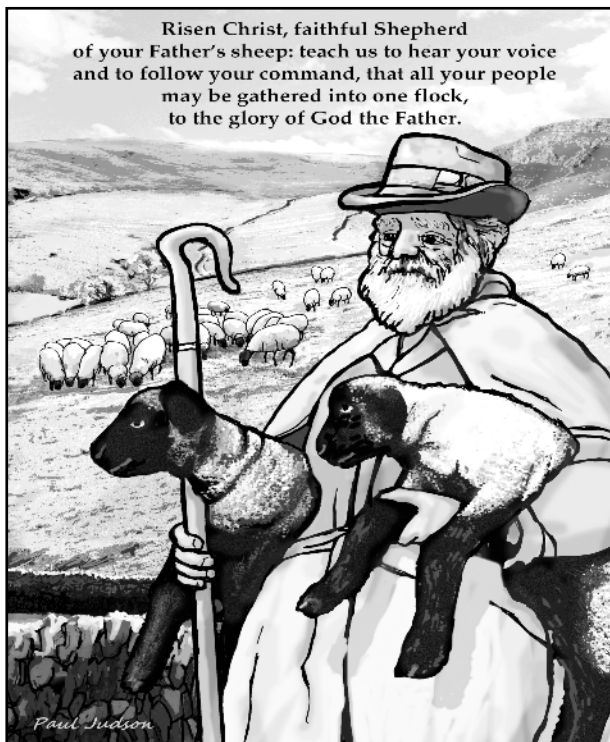


PEWTALK

£1

May 2025



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs And PiECes

100 Club - Michèle drew the 100 Club on April 6th and with a wry smile announced that the winner was Sheila (My wife). I had no problem giving the £10 to the winner as she was sitting next to me. I have yet to win in seven plus years but all members have three more chances of a win in 2024-2025.

Norman

I would like to say thank you to all members of the congregation that purchased an Easter Lily in memory of loved ones and so making our lovely old Church look very beautiful. Also thank you to Kathy and Carole helping me to arrange them on Easter Eve.

Thank you one and all

With love

Pam Painter

On Sunday April 27th we had our first open afternoon of the year. It was lovely to meet some of our 'regulars' as well as folk that were just passing and noticed that the church was open. We will be open again at the end of May, June, July and August and hope that you will be able to find the time to visit your parish church.

Annual Church Meetings

our Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the election of Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, at which we consider the annual report of the church for 2024 and elect the Parochial Church Council, will be held on Sunday 11th May, 11.30am, at St Catherine's.

This year in preparation for the annual meetings the Electoral Roll has been completely renewed and the new roll published today (Sunday 27th April). If you missed the deadline for submitting an application you can join the electoral roll anytime after the annual meetings have taken place.

This year our Rogation service will be held on the 1st Sunday in June at St. Catherine's church and in the company of the Grays Town Band. Rogation Sunday is when the church asks for God's blessing on our communities and the crops and other sources of food that we enjoy. If the weather is fine we meet in the churchyard from where we can view and pray for the fields, the river and the village. It makes for a very enjoyable afternoon with our singing assisted by the band and refreshments at the end.

Another annual summer activity in the Chelmsford Diocese is the Pilgrimage and Gathering at St. Peter-on-the-Wall at Bradwell on Sea on 5th July. The walk starts at St. Thomas's where, after a short service, the pilgrimage moves off through the houses and fields before finally arriving at St. Peter's. There is an advertisement with contact information elsewhere in the magazine. Although unable to make it this year, Kim and I have been in the past and had a really enjoyable time.

Chris Ford

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



As I sit to write this month's reflection from the rectory I do so a few days after we have heard the news that his holiness, Pope Francis, died on Easter Monday. As we know he had been very ill for some weeks and at 88 years old recovery from double pneumonia a particular challenge. But, his appearance on the balcony on Easter Sunday brought real joy to those gathered there to see him and hear him wish everyone a 'Happy Easter'.

As head of the Roman Catholic Church he took his role extremely seriously and this last act of kindness, to be with his people on this holiest of days, a reflection of the whole of his life and ministry. Cardinal Kevin Farrell said of Pope Francis, 'He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalised'. Many words of tribute have been spoken by people of faith and no faith who all recognised that here was somebody who lived out what he believed and in doing so made a difference in the lives of others.

As Christians we are all called to live out the values of the Gospel and follow Jesus' example. Our journeys of faith will all be different. Many of those journeys will begin with our baptisms where promises are made on our behalf by parents and Godparents. At some point there needs to be a claiming of our faith for ourselves and in both the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England this moment may come at our Confirmations.

On Easter Saturday I had the very great privilege of presenting two of our younger members of St Catherine's congregation to Bishop Guli, the Bishop of Chelmsford, to be confirmed. The service at Chelmsford Cathedral on Easter Eve was very joyful, uplifting and very special for all of the confirmation candidates. I think you can tell from the photograph of Tallulah and Bryce just how special this moment was for them. Every confirmation service is special and significant because before the Bishop confirms the candidates they are asked the following question, ***'Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?'*** The answer to the question is of course, ***'I am.'*** The Bishop then addresses each candidate by name and anoints them with oil, saying, ***'N, God has called you by name and made you his own.'*** They then lay their hands on the head of each candidate, saying: ***'Confirm, O Lord, your servant N with your Holy Spirit.'*** And all gathered say together, ***Amen.***

Beyond our Confirmations there comes the dawning realisation that for all who follow Jesus and the Christian faith our lives should reveal what we believe. This we seek to do in every action taken and every word spoken. It doesn't mean we will be models of perfection but it should mean that we are known by what we do and what we say.

In this troubled and imperfect world let us all strive to live simple and humble lives of holiness like Pope Francis.

A Prayer for Pope Francis

A prayer following the death of His Holiness Pope Francis, giving thanks for his life of ministry.

*Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant Francis and for all that you did through him.
Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant Francis.
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of
your own redeeming.
Enfold him in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace
and in the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.*

Stay safe and take care and every Blessing,

Revd. Michèle



Tallulah and Bryce with Revd. Michèle at Chelmsford Cathedral at the end of the Confirmation Service.

Our Lent appeal

During the season of Lent we supported our two chosen charities with three lent lunches at St. Catherine's and St. Francis and an evening supper with beetle drive at St. Francis.

Donations at these events raised £350 for the 'Friends of the Holy Land - giving hope to vulnerable Christians' and the work of 'Blythwood Care - Ukraine Emergency Appeal'.

Friends of the Holy Land

At the start of Lent the situation in the Holy Land gave some tentative optimism but on March 18th Israeli air strikes obliterated months of hard fought progress and plunged whole communities back into hunger and poverty.



Our donation will help Christian related organisations in serving all Palestinian people. Together, they are the third-largest employer of Palestinian people and are already making an impact by:-

Training young people in critical skills such as IT nursing and trade skills

Supporting those hoping to start a business with grants and mentoring.

Providing trauma support to improve young people's mental well-being.

The process of building peace is not easy; it requires sacrifice, dedication, and perseverance.

Hopefully our prayers and our financial support will in a small way help our brothers and sisters to build peace in the Holy Land.

Blythwood Care - Ukraine appeal - from their website



We continue to be deeply concerned for the safety and well being of refugees fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

People are facing violence, pain, loss and turmoil. Fear, freezing temperatures and an uncertain future are what families in Ukraine are experiencing.

We work with our trusted partners in Hungary, Moldova and Romania, many of whom are already caring for a growing number of refugees in neighbouring countries around Ukraine, to provide food, shelter, medicine and everyday supplies.

Keeping the Churchyard looking good

A big shout out to Simon and the Community Payback team. The team have done a tremendous job of keeping our church yard looking neat and tidy and clearly take pride in their work. They even went the extra mile to help a neighbour with his fence. Not forgetting the man of all trades Ricky. The flush on the toilet was not working but the man of the hour Ricky got it flushing again

Thank you, guys (and from time to time gals), for all your hard work, its much appreciated by all of us at St. Catherine's and those that use the churchyard.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN
ESSEX & EAST LONDON
BRADWELL
PILGRIMAGE
AND GATHERING

people of hope

5th july 2025

Join us for a day of inspiring talks & reflections, workshops, live music & worship, time for prayer & contemplation, refreshments & fellowship. Starting from St Thomas's Church. **10:30am - 3:15pm**

For more information bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk



With special guest,
theologian, writer and
broadcaster
Elaine Storkey

The Quiet Revival: Gen Z leads rise in church attendance

Church decline in England and Wales has not only stopped, but the Church is growing, as Gen Z leads an exciting turnaround in church attendance.

Church attendance has risen by 50 per cent over the last six years, busting the myth of church decline. The findings come in *The Quiet Revival*, a survey commissioned by Bible Society and conducted by YouGov.

The Quiet Revival shows that the most dramatic church growth is among young adults, particularly young men. In 2018, just 4 per cent of 18–24-year-olds said that they attended church at least monthly. Today, says *The Quiet Revival*, this has risen to 16 per cent, with young men increasing from 4 per cent to 21 per cent, and young women from 3 to 12 per cent.

Key findings from *The Quiet Revival*

Co-author of *The Quiet Revival* Dr Rhiannon McAleer says the report shows that what people believe about Church decline is no longer true. 'These are **striking findings that completely reverse the widely held assumption that the Church in England and Wales is in terminal decline**,' she said.

'While some traditional denominations continue to face challenges, we've seen significant, broad-based growth among most expressions of Church – particularly in Roman Catholicism and Pentecostalism. There are now over 2 million more people attending church than there were six years ago.'

More men than women go to church

The Quiet Revival shows that men (13 per cent) are more likely to attend church than women (10 per cent). And as well church decline being reversed, **the Church is also becoming more ethnically diverse**, with one in five people (19 per cent) coming from an ethnic minority. Close to half of young Black people aged 18–34 (47 per cent) are now attending church at least monthly, according to *The Quiet Revival*.

It's also great to see that Bible reading and confidence in the Bible have increased as well as church growth. Some 67 per cent of churchgoing Christians read the Bible at least weekly outside church.

Churchgoers are more likely to give to charity

Church growth has an impact on society, says *The Quiet Revival*, as churchgoers are more likely to actively participate in things that benefit the local community, such as donating to food banks, volunteering or giving to charity.

Christians also report a higher life satisfaction than non-churchgoers, with a greater connection to their community and less stress and anxiety.

Why are people finding meaning at church?

The Quiet Revival co-author Dr Rob Barward-Symmons says that one possible reason for church growth was that people were looking for meaning. 'With much of the population

struggling with mental health, loneliness and a loss of meaning in life, in particular young people, church appears to be offering an answer. We found that **churchgoers are more likely than non-churchgoers to report higher life satisfaction** and a greater feeling of connection to their community than non-churchgoers. They are also less likely to report frequently feeling anxious or depressed – particularly young women.'

Church is alive and well

Bible Society's chief executive Paul Williams says: '*The Quiet Revival* is a highly significant report which should transform the perception of Christianity and churchgoing in England and Wales. Far from being on a slippery slope to extinction, the Church is alive and growing, and making a positive difference to individuals and society.'

Trying to 'do our bit' for the environment and fellow man.

In last month's Pewtalk there was a report of the Deanery Synod meeting which had been addressed by the Diocesan lead for the ecology and climate change who emphasised the need for the churches to take a lead in these matters. Recently, I was asked about our use of Fair-trade supplies for the refreshments at St. Catherine's and St. Francis. Here's an example of why it is relevant.

Some years ago Kim and I became aware of an organisation called 'Stop the Traffic which had been set up by Revd. Steve Chalke. Their mission was to increase awareness of people trafficking, and particularly of children, in various parts of the world. In a recent e-mail they shed light on the continuing situation in cocoa farming today, writing that:-

STOP THE TRAFFIK

"Despite the rise of ethical certifications, exploitation remains deeply embedded in the supply chains of many of the world's best-selling chocolate bars. Today, countless organisations are still campaigning to improve conditions for the vast number of children working in cocoa production - many of whom face hazardous environments, exposure to sharp tools and harmful pesticides, and long hours with little or no pay".



In our hunt for Easter eggs it was really quite difficult to find a reasonable selection of eggs with the fairly traded logo amongst the plethora chocolate.

The same is true for other products like coffee, tea and bananas – but they can be found and, interestingly, they are not necessarily any more expensive.

This is why our church resolved some time ago to try and support fairly traded products wherever we can. And, while thinking about our environment and climate change, we try to use recycled and 'eco' products where they are available.

Chris Ford

P.S. We can also reduce the 'air-miles' of our purchases by looking for British products rather than items shipped in from all around the world. It all helps the planet and humanity.



MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11



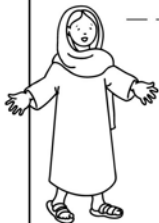
How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**



PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE



PARISH DIARY FOR MAY

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 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
3 May	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's	10.00am-noon
4 May	3rd Sunday of Easter	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
7 May	Mid-week Holy Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
8 May	V.E. Day	
	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
11 May	4th Sunday of Easter	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Followed by our annual meetings	11.30am
	Baptism at St. Catherine's	2.00pm
12 May	Bible study and Fellowship Group at St. Francis	10.30am-noon
14 May	Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
15 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
18 May	5th Sunday of Easter	
	'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Café Communion at St. Francis	4.30pm
21 May	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
22 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
25 May	6th Sunday of Easter	
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Open afternoon with refreshments at St. Catherine's	2.00-4.00pm
	Churchyard volunteers welcome	
28 May	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
29 May	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
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	3.30pm

There were no 'Life Events' during April

Baptism

None

Weddings

None

Funeral

2 April

Sidney Fisher

Committal of Ashes

5 April

Ken Pyne

The Easter Activity afternoon



For Easter Saturday this year, Revd. Michèle organised an activity afternoon aimed at children but also enjoyed by adults. It's always a concern, on such occasions, that no one turns up but there was no need to worry as the afternoon was a hive of activity. Children from 2 years to 82 years thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There were several projects to participate in. Julie Guest helped the children make amazing donkey faces and palm leaves as well as overseeing

the colouring in table. Brian Simmons helped the children colour small Easter eggs while Margaret supervised children making Rice Crispy nests with little chocolate eggs to decorate them. I was in charge of helping the children make Easter gardens, as seen in the photo. Ten gardens were made, and the children proudly took them home. We even had 'pin the tail on the donkey' which was good fun. The 'Pièce de Résistance' had to be the large Easter garden, at the front of the church. Several adults helped, planting little flowers etc., all overseen by Revd. Michèle. The afternoon finished with a short service and every child went home with a little goodie bag. Overall, the afternoon was a resounding success. Well done Revd. Michèle and a big thank you to all who helped.

Pat Webb



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, 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

CHRIS FORD T: 01375-675863

E:- chris.pewtal@outlook.com

LES SCHWAR T: 07758-461380

E:- leslie.bowles2@gmail.com

PEWTALK Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road

Linford, SS17 0PU

T: 01375 675863

E: 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

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

22nd May 2025

22nd June 2025

22nd July 2025