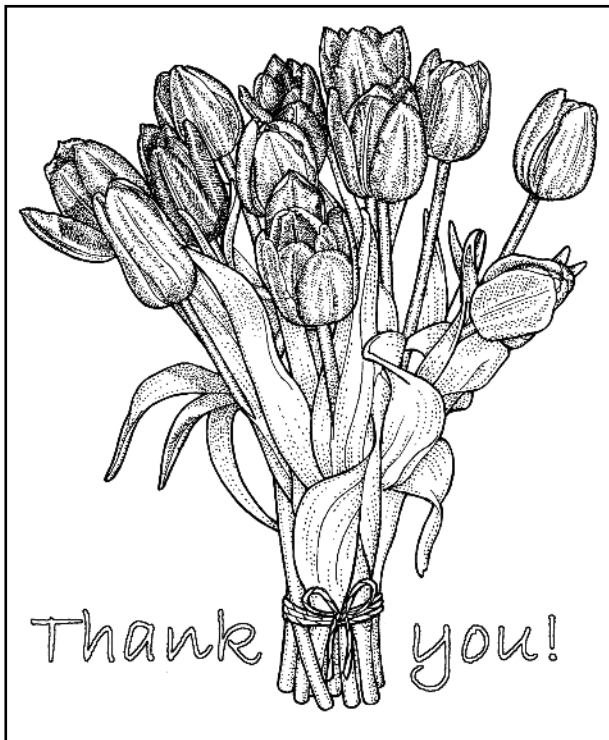


# *PEW TALK*

£1

**March 2025**



**EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE**

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

# BITs And PiECes

**100 Club** - Revd. Michèle drew the 100 Club in Church on January 5th. The winner of £10 was Kathy Bird who won £50 in December. An amazing coincidence but hopefully it will start a better year for Kathy who has not been well recently. Remember you can still join the 100 Club for £10 and will have a chance of winning £50. *Norman*

**June Schroeder** - writes 'Hi everyone. It's time for the Children's Society boxes to be opened again. So could all box holders let me have their boxes whenever convenient. This is a very worthy cause and I do have spare boxes if anyone would like one. Thank you'

**The Thurrock foodbank** have contacted us to say "Here at Thurrock Foodbank we are really struggling with low stock levels caused by a downturn in donations and an increase in people needing our help leading us to buying food regularly to top our stocks. We have launched our AdLent appeal to try and boost our stock levels. It works in a similar way to our reverse advent where we ask individuals, churches, companies and schools to donate items through the period of Lent." The poster with the suggested food items is elsewhere in this edition and can also be accessed on the Foodbank website. Donations can be left at St. Francis on Wednesdays between 10.30am and noon or on Thursdays between 11am and 1pm.

**Some of us** remember Mina Smallman who was the Archdeacon of Southend some years

ago and, 4 years ago, suffered the loss of two of her daughters who were brutally murdered. She was the guest on 'Desert Island Discs' on 21<sup>st</sup> February and Kim and I thoroughly recommend it both for her incredible story, her faith and her choice of music. There is a link on the Parish website at the bottom of the home page or just look it up on BBC sounds.

**Walking through** St. Catherine's churchyard at this time of year is a delight as the spring flowers appear. First were the snowdrops followed by crocuses and daffodils of various sizes and a variety of shades of yellow. It is just a shame that on many of the graves are, often garish, artificial flowers that are specifically not allowed in the Diocese's churchyard regulations with the exception of poppies at the season of remembrance, Christmas wreaths and wreaths at the anniversary of the death of the deceased for two weeks. More information is via the link to the regulations on our website homepage.

**This month our** occasional joint service with our Linford Methodist friends will be on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> (as the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is Mothering Sunday) at 10.30am at the Linford Methodist church

**Remember that** *British Summertime* starts in the early hours of Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - Mothering Sunday. So to be sure to be on time for the morning service, set clocks forward one hour and from April our monthly afternoon café communion will be at 4.30pm rather than 3.30pm as the evenings become lighter.

## 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



"To see a World in a Grain of Sand and Heaven in a Wild Flower,  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand And Eternity in an hour."

These words from the poet William Blake speak of the opportunity to see the greatness of the universe in the smallest elements of creation. Sadly and very often we are simply too busy to take time to do this.

Ahead of us though are the weeks of Lent and the Churches invitation to take time out to ponder and reflect; to give up some of the busyness of life in order that we can prepare ourselves for revisiting the story of Holy Week and Easter. Lent begins on 'Ash Wednesday' (this year it falls on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March) and during the weeks that follow, Christians recall the time when Jesus went into the wilderness to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Whilst there, Jesus was tempted by the devil. But, with the help of key verses from scripture, Jesus was able to resist temptation and stay true to his calling and the risky journey that would take him to Jerusalem.

Many Christians follow a Lenten fast and decide to give something up. Traditionally it would have been foods such as meat and fish, eggs, butter and all things delicious. The Pancakes made on 'Shrove Tuesday' was a good way of using up the sweet ingredients. Many people today continue the Lenten fast and give up something that they especially enjoy such as cakes, crisps and chocolate. The good news is that you are allowed to break your Lenten fast Sundays. This is because every Sunday is a celebration of Easter Sunday and therefore we cannot be mournful or solemn. The breaking of the fast is especially important on Mothering Sunday which marks the half way point in our Lenten journey. Tradition has it that young boys and girls, away in service, would have been allowed to travel home. They would have attended worship at their '**Mother Church**' with their family. Flowers would have been gathered on route to give to their mothers and a Simnel cake would have been baked to share together. Do please come and join us at **St Catherine's on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 10am for our 'Mothering Sunday All-age Communion'**, and take the opportunity to offer a word of thanks to God for all those who have loved and nurtured you.

Back to Lent - as in previous years we will be holding parish **Lent Lunches**. They will take place at **St Francis** in Linford, **1pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March & Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April**. Over a simple lunch of soup and a roll we will take time to share in fellowship together. A small donation can be given if you wish and this will go towards one of the charities we will be supporting. On **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 5pm** we are having a Lent Supper & Beetle Drive also at St Francis. And our final **Lent lunch will be on Palm Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 12noon** at St Catherine's. (See elsewhere in the magazine our full list of activities for Lent and Holy Week.)

Taking time away from the busyness of life is not always an easy thing to do. There will always be something or somebody who requires our attention. But this Lent, if you can, why not try and find a few moments in everyday to find time to ponder, reflect, to look at the greatness of the universe in the smallest elements of creation.

And in the stillness remember too and pray for our brothers and sisters around the world where war and conflict continue and the opportunity for peace so fragile.  
Stay safe and take care and every Blessing,

*Rev. Michèle*

### **Christingle at Candlemas**

In a change to the normal pattern of events we decided to have our Christingle celebrations at Candlemas on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Candlemas brings Christmas to an end and time for the Crib and stable to be packed away.

On the afternoon of 2<sup>nd</sup> February, children of all ages, gathered at St Catherine's to enjoy this special family activity. The youngest child, Edward, was just a baby in arms and the oldest amongst us was, Iris, who we believe may be in her 80's.

Rev. Michèle did a little talk about what the different parts of the Christingle represent, and then it was time for the children and adults to make their own Christingle. That done we listened to Zakura, who at just 6 years old is one of our youngest readers, read the story of Mary and Joseph taking the baby Jesus to the Temple. Simeon and Anna who were in the Temple met the baby Jesus and knew that this was God's promised Son. After singing the song 'This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine', we moved to the front of the church, stood in a circle and lit the Christingles.

At the end of the service, we stayed and had refreshments. Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

*Julie Guest & Rev Michèle.*



### **Mothering Sunday or Mothers' Day**

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

## **Journeying through Lent & Holy Week St Catherine's, East Tilbury & St Francis Linford**

### **Ash Wednesday - 5<sup>th</sup> March 10am St Francis**

During our morning service of Holy Communion people are invited to receive the sign of the cross in ash to mark the beginning of Lent

### **Lent Lunches – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March & Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 1pm at St Francis**

All are welcome to come and share food (Soup and a roll) and fellowship  
Lunch is free but you might like to make a donation towards our chosen charity

### **Lent Supper and Beetle Drive – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 5pm at St Francis**

All are welcome to come and join in the fun, food and fellowship  
Supper will be a 'bring and share' meal.

### **Lent lunch – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 12noon at St Catherine's**

All are welcome to join us for our Palm Sunday morning service at 10am and stay for lunch at noon

## **Holy week and Easter Weekend**

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm at St Francis - 'Maundy Thursday Agape Meal'**

A simple bring and share supper concluding with Holy Communion

### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2pm at St Catherine's**

#### **'Good Friday Last Hour at the Cross Service'**

A service of quiet contemplation and reflection

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2-3.30pm at St Catherine's**

#### **'Easter Saturday Family Activity Afternoon'**

Come and make an Easter Garden and enjoy lots of crafts and activities focusing on the stories of Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

**Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please book a place.**

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10am at St Catherine's**

Easter Sunday All-age Holy Communion

For further information call Revd Michèle on 01375 671754

Or email: [mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk)

### A Pan crawl - what's one of those?



Some years ago our morning service at St. Catherine's was accompanied by the faint sound of a piper practising his bagpipes at Coalhouse Fort. On other occasions it was the tinkling sound of another musician playing his steel 'pan'. We are part of

the 'Open the Book' team that go into the Woodside Academy each Monday morning to dramatise a Bible story in the morning assembly and on more than one occasion had the opportunity to hear the youngsters playing their 'pans'.

However, when we recently spent a couple of weeks on the Island of Tobago we discovered just how important playing this instrument is in the culture of Trinidad and Tobago. At the hotel manager's reception there was a musician playing his steel pan. Going up a bit in size, you might have heard a steel band but have you ever experienced a steel orchestra - a whole new ball game!

During our stay we were asked if we would like to do a 'pan crawl' which we were told was an evening coach excursion to three pan yards to hear the orchestras perform in front of a panel of judges as part of a national competition. The 'crawl' element was the fact that as each performance finished our coach had to rush to the next pan yard to arrive before the judges and the next performance started - the yards were some distance from each other. To give you some idea of the size of these 'medium' orchestras we were told that there were between 100 and 120 musicians playing. During the tour it was explained to us just how important this music is with it being taught in schools and university. I was particularly pleased to note that the instrument tuner was credited for their involvement. The picture at the top of this article is of the Dixieland orchestra and hopefully you can appreciate the scale. It was however, the Katzenjammers that won the medium bands 2025 competition.



*Kim and Chris Ford*

### Snoring

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to **STOP**," he insisted. The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?" "Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

# ADLENT CALENDAR












**Please deliver all the food items to our warehouse**

Thurrock Foodbank, 2-4 Chase Road, Coringham, Essex, SS17 7QH

[www.thurrockfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.thurrockfoodbank.org.uk)

[info@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk)

**Thurrock  
Foodbank**  
Together with Trussell

<b>5th March</b>	 Toilet Roll <b>1</b>	 Long Life Sponge Pudding <b>2</b>	 Pot Noodles <b>3</b>	 Angel Delight <b>4</b>	 Tinned Tomatoes <b>5</b>	 Noodles <b>6</b>	 Rice Pudding <b>7</b>	 Chocolate Bar <b>8</b>
	 UHT Milk <b>9</b>	 Packet Rice <b>10</b>	 Soup <b>11</b>	 Biscuits <b>12</b>	 Tinned Meat <b>13</b>	 Washing Tablets <b>14</b>	 Porridge <b>15</b>	 Savoury Snacks <b>16</b>
	 Tinned Meat <b>17</b>	 Tinned Fruit <b>18</b>	 Squash <b>19</b>	 Jam <b>20</b>	 Sugar <b>21</b>	 Cup of Soup <b>22</b>	 Tinned Potatoes <b>23</b>	 Tinned Vegetables <b>24</b>
	 Cooking Sauce <b>25</b>	 Washing up liquid <b>26</b>	 Nutella <b>27</b>	 Custard <b>28</b>	 Crisps <b>29</b>	 Tomato Soup <b>30</b>	 Coffee <b>31</b>	 Long Life Juice <b>32</b>
	 Marmalade <b>33</b>	 Instant Mash <b>34</b>	 Tinned Fish <b>35</b>	 Tinned Meat <b>36</b>	 Peanut Butter <b>37</b>	 Ravioli <b>38</b>	 Jelly <b>39</b>	 Tea Bags <b>40</b>

17th April

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

The Parochial Church Council met at St. Francis on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

After opening with prayer and noting that Norman and Sheila King were on holiday and unable to attend, the meeting started by reviewing the preparations needed for this year's annual meetings which will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May after the morning service. This year our electoral role has to be completely revised meaning that those that wish to be on the role must reapply. Applications to be included in the new role can be made between 26<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> April. It was noted that the annual report and accounts will be approved for presentation at the annual meeting, at the P.C.C. meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

The meeting went on to review the various activities since they last met and in particular the Christingle workshop which was well received, and agreed the planned events in Lent, Holy Week and Easter (see flyer elsewhere).

In the business part of the meeting the previous meeting's minutes were approved and the wardens' and treasurer's reports were received. In dealing with these latter matters it was agreed to appoint contractors to check and certify the electrics at both churches, appoint an architect for St. Catherine's quinquennial inspection and a discussion was held about the merits / demerits of using the 'Parish Giving' scheme to deal with our regular congregational giving.

In Kim's safeguarding report she noted that training was continuing and that she was not aware of any issues of concern.

Rev. Michèle gave a brief report of the January Deanery Synod meeting and as there was no A.O.B. The meeting closed.

### **The Baptism of Benjamin Mark**

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, my grandson Benjamin Mark (who has taken part of his late grandad's name) was baptised into the Church family at St. Catherine's

Thank you to Rev. Michèle, for taking the service which was attended by approx. 40 family members. All, old and young were amazed by Rev. Michèle's story bag telling how the world began, she explained how the water that was blessed in the font, stays within the church walls (and not going down the drain) and about the little booties given to the Godparents. I think we all learnt something that day.

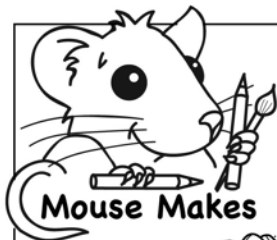
Various members of the family said how different services can be in different Churches, as some of them had travelled some distance.

When I arrived at church Norman and Sheila, asked if it was okay for them to stay and watch, I said "of course, you have been part of our church family since I arrived in 1986, even when Stephanie was baptised in 1994", on chatting with Norman, he said he must be the oldest person in the church to have been baptised in the font.

My thanks to everyone for your prayers for Benjamin Mark, I am sure he will grow within the family of the Church

*Julie Guest*





## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

-----  
Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

-----  
Luke 4:2



Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

-----  
Luke 4:8

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

-----  
Luke 4:3



**READ**

the story in  
**Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

-----  
Luke 4:12



What happened after the temptation of Jesus?  
see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED  
WILDERNESS  
DESERT  
TEMPTATIONS  
DAYS • DEVIL  
HUNGRY • SON  
STONE • ROCK  
KINGDOMS  
WORLD • GLORY  
WRITTEN  
SCRIPTURE  
WORSHIP • ONLY  
SERVE • LORD  
JERUSALEM  
HIGH • TEMPLE  
THROW • DOWN  
JUMP • ANGELS  
HANDS • HOLD  
LIFT • FOOT

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



Find the words from the questions too!



## PARISH DIARY FOR MARCH

*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)*

2 Mar	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
3 Mar	Bible Study & Fellowship Group at St. Francis (Lent course)	10-30am-noon
4 Mar	Thurrock Deanery Clergy Chapter meeting at St. Francis	7.30pm
5 Mar	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
	Mid-week Communion and 'Imposition of ashes' at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
6 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
8 Mar	Lent lunch at St. Francis	1.00pm
9 Mar	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
10 Mar	Bible Study & Fellowship Group at St. Francis (Lent course)	10-30am-noon
12 Mar	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
13 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
16 Mar	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
	'Worshipping Together' Family Service at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Café communion at St. Francis	3.30pm
17 Mar	Bible Study & Fellowship Group at St. Francis (Lent course)	10-30am-noon
19 Mar	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
22 Mar	Lent Supper and "Beetle" drive at St. Francis	5.00pm
23 Mar	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	
	<i>Joint Service with the Linford Methodist Congregation</i>	
	<i>at Linford Methodist Church</i>	10.30am
	<b>** There will be no Morning Service at St Catherine's</b>	
24 Mar	Bible Study & Fellowship Group at St. Francis (Lent course)	10-30am-noon
26 Mar	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	
27 Mar	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
29 Mar	<b>***** British Summertime begins - clocks forward 1 hour *****</b>	
30 Mar	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)</b>	
	All-age Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am

### Life Events during February

#### **Baptism**

9 Feb Benjamin Mark Lavis

#### **Weddings**

None

#### **Funeral**

12 Feb Kenneth James Charles Pyne

### Norman's 'Christingle' memories

My Mum and Dad came to Essex in 1936 and had a flat in the first large Villa in Northumberland Road Linford. In the Downstairs flat was another couple from Manchester and Mum and Auntie Eunice became great friends. When I came along Auntie Eunice became one of my Godparents.

As I grew up she told me that she was brought up in a Moravian Settlement in Fairfield Manchester. Moravia is part of Chechia, so something in common with Bata. but the Moravian Church came to evangelise the north of England and the Fairfield settlement in 1785 was a self contained development with an inn, shop, bakery, night watchman, doctor and fire engine, housing about 110 with separate houses for married people and houses for brethren and sisters.

The reason I am writing this note is that Auntie Eunice made a Christingle for me and explained the importance and significance of a Christingle as a feature of the Moravian Church at Christmas. We had a Christingle service in St. Catherine's at Candlemas and one of the Mums told me that it was a very beautiful and memorable service. I did enjoy making the Christingles a couple of years ago and would have liked to attend the service this year.

A Christingle is made from a candle in an orange (representing the light and the world respectively) which is typically decorated with a red ribbon and dried fruits or sweets.

The candle or glow stick represents Jesus the Light of the World. The red ribbon represents the blood of Christ and the fruits or sweets on four cocktail sticks represent the fruits of the earth and the four seasons.

The custom of Christingle was popularised in the United Kingdom by John Pensom in 1968 when he was raising funds for the Charity The Children's Society.

Hopefully I will make the next Christingle Service in St. Catherine's

**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 3.30pm 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.kingbookings@outlook.com](mailto:sheila.kingbookings@outlook.com)

## *Copy Dates for Pewtalk*

*22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025*

*22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025*

*22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025*