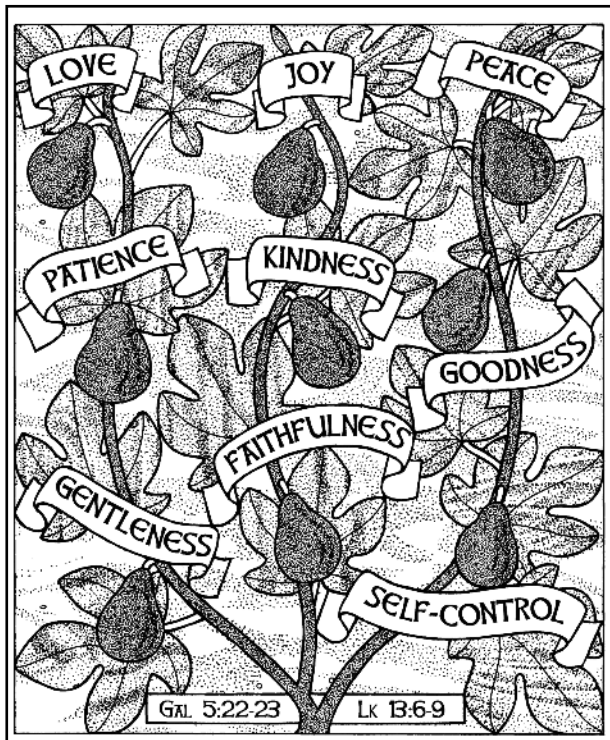


PEWTALK

£1

June 2025



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs And PiECes

100 Club - The winner drawn on May 3rd was Pat Webb who is a regular member of our congregation at St. Catherine's which meant that I could therefore quickly present the £10. The final draw for 2024-2025 will be for £50 on the first Sunday in July. If you are able and wish to renew your 100 Club ticket please contact your Pewtalk contact, a member of the congregation or myself.

Norman

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Thank you to everybody who attended the annual meetings. Copies of the Annual Parish Report are still available at St. Catherine's, St. Francis and on the church website (using the link on the 'About Us' page).

As a result of the full revision of the Parish electoral roll we now have a total of 37 members with 30 resident in the parish and 7 non-resident.

The election results were as follows:

Churchwardens -

Christopher Ford and Leslie Schwar

Members of the PCC -

Julie Guest, Norman & Sheila King, June Schroeder, Valerie Schwar & Patricia Webb

Deanery Synod Reps -

Christopher & Kim Ford (in the 3rd year of their 3 year term).

Chris and Les will be formally confirmed as our churchwardens on Thursday 5th June at the 'Archdeacon's Visitation' service at All Saints, Chafford Hundred.

Recently the cross - over the entrance to St. Francis fell apart. Initially the left hand side of the cross piece fell away leaving, as one visitor remarked, the letter 'r' rather than a cross. It was clear that the timber had rotted and it would be only a matter of time before the other half came away possibly damaging the roof. Thankfully Colin Guest offered to help and with great care removed the remaining timber. The P.C.C. will now have to decide how and with what to replace it. We were interested to understand how long the cross had been in place. The best estimate based on this Essex Archives entry:-

"In 1978 the parishes of East and West Tilbury were united, together with St Francis, Linford (opened as a mission church to Mucking in 1957)"

is some 68 years. If anyone has better information please let us know.

Thurrock Deanery are holding a service of worship on Pentecost Sunday (8th June) at All Saints, Foyle Drive, Belhus Park, RM15 5HF. This is an opportunity for all the parishes in the deanery to come together to celebrate the day that the Christian church was born.

St. Luke's Hospice are holding two very special 35th anniversary garden parties for their supporters. For more details see:- www.stlukeshospice.com/garden-party-invite.

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



When I think of hymns that are linked to creation 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'We plough the fields and scatter' come to mind.

The words of these hymns remind us that in the beginning God brought our world into existence and saw 'that it was good'. It was through Him that 'all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small' were made. In the hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter' we are reminded of the partnership between God and humankind we are invited to be a part of and the responsibility of stewardship that we hold. God created and we are called to look after our wonderful world.

At this time of year we can already see the work of the farmer's hands gradually appearing in the fields that surround us. Fields that were once brown earth now hold green shoots that will become a variety of crops. Fields that were once green but empty pastures now hold spring lambs with ewes attentively caring for their young.

So it is not by mistake then that in the church we include during the month of May **Rogationtide**. 'Rogation' comes from the Latin word '*rogare*' which means 'to ask'. On Rogation days we ask God through our prayers to bless the crops and give thanks for all the elements of creation. Rogation Days are the 3 weekdays (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) before Ascension Day. The Ascension of Christ is always remembered on the 40th day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday.

Many churches observe Rogation on the preceding or following Sunday. Traditionally Rogation Services are held outside. **And we will be holding a Rogation Sunday Service on Sunday 1st June at 3pm in St Catherine's Churchyard in East Tilbury.** The Grays Town Brass Band will be joining us to provide our musical accompaniment and following the service tea and cake will be available or you might like to bring a packed tea with you.

Rogation is a time of asking for God's blessings on the emerging crops. In times gone by when everything depended on the local harvest, this was vital. A failed local harvest meant people going hungry, so asking God's Blessing was seen as important. We still depend on the skill of the farmer today.



Rogation provides us with the opportunity to praise the Creator God, give thanks for our food and those who produce it; pray a blessing on the communities in which we live and the common life we share. Do come and join us if you can and as we will be worshipping outside your well-behaved four legged friends will also be welcome.

And, we will of course be singing, 'All things bright & beautiful' and 'We plough the fields and scatter'.

Stay safe and keep well, Every Blessing,

Revd. Michèle

St. Catherine's through the years.

Recently John Blackbond showed me some postcards that he had come across and they got me thinking. When the re-ordering of St. Catherine's was done in 2015 a women visiting the church, which was a building site at the time, accused the foreman of "destroying history". He immediately replied with "no, I am making history" and if you look round the church you can see that he was right as he was making his contribution, as others had over the centuries - there are many clues to what the building might have looked like in the past. I hope that these few pictures illustrate the point.



Although I don't have a date for this picture it is from early in the 20th century and the church is named as St. Margaret (possibly a mistake). Note the lighting and the position of the eagle lectern and pulpit. Also, the pews and the other timber work including a 'rood' screen.

This picture is from sometime later in the 20th century and there are a number of subtle changes although the change of the lighting is not so subtle!





This picture was taken to show the church as it was immediately before the builders moved in in 2015 and much as I remember it in 1999. Notice the lighting - changed again - different pews and the lectern and pulpit on opposite sides. And much woodwork removed.

And, finally, the church as it is today - with the addition of people. The changes are perhaps more dramatic and obvious than subtle but I am intrigued by the fact that the lectern is back where it was in the first picture. As the foreman said "I am making history"!



So there we have it. A parish church that has been cared for over the centuries and during that time has, from time to time, been changed and updated to suit the needs of the congregation.

Chris Ford

Footnote: If you find the pictures too small you could try the magazine on the website



Are bananas really good for you?

On the one hand, bananas offer good things. They count as one of your five a day, carry only about 90 calories, and are packed with the essential mineral potassium (good in lowering blood pressure.) But they are not perfect.....

So, here are some pros and cons of bananas:

Pro: High in potassium, good for heart health, lowers blood pressure, has Vitamin C, helps digestion, provides energy, full of fibre, cholesterol-free.

Cons: Can raise potassium levels too much (avoid them if you have kidney disease), can lead to wind and bloating, cause blood sugar spikes, weight gain, and disrupt sleep.

Overall, experts recommend eating no more than two bananas a day.

Pentecost - not a Ghost but a Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – 'White Sunday' because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.



Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. But on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival, led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

Father's Day - what we most value in our fathers

Father's Day is 15th June - a day to honour and appreciate our fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers and fathers-in-law. Many of us will make a special effort to see them on the day.

No two fathers are alike, of course, but various polls across the internet reveal some interesting similarities of what people have most valued in their dad.

These traits include: being dependable, approachable, protective, patient, affectionate, honest, willing to listen, compassionate, and having spent time with them when they were young.

That's quite a list! People whose fathers had even some of those strengths have a lot to be thankful for.

Thankfully, our Father in Heaven certainly has all those traits. Jesus said the Father is totally dependable and protective of us, longs for us to turn to Him, and is full of compassion and love. And we are to call Him 'Abba' – Daddy!

Kitchener and that poster from the First World War

By Tim Lenton



Some 175 years ago, on 24th June 1850, Herbert Kitchener, the 1st Earl Kitchener, was born. This Irish-born British Army officer and politician became Secretary of War during the First World War, when he appeared on an iconic poster asking people to join the army.

Kitchener already had a fearsome reputation, having been responsible for big colonial victories in Sudan and South Africa. He was very widely admired by the British people, though his cool personality and eagerness to push his men to the limit made him disliked by fellow officers. But he was also described as a godly man “who did noble deeds and obtained noble results”.

He had been on leave in England in June 1914 when he reluctantly accepted an appointment to the Cabinet as Secretary of State for War and was promoted to Field Marshal. Most people expected a short war, but Kitchener did not; he went about enlisting a great number of volunteers – a campaign symbolised for most people by Alfred Leete’s poster using Kitchener’s own face with the slogan ‘Your country needs you’.

He organised British armies on a scale never seen before, but he was not to see victory. His life ended suddenly when he was drowned after the cruiser HMS Hampshire, taking him on a mission to Russia, was sunk in 1916 by a German mine. His body was never recovered, and the wreck is now a war grave. His death has been likened to the deaths of President Kennedy and Princess Diana – everyone remembered where they were when they heard the news.

A memorial fund launched by the Lord Mayor of London raised £500,000 to help war casualties and continues today. A Kitchener memorial was built by the people of Orkney on the cliff edge at Marwick Head.

Economy

The vicar asked a member of his congregation, a banker, why he seemed a bit down.

The banker replied: “I’m a walking economy! My hairline is in recession, my stomach is a victim of inflation, and both of these together are putting me into a deep depression.”



What about Facebook after you die?

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers what might happen to your Facebook page when you die.

The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death' (Isaiah 57:1-2 NIV)

What happens to our Facebook page when we die is probably the last thing on most of our minds. However, many people have an 'online presence' such as Facebook pages, Linked-in, email accounts, Instagram and all sorts of bank accounts and website pages. Who can get access to that information?

Depending on the type of account, a relative or friend might want to close it, retrieve information or images or preserve it in some way. Making a Will is an opportunity to make a clear decision about what happens to things you own, and this includes something electronic and who carries out your wishes.

According to Facebook, you can choose to either appoint a legacy contact to look after your account, or have your account permanently deleted from Facebook. If you do not choose to have your account permanently deleted, it will be memorialised if Facebook are told about the death. Memorialised accounts are a place for friends and family to gather and share memories after a person has passed away.

Google encourages people to think about these issues and they have something called an Inactive Account Manager to let them know who should have access to your information, and whether you want your account to be deleted.

They recognise that many people pass away without leaving clear instructions about how to manage their online accounts. They work with immediate family members and representatives to close the account of a deceased person where appropriate. In certain circumstances they may provide content from a deceased user's account.

The best advice is to think carefully and make choices about what happens in the event of your passing, and carefully select someone you trust to do this. As ever this is a light-hearted introduction and if in any doubt get proper advice. Different companies have different policies and procedures so always check carefully.

Now here's a thought

What makes life dreary is absence of motive. What makes life complicated is multiplicity of motive. What makes life victorious is singleness of motive. – **George Eliot**



Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

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

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.



PARISH DIARY FOR JUNE

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 Jun **7th Sunday of Easter - Rogation**

Holy Communion at St. Catherine's 10.00am

Rogation service at St. Catherine's with Grays Town Band 3.00pm

2 Jun P.C.C. meeting at St. Francis 2.00pm

4 Jun Mid-week Holy Communion at St. Francis 10.00am

Then the community support 'drop-in' 10.30am-noon

5 Jun Foodbank at St. Francis 11.00am-1pm

Churchwardens' installation at All Saints Chafford Hundred 7.00pm

8 Jun **Pentecost**

Holy Communion at St. Catherine's 10.00am

Deanery Pentecost worship at All Saints, Belhus Par 3.30pm

9 Jun Bible study and Fellowship Group at St. Francis 10.30am-noon

11 Jun Morning Prayer at St. Francis 10.00am

Then the community support 'drop-in' 10.30am-noon

12 Jun Foodbank at St. Francis 11.00am-1pm

15 Jun **Trinity Sunday**

'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's 10.00am

Café Communion at St. Francis 4.30pm

18 Jun Morning Prayer at St. Francis 10.00am

Then the community support 'drop-in' 10.30am-noon

19 Jun Foodbank at St. Francis 11.00am-1pm

22 Jun **1st Sunday after Trinity**

Joint service with Linford Methodists at St. Catherine's 10.30am

25 Jun Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis 10.00am

Then the community support 'drop-in' 10.30am-noon

26 Jun Foodbank at St. Francis 11.00am-1pm

29 Jun **2nd Sunday after Trinity**

Holy Communion at St. Catherine's 10.00am

Open afternoon with refreshments at St. Catherine's 2.00-4.00pm

Churchyard volunteers welcome

'Life Events' during May

Baptism

11 May Edward Michael John Rider

Weddings

None

Funeral

28 May Florence May Turner

Committal of Ashes

None

Mini is named the best-ever British car

What is your favourite British car? Think of the Land Rover, Aston Martin, McLaren, Bentley and Rolls Royce. Then think of the Mini.

That is what a group of judges for the Auto Express did recently, and they chose the Mini.

Their verdict? "Put simply, we reckon no other British-built vehicle better represents the relevant, innovative and pioneering UK automotive industry quite like the world's original small car."

Phil McNamara, editor at large, Auto Express, adds: "there was only ever going to be one winner of our Top 50 Brit cars rundown. The Mini was crowned undisputed champion."

It was in the late 1950s that the British Motor Corporation (BMC) asked car designer Alec Issigonis to come up with a sub-three-metre compact car that could accommodate a family of four. The result was the Mini, soon beloved of the public, celebrities and even (in a modified version) racing drivers.

The modern version of a Mini Cooper is nearly 90cm longer than the original, and prices starts at about £25,000.



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

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Stanford-le-Hope

Essex, SS17 0QA.

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email: mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk

The Usual Service Pattern

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

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

other Wednesdays, Morning Prayer

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

Our Churchwardens

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St. Francis Centre

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

sheila.kingbookings@outlook.com

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

22nd June 2025

22nd July 2025

22nd August 2025