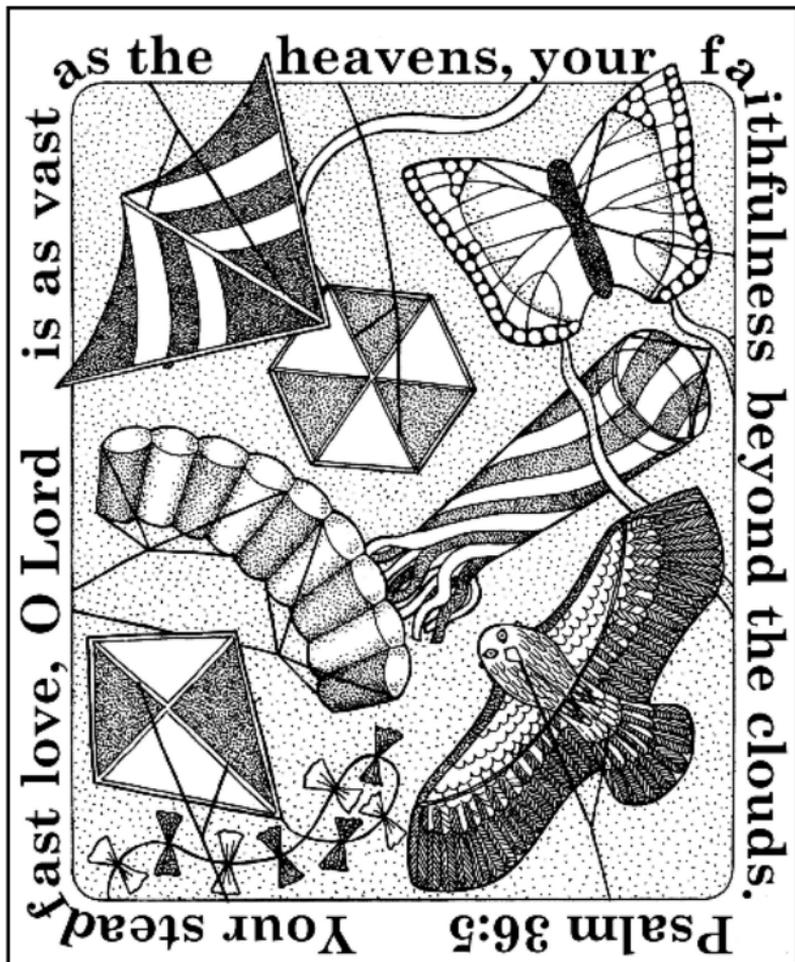


PEWTALK

£1

August 2024



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

The final draw of the 100 Club year for £50 was made by Rev. Michèle in St. Catherine's on July 7th. Sheila and I were on Holiday and I received an email saying that the winner was Colin. On my return I was able to confirm that the owner of the winning ticket No. 30 was Colin Strong who was Churchwarden for a number of years. Colin's dear wife Patricia made the tickets and sold many tickets in the early years. I hope that Colin can spoil himself with the small windfall.

The new 100 Club year has started well. If you have yet to sell any tickets or buy/renew your tickets please contact me/your Pewtalk distributor or any member of our Church family.

Norman

We understand that the 374 bus route is to be re-instated as from the beginning of September with subsidy funding for 15 months. The hope is that it will be a permanent feature provided that it is sufficiently used.

Our Digital Giving Project took a further step forward in June with the arrival of our CollecTin which was collected from Colchester by members of the P.C.C. at a training session on 19th June. This device is to enable us to take contactless card payments when people wish to make a donation in this way and it complements the other digital giving options (QR code and webpage) that have been available for a few months. The CollecTin has proved its worth with donations being made at the June open weekend and recent life events.

Dates for your diary.

The Orsett Show - Saturday 7th September. Come and visit the Thurrock Deanery tent.

Macmillan Coffee morning at St. Francis and hosted by Claire Frend - Friday 27th September

Tearfund Big Quiz Night - Saturday 19th October 6.30 for 7pm. Contact Chris or Kim Ford for more details.

The Community Big Lunch - Wednesday 21st August 12 - 4 pm at Gobions Park. More details at www.thurrockcvs.org;

Start Thurrock

FREE EVENT

Music of the Spheres

Saturday 10 August
12pm - 5.30pm

Watch in wonder as aerial performers suspended inside giant inflated bubbles move across the water in a truly magical outdoor performance!

Alexandra Lake, Lakeside Shopping Centre
West Thurrock, Essex, RM20 2AB

Community creativity starts here

StartThurrock.org
EyeMusic.org.uk
01375 534110

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



I rather suspect that if I asked everyone who takes a copy of Pewtalk what their memories are of their school sports day there would be some who have happy memories and others who greeted that day with dread. I must confess to being one of the latter. Sport, of any kind, is simply not something I have ever been any good at or enjoyed.

However, this has never prevented me from appreciating the gifts, talents and skills of others who are involved in sports. And what a lot of sport there has been and continues to be for us to enjoy and celebrate. We have had The UEFA European Championship where England made the Final. This was then followed by Wimbledon and two weeks of glorious tennis. And tomorrow (Friday 26th July) the Paris Olympics 2024 begin.

There will be medals and records to be won and whether it be Gold, Silver or Bronze such rewards are hard won either in the competition itself or by the years of dedication, training, effort and practise that goes before what we see. And for every athlete that competes there will be a whole team of supporters, trainers and family nurturing and encouraging from the sidelines.

We witness dreams being materialised, legacy set in motion for the generations to follow and the spirits of everybody lifted.

The bible, and in particular the gospel narratives, don't tell us what Jesus thought about sporting matters but we do know that Jesus said, **'I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness'** (John 10:10)

Life in all its fullness will probably mean different things to different people. For me 'life in all its fullness' means living in a world where everyone is encouraged to reach for and achieve their full potential and to be surrounded by the love that helps every person grow into all that they can be.

That will not mean that every person who desires it will necessarily win a medal or a trophy but it should mean that everyone has an equal chance of having a go at everything and becoming the best version of themselves they can be.

Life in all its fullness speaks to me of a world where we no longer need to strive for equality, diversity and inclusion because it is already intertwined in how we live, how we treat and value others and part of the everyday.

Life in all its fullness speaks to me of a world where every child knows only love, safety, space to play and dream and food on the table.

Jesus came so that we might know this fullness of life. Jesus came to show us that we need to play our part, be one of the team, and do whatever we can to bring about this vision of what our world could be if we all work together. If we follow in Jesus footsteps and follow His instructions to love God and our neighbours as ourselves then maybe, just maybe, everyone will **'have life in all its fullness'** and hopes and dreams become a reality.

Every Blessing to all, *Reud Michèle*

Norman King came across these memories
of David Andrews who lived on the Bata Estate until
the 1950s

Bata

British Bata, said the sign, 'Shoemakers to the World'.

And so they were, led and inspired by Thomas Bata founder of the firm and thus there was a Bata Avenue as well. It was the very first avenue.

Behind the 'Nook' (An independent café and newsagents) along a little path (now Shearwater Avenue) there was a Nissen hut. From here our mums would buy the produce prepared by Mr. Way, manager of the Bata Farm.

Potatoes were, I think, a bob (5p) for seven pounds. Mr. Whisson was the manager of the market garden and wrote gardening hints for the Bata Record newspaper. Joan was one of the two land army girls who served vegetables, dressed in the typical baggy brown trousers of the time.

At the Nook I bought sweets which were rationed.

When one takes time to reflect – oh, what a place it was. Just an estate but growing as we grew. The avenues were sweeping curves as well as straight and long. With small and bushy roundabouts, with mountain ash trees their red/ orange berries bright and beautiful. With poplars tall and straight and lightly green near the tennis courts.

All was so compact and calm and seemed to centre round the young.

The swimming pool the playground with swings, the cinema, the school tennis courts, a gym and many other facilities we'd recognise them now as being designed to keep us independent of the world outside.

Some people were perhaps, rather too dependent on it. In such a way that they were satisfied to stay too long and life had passed them by. There they stayed, when those they knew in better days had long since gone. Had seen the subtle trap and left the safety that was never there.

Explorer 6 – sending the first images of earth from space

Sixty-five years ago, on 7th August 1959, the USA launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back the first images of the Earth from space.

The history-making achievement was not impressive at first sight. Described as "crude at best" and a "blocky, blurry mess", the original picture was in black and white and unclear. But it did show a cloud-covered image of the north central Pacific Ocean from roughly 17,000 miles above Mexico.



The data, transmitted to an earth ground station in Hawaii, was described as limited and of extremely poor quality. But it inspired the imagination of many people who were looking to space as the final frontier – one that could be explored.

The satellite, small and round, was designed to study trapped radiation of various energies and cosmic rays, among other things. But it was the scanning device designed for taking pictures of the Earth's cloud cover that got people interested. It was a forerunner of the TV camera systems carried on later, more advanced satellites.

At the time, the feat itself was hugely impressive. The craft was travelling at more than 20,000 mph and operating with 63 per cent power because only three of its solar cells were working.

Since then, astronauts have been able to look down and wonder at the earth, seen clearly as small and fragile but extraordinarily beautiful. It has frequently changed their lives. Their photos are among the most widely reproduced of all time.

A continuous, real-time view of the Earth from the International Space Station can now be viewed online.

What does it mean? What does it stand for?

During the open weekend I was asked what the initials **WWJD** meant. I explained that this was a mnemonic to remind us to think '**What Would Jesus Do**' before deciding on a course of action. The relevant Wikipedia entry reads:-

"The phrase "What would Jesus do?", often abbreviated to WWJD, became popular particularly in the United States in the early 1900s after the widely read book *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* by Charles Sheldon. The phrase had a resurgence in the 1990s as a personal motto for adherents of Christianity, who used it as a reminder of their belief in a moral imperative to act in a manner demonstrating the love of Jesus through their actions. The resurgence of the motto during the 1990s stems from the W.W.J.D. abbreviation on wristbands that became popular among Christian youth groups."

We know that the disciples of Jesus walked with him and watched him in action and could easily appreciate what he would do in any given situation but for us we need to perhaps think rather more and use the New Testament as our guide. I do wonder how many Christians voting at the General Election cast their vote after thinking WWJD?

Another great mnemonic that I came across several years ago, it was emblazoned on the back of someone's jacket at a blood donor session, is **P.U.S.H.** This reminds us to **Pray Until Something Happens** and never to give up. What a splendid idea!

Chris Ford

Our visit to Hampton Court



Recently my Nan, Valerie and I went on another coach trip, this time to the historic royal palace and gardens of Hampton Court! It was somewhere I really wanted to visit as coincidentally I'd just started reading *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, for which the story focuses on Henry VIII, so I was quite obsessed with all things Tudor!

Hampton Court was a primary residence of Henry VIII which was originally owned and constructed by his then Lord Chancellor the Cardinal Wolsey. All

six of Henry's wives visited the palace and it was here that the king would entertain and accommodate them as well 800 courtiers at a time, with it being rather evident throughout our visit that the palace was well equipped for such a task!

The palace itself was rather impressive especially as we walked up towards the main entrance, already we could imagine Henry VIII and his retinue of courtiers approaching on horseback! Upon entry we found ourselves within the original Tudor courtyard with its cobbled floor, from there we decided to start in Henry VIII's apartments. Most notable was the Great Hall with its incredible ceiling, the design of which being chosen specifically by the king. Though it was nice to sit awhile in the hall and simply take it all in, to think when this room was host to grand banquets and masquerades, the sounds, sights and smells, truly fascinating!

Some further highlights of the palace included the baroque section, originally constructed by William III, which contained some fabulous ceiling paintings however the most impressive section of the palace for us was the kitchens! They had one of the several original ovens fired up so you really felt immersed with the heat and smoke, we could easily imagine when all these ovens and pots were cooking away with the kitchen staff rushing around endlessly, it must have been a spectacular sight as they reckon 1,600 meals a day were served from this very kitchen!

However, it was the worst possible day for walking around as the temperature was 28 degrees at one point so we decided not to explore the gardens and instead find somewhere for lunch. Conveniently, there was a traditional pub, just across the road from the palace, called the Mute Swan where we had a scrumptious meal and a few shandies. Afterwards, we braved the heat for a little walk along the river, where we saw a great view of the south facade and gardens of the palace, before heading back to the coach for the journey home.

Jacob R Schwar

The July meeting of the P.C.C.

The Parochial Church Council met on the 22nd July at St. Francis with Rev. Michèle Marshall in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June were approved and there being no matters arising The meeting moved on to the reports.

Chris and Les reported that they had been formally commissioned as the churchwardens by the Archdeacon on 3rd July. They also noted that the Community Payback team were now visiting St. Catherine's every 3 weeks and had got the grass under control. A quantity of rubbish had been removed and notices asking visitors to take their rubbish home placed in the churchyard. This does seem to have reduced the amount of rubbish left for the church volunteers to deal with but sadly one of the notices has been removed. The P.C.C.'s decision to replace the faulty 'Lincat' water heater at St. Francis had been actioned and was now in operation. They also reported on the collection of the digital giving CollecTin and the destruction of the bee's nest in the chancel wall.

Our Treasurer, Norman King reported on the financial position as at the end of June. He noted that although the account balances were healthy current income did not cover our expenditure. He advised the meeting that Positive Energy who provide the gas for both our churches had offered to renew our contracts when they fall due (St. Francis in October and St. Catherine in December) at a very much reduced rate. The estimated reduction in our gas cost based on the last year's usage would result in an annual saving of over £750.

Val Schwar told the meeting that there had been no change in our electoral roll numbers which remained at 50.

In her safeguarding report Kim said that she had now completed the training that she was required to do and reminded the meeting of the importance of completing their courses.

In her report Rev. Michèle that since the last meeting there had been 1 Committal of Ashes, 2 Baptisms and a Funeral. Looking forward there would be a Funeral and Burial on 24th July, Baptisms on 3rd and 11th August, and 1st December and Weddings on 30th August and 21st September. Also, since the last meeting there had been the Open Weekend and the Valentine Singers away day and concert.

She then went on to advise the meeting that the sale of part of the Churchyard in West Tilbury was progressing albeit slowly and there had been some correspondence with the War Graves Commission who, it seemed, paid the church £15 every 3 years to maintain access to the grave in the churchyard. Given their financial situation they were asking whether we still needed the payment. It was agreed that we did not, and Norman would write confirming this. Michèle had been approached by Rev. Fiona Smith of the Linford Methodist to see whether there could be some joint activities. The suggestion was that our Café Communion at St. Francis and a service on any 5th Sunday of a month could be joint services with either minister presiding. Finally Michèle suggested that the PCC had an 'away day' to revisit and rethink the Parish Profile that was produced when Canon Paul retired.

Getting along with your neighbours

Summertime outdoor living reminds us just how close we live to our neighbours. How well you live beside them can make a huge impact on your life.

If you are happy with your neighbours, it is hugely beneficial. One behavioural psychologist says: "Even just sharing a kind smile and eye contact with a neighbour is a strong connection." But, if you do NOT get along with them, it can badly affect every day of your life. So – here are some tips to consider, concerning those people next door.

Noise - Out of sight does not mean out of sound. Hedges and fences may give you visual privacy, but laughter and loud talking will be heard. Your wide open bi-fold doors may even let your private INDOOR conversations OUT of doors!

Barbecues - These are great fun, when they are in your garden. But other people's barbecues can make your life a smoke-filled misery – tainting laundry on the clothesline and ruining a peaceful afternoon. Barbecues situated far from boundary fences are always best.

Music - If you want to play music at an event, warn your neighbours in advance, say what time you will turn the music off, and *stick to it*. On the night, don't deafen the entire neighbourhood, and remember that the general rule for ALL noise is to be quiet between 11pm and 7am.

Noisy dogs and children - We love dogs and children and are ferocious in defending them - unless they belong to other people, and are driving us crazy! If you need to talk to your neighbours about problems with either, choose a time when you are both calm and controlled, and try to remain objective. (Eg: Don't say YOUR dog, say THE dog – it sounds less accusatory.)

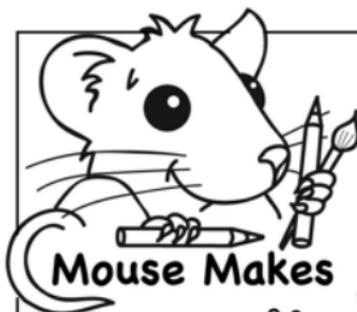
Becoming best friends - No matter how much you like your new neighbours, take it slowly as you get to know them. Keep some boundaries, and be careful at the outset, as it is hard to rein in, if they become too attached to you. There is a fine line between being social, and losing all your privacy - you probably don't want them moving in with you!

Parking - No one has the right to 'claim' and protect the space right outside their house, if it is on a public road. No one has the right to block your access to your own parking space, or make it difficult for you to get in.

Hedges and boundaries - There are quite specific laws on what is and what is not allowed – Citizens Advice can help you with the details.

Ever need help?

Head for the Citizens Advice website (<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>). It has advice on all types of neighbours and their disputes. Also, consult your local police force's website, and gov.uk. If you are ever physically threatened, ring the police on 999. If you are harassed because of your religion, ethnicity, or sexuality, call the police on 101.



**"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."**

Where does Jesus say
to go to pray?
Matthew 6:6



What does God know
before you ask Him?
Matthew 6:8



What can we ask God
to deliver us from?
Matthew 6:13

If you forgive others
what will God do?
Matthew 6:14



**"Always be full of joy.
Never stop praying.
Whatever happens,
always be thankful."**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

D	L	O	R	D	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R
L	F	W	R	E	A	R	T	H	K	S	O
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ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS
LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN



PARISH DIARY FOR AUGUST

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

1 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
	Linford W.I. Meeting at St. Francis	2.00-4.00pm
3 Aug	Church cleaning and churchyard tidy up at St. Catherine's	10.00am-noon
	Baptism at St. Catherine's	1.30pm
4 Aug	10th Sunday after Trinity	
	'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	4.30pm
7 Aug	Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
8 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
11 Aug	11th Sunday after Trinity	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Baptism at St. Catherine's	2.00pm
14 Aug	Mid-week Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
15 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
18 Aug	12th Sunday after Trinity	
	'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Café Communion at St. Francis	4.30pm
21 Aug	Mid-week Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
22 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
24 Aug	Wedding rehearsal at St. Catherine's	11.00am
25 Aug	13th Sunday after Trinity	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	St. Catherine's open afternoon and churchyard clean-up	2.00-4.00pm
28 Aug	Mid-week Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
29 Aug	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
30 Aug	Wedding at St. Catherine's	4.30pm

Life Events during July

Baptism

21 July Isobel Rose Lewis and Paige Mae Lewis

Weddings

None

Committal of ashes

None

Funeral & Burial

24 July Grace Mary Hollington

The June Open weekend - 'All things Bright and Beautiful'

This year instead of a Summer Fête or just an open afternoon at the end of June, it was decided to throw open St. Catherine's for the complete weekend. The programme was to be open on the Saturday from 10am - 4pm and on the Sunday from after the morning service and closing with a service at 4pm where our worship was to be accompanied by the Grays Town Band.

Inside the beautifully decorated church building there were a number of things for both children and adults to do with many different craft activities including brass rubbing, flower arranging, making paper weights, bookmarks and 'keepsake' boxes.

In addition there were cakes on sale and, outside in the shelter of our gazebos stalls selling plants, books and bric-a-brac. For refreshment there were burgers and hot-dogs on a barbeque outside and the more usual tea / coffee and cake served from the kitchen.

The Sunday evening service was a lovely way to conclude the event with the Brass Band bringing their usual excellent musicianship to lead the congregation in their worship.

The weather couldn't have been more different on the two days. The Saturday was scorching hot whereas on the Sunday there was definite 'nip' in the air. Although football was slow and visitors limited in number, a good time was had by those that did join us and, although not the primary aim, over £750 was raised for church funds.

Our thanks are due to all those that manned the stalls and activities as well as to all those visitors that supported the weekend.



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

The Usual Service Pattern

- ◆ 1st & 3rd Sunday's, 10am at St. Catherine's 'Worshipping Together'.
- ◆ 1st Sunday's, 4.30pm at St. Catherine's 'Holy Communion'.
- ◆ 3rd Sunday's, 4.30pm at St. Francis informal Service of Holy Communion (Café style).
- ◆ 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays 10am at St. Catherine's Holy Communion.

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis

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

Our Churchwardens

CHRIS FORD T: 01375-675863

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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 Pewtal

22nd August 2024

20th September 2024

23rd October 2024