

PEWTALK

£1

December 2024



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs And PiECes

100 Club - The November winner was Iris Crane from East Tilbury. Iris has won twice relatively recently so she is now convinced that her ticket is in the drum! Our next draw will be the first this season for £50. You still have a chance of winning if you buy your ticket in November. *Norman*

On Sunday 8th December the level crossing at East Tilbury station is scheduled to be closed from 12.30am to 8.30am. If the work overruns those travelling to church from Linford and further afield will need to detour via Low Street. Lets hope that this is not necessary!

Our Christingle service this Christmas has been rescheduled from Advent (i.e. *before* Christmas), to the last Sunday of the Christmas season which is the 2nd February and is known as Candlemas. We hope that this will make it a bit more special and a real celebration. At 3pm that afternoon we invite you and any children to come to St. Catherine's and 'Come and make a Christingle'

Our Christmas Fayre at St. Catherine's is on Saturday 7th December from 10am to 2pm. There are details elsewhere in this edition of Pewtalk and we would love to have your support.

Together with the Linford Methodist congregation we will meet for our first joint service of worship on Sunday 29th December at 10.30am at St. Francis in Linford. All are welcome to this service which we all hope will

be the first of several joint services in 2025 - whenever there is a 5th Sunday in the month.

Repeating last year's event there will be a church family party at St. Francis from 4pm - 8pm on Tuesday 31st December to mark the end of 2024 and look forward to 2025. If you would like to join us for some fun (bring any table games that you fancy playing) and food remember the date and time!

Regular readers may remember that on several occasions we have appealed for a calligrapher to add Revd. Michèle's name to the record of priests that have served in the parish. The hunt is now over and the writing is now on the wall - well on the list hanging on the wall and all thanks to a lovely Christian lady in Wallingford.

The Community Payback team are currently visiting St. Catherine's every 3 weeks and are a great help with the maintenance of the churchyard. The supervisor and team are really keen to improve the appearance of the churchyard and take great pride in what they are able to achieve together in a relatively few hours. They tell us that they really enjoy working there particularly when the weather is kind and you really can see the difference!

And finally..... a big thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to Pewtalk this past year whether with ideas, articles, pictures or distributing it each month. To them and all our readers I wish you all the very best for the **New Year.** *Ed*

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



And so another year is rapidly drawing to a close as we turn the corner into the month of December. The Christmas advertising began of course sometime ago with competing supermarkets tempting us to do our 'Christmas Shop' with them and high streets and shopping centres sparkle and shine with festive lights and decorations.

'Tis the season to be jolly we are told but for many people celebrating, buying gifts and gathering more food than we actually need may be a real challenge and cause nothing but anxiety. For many the cost of living crisis does not seem to have eased and the juggling of household finances ongoing.

And further afield we hear of wars continuing with little hope of permanent peaceful solutions insight. Civilians on all sides suffer the most and normal life must seem so far away.

It is difficult then to see where the joy of Christmas fits into such challenging times.

In the churches year we move toward the Christmas season at a more leisurely pace than secular society and the season of Advent helps us to prepare for and think about the message of Christmas differently.

This year the season of advent begins on Sunday 1st December. The word Advent comes from the Latin '*Adventus*' meaning '*arrival*'. As we journey through the weeks of advent we look back to the *arrival* of the baby born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago and look forward to the promised return of our Saviour Jesus at a time as yet unknown.

Every Sunday in Advent we light a new candle on the advent wreath which helps to increase our sense of anticipation and we look forward to the 'Christlight', the white candle at the centre of the wreath, being lit in the very first minutes of Christmas Morning at the midnight communion service on Christmas Eve.



And the Christmas story where the 'Christlight' comes into the world can speak directly to our challenging world today. Christmas cards and nativity scenes paint a very cosy picture with shepherds and wise men surrounding the holy family all calm and still. But the reality is that for Mary and Joseph the journey to Bethlehem was full of danger. The birth of the infant Jesus brought the need to seek refuge away from their home to escape the wrath of King Herod. And in the words of warning from Simeon the elderly prophet to Mary he tells her she is destined to live with the knowledge that she will not always be able to protect her child.

The Christmas story speaks to all who would hear it today and it is a story of hope. In the times of darkness there is the light of Christ that shines and when we feel bereft of all comfort the love of God can sustain.

If you would like to join us as part of your preparation for the Christmas season we would be pleased to see you at any of the following:

At St Catherine's: 'The Christmas Fayre' - Saturday 7th December, 10am to 2pm. Christmas gifts, craft stalls, cake stall, books and bric a brac, soft toy stall, tombola, a raffle, refreshments and the 100 Club Christmas Draw.

At St Catherine's: 'Carols & Candlelight Service' - Sunday 15th December, 6pm with The Grays Town Brass Band. Service followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

At St Francis: 'Community Support Drop-in with Christmas Carols' - Wednesday 18th December 10.30am.

At St Catherine's: 'Christmas Eve Crib Service' - Tuesday 24th December 3pm.

Come and hear the Christmas Story and help the nativity figures take their place in the Stable at Bethlehem. It's a lovely service for children of all ages.

At St Catherine's: 'Christmas Eve Holy Communion' - Tuesday 24th December 11.30pm

At St Catherine's: 'Christmas Day Celebration with Holy Communion' - Wednesday 25th December 10am.

For more information on any of the above you can either email me at: mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk or call me on 01375 671754/07749303622.

However you prepare for the Christmas season don't let yourself be overwhelmed with the busyness of it all but rather find moments in which to wonder about the gift of a small child who came to show us how to love and live with our neighbours in peace.

So may the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.



Every Blessing to you and your families,

Revd. Michèle

Remembering the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004 by Tim Lenton

Twenty years ago, on 26th December 2004, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami (also called the Boxing Day Tsunami) took place. A massive undersea earthquake near Sumatra caused a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and East Africa. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history, killing more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

Waves generated by the earthquake and travelling at up to 500mph were believed to have been up to 50ft high in places, and the cost in lives and damage was so extensive because detection and warning systems were relatively primitive, as this was not a prime area for such events. Scientific monitoring and warning plans, led by Australia, have since been considerably improved, but the unpredictability of tsunamis remains a major problem.

The massive surges of water in 2004 swept away buildings and people, and some effects were felt as far away as Somalia on the east coast of Africa, nearly 2,800 miles (and seven hours for the waves) west of the epicentre. Nearer coastlines were hit in as little as 15 minutes.

Aftershocks continued to shake the region daily for up to four months after the original earthquake. The raising of the seafloor reduced the capacity of the Indian Ocean, resulting in a permanent rise in sea level globally by an estimated 0.1 mm.

Since 1900, only two earthquakes have been recorded with a greater magnitude than the Sumatra Boxing Day event. One was in 1960 at Valdivia, Chile (magnitude 9.5) and the other in 1964 in Prince William Sound, Alaska (9.2). Both spawned tsunamis in the Pacific, but the death toll (1655 and 131) was sharply less, because of much lower population density where they came ashore.

Norman and his Northern Lights experience

My Grandad, who I never knew, was badly injured in The Great War. On returning to England to be treated and recover from his injuries he was taken to Mulgrave Castle the home of Lord Normanby in Yorkshire. My Grandma who lived in Salford managed to rent a cottage in Laithe near Whitby and was able to go with my Mum (aged 5-6) to visit my Grandad. She told me that on one occasion she saw the Northern Lights. From her description I always wanted to see the lights for myself and in March Sheila and I went on a Cruise to Norway. After 6 days on board there was a "Lights Alert" but I slept!!! We passed through Tromsø to Altt in the Arctic Circle and received a Certificate. On the 8th. Day we were taken at about 9.30 pm to see the Lights we waited by a Log fire in a Sami tent but no lights. Guess what - on our return home the lights were visible from our back garden (see photo) and again we missed them. Perhaps I am not meant to see them.



The Black and White format of Pewtalk obviously doesn't do justice to the colour pictures that Norman provided.

Teachers struggle with ill health

As you prepare for Christmas this year, spare a thought – and a prayer - for our teachers. Their job is even more demanding at this time of year, as school Christmas activities are added to an already over-crowded school curriculum.

Also, recent figures from the Department for Education show that, for whatever reason, our teachers struggle with some ill health. About 14,000 teachers in England called in sick every day last year, a recent analysis has found.

That means that overall, about 66.2 per cent of England's teaching workforce were off school last year because of illness. That means that a whopping 2.5 million schooldays were lost in 2022-23, as more than 326,000 teachers missed class, owing to sickness.

The November meeting of the P.C.C..

The Parochial church council met on the 4th November at St. Francis with apologies from Pam Painter and Norman and Sheila King.

The main item on the agenda was to discuss a revised pattern of services from January 2025 with the aim of increasing the amount of time available to Revd. Michèle for pastoral activities while maintaining a range of worship opportunities both at St. Catherine's and St. Francis.

To this end she suggested the following pattern of services at St. Catherine's. On the 1st Sunday of the month, 10 am Holy Communion, and a 12 noon slot for Baptisms. On the 2nd Sunday, 10 am Holy Communion and a 12 noon Baptism slot. On the 3rd Sunday, 10 am Family Service with an afternoon café communion at St. Francis. On the 4th Sunday 10 am Holy Communion. On the 5th Sunday (where one occurs) a 10.30 am joint service with the Linford Methodist church with the venues rotating between St. Catherine's, St. Francis and the Linford Methodist Church. For the mid-week service at St. Francis she proposed that there be Holy Communion on the 1st Wednesday of the month with a lay led Morning Prayer possible on the other weeks. This arrangement was unanimously agreed. Revd. Michèle then outlined the key services and events for the first 6 months of 2025. Sunday 2nd February, a 'Christingle' workshop, Wednesday 5th March is Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday is 30th March and Holy Week begins on the 14th April. On Thursday the 17th April (Maundy Thursday) an 'Agape' meal with 'the last hour of the cross' on Good Friday (18th) and an Easter workshop on Saturday 19th followed by Easter Day on the 20th. Our annual church meetings are set for 11th May and our Rogation service could be either on the 25th May or 1st June. All these dates were duly noted.

The business part of the meeting followed with the minutes of the meeting on 16th September being agreed before receiving the Churchwardens' and Treasurer's reports. During the treasurer's report the meeting discussed the subject of the Parish Giving scheme and how it might be implemented should we choose to adopt it. In the absence of Norman King it was agreed to continue the discussion at the January P.C.C.. meeting. It was also agreed to review the standard donation amounts on the digital 'CollecTin' at St. Catherine's.

The meeting then received the Electoral Roll and Safeguarding reports with neither highlighting any issues.

Kim and Chris presented their report of the last Deanery Synod meeting which had a talk from one of the Diocesan Parish Giving Advisors with particular emphasis on the Parish Giving Scheme.

The meeting then reviewed the services and events that Revd. Michèle had been involved in since the last meeting and looking ahead agreed a meeting to discuss / finalise matters for the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December,

Under A.O.B. Revd. Michèle advised that Pat Doyle's funeral would be on Friday 29th November at Uppminster Crematorium.

The next meeting was agreed for Monday 6th January at St. Francis

A Thank-you from Tear fund for our harvest and BQN donations

Dear Friends

Thank you for your gift of £318.50. Your generosity and prayers are helping to transform the lives of families like Nachap's in Uganda.

Limited rains over the past three years have made conditions particularly severe, with some riverbeds drying up entirely, causing crops to fail and hundreds of animals to die. In some areas, water is so scarce that it's imported in trucks by water merchants at a huge price that families like Nachap's can't afford. Low-income families like hers are often forced to choose between drinking and washing.

'My children are always crying because they are hungry,' says Nachap, whose youngest child is showing early signs of malnutrition. 'On a good day, we eat once at dinner, but most of the days we go hungry as we do not have much food or money to buy it.'

Our church partner assessed the families most in need of immediate support and has been distributing food – including cereals and beans – to hundreds of families across Karamoja.

While there were 'three Cs' – Covid-19, climate and conflict – that threatened to push more people like Nachap back and deeper into poverty across the world, at Tearfund we believe there are another 'three Cs' – Christ, the church and community – that are strong enough to prevent a catastrophe.

'We see this all the time at Tearfund – it is why we partner with networks of local churches at the heart of communities,' says Veena O'Sullivan, Tearfund's International Director. 'As the church unites to reach out with the love of Christ, communities around the world are transformed.'

Thank you for your prayerful support as we work to support families like Nachap's wherever the need is greatest.

Yours in Christ

Rory Wilson

Supporter Care Team

Tearfund

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered within a dark grey rectangular box.

Told to me at my Opticians - Chris Ford

A burglar was busy ransacking a house when he thought he heard a voice saying "Jesus is watching you". He assumed that it was all in his mind and continued with his 'work'. A little while later he again thought that he heard the same phrase, "Jesus is watching you". This time he took a look around and saw a parrot, so he said to the bird "Is your name Jesus?" to which the parrot replied, "no my name is Moses". The burglar asked the parrot "who gave you the name Moses?". Quick as a flash the parrot replied "the same person that named the rottweiler standing behind you, "Jesus".



St.Catherine's Church

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

10.00 A.M. — 2.00 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS- bacon rolls, mince pies etc.

Various stalls including:-

Home-made cakes, children's activities,

Craft stall, Christmas cards,

**Give-a-Soft Toy a Home, Tombola,
Books, Bric-a-brac, Raffle and Plants.**



At: - St. Catherine's Church, East Tilbury Village, RM18 8PB



Mouse Makes

"The child to be born
will be called
H _____, the
_____ of _____"
Luke 1:35

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

_____ for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,

I am the _____ Y
and the _____ U _____
and the _____ I _____.

No one comes to the Father
except through me."

John 14:6

"For unto you is born
this day a

S _____ who is
_____ R _____
the _____ R _____"
Luke 2:11

and the life."
John 11:25

B L I G H T L O
R A Y W O J J R
E M M A N U E L
A B Y J E S O
D S A V I O U R
S A V R J S D

O H O L Y O R C R T U
S O N O F M A N H A R T
N L S H E P H E R D U
O Y A E P E R G I F T G
C H R I S T M A S T H S
R E S U R R E C T I O N

**JESUS
—
THE
GREATEST
GIFT
OF ALL!**

P R O P H E T I
R E D E E M E R
I E M I L I G
E M E S S I A H
S R M E G F T
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G
K I N G O F K I N G S
I N K I G W F D O U
S E S O N O F G O D D
S E W O C O U W O R D
C O U N S E L L O R U

EMMANUEL • MESSIAH

REDEEMER • KING OF KINGS • WORD

SON OF MAN • EVERLASTING • SHEPHERD • PRIEST • PROPHET • TEACHER

LIGHT • BREAD • VINE • DOOR • COUNSELLOR • CHRISTMAS • GIFT

Find the words from the Bible verses too!

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PARISH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

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 Dec	Advent Sunday	
	'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Committal of ashes at St. Catherine's	11.30am
	Baptism at St. Catherine's	1.00pm
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	3.30pm
2 Dec	Bible study and fellowship group at St. Francis	10.30am-noon
4 Dec	Mid-week Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
5 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
7 Dec	' Christmas Fayre ' at St. Catherine's	10.00am-2.00pm
8 Dec	2nd Sunday of Advent	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
11 Dec	Mid-week Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
12 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
15 Dec	3rd Sunday of Advent	
	Worshipping Together at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Carols and Candlelight service at St. Catherine's with the Grays Town brass band	6.00pm
18 Dec	Mid-week Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in' with Christmas Carols</i>	10.30am-noon
19 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
22 Dec	4th Sunday of Advent	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
24 Dec	Christmas Eve	
	Christmas crib service at St. Catherine's	3.00pm
	First Communion of Christmas	11.30pm
25 Dec	Christmas Day	
	Christmas Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
29 Dec	1st Sunday of Christmas	
	Morning worship with the Linford Methodists at St. Francis	10.30am
31 Dec	New Year's Eve	
	Church family party at St. Francis	4.00pm-8.00pm

Life Events during November

Baptism

None

Weddings

None

Committal of ashes

None

Funeral

29 November

William James Doyle otherwise known as 'Pat'

The Thurrock Gospel Choir invite you to a

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

'When we needed a King'

free admission - refreshments - all welcome

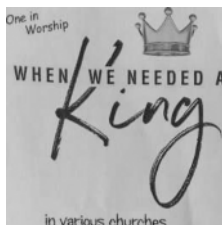
Venues for December 2024

Sunday 1st at 4.30 pm at The Salvation Army, Clarence Road, Grays. RM17 2RA

Thursday 5th at 7.30 pm at Community Church, 8, Defoe Parade, Chadwell-St-Mary. RM16 4QR

Saturday 7th at 4.00 pm at Socketts Heath Baptist Church, Premier Avenue, Grays.
RM16 2BS

Sunday 8th at 5.30 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

The Usual Service Pattern

- ♦ 1st & 3rd Sunday's, 10am at St. Catherine's 'Worshipping Together'.
- ♦ 1st Sunday's, 3.30pm at St. Catherine's 'Holy Communion'.
- ♦ 3rd Sunday's, 3.30pm 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 Pewtalk

20th December 2024

20th January 2025

20th February 2025