

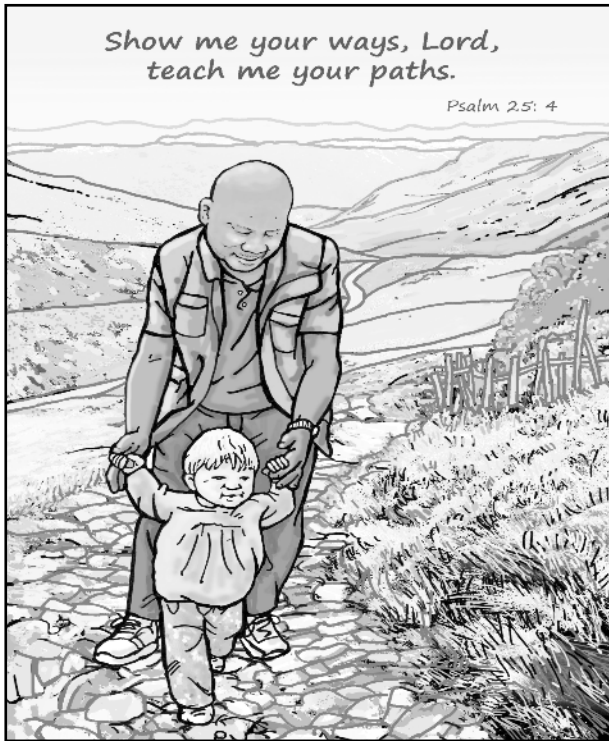
PEWTALK

£1

May 2026

*Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.*

Psalm 25: 4



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

100 Club - Revd. Michèle drew the 100 Club winner for April on Easter Sunday. I was pleased that the winner was Brenda from Somerset Road, Linford who has supported the 100 Club for many years. The draw for £50 will be in July.

Norman

Children's Society - The boxes have all been emptied and returned. This year, from 10 boxes, we collected £182.67. So well done everyone, a brilliant effort. It's surprising how small change mounts up with a little help from a few notes. I do find some foreign coins in the boxes and I now have several bags of these. If anyone knows of a Charity that takes foreign coins, I would be very grateful for their details. Thank you everyone.

Jane Schroeder

This month sees the 100th birthday of Daphne Barnes who for many years was part of the regular 'drop-in' visitors at St. Francis and always ready to talk - especially about books. She also subscribed to Pewtalk and continued to receive this magazine even after she moved to Bristol some years ago. I have fond memories of collecting Daphne in her wheelchair and returning her home on many a Wednesday. And so Daphne - "Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Daphne, happy birthday to you"! - *Chris Ford*

The Bradwell Pilgrimage is on Saturday 4th July this year and Kim and I were reminded of the value of walking with a purpose by two things. We had been watching the B.B.C.

programme following a group of modern day pilgrims journeying to Lindisfarne - Holy Island in Northumberland and, in her sermon on the road to Emmaus, Revd. Michèle had spoken of the value of walking and talking. In the past we have been on the Bradwell Pilgrimage but in recent years have been unable to make it. This year we can **and will**. If you would like to join us all you need is to make your way to Bradwell (we may be able to organise some car shares) and bring a picnic. The event's poster is elsewhere in the Magazine and details the web address to find more information. *Chris Ford*

The first open afternoon - of the year was on Sunday 26th April where many visitors enjoyed tea and homemade cake in the historic surroundings of St. Catherine's. The next open afternoon will be on May 31st when in addition to afternoon refreshments from 2-4pm there will be ploughmen's lunches available from 12noon to 1.30pm.



And the birds are back nesting in the church porch! To minimise the risk of a bird being trapped in the church please take great care when entering and leaving the building.

Please note that:

pewtalk@stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk is the new email address for Pewtalk because, from the middle of June, the old address will no longer be available.....*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



A favourite hymn for many is the wonderful hymn 'All things bright and beautiful.' Lots of people remember first singing it in their school assemblies and therefore it is an obvious choice when people come to church for a wedding, a baptism and even for a funeral.

The words of the hymn remind us that God is in creation and that 'all things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small' were made by His hands.

At this time of year we begin to see the work of the farmer's hands gradually appearing in the fields that surround us. Rapeseed is one of the earliest crops and the brilliant yellow flowers are already shining bright.

It is not by mistake then that during the month of May, the church celebrates **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. Traditionally Rogation Services are held outside. **And we will be holding our belated Rogation Sunday Service on Sunday 7th June at 4pm 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 skills of farmers and fishermen 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.

Stay safe and keep well, Every Blessing,

Revd Michèle

Breakable

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.



Bradwell Pilgrimage 2026 - 'Living Stones'

Join this year's annual Bradwell Pilgrimage & Gathering, for a day of faith, fellowship, and reflection in the beautiful and historic setting of Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex.

This cherished tradition brings together people from all walks of life to celebrate our shared spiritual journey.

Starting at St Thomas' Church, Bradwell-on-Sea, the pilgrimage follows a scenic route to the ancient Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall, one of the oldest churches in England, founded in AD 654.

The day will be filled with:

- Inspiring talks and reflections
- Live music and worship
- Time for prayer and contemplation
- Christian stalls in the marquee
- Children's activities.

Small plates are better

How large are your dinner plates? If you replace 12" plates with 10" plates you could end up eating between 16 and 22 per cent less food. That could mean a loss of two stone over a year. The study at Cambridge University concluded: "Helping people to avoid 'over-serving' themselves or others with larger portions of food or drink is likely to ...help reduce their risk of overeating."

St. Catherine's at Easter through the eyes of Valerie Schwar



A creative day was had by all on Easter Saturday at St Catherine's Church with the making of the Easter Garden showing the empty tomb and reminding us of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. There were also plenty of activities for children and adults alike to join in.

My Granddaughters Olivia and Phoebe enjoyed it immensely, potting up plants, pinning the tail on the donkey to mention but a few.

A big Thank You to all for setting up this event for us to enjoy.

Hallelujah he has risen - he is risen indeed!

Julian of Norwich, a voice from a distant cell by Canon David Winter

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14th century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself

to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise.

She is honoured this month in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.' These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

The picture is of David Holgate's statue of Julian, outside Norwich Cathedral, completed in 2000.....Ed



You and a goldfish's attention span



How long can you concentrate on any one thing? According to the now infamous study by Microsoft (back in 2015), our digital lifestyles have had such a detrimental impact on our concentration levels that our average attention span has fallen to below that of a goldfish.

Humans now stay focused for just eight seconds, before being distracted by news alerts, social media and so on – while even a goldfish can concentrate for nine seconds.

And it is not just the endless stream of information that hits us, but the type of information that is so distracting. Violence and endless conflict can leave you distressed and unsettled.

Medical experts recommend regular non-digital breaks such as a walk, a chat, or even just staring out the window.

Meanwhile, try these tips to calm your mind:

1. In the evening, reverse the settings on your device, so that you have white writing on a black background. This reduces the blue light that affects your brain's cyclic rhythm, disrupting your sleep/wake cycle.
2. Get moving. Exercise takes time, but it also sharpens your mind and increases your concentration. So, in the end you will get more done in less time.
3. Eat well. Avoid sugar and too much caffeine which make your mind busier.
4. Seek company. Anxiety levels rise after six hours, due to the changes in your brain hormones caused by social isolation. So, if you work from home, take your laptop to a coffee shop for an hour, or see a friend for coffee.
5. Fill the final half hour of your day with one simple task, rather than flitting from task to task.

Remembering the General Strike of 1926

One hundred years ago, from 4th to 12th May 1926, there was a General Strike in the UK. It was called by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, but had little effect in the long term.

The aim was to force the Conservative government, led by Stanley Baldwin, to stop dramatic wage cuts for hard-hit miners and to improve their working conditions. The country came to a temporary standstill, but then the strike collapsed, though the miners stayed out for another seven months without achieving anything.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Scottish-born Rt Revd Randall Davidson, a conciliatory figure within the Church and Christianity generally, spoke out against the strike but called on the Government – unsuccessfully – to improve working conditions for miners, and to subsidise the mines so that wages could be increased.

He wanted to make his appeal known to the public on radio, but the BBC refused to broadcast it, though it was backed by an interdenominational group of church leaders, one of whom told Davidson: "For the first time in my life it has been possible to feel that the Christian forces in this country were united and courageous."

There was considerable sympathy for the strikers among the population generally – for instance, a football match was organised between police and strikers – but there were clashes too. There were also fears that fascists and communists were using the strike to fuel their own revolutionary ambitions. Labour Party leaders were especially worried that outright backing of the strikers might damage their new standing as a party of government.

Fears about the dubious legitimacy of the strike – with the threat of seizure of assets – also played a part in its early collapse.

The April meeting of the P.C.C.

P. C. C. met on the 13th of April at St. Francis. The meeting opened with prayer and Norman King's apologies were noted

The the key item for discussion was the upcoming annual meetings scheduled for Sunday the 10th of May, after the morning service. The draft annual report was considered in detail together with the annual accounts for 2025 and it was agreed that they gave a true report of the year and should be presented to the annual meeting for approval. It was agreed that, once again, Mr Peter Chandler should be asked to audit the church accounts for 2026 subject to the approval of the annual meeting.

Revd. Michèle explained the meetings would need to elect two churchwardens, two Deanery Synod representatives and, given the likely result of the electoral roll revision, six members of the P.C.C. Nomination papers would be available from 26th April.

The meeting continued with a review of church life since the last meeting. In her report Revd. Michèle remarked how well the Lent lunches and supper had been supported, on the Lent Bible study meetings, and the Holy week and Easter events. All agreed that these had been well received. She also noted that in the period being reviewed she had led three Easter assemblies at the East Tilbury Primary School, had officiated at 3 funerals and 5 baptisms. Looking forward she would be taking leave from 20th - 27th April and, having been unable to find 'cover' the Sunday service on the 26th would be lay led. The open afternoons were planned to be held from April to August with April being just afternoon teas but the others also having a ploughman's lunch offered. Michèle noted that she would be covering a service of Holy Communion in Grays on the morning of 24th May, with Café communion at St. Francis in the afternoon. The morning service at St. Catherine's would be lay led. The Rogation service would be in the afternoon of 7th June. The next joint service with the Linford Methodists would be on 31st May at St. Francis. The meeting was particularly pleased with the continuing contact with the local school.

Moving on, the meeting approved the minutes of the meeting of 2nd March 2026 without any amendment and received the churchwardens' report which highlighted the tree surgery that had been carried out in the churchyard and noted that the quinquennial survey of St. Francis had been carried out by the architect on 5th March.

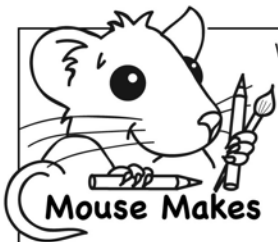
The Treasurer's report showed that the parish finances were in good order.

The electoral roll was in the process of being revised in preparation for the annual meetings.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer advised that there were no issues of concern.

Turning to wider church matters it was noted that new deanery synod representatives would be elected at the annual meeting and that there was to be a meeting regarding the the future organisation of paid clergy in the deanery on 9th May 2026.

The first meeting of the newly elected P.C.C. was set for 1st June and the meeting closed with the grace.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

_____ 
Genesis 1:2


The

_____ of the Father.


Acts 1:4  

The Spirit of

A _____
Romans 8:15 

H _____
John 14:26 

The Spirit of

_____ 

The Spirit of

_____ 

The Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

_____ O _____

_____ Y _____

_____ C _____

_____ T _____

_____ I _____

_____ N _____

S _____


_____ N _____

What happened when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?

read
Acts 2:1-41

How many believers were baptised that day?

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

 *Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.*

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
 ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
 GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

Pentecost

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

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|--------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3 May | 5th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's | 10.00am |
| 6 May | Mid-week communion at St. Francis
<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i> | 10.00am
10.30am-noon |
| 7 May | Foodbank at St. Francis | 11.00am-1pm |
| 10 May | 6th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's
Parish annual meetings | 10.00am
11.30am |
| 11 May | Bible study and fellowship group at St. Francis | 10.30am-noon |
| 13 May | Morning Prayer and at St. Francis
<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i> | 10.00am
10.30am-noon |
| 14 May | Foodbank at St. Francis | 11.00am-1pm |
| 17 May | 7th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion at St. Catherine's | 10.00am |
| 20 May | Morning Prayer at St. Francis
<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i> | 10.00am
10.30am-noon |
| 21 May | Foodbank at St. Francis | 11.00am-1pm |
| 24 May | Pentecost
'Worshipping Together' at St. Catherine's
Café Communion at St. Francis | 10.00am
4.30pm |
| 27 May | Morning Prayer at St. Francis
<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i> | 10.00am
10.30am-noon |
| 28 May | Foodbank at St. Francis | 11.00am-1pm |
| 31 May | Trinity Sunday
Joint service with Linford Methodists at St. Francis, Linford
St. Catherine's open for ploughman's lunches
and tea and cake | 10.30am
12.00am-1.30pm
2.00-4pm |



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.

'Life Events' during April

Baptism

11th Apr	Daniel Singh Cheema; Alfie James & Ava Olivia Puzey
12th Apr	Florence Lily Draper
18th Apr	George Andrew Lester Parker
19th Apr	Queenie Armstrong-Saunders

Weddings

None

Funeral

None

Committal of Ashes

None

Shopping in Bata Estate

When Sheila and I were chatting after the Sunday service with Richard and Tracey, I was asked about 'The Nook' which was the only independent area of the Bata Estate and some reports say that Bata offered to buy the Café site in the 1950s for a considerable amount of money.

'The Nook', was a family run Café and Newsagent which stood back from a small car park on Princess Margaret Road close to what is now the entrance to Shearwater Avenue.

I don't know who owned 'The Nook' but it was run by Ted Layzell and his wife Elsie, who seemed to be in overall charge, and Les Layzell who looked after the newspapers with his wife Pearl. The Layzell "Boys" parents were also involved as was Mrs. Bishop who lived in the bungalow next door. I am not sure of her place in the business or The Family. The Layzell family were members of the Methodist Church and regularly held meetings in the Café.

'The Nook' was used by a few Bata workers for meals which were cooked on site and for drinks. In Summer the workers shared drinks and sandwiches on the grass area on the opposite side of the road. In those days you received money for handing in empty bottles so it also helped the estate boys with pocket money and to add to their collection of sports personality cards from Turf cigarette packets.

I have recently been chatting to Rose about 'The Nook' because Joan, mother of Rose, worked with my Grandma (Nanna Silk) in the Café. I regularly applied to Les Layzell for a paper round but I think my Grandma lost my application note although she did placate me with a few off ration sweets.

Rose and I wonder if anyone can add memories or confirm when 'The Nook' closed.

Norman

The Priest in charge

REVD. MICHÈLE MARSHALL

The Rectory

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Stanford-le-Hope

Essex, SS17 0QA.

Telephone: 01375 671754

email: mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk

The Usual Service Pattern

- ◆ 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays, 10am at St. Catherine's, Holy Communion
- ◆ 3rd Sundays, 10am at St. Catherine's, Family Service and at 4.30pm at St. Francis, a service of Café style Holy Communion.
- ◆ 5th Sundays, 10.30am a joint service with the Linford Methodists

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

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PEWTALK Editor

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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.king9987@gmail.com

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

22nd May 2026

22nd June 2026

22nd July 2026