

PEWTALK 40_P

October 2017



**"Let the children come to me . . . for it is to such
as these that the kingdom of God belongs."**

EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITS AND PIECES

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.

This year the Children's Society boxes made £100. Well done and a big thank you to all box holders.

The Children's Society are a charity working to support vulnerable children in England and Wales. They have worked in London since 1881. They fight child poverty and neglect and help all children have a better chance in life. Four million children live in poverty in the U.K.

The Children's Society are a special justice organisation and are founded on and driven by Christian values. Support of the charity helps transform the lives of vulnerable children and their direct practice on child sexual exploitation.

They worked with over 13,000 vulnerable children and young people last year. So a very worthy cause.

Jane Schroeder.

P.S. One of my box holders has moved away so if anyone would like a box to fill with loose change, please see me !

100 Club - *Norman*

The first draw of the year was made by Fr. Peter Rabin on the last Sunday of August . Amazingly the winner was Beckie Anderson from Tilbury who was the first 100 Club winner. The response to the re-launch has been very encouraging and to date raised £400. We have a few tickets left and of course more contributions would be very welcome.

Our new Local Area Co-ordinator, Samson Odubanjo will now be holding a

weekly "surgery" at St. Francis during our drop-in session on a Wednesday. It is very encouraging to see St. Francis used in this way.

The September Quiz Night was a fun filled evening and a great success, raising £196 for church funds. We hope to repeat the event perhaps twice a year - so watch out for the dates.

The Hadleigh U3A church visiting group spent time in St. Catherine's on Tuesday 19th September. They were shown the video of the development work that was undertaken in 2015 and Chris elaborated on this and some of the problems that occurred before taking questions. The visitors much appreciated the visit and commented on how welcoming the building is now.

While on the subject of social events, the Harvest Supper is on Saturday 7th October at St. Francis. This year it will start at 6pm so that any youngsters will not have to wait quite so long for their tea! All are welcome and if you would like to join with us just let one of the wardens know so that they can have some idea of numbers. There is no charge for the evening but there will be the opportunity to make a donation. After the meal there will be a time to play family games and just generally socialise.

Finally the autumn cake sale at St. Francis will not take place. In recent years the support has dropped considerably and it is not thought fair to get our ladies to make cakes that are not sold. Instead there will be tea and cakes on sale at St. Catherine's on Saturday and Sunday 28/29 October.

The interregnum - where are we now?

September 6th was the deadline for applications for the post of associate priest to serve in our parish. This as we say when publishing banns of marriage was “for the second time of asking”. As before, no applications were received and therefore the search for a suitable person continues. Although there is currently no Bishop of Bradwell (Bishop John having sadly died), the Revd. Canon Mike Lodge, the Archdeacon of Southend is very well aware of the position and actively doing what he can. Our churchwarden, Colin Strong, is doing all in his power to make sure that our situation is recognised and that the needs of the parish are properly addressed.

As the interregnum has now lasted in excess of 12 months the Diocese have advised us that we are entitled to a rebate of some of our Family Purse contributions. While this in no way compensates for the absence of a parish priest it does at least acknowledge the vacancy continues.

While we may be without an incumbent priest it is good to note that our church life and worship continues. We have been extremely fortunate that, apart from one Wednesday communion service, we have been able to continue with all our services that require a priest be they services of Holy Communion, Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals. By and large this has been through the good offices of the Thurrock clergy team. In the early months this was relatively easy as there were a number of priested curates but in the course of the last few months the deanery has had two curates and one priest move on with another due to move shortly. This makes Colin’s task of finding cover more and more difficult and so we are thankful for the services of Revd. Bob Magor at several of our Wednesday services.

It has been suggested that an interregnum gives a church time to reflect on what it is about and what it wants to be. With the variety of priests that have visited us, their sermons have been very varied and given much food for thought. As well as this the PCC (church council) have been thinking about various aspects of our church life. They have decided that the last weekend in October will be a opportunity for people to “get back to church”. In previous years we have marked the life of St. Cedd at this time and this year will be no different except that we are inviting families that have special services in St. Catherine’s in recent years to come and visit during the weekend - either in the afternoon when there will be a variety of activities as well as tea and cake,- or for a family communion service on the Sunday morning - or for a Celtic evening service in the evening. As a reader of “Pewtalk” please feel invited to join us at some point over the weekend.

Chris Ford - acting chairman of the PCC.

St. Francis of Assisi – love for the Creation

St Francis (1181 - 1226) is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was not amused, in fact he was furious - until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

His inspiration was always religious, not social, and the object of his quest was always the Crucified Christ, not Lady Poverty for her own sake. Francis rebuilt San Samiano, and then travelled as a pilgrim. His compassion for the poor and lepers became famous. Soon disciples joined him, and they set up a communal life in simple wattle and daub huts. They went on occasional preaching tours. (Not until later did they become an Order whose theologians won fame in the Universities.)

In 1219 Francis visited the Holy Land, and his illusions about the Crusaders were shattered. He went on to seek out the Sultan, and tried to convert him. Back home, he found his Order was now 5,000 strong, and growing. Francis stepped down as head, but continued to preach and was immensely popular. He died after a prolonged illness at the age of 45, and was canonised in 1228.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Canticle of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

The 20th century witnessed a widespread revival of interest in Francis. Sadly, some films and books caricatured him as only a sentimental nature-lover or a hippie drop out from society. This ignores the real sternness of his character, and his all-pervasive love of God and identification with Christ's sufferings, which alone make sense of his life.

Two ancient, and many modern English churches are dedicated to him.

Catching up with Jane and Graham

On Friday 25th August three intrepid explorers set off for darkest Bedfordshire, via a quick stop in Northumberland Road Linford to pick up a Coffee and Walnut cake. Our aim to visit the Claydon-Knights in Flitwick for a day of friendship, laughter, good food and of course catch up on all the news. We duly did battle with the M25 and M1 and arrived at the aptly named "Epworth" Manse just in time for coffee and cutting of the cake. The sun was out so we sat in the garden and true to form the first hour or two was spent catching up on all the happenings since we last met.



Graham suggested we had a walk and lunch in Bedford, I was delighted when we arrived that we were not in some big town but at the side of the River Ouse where both sides of the river were surrounded by parkland known locally as the Embankment. Beautiful flower beds both

sides of the river, the usual indigenous ducks and geese which you find on any stretch of water in the UK and lots of bridges so you could wonder back and forth at your leisure and of course a very nice restaurant serving lunch.

Back to the Manse, another laze and catch up in the sunshine, and then we all sat down to a perfect meal prepared by Elliot.

The day went far too quickly but then it always does when you are catching up with old friends. Methodism being an itinerant Ministry means that Graham will be moving on to another circuit in September 2018. We and the family wait to see where God decides he will go.

Marian Kuyper

And Marian added Personally I think the photo should be on the front cover of the Bedfordshire Tourist Board brochure!!

Patricia Webb is "calling all carers"

If you are a Carer and would like a little time to yourself, why not come along to a new Craft Group starting on 3rd October at St Francis Hall from 1pm till 4pm. At the moment we are a very small group and we enjoy, card making, knitting, painting with water colours and anything else you might like to do. Plus it is a chance to meet up with other Carers and share problems and experiences and of course tea, coffee and biscuits. Depending on how many Carers attend there will be a maximum charge of £2 for the 3 hours, to cover hall hire and refreshments. The more that come the cheaper it will be as we are a non profit making group. Why not come along and give it a try on Tuesday 3rd October or for more information call Patricia on 01375-841936 or 07803-135482

How to carve the perfect pumpkin

Here are some tips to make the most of your pumpkin this month.

1. The shape. Pumpkins come both short and round as well as tall and thin. Decide on the pattern of face you will want to carve, and choose your shape of pumpkin accordingly. If you like big toothy grins, better get a wide pumpkin!
2. The ripeness. Choose one with hard skin, which your fingernail will dent but not puncture. Avoid bruised or dented pumpkins, unless the marks can be incorporated into the character of the pumpkin you have in mind.
3. The hollowing. At home, begin by laying out sheets of newspaper, because you have a messy job ahead. Choose a medium length knife with a thin serrated blade, and cut out a hole near the top around the stem. As you cut, it will help if you angle your knife slightly upwards. This makes the lid and hole slightly cone-shaped, which stops the lid from falling into the pumpkin later on.
4. The scraping. Dig out your pumpkin with a large spoon. Make sure the pumpkin is perfectly flat on the bottom.
5. The face. Use a crayon to draw on the face. It can easily be wiped off if you go wrong, but in the meantime, will give you some guidance. Now, cut out the design, pushing out the pieces of pumpkin wall as you go along.
6. The preserving of your masterpiece! Vaseline does this well – it seals in the moisture, and slows down the growth of mould inside. Popping your pumpkin into the fridge each night also will help.
7. The illumination. A small plain white votive candle in a glass holder works best.
8. The setting. Pumpkins need a flat, stable surface away from anything that can catch fire. A table in a conservatory works well. If you are using a windowsill, make sure that curtains and blinds are well out of the way, and that the cat or kids won't knock it off.



The Perfect Minister - or what everyone in an interregnum wants

When looking for a new minister, it may be helpful to bear the following in mind:

The Perfect Minister preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church hand-ymen.

The Perfect Minister lives on a very small salary, wears good clothes, drives a good car,

buys good books, and donates £30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.

The Perfect Minister has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humour that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The Perfect Minister always has time for church meetings and all of its committees, never missing the meeting of any church organisation. And he is always busy evangelising the unchurched. He also spends hours preparing couples for their weddings, hours preparing parents for their baby's baptism, and hours visiting the bereaved. But his life is dedicated to solitude, prayer and meditation.

The Perfect Minister is always in the next town over! So if you think that our minister does not measure up, it has been suggested that we simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their minister. The idea is that we bundle up our minister and send him to the church at the top of our list. If everyone cooperates, in one week we will receive 1,643 new ministers. One of them should be perfect. Have faith in this plan. One church broke the chain and got its old minister back in less than three months.

The Orsett Show

The annual Orsett show is a celebration of farming and country life. As such it consists largely of trade stands and any number of opportunities to spend money. For a number of years the Deanery have had a tent where the weary - and others- can have a time of quiet, an opportunity to talk and enjoy tea and biscuits. This year there was also face painting for children for which there was no charge. Folk from various parts of the deanery were also on hand to give out free bottles of water and pots of bubbles for the children - much appreciated. During the afternoon there were visits from the Archdeacon of Southend, Revd. Mike Lodge and the Diocesan Rural Affairs advisor, Revd. Janet Nicolls adding to the number of dog collars!

The only slight drawback was that the deanery tent was right next door to a group of men who spent the day with chainsaws carving "mushrooms" out of rather large logs - so much for a quiet time!

The Thurrock foodbank

Although not always thought of as such both the Thurrock foodbank and its sponsoring organisation, the Trussell Trust were set up by Christian groups and the majority of the volunteers are from local churches. The summer has been challenging for our foodbank as the stocks have been running down. Although it is likely that the various harvest thanksgivings in churches and schools will go some way to replenishing the warehouse there is still a need for the faithful week by week support that the local churches provide. If you would like to donate some non-perishable food this can be done either at St. Catherine's on a Sunday or at St. Francis on a Wednesday or Thursday morning.

FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE P.C.C.

The PCC met at St. Catherine's on 11th of September with seven members present.

The council had received correspondence from the diocese advising the parish that, as we have been in interregnum for a year, we are entitled to a "prolonged vacancy credit" on our parish share of £432.08 per month until the end of the year.

It was noted that our new Local Area Co-ordinator, Samson Odubango plans to hold a "surgery" during our Wednesday "drop in" at St. Francis.

Churchwarden Colin reported that there had been no response to the most recent advertisement for an associate priest for the parish. He is and will continue to be in touch with the Archdeacon who is actively involved in efforts to fill the vacancy.

In his Churchwarden's report Colin advised that cover for services until the end of October was now in place. He is also dealing with Christmas cover. He is still waiting for a response from Baker's detailing when they will be dealing with the remaining "snags" but has been chasing the project manager and the responsible director. He had obtained three quotations for the external painting of St. Francis. The PCC agreed that the work should be done by Mark Hurn who submitted the cheapest price. He also reported that the Community Payback Team would be having another session in the churchyard to get the grass cut.

The Harvest Festival arrangements were agreed such that we would collect non-perishable items for the Thurrock foodbank and any fresh food would go to the Merrie

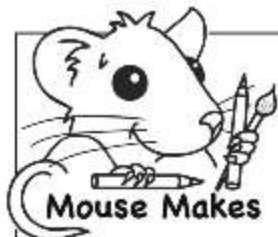
Loots home if they would accept it. We now know that they will.

The PCC had been asked to consider whether the Christus Rex should be restored to its previous location, where it was suspended in the arch between the nave and the chancel. The meeting was unanimous in its view that it should remain in its current position. It was felt that the previous position was inappropriate for a Christus Rex and, as had been previously explained, it detracted from the view through the church from west to east. Members were also of the opinion that its present position was not only more appropriate but enhanced the archway over the vestry doorway. Many visitors had also expressed this view.

Although Norman King was on holiday he had asked that the PCC resolve not to renew the gas contract at St. Catherine's with EoN. He had been in contact with Noel Muddiman, the diocesan energy adviser, who had recommended that we change our supplier to Contract Natural Gas at their Ecclesiastical buildings rate. This was agreed.

In a discussion of future events it was agreed not to have an autumn cake sale at St. Francis but to concentrate on a special celebration weekend on 28th/29th October to which folk involved in Baptisms, weddings and funerals would be invited.

Colin advised the meeting that he intended to hold a "parish office" at St. Catherine's on a Friday evening from 6.30-7.30pm for dealing with Baptisms and Weddings from the beginning of October.



Mouse Makes

Ezekiel the prophet had a special dream from God. In his dream he stood in the middle of a **valley full** of a **great** many **bones**. God made him **walk** around them, then God said;

"**Son** of man, can these bones **live**?" Ezekiel replied;

"**Sovereign Lord**, you know." God told Ezekiel to **prophesy** over the bones, to tell **them**;

"**Dry** bones, **hear** the word of the Lord, I am about to put **breath** into **you** and you will live. I will put **tendons** on you and **muscles** over you and **cover** you with **skin**.

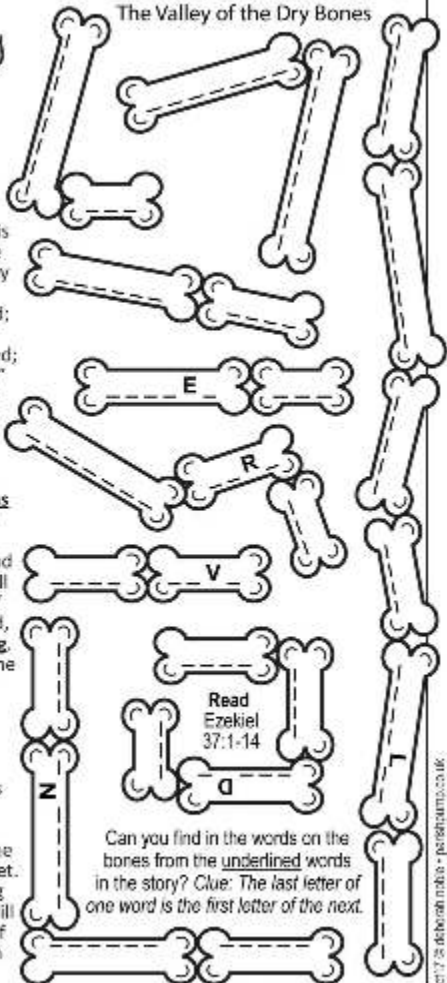
I will put breath in you and you will live. Then **you** will **know** that I am the Lord."

So Ezekiel did as God had said, he heard the **sound** of **rattling**. The bones came together bone to bone, then tendons and muscles and skin appeared on them. God told Ezekiel to say to the breath; "Come, breath, from the four **winds** and breathe on these corpses so that they may live."

Ezekiel spoke what God had told him and the **corpses** came alive and stood on their feet.

God explained the meaning of the dream and said; "I will put my **Spirit** in the people of Israel and they will know I am the Lord and they will live."

The Valley of the Dry Bones



Can you find in the words on the bones from the underlined words in the story? Clue: The last letter of one word is the first letter of the next.



PARISH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Our Sunday services are at St. Catherine's



1 Oct	16th Sunday after Trinity	
	“The Family Service”	10am
	Baptism of Oliver James Dearly	2pm
4 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
5 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
7 Oct	Harvest Supper at St. Francis	6pm
8 Oct	17th Sunday after Trinity	
	Parish Communion	10am
9 Oct	Social Committee meeting at St. Catherine's	7.30pm
10 Oct	Bible Study at Linford Methodist Church	8pm
11 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
12 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
15 Oct	18th Sunday after Trinity	
	Parish Communion	10am
	Baptism of Vinnie Ray Brockis	2pm
16 Oct	PCC meeting at St. Catherine's	7.30pm
18 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
19 Oct	Foodbank at St Francis	11am - 1pm
22 Oct	19th Sunday after Trinity	
	Parish Communion	10am
25 Oct	Holy Communion (St Francis)	10am
	Drop In at St Francis	10.30am - noon
26 Oct	Foodbank at St. Francis	11am - 1pm
	WELCOM forum meeting at Linford Methodist Church	7.30pm
28 Oct	St. Catherine's open to celebrate life of St. Cedd	2 - 5pm
29 Oct	20th All Saints Day	
	** CLOCKS GO BACK TO GREENWICH MEAN TIME **	
	Family Communion	10am
	Church open for teas	2 - 4pm
	Celtic evening service	4.30pm

FROM ST CATHERINE'S PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

3 Sept James Paul McClement

17 Sept Freya Rose and Benjamin Noah Small

MARRIAGE BLESSING

16th Sept Alan Arthur Grant & Jacqueline Ann Collins

FUNERAL

22nd Sept Margaret Leach

Bishops' concern over benefits freeze

Bishops are now so concerned about the effect of poverty on children that they are supporting calls for the Government to end the benefits freeze. They recently spoke out after the publication of a report by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) which warned that a combination of rising prices and a freeze on benefits – and even cuts – is leaving many families simply unable to meet the costs of caring for their children.

The report, *Cost of a Child in 2017*, estimates that families in which both parents work full-time on the National Living Wage are 13 per cent (or £59 per week) short of what they need in order to give their children a minimum living standard. Single parents working full-time on the same wage are 18 per cent short. Couples and single parents not in work face a shortfall of more than 40 per cent.

Voicing her concern, the Bishop of Gloucester, the Rt Rev Rachel Treweek, said: 'We know that the first years of life are the most critical for the life chances of every child.'

We are sure that this will impact on the foodbank demand – Ed!

TO EACH IS GIVEN

Isn't it strange that princes and kings
and clowns that caper in sawdust rings
and common folk like you and me
are makers of eternity.

To each is given a book of rules
an hour glass and a bag of tools
and each must make ere time has flown
a stumbling block or a stepping stone.

ST. CATHERINE'S

The Priest in Charge

The Parish is without a priest at the present time.

All enquiries should be made to Churchwarden, Colin Strong:

Telephone: 07591 708955

E-mail: warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com

The Services

Sunday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion service at St. Catherine's
Except 1st Sunday of the month when we have
"The Family Service"

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion at St. Francis
For Baptisms and Weddings please contact Colin Strong in the first
instance or come to St. Catherine's at 6.30pm on a Friday

Churchwardens

COLIN STRONG T: 07591 708955

E:- warden.colin.stcatherines@gmail.com

SUE SPIERS T: 01375 845394

E:- warden.sue.stcatherines@gmail.com

Editor

Chris Ford

44, Northumberland Road
Linford

Stanford le Hope
SS17 0PU

Tel: 01375 675863

e-mail: pewtalk@talktalk.net

St. Francis Centre

The centre is available for hire for regular events when not used by the Church. To check availability please contact:

PATRICIA STRONG

patricia.a.strong@outlook.com

Copy Dates for Pewtalk

22nd October 2017

22nd November 2017

18th December 2017