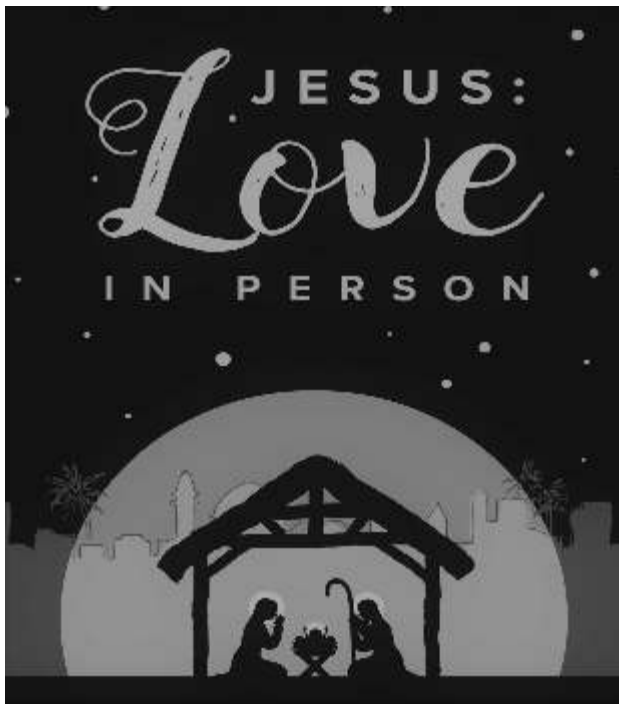


# *PEWTALK* 40<sub>P</sub>

December 2017



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

# BITS AND PIECES

## 100 Club

Father Peter Rabin made the 100 Club draw on the last Sunday in October. The winners were Bob and Marian Kuyper our very good friends from Linford Methodist Church who recently moved Oxfordshire. Generously the winnings were spent on another ticket so they might well be winners again.

Sam had been to Sunday school with several other children on 19<sup>th</sup> November and drew the November 100 club which was won by Bob and June Hutson well done!

*Norman*

## Royal British Legion

Thank you to all who bought their Poppy in Church enabling us to send £87 to the local Royal British Legion organiser 100 years after the end of The Great War.

*Norman*

## Supporting St. Catherine's

Among the many methods of supporting St. Catherine's is to shop at East Tilbury Co-op We have just received a cheque for £22. Thanks to all who have the community card. If you would like a card please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Norman*

**The Service of Remembrance** was held at the Bata Memorial and led by Fr. Justin Hutcherson of the United Benefice of Corringham and Fobbing. The large congregation include, amongst others, members of the East Tilbury uniformed organisations. A number of wreaths were

laid by representatives of the local community. This will be the last year that Fr. Justin will be helping our parish as he is due to take up his own parish in Clacton-on-Sea in the New Year.

**Our Christmas Bazaar** is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and we look forward to the support of parishioners and friends. The Bazaar is not only a fundraising event but also a great opportunity to meet and chat with other folk.

**On the last weekend of October** we celebrated the history of St. Catherine's together with the historical connection of St. Cedd with this part of Essex. A considerable amount of information was collected so that visitors could gain a better insight into the building and its history. Visitors were also able to take part in a variety of craft activities courtesy of Patricia Strong and her team of volunteers. As it was the last weekend of October it was also the last of our tea afternoons for 2017. Although the Saturday afternoon did not have a lot of visitors the Sunday afternoon was very busy. All in all it was a great weekend with many of the visitors being very complimentary about the church event.

**If you want to help raise funds** for the church while shopping on the internet we have been able to make it easier to use the "easyfundraising" method which has been instrumental in raising £300+ for us over the last few years. If you go to our website you will find a link on the home page. This will take you to the easyfundraising page already set up to support St. Catherine's.



### **Bishop Stephen's Christmas Message 2017**

Venting his fury at a potential rival, Herod plays a percentages game: he spreads the net of his anger widely; kills every boy under two in order to ensure he kills just one. He fails. Fury and anger usually do - though that is scant consolation to the mourning families of the innocent who suffer. Meanwhile Jesus, the Saviour who is saved, is visited by unlikely people: in this case, shepherds and foreign rulers.

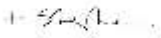
The shepherds, virtual outcasts in their own society and looked upon with grave suspicion, hear a song of peace. It is deeply attractive, and it sends them to Bethlehem.

The wise men have followed a hunch in the form of a star. They are about to learn that all their maps are wrong. They will return by a different route.

Tyrants like Herod still strut about the world today, their vanity and hubris still causing havoc and misery. But the door of the stable at Bethlehem still stands open for those who long for peace and those prepared to have their lives redirected.

Might you be one of them?

Have an interesting Christmas!



Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell  
Bishop of Chelmsford

## **Thurrock foodbank**

Facebook and Twitter - Facebook is always trying to get us to boost our posts by paying them which we don't want to do but we do need to increase our reach so we would be very grateful if you could share posts we put up on there as widely as possible including your own timeline and local groups you are in.

Universal Credit - You may have heard the words Universal Credit banded around recently, but do you know the reason why we, and other Charities are so concerned about its implementation.

The purpose of Universal Credit is to replace 6 existing means tested benefits (including housing benefit), it will be paid monthly in arrears and is designed to streamline the benefits system and make it easier to use.

The move to simplify a complicated system is welcome but any change as big as this can have a number of unforeseen consequences. Evidence from the Trussell Trust network suggests that the built in delay of 6 weeks before the first payment can throw people into a crisis. During this waiting period the benefits that are being replaced are not paid either, so leaving some, already 'just about managing' people in a very precarious situation.

Universal Credit started its full roll out in Thurrock at the end of October so we are anticipating that we will experience an increase in the number of Thurrock residents that we will be helping and very possibly providing food for longer than we would normally meaning that we will need to keep our food stocks at a higher level than previous years.

Many thanks for all your support.

*Helen Watts* - Warehouse Manager

## **Shoe box Appeal - Samaritans Purse**

At the Family Service on November 5<sup>th</sup> Sheila recalled the pleasure of receiving her doll Alice as a Christmas present from her Grandma who had saved the money with a local shop. Alice is now over 60 was recently repaired and made her appearance in church from a shoe box.



After the brief introduction a video was shown of a young women from Ukraine who received a Barbie doll in her shoe box and explained how she encouraged her children to support the Shoe box appeal.

The children brought their boxes up to the Altar and then received the boxes from the adults.

To end we showed a lovely video of beautiful smiling children in Zimbabwe opening their boxes.

We had great pleasure in taking 65 Boxes to the collection centre at the Baptist Church in Billericay and look forward to reporting back on the destination of the boxes.

Thank you to all who prepared shoe boxes and donated to the greatest journey a to give pleasure to children.

*Norman and Sheila*

On behalf of our congregation at Linford Methodist Church, I would like to wish our Anglican friends at St Catherine's a very happy, joyous Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year.



We have always enjoyed our fellowship with St. Catherine's through the many events we have shared and we are looking forward to your Christmas Fayre on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We are having a Christmas Sing-along on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December when we hope some of you may be able to join us.

As the New Year 2018 approaches with all its uncertainties I am reminded of that well known poem by Minnie Louise Haskins.

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."*

God's blessings,

*Jean Atherton* (Senior Steward) - Linford Methodist Church

*(The poem that Jean quotes was spoken by George VI in his Christmas 1939 broadcast to the Empire and these words struck a chord with a country facing the uncertainty of war. They were the preamble to an obscure poem, God Knows, written in 1908,.....Ed)*

### **Beware of the “scammers” they just want your money.**

Recently several people living in the parish have been approached by fraudsters trying to either get money and/or to obtain personal details that could be used to impersonate somebody and get money that way. These “scams” have occurred recently.



1. An elderly, vulnerable, lady was telephoned by the “police” on the basis that they needed her help to catch some fraudsters. She was persuaded to go with the thieves to her bank and draw out her life savings. Sadly, they were so convincing that she did what they asked and lost all her savings. (The fraudsters had told her how to deal with any questions that she might have been asked at the bank.)
2. Another person was advised by e-mail that a payment had been taken from their Paypal account and they were guided to a website where they could contact Paypal to query the payment. The site, which was designed to be very convincing, encouraged them to divulge personal information.
3. The “police” called a parishioner as part of an investigation and asked them to provide personal information. To reassure them the “police” encouraged them to hang up and call the police to check that this was indeed a genuine investigation. Fortunately the person concerned was not convinced, hung up, and didn’t use the ‘phone for some hours. They had remembered that in these cases the “scammers” do not hang up and simply wait for their victim to make a call when they continue to impersonate the police.

It is important for us all to remember that these fraudsters are professional - they make their living this way - they invest a great deal of effort in their scamming

### **“I Daniel Blake”**

As many of you will know, Kim and I have visited the Wigtown book festival for the past several years and each year we attend a number of really interesting events and they are not always about books. One of the highlights of this year’s festival was that, onetime Wigtown resident, Paul Laverty, the screen writer of the Ken Loach film “I Daniel Blake” was there to tell us something of the background to the film. We saw a screening of the film in the festival “pop-up” cinema and heard Paul Laverty speaking about it in one of the sessions. Elsewhere in Pewtalk there is a piece about the new Universal Credit and this film shows some of the real issues faced by clients dealing with Jobcentre plus and its other agencies. If you haven’t seen the film (which is very disturbing) then we could lend you a copy. *Chris*



*Thurrock foodbank provides emergency food supplies to local people in crisis within the borough. Foodbank fills a real and ongoing need in our local area, but we need food donations, financial gifts and more volunteers to help collect and distribute the food. If you can assist, just email [volunteering@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk)*

*Emergency food for local people in crisis. Thurrock people helping Thurrock people.*

## BIGGER DEMAND FOR FOODBANK

Last year Thurrock foodbank fed 4,504 local people – which means over 40,000 meals. There has been a recent increase in demand. In just one week in early November we fed in excess of 102 people. And with the roll-out of Universal Credit in Thurrock and Christmas approaching we anticipate a growing demand for food.

## TWO WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1. Every time you go shopping, buy items from the list on the right and take them to your usual collecting point, or our warehouse in Compton.
2. money for food items directly to Thurrock foodbank. We can shop on your behalf and buy the things we urgently need.

### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Usually you get a chocolate behind each door of your advent calendar every day in the run up to Christmas. Year why not try a "reverse advent calendar" instead and help Thurrock foodbank in the process. It is simple. Just get a large box and every day from 1-25 December put one non-perishable food non-Christmas food item in it. Then after Christmas, when the box is full, donate the box of items to Thurrock foodbank. Our warehouse is closed on the bank holidays over the festive period. The website list full details of the opening hours. [thurrock.foodbank.org.uk](http://thurrock.foodbank.org.uk)

### FUNDRAISING CONCERT

The recent musical concert by CDCE raised £104 for Thurrock Foodbank. Thank you to every one who came along or helped.



### TESCO STORE COLLECTION

Can you spare a couple of hours to help with the food collection at Tesco Lakeside on Friday 1 or Saturday 2 December? It is a real chance for you to volunteer. Contact [sarah2@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:sarah2@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk)

## AUTUMN HARVEST APPEAL

A very big thank you to all the local schools and churches right across the borough who so generously donated fruit from their harvest festival collections to Thurrock foodbank. It is much appreciated.

## SHORTAGE FOOD ITEMS

We pack each food box with a fixed range of food to provide a balanced and nutritious set of meals for up to three days. Currently there is a shortage of specific items needed to make up the food parcels given to local people in food crisis. **Items we urgently need:**

- ❖ long-life fruit juice
- ❖ sponge puddings
- ❖ pasta sauce
- ❖ long-life whole milk
- ❖ tinned potatoes

So when you go shopping this week just add these to your list, and then donate them to Thurrock foodbank as soon as you can. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS FOOD

If you are planning to donate Christmas items we need them as soon as possible. Ideas of items to donate are sweets, chocolate selection boxes, crackers, games, stuffing, Christmas puddings, crisps and savory items, tins of beans, tins, salmon, tinned fruit and tinned cream.

Foodbank Charity  
Number 247096  
Registered in  
England & Wales



## FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE P.C.C.

The PCC met on the Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and were joined by the Area Dean Revd. Canon Darren Barlow. The meeting opened with prayers and having approved the minutes of the October meeting and dealt with the matters arising from them the committee were advised of the following correspondence. Colin Strong had been asked to advertise the fact that the charity TalentEd are looking for qualified teachers to improve the academic achievements of bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Chris advised that he had been approached by Essex Radio to be interviewed on Tuesday's Tony Fisher show about the Christmas Bazaar.

Chris also reported that he had been in correspondence with both Bakers and our architect because the church heating, after the snagging, seemed to be operating less effectively than before. He had supplied data from the temperature logger in church. *Subsequent to the meeting, Chris Norman of Bakers, has been in touch to say that he has asked Baddow Heating to attend site to investigate the problem.*

The meeting then went on to consider the appointment of a priest for the parish. As reported last month the vacancy will be re-advertised on 1<sup>st</sup> December with interviews, if necessary, early in the new year.

As the Area Dean was present he was able to share the latest thinking on our vacancy. He explained that he had spoken both with the Archdeacon of Southend and David Rollins, the Rector of the United Benefice of Corringham and Fobbing. The late Bishop John's plan for the parish had been for David Rollins to become the Priest in

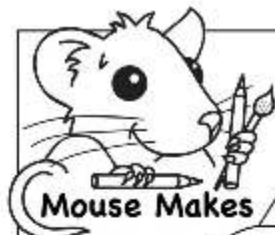
Charge at the same time as an assistant priest was appointed to have primary responsibility for our parish. We have now been without a priest for 15 months and with Revd. Justin Hutcherson leaving Corringham and Fobbing to take on his own parish in Clacton, David Rollins now feels less able to do justice to both parishes. The Area Dean suggested that, if there was no appointment as a result of the December advert, it might be necessary to rework the parish profile to reflect the new situation. He offered to speak with the Archdeacon for guidance on how we might proceed particularly as we might now be looking for a "Priest in Charge" rather than an "Assistant Priest".

In his report Colin Strong advised that he had to re-advertise the faculty for the atheneum ashes area as, on the original version, the Diocese had indicated that it would be in the SW of the churchyard rather than the SE. He also told the meeting that he had service cover for December (including midnight), most of January and was now looking at February. With so few priests available in the Deanery and the wider Diocese it was becoming increasingly difficult to get cover for Sunday services.

Norman King advised that he and Chris were looking at a 2018 budget and Norman still had some work to do on it. He also said that he had the 2018 "Parish share" which was some 2.5% more than this year.

The Christmas Bazaar and the Christmas services were discussed and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to repeat the "breakfast bars at the station" again this year.





## Mouse Makes

Colour in one star a day as you countdown to Christmas

"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour has been born today!..."

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".

*from Luke 2 vs. 10, 11, 14*



## CHRISTMAS

B A B Y T H O L Y J U D E A R T H  
 B J P E A C E S O N O F L O C K P U S  
 R O F I E L D E G A S H E P H E R D S  
 I Y O N B O R N O Z E G M A R Y A A A  
 N M R N A T O Z O A P A A L I R I V V  
 G O D S C H I L D R H L N A S O S I I  
 L J E S U S H O N E L I G H T O E D O  
 O G U A R D I B E T H L E H E M Z S U  
 R S L S H E E P W H Y E R L O R D O R  
 Y N N A N G E L S B H E A V E N A M E

MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID  
 HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN  
 SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING  
 GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT  
 PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS



**PARISH DIARY FOR DECEMBER**  
*Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's*



2 Dec	<b>Christmas Bazaar at St. Catherine's</b>	11am - 2pm
3 Dec	<b>The 1st Sunday of ADVENT</b> <b><i>The Family Service</i></b>	10am
6 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
7 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
10 Dec	<b>2nd Sunday of ADVENT</b> <b>Parish Communion</b> Baptism of Penelope Rose Atkins-Barker	<b>10am</b> 2pm
13 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
12 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
17 Dec	<b>3rd Sunday of ADVENT</b> <b>Parish Communion (with Sunday School)</b> <b>Service of Lessons and Carols with Grays Town Band</b>	10am 4pm
19 Dec	St. Francis Carol Service	7pm
20 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
19 Dec	Foodbank at St Francis	11am - 1pm
24 Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>Parish Communion</b> <b><i>The CHRISTINGLE service</i></b> The First Communion of Christmas	10am 4pm 11.30pm
25 Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>Parish Communion</b>	10am
27 Dec	Holy Communion (St Francis) Drop In at St Francis	10am 10.30am - noon
28 Dec	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
31 Dec	<b>1st Sunday of CHRISTMAS</b> <b>Parish Communion</b>	10am

## FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

5 Nov Lunah Marlie Rawe

19 Nov Henry Jay Down

### Fuheral

7 Nov Charles Trappitt

### You are invited to our Christmas Services



**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at St. Catherine's Church, East Tilbury Village at 4 p.m.**

A traditional service of Lessons and Carols with the Gospel. You begin before a glass of mulled wine and mince pies.

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at the St. Francis Centre, Linford at 7.00 p.m.**

A service of songs and readings followed by refreshments.

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve) at St. Catherine's at 4 p.m.**

Our annual "Caroling Service" which is an opportunity for the church to hear the story of the Christmas Eve to take part in the creation of our Christmas stable scene. There is a prayer during the service when the church is lit by the light of the Christmas joy and feeling of the service.

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve) at St. Catherine's Church at 11.30 p.m.**

Traditionally the first service of Holy Communion for Christmas when we can celebrate the birth of Jesus. Contact our Stokout. We would love for you to join us.

**Christmas Day at St. Catherine's Church at 10.00 a.m.**

A Christmas family communion service with carols.



### Christmas greetings

With this the final Pewtalk issue of 2017, on behalf of the wardens and officers of the parish, may I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year..... and remember that we would love to welcome you to any of our services over the Christmas period. *Ed*

# ST. CATHERINE'S

## The Priest in Charge

The Parish is without a priest at the present time.

All enquiries should be made to Churchwarden, Colin Strong:

Telephone: 07591 708955

E-mail: [warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com)

## The Services

Sunday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's  
Except 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month when we have  
"The Family Service"

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis  
For Baptisms and Weddings please contact Colin Strong in the first  
instance or come to St. Catherine's at 6.30pm on a Friday

## Churchwardens

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E:- [warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com)

SUE SPIERS T: 01375 845394

E:- [warden.sue.stcatherines@gmail.com](mailto:warden.sue.stcatherines@gmail.com)

## Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road  
Linford

Stanford le Hope  
SS17 0PU

Tel: 01375 675863

e-mail: [pewtalk@talktalk.net](mailto:pewtalk@talktalk.net)

## St. Francis Centre

The centre is available for hire for regular events when not used by the Church. To check availability please contact:

PATRICIA STRONG

[patricia.a.strong@outlook.com](mailto:patricia.a.strong@outlook.com)

*Copy Dates for Pewtalk*

*18<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

*22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018*

*22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018*