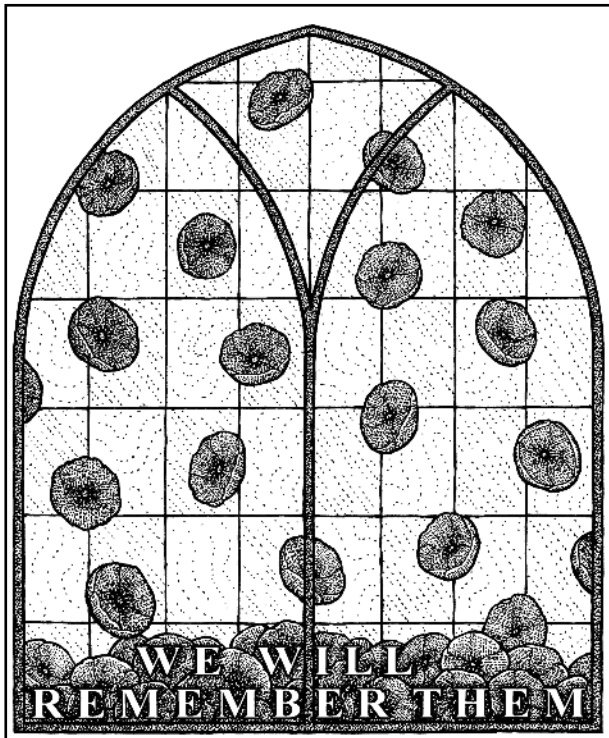


PEWTALK

£1

November 2025



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

100 Club - Revd. Michèle made the draw at St. Catherine's on October 1st and the winners were Ken and Hazel Green. Ken and Hazel both joined us at the Harvest Supper and were in good form but have recently had a few health problems. Congratulations on the win and hope you are both feeling better very soon.

Norman

The town built by shoes - is an edition of the BBC sounds series 'Secret Essex' which is about the Bata estate in East Tilbury. It was broadcast on the 23rd April, and if you missed it here is the internet link:-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0l5yphz>

Last month we reported that there were problems accessing the Bible gateway website and app. The issue seems to have been resolved and this very useful resource is once more available to use.

On Saturday 18th October we had an afternoon at St. Catherine's packing the



shoeboxes for Blythwood Care. The church made up a total of 20 boxes (which included some that were packed at home) and these



are destined for Kosovo. If you would like to know more about this charity's work the website is:-

<https://www.blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

During October we also supported Tearfund



by running their Big Quiz Night. This was the 8th year that Tearfund have run the event and our 5th year at St. Catherine's. Although this year the number of quizzers was less than on some other years, we still raised £198.50 on the night.

Christmas Dates are:-

6th December 10am 2pm Christmas Fayre

17th December 11am St. Francis Carols

21st December 6pm

'Carols and Candlelight' at St. Catherine's

24th December 3pm

Christmas Eve crib service at St. Catherine's

24th December 11pm

1st Communion of Christmas at St. Catherine's

Christmas Day 10am

Christmas communion at St. Catherine's

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

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.'*

Words I am sure that will be very familiar to anybody who has ever attended a Remembrance Service. Indeed they now form part of the Exhortation that leads us into the two minutes silence. The 'Ode of Remembrance', is just one verse from a much longer poem "For the Fallen" written by *Laurence Binyon*. It was first published in *The Times* in September 1914 and written to commemorate and honour the British war dead at that time. Now it is read as a tribute to all the casualties of war since that time on.

And 'remembering' is very much the theme we follow in the church at this time of year and as we make our way through the month of November. We observe All Saints Sunday on the 2nd November, Remembrance Sunday on the 9th November and then Remembrance Day on the 11th November. All of these significant days sit closely together and allow us time to be still and silent just for a little while in what is otherwise a world full of noise and busyness.

And in those two minutes of silence that we observe we have the opportunity to remember, give thanks and think about how we treat each other. We remember those who gave their lives in the line of duty and those who continue to be prepared to do so.

As we approach this season of Remembrance and recall moments of war and conflict in the past we hold before God those nations who are currently 'in battle' with their neighbours. At present there seems to be no peaceful resolution or end in sight to the war taking place between Russia and Ukraine. We give thanks for the ceasefire in Israel and Palestine but very aware that the 'peace' there is extremely fragile. *Let us trust that the prayers of many and the work of world leaders will continue to bring light and hope in these times of great darkness.*

Grief and bereavement make their way into everyone's lives at sometime or other. The loss of a loved one may come after a long time of illness or completely unexpectedly. At the time of a loved one's funeral feelings and emotions can be overwhelming. So, at St Catherine's once a year we hold an annual service of Memorial & Thanksgiving for loved ones passed.

This year it is on **Sunday 2nd November at 3pm**. This is a service open to all on the journey of grief and bereavement (*whether recent or sometime ago*) and will consist of Bible readings, poems, hymns and words of reflection. We will also read out the names of our loved ones and there will be an opportunity for you to light a candle in their memory. Tea and cake will follow the service.

On **Sunday 9th November**, there will be the parish '**Act of Remembrance**' at the Bata Memorial. The service will begin at **10.50am** so feel free to gather at the memorial from

10.30am. This is a wonderful opportunity for generations young and old to come together to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and for those who continue to do so today.



However you choose to observe this season of remembrance may you know God's peace and know that loved ones are never forgotten.

'At the going down of the sun and in the morning ~ we will remember them.'

Every Blessing to you all,

Revd Michèle.

The poppies of Remembrance

In late 1914, the First World war erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately. That first 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000 to help veterans with housing and jobs; a considerable sum at the time.

Today's Poppy Appeal? 40,000 volunteers distribute 40 million poppies. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.



**All Saints & All Souls
Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving**

**St Catherine's Church
East Tilbury**

Sunday 2nd November 2025 at 3pm

A special service for all those on the journey
of grief and bereavement.

The service will include a Bible reading,
poems, hymns and prayers.

Everyone will have an opportunity to light a candle in memory
of loved ones and spend some time in quiet reflection.

The service will be followed by refreshments and a chance to
talk with others who have shared the service.

**For further details contact
Revd Michèle Marshall
On 01375 671754 Email: mjmarshall@fastmail.co.uk**

My long-awaited Croatian holiday October the 12th to 17th

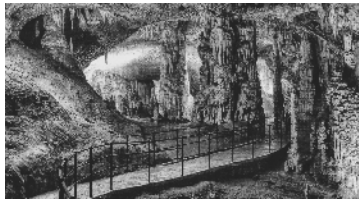
On Sunday morning at 7:30am we left "The Oaks" by taxi to Brentwood where we transferred to a coach and were off to Stansted airport. We flew to Trieste where a coach was waiting to take us to our hotel, a 2 hour journey.

Our next day was a relaxing one, so some of us went on a nice walk along the sea front, stopping for lunch on the way back and then venturing further along with lovely views while we were just getting our bearings.

On day three we were on the coach at 8.30am with our courier, Mario. We were off for a tour of the golden island of Krk in Kvarna Bay off the coast of Rijeka, exploring the picturesque villages and beautiful beaches. Admiring historic landmarks like the Krk Cathedral and Frankopan Castle with scenic sea front promenades. We left at 12 noon for Vrbinj where we had a walking tour and then went for a lunch of Krk cuisine and wine at 1pm.



The following day we were back on the coach with guide Mario again, enjoying a panoramic Istrian and coastal tour visiting Pula and Rovinj. Pula is the largest city in Istria where we visited the well preserved Roman amphitheatre. Pula is famous for wine making, fishing and shipbuilding. We then travelled to Rovinj on the West Coast of Istria one of the most popular tourist resorts in Croatia. The Old Town is built on an island only being connected to the mainland in the 18th century. It is reckoned to be the most romantic and picturesque town on the Mediterranean and attracts many visitors



Day five was a relaxing day for some, but I joined some of the others and with Mario we went to Predjama castle which is built on the rocks. It is the largest cave castle in the world. Afterwards we went off to the city of Postojna where we had a tour of the cave which is a train ride and a very impressive one hour walking tour.

Our final day started with a leisurely morning as we set off at 12:30pm for Trieste airport. We landed at Stansted with the coach waiting to take us back to Thurrock and I arrived home at 9:50pm after a lovely trip.

All in all a wonderful few days in Croatia.

Iris Crane

Margery Kempe



Here is a saint for any out-spoken, emotional person who also struggles with depression and human failings in the quest to live their best life.

Margery Kempe was born in 1373, the daughter of a wealthy businessman in King's Lynn. She married John Kempe and had 14 children. She described herself as "not lettrid", for she could not read or write.

Margery Kempe was far from the usual 'saint' of the Late Medieval Ages. She was not a recluse. She had not defended her virginity. She was not a submissive wife. Instead, she must have been stormy to live with, as she was known to be very emotional, and at times,

very rude. In fact, her emotion engagement with the liturgy deeply unsettled the established local clergy, who distrusted her flare-ups.

Margery began her spiritual pilgrimage with depression - probably brought on by the birth of her first child. She was so ill that she had been forcibly locked away in a room by her spiritual director, when she saw a vision of Jesus. He said to her: "Daughter why have you forsaken Me? I never forsook you." Margery was then reassured that her depressive guilt and fear were misplaced, and that Jesus was actually welcoming her into a personal relationship with Himself.

In 1436 Margery dictated her famous book, 'The Book of Margery Kempe'. It was a sort of spiritual autobiography, and for centuries only edited bits of it were published for people to read. Then in 1934 a complete manuscript was found, and it led to a re-evaluation of Margery herself.

After years of being remembered as a devout mystic, Margery emerged as a more complete, more human woman from these pages. She loved clothes. She envied other people. She sometimes had fantasies, and sometimes few scruples. But she was also honest in her growing relationship with Christ, and finally found in Him a fulfilment she could find nowhere else. That fulfilment helped her on her journey to gradual transformation.

She has been called 'the embodiment of an honest soul on a quest for God.' She died in 1440, aged 67, a good age in those days.

Leaf some green stuff in the garden

The clocks have gone back, and we are putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. But this autumn, when you tidy up, do not tidy away too much. Many insects and wild creatures will be relying on some ground cover or hideaway to call 'home' for the winter. Several piles of twigs or pruning, left around your garden in discreet places, will provide a great winter 'snugs' for toads, grass snakes and other small garden inhabitants. 'Spent' seed heads provide cover and food for birds over the winter. Above all, before you light any bonfires on 5th November, take care there are no hibernating hedgehogs inside!

The October Thurrock Deanery Synod meeting

The October meeting of the Thurrock Synod was on Thursday 15th at Emmanuel church in Chadwell St Mary.

The visiting speaker was Sarah Brighton who is the C.E.O. of the charity Hope UK. Sarah explained that Hope UK is a drug educational charity with the aim of teaching young people so that they can make drug free choices. Her talk was very interactive.

As an introduction to the topic Sarah split us into groups and gave us samples of a wide variety of drugs including 'weed', LSD, crystal meth, ketamine and cocaine in clear plastic sachets, although she was at pains to point out that these were not the real thing! Our task was to decide what affect each of these drugs might have on the body. Were they anti-depressants, depressants, hallucinogenic or what? It quickly became apparent that our perceptions were often quite wrong!

Our next task was to think about how the individual user might behave as a result of taking any particular drug. Again we were not at all clear in our views - however Sarah put us right.

One drug that most of us are familiar with is alcohol and we were giving a lay person's understanding of the affect of increasing consumption. For her explanation Sarah asked us to imagine that our brain as a series of LEDs in an array from front to back. As the 'dose' of alcohol is increases more of the LEDs go out as more and more of the brain is affected, until finally the body is comatose - or worse.

Given the dangers of drug use generally and particularly in young people Hope UK provide training for trainers to go out into schools, youth clubs and anywhere that young people gather to give them a better understanding of the dangers of drugs. As a result they are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in this work their website is at :- <https://hopeuk.org/> .

We often think of the drug issue as a recent problem, particularly amongst children and young people. I was therefore surprised to discover that the roots of HOPE UK go back to 1855 when 'The United Kingdom Band of Hope Union' was formed to educate children about the dangers of 'strong drink'.Ed

For how many minutes can you concentrate?

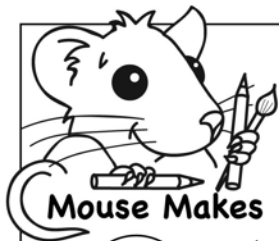
Most of us can watch television for only about 15 minutes, or read a book for about 14 minutes, before we lose our concentration. Most of us blame our social media notifications as the reason.

A recent survey by Perspectus Global for Lingo by Abbott, found that Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and message alerts were named as the main culprits.

Overall, it seems we can focus for only 11 minutes on a virtual work call, or 13 minutes in a face-to-face meeting, or 12 minutes writing a work email.

We even seem to lose concentration at family gatherings, after only 14 minutes. Overall, four in five of us say that we get distracted easily, and that we lose our focus around eight times each day.

Why don't you take up the challenge, and 'time' your losses of concentration for a day?



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.

ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour. We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?

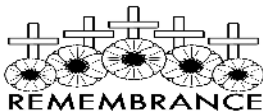


Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

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

ADVENT • ARRIVAL • HOPE • JOY • LOVE • PEACE • GOD • GLORY
MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT





PARISH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

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 Nov	'Settling the Souls' at St. Catherine's	2-4pm.
2 Nov	All Saints Sunday Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	'Service of Memorial & Thanksgiving for the Bereaved' at St. Catherine's.	3.00pm
3 Nov	Bible study and Fellowship group at St. Francis	10.30am-noon
5 Nov	Holy Communion at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
6 Nov	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
9 Nov	3rd Sunday before Advent - Remembrance Sunday Remembrance Sunday Service at Bata Memorial. (gather from 10.30am)	11.00am
	Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	3.30pm
10 Nov	P.C.C. Meeting at St. Francis	2.00pm
12 Nov	Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
13 Nov	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
16 Nov	2nd Sunday before Advent Worshipping Together at St. Catherine's	10.00am
	Café Communion at St. Francis	3.30pm
19 Nov	Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
20 Nov	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
23 Nov	Sunday Next before Advent - Christ the King Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
26 Nov	Morning Prayer at St. Francis	10.00am
	<i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.30am-noon
27 Nov	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
30 Nov	Advent Sunday Joint service at the Linford Methodist Church	10.30am
	Celtic communion service at St. Catherine's	3.30pm

Future Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd November - Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving at St. Catherine's - 3pm

Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 30th November - Joint service at the Linford Methodist's church - 10.30am

Saturday 6th December - Christmas Fayre at St. Catherine's - 10am - 2pm

'Life Events' during October

Baptism

26 October Paul Schwar;
Joshua Twin; Luke Twin; Olivia Twin & Phoebe Twin

Weddings

None

Funeral

None

Committal of Ashes

None

Remembering the Floods 1953

Sheila and I were on duty on Sunday the 12th October to welcome people arriving at Church and Malcolm from Kent, who was staying at the campsite in the village, came into Church. After a brief chat he took his place in the seats in front of us and he joined in the service enthusiastically. After the service he told us that he had lived in Benfleet when Canvey Island was flooded. Although young in 1953 he could sail a boat and he helped with rescuing people from roofs etc. The experience left him traumatised and for years he didn't return to Canvey. Recently he decided to attempt to erase his frightening memories and return. Hence he booked a place in the Campsite and joined us at St. Catherine's. I explained to him that many people from Canvey Island came to the East Tilbury Bata Hotel (now Stanford House) for shelter and food whilst their houses were flooded. He stayed for coffee and had a chat with John Blackbond who lived in Mablethorpe which was also flooded in 1953. Malcolm left to go to Canvey and on leaving thanked us for the welcome. As Church Treasurer I was delighted when he commented that his Church has a large organ which costs a fortune in repairs and the hymns played from Robin's keyboard system in St. Catherine's sounded perhaps better. (Well Done Robin)

Norman



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 3.30pm 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.king9987@gmail.com

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

22nd November 2025

20th December 2025

22nd January 2026