one of the Essex Wildlife Trust's nature reserves but had been a garden for many centuries. It was at its most famous during the last years of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth. The owners of the estate from 1875 to 1934



were Frederick Willmott and then his daughter Ellen, who became one of the most important gardeners and plant breeders of her era. Upon her death the grounds were earmarked for development as a housing estate, but this was prevented first by Brentwood's planning department, then the war, and finally by Green Belt legislation. The house and much of the outbuildings were demolished in 1939. For the next 43 years

the garden was left untended and rapidly became overgrown, reverting to woodland. Although relics of the old buildings and the rocks in her famed alpine garden remain, many of her original plants have long since disappeared, some apparently going to her sister's home after her death, others dying as trees grew and blocked the light. However, today there are plants and trees in abundance and some very small idea can be gained from the picture. As the seasons change so do the plants so a visit several times a year should not disappoint.



The present reserve including the meadows, comprises of twenty five acres with a marked trail of about a mile. The walk reveals many of the footprints of the destroyed buildings, three 'Hahas', a restored rock garden and the derelict boating lake – imagine having a boating lake in your back garden!

### **Editors note:**



A ha-ha also known as a sunk fence, blind fence, ditch and fence, deer wall, or foss, is a recessed landscape design element that creates a vertical barrier (particularly on one side) while preserving an uninterrupted view of the landscape beyond from the other side. The name comes from viewers' surprise when seeing the construction.

### Thought for today - Fake news?

"The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never be sure they are genuine."  
– Winston Churchill.

### **Norman writes of Early Days**

On a number of occasions I have talked to Sarah about my early days on the Bata Estate. Sarah is a newer member of our Church family and during our conversations I mentioned the annual celebrations on the Sports Field. The Sports Field which was just after the traffic control system / houses.

Veronica Roberts (née Moss) , my neighbour in Queen Elizabeth Avenue as a young girl had advised me that a short film was available online at [eafa.org.uk](http://eafa.org.uk) (search for Bata). While it's not a great film as it concentrates on Bata Managers ( Mr. Tusa the MD paid for the film) it does give some idea of what, for us as children, were special days in the 1950s with rides, races, cakes and ice creams.

Each child received a box of goodies and in the film some of the estate mums (including my Mum and Mrs. Moss) are shown packing the boxes. The children presenting the flowers are for some of the 'estate oldies' like myself are Veronica /Janine Lovett and Lesley Coley.

No need to identify the Bata Managers.

### **St. Catherine's churchyard**

Visitors to the churchyard at St. Catherine's often say how they find it a very peaceful and beautiful place. Like so many other lovely places it only continues to be as it is with the investment of time and money.

What is frequently not realised is that the maintenance of the churchyard is not the responsibility of the local council or any other agency other than the parish church and the parishioners.

We are very fortunate that for the past 18 months or so the Community Payback team have kept the grass mown and undertaken a few other jobs to keep the churchyard looking neat and tidy with the only cost to the church being petrol for mowers and the use of the kitchen and toilets. Thankfully it has also meant that our own volunteers have not been required to do the mowing - for which we are very grateful!

However, there is more to churchyard maintenance than keeping the grass under control and, probably the biggest issue is the trees. While they are lovely and really enhance the beauty of the place they have to be regularly inspected and, from time to time, surgery is required. This is both for the health of the trees and the safety of visitors.

Regular visitors to the church will have noticed that recently the trees have been pruned with the sycamore that spanned the Princess Margaret Road severely cut back to avoid any chance of a major incident in the road.

None of this can be done by volunteers and the churchwardens have to be confident that the correct measures have been taken. To this end an arborologist is instructed to survey the trees and a professional tree surgeon employed to carry out the work.

This year the church have spent something over £4,000 on the inspection and surgery to keep the churchyard trees safe and in good condition for the future. If you are a regular visitor and would like to make a donation towards the ongoing maintenance of the churchyard your gift, however large or small, will be much appreciated.

## Remembering the musical genius of Richard D'Oyley Carte

It was 125 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1901, that Richard D'Oyley Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.



Best known now for his association with Gilbert and Sullivan, Carte operated during the late Victorian age as a talent spotter/agent and theatrical impresario, as well as building a hotel empire. Among his many clients were Jacques Offenbach, Clara Schumann, James McNeill Whistler, Matthew Arnold and Oscar Wilde.

Carte was born in 1844 in Soho, but when he was a boy the family moved to Dartmouth Park in Islington, North London, where he was brought up in a large, detached house by an artistic family who spoke French at home two days a week. The name D'Oyley is French/Norman, and the family also had Welsh ancestry. Musically gifted, Carte studied violin and flute from an early age, then took up composing.

While risqué French musicals were popular on the London musical stage in the 1870s, Carte felt that wholesome, skilful English comic opera could take over. So, he recruited dramatist W S Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, whose first joint venture was the short, experimental *Trial by Jury*. This became a huge success and led to the 13 'Savoy' operas, whose clever wordplay and magical tunes exhibited such staying power that they are still in constant demand today.

To exploit his 'find', Carte founded the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company, which was run after his death by his second wife, Helen. He also built the state-of-the-art Savoy Theatre, and next to it the Savoy Hotel. Other hotels followed.

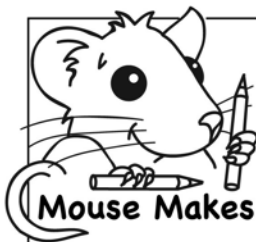
Biographer Hesketh Pearson said: "He took what other people thought were risks, but he felt were certainties."

### Dawn chorus

If you sleep with your bedroom window open, you will know all about the dawn chorus around now. The birds are busy establishing their territorial rights, and the 'early birds' have probably already selected a nest site and started building.



The blackbird builds a solid cup of twigs, plant stems and leaves, lined with a thick skin of mud covered with finer grasses and leaves. The long-tailed tit forms a soft hollow ball of mosses, hair and wool, with a tiny hole as entrance. The wrens do it differently, with the male wren sometimes building several nests before his finicky mate will accept one. He gets his revenge, though, because he sometimes installs a second wife in one of the rejected sites.



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I laid his body in my tomb



Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66

We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10



and spoke to the angel

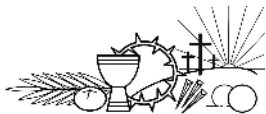
Jesus is alive!  
He ate a meal with me!



Read Luke 24:13-35

GOOD NEWS  
 OHOSANNA  
 DEATHQB  
 VNCOEUI  
 UAHNAARO  
 MIREVSU  
 ALIVETDR  
 RISENEOK  
 YOTHORNS  
 PALMSQKA  
 RPILATEN  
 CRUCIFYG  
 RHIQUAKE  
 OCJESUSL  
 STOMBVDY  
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



## 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](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)*

1 Apr	Mid week Communion at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
2 Apr	<b>Maunday Thursday</b> Foodbank at St. Francis Linford Womens' Institute meet at St. Francis Agape meal with Holy Communion at St. Frrancis	11.00am-1pm 2.00-4.00pm 6.00pm
3 Apr	<b>Good Friday</b> 'Last Hour of the Cross Service at St. Catherine's	2.00pm
4 Apr'	Come and make an Easter Garden at St. Catherine's	2.00-3.30pm
5 Apr	<b>Easter Day</b> All Age Easter Celebration with Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
8 Apr	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
9 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
11 Apr	Baptism at St. Catherine's	1.00pm
12 Apr	<b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b> Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's Baptism at St. Catherine's	10.00am 12noon
13 Apr	P.C.C. Meeting at St. Francis	2.00pm
15 Apr	Morning Prayer and at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
16 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
18 Apr	Baptism at St. Catherine's	12noon
19 Apr	<b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b> 'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's Baptism at St. Catherine's Café Communion at St. Francis	10.00am 12noon 4.30pm
22 Apr	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
23 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
26 Apr	<b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> 'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's St. Catherine's open afternoon with refreshments	10.00am 2.00-4.00pm
29 Apr	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
30 Apr	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm

### 'Life Events' during March

#### Baptism

29 Mar Arthur Newman

#### Weddings

None

#### Funeral

10 Mar Edward Lee  
18 Mar Maureen Sumsion  
25 Mar Brenda Springham

#### Committal of Ashes

None

One in Affinity  
Thurrock Gospel Choir  
present an  
Inter-Church  
**CELEBRATION**  
for Easter 2026  
Featuring the audio-visual worship musical  
**WE ARE WITNESSES**

in various churches as listed overleaf

*free admission - refreshments  
all welcome*

#### Thurrock Gospel Choir

#### Venues for April 2026

Saturday 4th at 7.00 pm  
at Grays Salvation Army,  
Clarence Road, Grays. RM17 2RA

Easter Sunday 5th at 6.00 pm  
at Socketts Heath Baptist Church,  
Premier Avenue, Grays. RM16 2SB

Wednesday 8th at 7.30 pm  
at The Community Church,  
8, Defoe Parade, Chadwell-St-Mary. RM16 4QR

Saturday 11th at 4.00 pm  
at St. Cedd's Church,  
Crammavill Street, Stifford Clays, Grays RM16 2AP



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.

## 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](mailto:mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk)

## The Usual Service Pattern

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

Wednesdays 10.00 a.m. at St. Francis 1<sup>st</sup> 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

E:- [chris.pewtal@outlook.com](mailto:chris.pewtal@outlook.com)

LES SCHWAR T: 07758-461380

E:- [leslie.bowles2@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.bowles2@gmail.com)

## PEWTALK Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road  
Linford, SS17 0PU

T: 01375 675863

E: [pewtalk@talktalk.net](mailto:pewtalk@talktalk.net)

## St. Francis Centre

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

[sheila.king9987@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.king9987@gmail.com)

## Copy Dates for Pewtalk

*22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026*

*22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026*

*22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026*