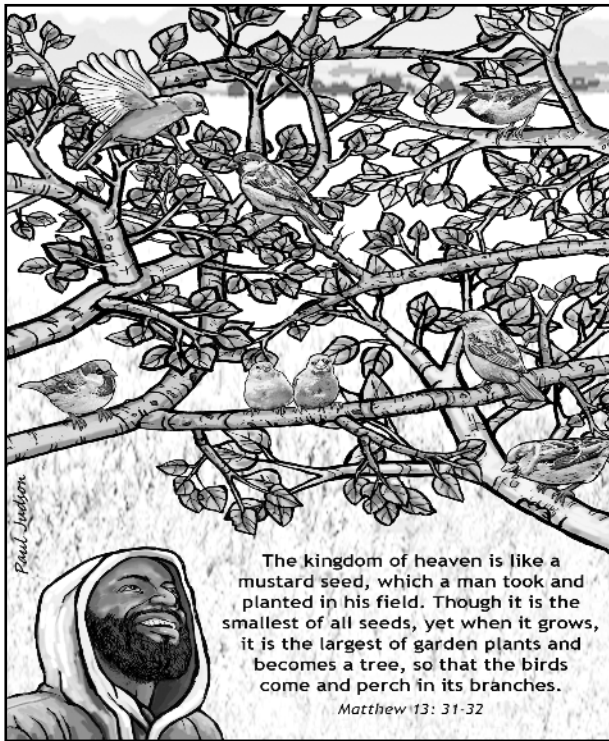


PEWTALK

£1

October 2025



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

100 Club - The September draw took place on Sunday 7th and was drawn by Revd. Clive Russell who was taking the morning service while Revd. Michèle was on holiday. The winner was Joanne Kingston .

CDOT voices are giving a concert in aid of the Thurrock foodbank on Saturday 4th October at Sockets Heath Baptist church at 7.30pm



A poster for an Autumn Concert by CDOT Voices. The poster features a decorative border of leaves. At the top left is a small circular logo with the text 'CDOT Voices'. The main text reads: 'AUTUMN CONCERT BY CDOT VOICES In aid of Thurrock Foodbank SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 7.30PM'. Below this, it lists the venue: 'SOCKETTS HEATH BAPTIST CHURCH PREMIER AVENUE, CRAYS RM16 2SB', ticket prices: 'TICKETS £10 ADULTS £2 CHILDREN', and contact information: 'AVAILABLE FROM HELEN ON ADMIN@THURROCK.FOODBANK.ORG.UK OR BY CALLING 07770 404484'. At the bottom is the Thurrock Foodbank logo with the tagline 'Together is a strength'.

If you use Bible Gateway as your on-line source of the Bible you may have noticed that recently it has not been available in the UK or the EU. The reason given is that it is a technical issue but I suspect that it may be due to recent on-line protections put in place by OFCOM. It

is still possible to access the content by using an internet browser with a built in Virtual Private Network. I happen to use OPERA. - **Chris Ford**

On 16th September the churchyard was again invaded by horses from the neighbouring field - clearly the field fence repair had failed. The



problem was, again, reported to the land owner but as the horses were seen in the churchyard on the following Friday a barrier was erected at the point where they had been breaking in.

We are supporting the Tearfund Big Quiz Night once again on Saturday 25th October. As in previous years, although we aim for teams of six, if your party is bigger or just yourself we can accommodate it. We assemble at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Bring your own table snacks but there will be refreshments at 'half time'. See the advert later in the magazine for more details.

A big thank you to all those that helped with our Harvest Supper, decorated the church for our Harvest celebrations and to everyone that donated food for the Thurrock foodbank or cash for the Tearfund appeals. If you were unable to donate on the day you can still do so at any church service or at St. Francis when open on a Wednesday or Thursday morning.

and finally..... Remember that British Summertime ends in the early hours of Sunday 26th October. So when we get home after the Big Quiz Night on the 25th set clocks and watches back one hour!

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



By the time this edition of Pewtalk has reached your lap and being read children will have returned to school and older students headed off to college, university or work. There is a general settling down after the summer months and an easing ourselves back into the normal routines. We look ahead to the month of October and the changing of the seasons. Summer blooms are fading, there is freshness to the early morning air, 'Strictly Come Dancing' is back on a Saturday evening

and autumn is emerging.

Autumn is definitely one of my favourite seasons and brings with it such a richness of colour. Leaves change from green to red and gold, conkers and acorns fall to the ground bringing delight to young and old alike. There is the crunch of autumn leaves under foot and the beauty of spider's webs in the early morning dew.

And in late summer or early autumn many churches take the opportunity to celebrate the gifts of creation and the gathering in of the summer harvest. At Harvest Festival time in parishes around the UK we give thanks for the constant work of farmers, fishermen and all food producers. It is also an opportunity to take time to reflect on how we are called to be good stewards of the world we inhabit and how we must share what we have with those who are in need.

As a Church here in East & West Tilbury & Linford we support the Thurrock Food Bank. Each week people are encouraged to bring to church a small 'extra' from the Foodbank shopping list. And that small extra can make a big difference. On a Thursday morning at St Francis we host a Foodbank session and clients come with their Foodbank voucher to receive provisions to help them for a couple of weeks.

Items on the shopping list are: **Jams & Spreads, Tinned meat meals, Tinned soup, Tinned spaghetti, Tinned vegetables (peas, carrots, sweet corn), Noodles, Mashed potato, Sweet snacks, Tinned Fruit, Desserts, Sponge puddings, Jelly, Rice Pudding & Custard, Fruit juice, Squash, Tea-bags, Coffee, Long-life milk. Toiletries: Soap, shower gel, shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes & toothpaste.**

Donations of food and toiletries can be brought to **St Catherine's on a Sunday morning, St Francis on a Wednesday morning (10.30am-12noon) or on a Thursday 11am-1pm.** All food items should be long-life and in date.

As well as helping those in need in our local area we also remember our brothers and sister further afield. Through our cash donations over our Harvest Festival weekend we are contributing to '**Tearfund's Urgent Appeal**' for **Sudan, Myanmar, DRC, Afghanistan & East Africa** and '**Tearfund's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal**'. Globally, because of conflict, political instability, forced migration and the climate emergency those already living in poverty continue to be caused great distress.

Whilst we may not think we can make much of a difference to all that is going on in the

world our small gifts can have a huge impact on the lives of those in need. Just £20 can help 6 patients; £50 can help 15 patients and £100 can help 31 patients receive life-saving medicine like antibiotics, insulin or wound dressing.

God calls us to help each other and Harvest time gives us an opportunity to do so. We thank God for the Blessings we know in our lives and reflect on how we might be a blessing to others.

Jesus said, 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind and love your neighbour as you love yourself'.

And as the Harvest hymn says, '*All good gifts around us, Are sent from heaven above; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, For all his love*'.

Every Blessing,

Revd. Michèle



Blythswood

Remember, your gifts help them all

Among the countless homes I've visited with shoeboxes, two stand out. One because of what it shows of the harsh reality of old age in the poorest parts of Europe. Visiting a pensioner couple, we found them in beds off their kitchen, hardly awake, the pastor's wife pulling the sheets over their incontinence pants. Watching from afar, their daughter in Italy could see them on a webcam. Beside their beds the pastor and his wife come and hold their hands. Their son was nearby, but had a problem with drink. They are the abandoned generation, living in a village in Moldova which the young people have left to earn money elsewhere. Out of sight and forgotten, but not by you.

For them you filled shoeboxes.

The other because of the relentless workload of a single mother on a smallholding. On the edge of a village, not far from Odesa, it was one of those dwellings where it was hard to tell where the farmyard ended and the house began. Three children in the room and their mother rushed back to the house when our van approached. She'd been looking after the cows. The TV was on but not for long as the power failed just after we arrived. Thank you for filling a shoebox. Please do it again this year.

Each box makes such a difference to people in need. And if for any reason you can't - you can sponsor a box to be made up by Blythswood on your behalf. For the average cost of a box, £28, we'll fill a box with items from our list and deliver it to someone in need. Thank you for supporting Blythswood's 2025 Shoe Box Appeal. We're looking forward to bringing your gifts to people in need again this year.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Ross - Chief Executive, Blythswood

Being a Pastor in Ukraine

Pastors in the Ukraine are continuing to minister to their beleaguered congregations, bringing comfort and hope into the most frightening and desperate war-torn situations.

So says Transform Europe Network, a Christian ministry which serves alongside indigenous Christians in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. In a recent report, it gives an update from one of its partners on the ground:

“Pastor Evgeniy serves in the war-torn Kherson region of southeastern Ukraine. Since 2022, he and a small group of volunteers have brought food, comfort, and hope to people living amid the destruction.

“Evgeniy and his team recently came to a village that had been shelled. One family’s home was reduced to rubble, and their vital documents were buried. The team arrived in bright, civilian clothing, deliberately chosen to identify them as volunteers, not military. As they began to pull back the rubble, they remained calm, focusing on their priority to help the family escape.

“40 minutes later, the volunteers heard and saw a reconnaissance drone circling above them. They couldn’t tell who it belonged to, but its presence was ominous. Then came a different sound — sharper, lower, and closer. A small military drone was heading straight for them. In a moment that could only be described as divine intervention, the drone clipped a tree branch and crashed to the ground next to the team’s car.

“The team cautiously approached the drone, still twitching and sparking. Minutes later, a second drone appeared. It aimed for the fallen drone, possibly to trigger an explosion by striking the first. But it too missed its target—crashing about six meters from the car, hitting a nearby concrete wall rather than the group. No one was injured.

“But the volunteers knew then that they were under attack. They gathered their tools, helped the family into the vehicle, and drove away. Just seconds after they left, a third drone struck — right where their car had been parked moments before. The resulting explosion could have easily taken their lives. But once again, by what they all believe was God’s hand, they were spared.

“Reflecting on the events, Pastor Evgeniy was asked if he ever felt hatred or the desire for revenge. His answer was quiet, but unshakable

‘No. I just understand. I understand the pain. I understand the fear. But if we don’t bring light into this darkness, who will?’

“For Evgeniy, war is not a reason to harden the heart—it’s a call to deeper compassion. Even as drones fly overhead and homes crumble, he continues his ministry, bringing food, prayer, and humanity into places others flee from.

“This is what faith looks like in the ruins. It looks like a small group in bright vests, carrying hope into danger. It looks like a pastor who chooses grace over vengeance. And it looks like a God who protects, even when the bombs fall close.”

Since the talks involving the US and a possible cease fire, the local leaders testify that instead of de-escalation, they’ve experienced a significant rise in attacks and shelling.



The Big Quiz Night

Saturday October 25th 2025

6.30pm for a 7pm start

**St. Catherine's Church, East Tilbury Village,
RM18 8PB**

Tickets @ £7.50 ea. available from Chris and Kim Ford

email: kimandchris.ford@outlook.com

'phone: 01375-675863

Come alone or with family / friends

Bring table snacks / drinks – tea / coffee / cake at the interval

tearfund.org/quiz

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom

☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org 📱 @Tearfund

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tearfund

Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer

Elizabeth Fry had endless compassion and endless energy – and together with a steadfast determination to do God's work, this outstanding philanthropist became one of the foremost promoters of prison reform – not just in Britain, but in all of Europe.

Elizabeth was born in 1780, far from any prison. The family lived in Norwich, where her father was a wealthy Quaker banker and merchant. In 1800 she married a London merchant, Joseph Fry.

Elizabeth could have spent her life safely at home, raising her many children. But instead, she felt compelled to help the desperate social needs of the time.

There was a good reason for this. Back in 1798, when she had been attending a Quaker meeting in Norwich, someone had spoken what Elizabeth felt was a prophetic word for her life. As she noted in her diary at the time:

'Deborah Darby then spoke... she addressed part of it to me; I only fear she says too much of what I am to be. A light to the blind; speech to the dumb; and feet to the lame; can it be? She seems as if she thought I was to be a minister of Christ. Can I ever be one? If I am obedient I believe I shall.'

And she was.

Elizabeth was accepted as a Quaker 'minister', and her good works in London began.

But it was not until one day in 1813, when she visited Newgate Prison in London, that Elizabeth's life changed forever. That day she witnessed such horrors of the circumstances in which women and children were kept, that she knew she had found the focus for her life's work.

Soon her daily visits to the prison, where she read the Bible and taught the women to sew, grew into a campaign to achieve basic rights for the women prisoners. She fought for the classification of criminals, the segregation of the sexes, female supervision of women, and some provision for education.

In 1817 she created the Association for the Improvement of Female Prisoners, and then lobbied Parliament. By 1818 Elizabeth had raised such a storm that she was called to give evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee who was examining conditions in prison. They accepted many of her proposed reforms.

In 1820 Elizabeth tackled the huge problem of destitution in London. She opened a 'Nightly Shelter for the Homeless in London', which became the first of many. She founded a society to help released prisoners with rehabilitation. And she was certainly a 'hands-on' sort of lady; it was said that for the next 20 years she personally inspected every single ship containing women convicts before it sailed to Australia.

Between 1838 and 1842 Elizabeth visited all the prisons in France, reporting to the Interior Minister. She then inspected prisons in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Scotland and Ireland.



Elizabeth also founded schools for poor girls, soup kitchens for the hungry, better housing for the poor, and also investigated mental asylums. She even established a nursing school, which influenced her distant relative, Florence Nightingale.

By the time Elizabeth died in 1845, she had helped tens of thousands of helpless people to find some relief from their suffering. She had indeed lived her life as a 'minister of Christ'.

The September Meeting of the P.C.C.

The September meeting of the Parochial Church Council took place on Monday 15th September at St. Francis with all members present.

After an opening time of prayer the minutes of the July meeting were agreed with no issues. In the churchwardens' report Chris outlined the progress being made on the electrical inspections of the two churches saying that the electrician planned to do the work on the 17th September. As agreed at the July meeting, Alan Mitchell had been asked to undertake the inspection of the trees in the churchyard at St. Catherine's and his report is awaited. The churchyard continues to be largely maintained by the excellent community payback team who apart from cutting the grass have documented the graves and started a project to restore some of the older 'curbed' ones. Chris had also attended a 'zoom' safeguarding workshop hosted by Bishop Adam and his notes were made available to the P.C.C. Members.

Norman presented his treasurer's report which showed that our financial position was sound. He advised that our banking signatories had now been revised as agreed in July. It was noted that the Parish Share that is our contribution to the Chelmsford Diocese would increase to £23,385 next year - an increase of some 1.5%

In her Electoral Roll report Valerie advised that there had been no changes since July

Reporting on safeguarding matters Kim reminded members that she needed to be able to see their training progress and so to make sure that they had her correct email address in their profiles.

In her report, Revd. Michèle noted that since the last meeting she had conducted a committal of ashes, a funeral, a baptism and a wedding. There had been another joint service with the Linford Methodist congregation, this time at St. Francis. There had been 'extended hours' open afternoons in July and August. It was agreed that the open afternoons had been very successful and should be repeated in this format next year but with a break between the lunch serving and the tea and cakes.

She then went on to remind the meeting of the planned future dates and said that she was to have a meeting with the East Tilbury Primary School to plan her involvement in their future programme. All members were pleased that this link-up was continuing.

Under A.O.B. It was noted that there had been no progress regarding the faculty requirements for replacing the oldest ashes memorial.

The next meeting date was set for 10th November and the meeting closed with the grace.



Mouse Makes

This is Psalm 150,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,
Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,
Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,
Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,
Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!



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

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS
TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS
TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD



PARISH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

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 Oct	Holy Communion at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
2 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
4 Oct	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's CDOT voices concert for the foodbank at Sockets Heath Baptist	10am-1130am 7.30pm
5 Oct	16th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
6 Oct	Bible study and Fellowship Group at St. Francis	10.30am-noon
8 Oct	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
9 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
12 Oct	17th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
15 Oct	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
16 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
18 Oct	Filling the Blythswood Christmas shoeboxes at St. Catherine's	2.00pm-4pm
19 th Oct	18th Sunday after Trinity 'Blessing of the Shoeboxes' at St. Catherine's Café Communion at St. Francis	10.00am 4.30pm
20 Oct	Bible study and Fellowship Group at St. Francis	10.30am-noon
22 Oct	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
23 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
25 Oct	Tearfund Big Quiz Night at St. Catherine's	6.30pm
***** Clocks go back 1 hour tonight *****		
26 Oct	Last Sunday of Trinity Holy Communion at St. Catherine's Service of Holy Baptism at St. Catherine's	10.00am 2.00pm
29 Oct	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
30 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm

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 September

Baptism

None

Weddings

None

Renewal of Vows

20 September Joe and Lucy Wood

Funeral

None

Committal of Ashes

None

"Let Him lead me to the banquet hall and let His banner over me be love"

by David Pickup

I like a good harvest festival. 'Come, Ye Thankful People, Come', 'For the Fruits of His Creation', 'Now Thank We All Our God' and my favourite, 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter', the last one is not everyone's favourite but I like it. It reminds me of school assembly and teacher who pointed out the words sound like ploughing fields and then running away. I can remember the fields near where I lived and seeing the tractor followed by flocks of birds, eager for food.

Harvest is about being thankful for God's provision and how the harvest, in this part of the world at least, never fails. No matter how dry or wet the growing seasons are, we always get a harvest.

I enjoy a good harvest lunch. We used to have really good ones in the parish, and it brought out people who were not regular church goers but occasional attenders, mainly when food was on the table. I like a buffet because you can choose what you want and how much of it, and if you are clever, you can get two helpings. My advice is let the polite people go first, as they eat little and then go for it when most people have had their fill. No! don't be greedy but do tuck in and make sure you help others.



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

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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 October 2025

22nd November 2025

20th December 2025