

# **The Parish of East and West Tilbury and Linford**

## **Annual Report**

**and**

## **Financial Statements of the Parish Church Council**

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### **Priest in Charge**

Revd. Michèle Marshall

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc

34 High Street

Grays

Essex

RM17 6LX

### **Independent Examiner of Accounts**

Mr. P. W. Chandler

15, The Spinneys

Leigh-on-Sea

Essex

SS9 5QZ

<p><b>Our Church's <i>PURPOSE</i> is to <i>Worship</i> God, and to <i>grow</i> through developing as disciples, bringing other members of God's family into our Church, and demonstrating God's love and care.</b></p>
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Parish website: [www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)

# **The Parish of East and West Tilbury and Linford**

## **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 11.30am in St Catherine's Church, East Tilbury**

## **Agendas**

### **Opening Prayers**

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect Churchwardens**

1. Appointment of Clerk
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of Annual Meeting of Parishioners 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Election of Church Wardens
6. Date of next year's meeting: proposed "Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 unless subsequently determined otherwise".

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

1. Appointment of Clerk
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the APCM 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Parish Reports
  - Electoral Roll Report
  - Annual Proceedings of the PCC Report
  - PCC Financial Statement
  - Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Report
  - Proceedings of the Deanery Synod Report
  - Other Non-Statutory Reports (please see Parish Report)
6. Election of Representatives of the Laity
  - Six Parochial Church Council Representatives to serve until the APCM in 2026
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Financial Report
8. Chairman's Remarks
9. Any Other Business
10. Date of next year's meeting: proposed "Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 unless subsequently determined otherwise".

### **Closing Prayers**

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at St. Catherine's Church**

- **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** – 16 in attendance.
- Revd Michèle Marshall opened the meeting with prayer.
- June Schroeder was appointed clerk of the meeting by those present.
- Apologies were received from Robin Marshall, Carole Harris, David and Sandra Gunn.
- The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved with no matters arising.

Chris Ford was nominated to serve as Churchwarden. Proposed by Margaret Simmonds and Seconded by Pam Painter.

Leslie Schwar was nominated to serve as Churchwarden. Proposed by Norman King and Seconded by Pam England.

All present were in favour. Chris and Les were duly elected.

The resolution that the next Annual meeting would be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 was passed.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 16 in attendance**

Revd Michèle Marshall confirmed that all present were on the Parish electoral roll.

June Schroeder was appointed clerk for the meeting by those present.

Apologies were received from Robin Marshall, Carole Harris, David and Sandra Gunn.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved and there were no matters arising.

The Parish reports had been circulated. Revd Michèle highlighted the main points of the statutory reports.

- The revised electoral roll stood at 50 members. 35 resident and 15 non resident.
- The annual proceedings of the PCC.  
There were 12 members. These being Janice Fawsitt, Norman and Sheila King, Pat Webb, Rose Yearwood, Val Schwar and Margaret Simmonds.  
Deanery Synod reps are Chris and Kim Ford for this and next year.  
June Schroeder was co-opted on to the PCC as minutes secretary.  
There were 8 meetings with 80% attendance.  
There were regular reports and updates in Pewtalk.  
Revd Michèle thanked everyone on the PCC.
- PCC financial Statement. There was a summary of the bank accounts.  
The accounts were audited by Peter Chandler. There were no questions.

Norman was thanked for his hard work in keeping the accounts.

- Fabric goods and ornament report.  
The Churchwarden has submitted a summary. Both Churches are in good order. The 5 year Quinquennial survey report needs to be addressed this year. The community payback team have been once. During the Open afternoons Julie and Colin Guest do a lot in the Churchyard. Thank you to everyone who helps to look after the Churchyard. No questions.
- Statutory reports.  
The Deanery Synod has been attended by Chris & Kim and Revd Michèle.  
Farewell to Area Dean Rev Darren Barlow.  
The new Area Dean is Fr. David Rollins.  
Chris & Kim were thanked for serving as our Deanery Synod Representatives.  
No questions.
- Reports from different parts of our Church Life were submitted.  
It's been another year when we have been very busy.  
Thank you to everyone who takes part.  
The sharing of meals is very enjoyable with good fellowship.  
Sadly Patricia Strong had passed away.  
New people have joined the Church.  
We need to try and promote Children's ministry.  
Chris thanked everyone for their help and Kim for helping him.  
Rev Michèle said that she does not wish to go anywhere else yet as there is too much to be done here.  
Thank you to the flower arrangers – Pam, Kathy, Carole and Jeannie.

### **Election of Representatives of the Laity.**

This is dictated by the number on the electoral roll and does not include – Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Reps and Rev Michèle.

Those proposed were:-

Norman King	Proposed by Kathy Bird, Seconded by June Schroeder.
Sheila King	Proposed by Jeannie Hyde-Allen, seconded by Caroline Bonson.
Pamela Painter	Proposed by Kathy Bird, seconded by Margaret Simmonds.
Valerie Schwar	Proposed by Kim Ford, seconded by Pam England.
June Schroeder	Proposed by Kathy Bird, seconded by Caroline Bonson.
Pat Webb	Proposed by Jeannie Hyde-Allen, seconded by Pam England.

Charity Trustee new members need to sign a declaration at first meeting of PCC.  
All in favour, all were duly elected.

- Parish report and financial report approved.  
PCC approved Peter Chandler to act as auditor.  
All in favour.
- Chairman's remarks.  
Rev Michèle thanked everyone for their hard work.  
She said that people are surprised that we still have services here.  
They always remark on a wonderful welcome when they come in to church.  
How do we let people know about the services?  
We need to think about letting people know when we are open.  
Thank you for the love and support to myself.  
Chris as Vice chair was asked to comment.  
Chris remarked that everybody helps and the atmosphere in the church is wonderful,  
especially on a Wednesday. People are surprised when they come through the door.

**AOB** None.

Date of next year's meeting: proposed Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Please tell Michèle of any new ideas.

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace.

# **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council**

## **for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

### **Administration Information**

The parish consists of two churches: St Catherine's, East Tilbury and St Francis, Linford. It is part of the Deanery of Thurrock in the Diocese of Chelmsford, Essex, within the Church of England. The correspondence address for the Parish is: The Rectory, 24 Somerset Road, Linford, Stanford-le-Hope, SS17 0QA.

The Parish Website is: [www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC members who have served from 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 until the date this report was approved:

**Priest in Charge:** Revd. Michèle Marshall

**Churchwardens:** Mr. Chris Ford  
Mr. Leslie Schwar

**Deanery Synod Representatives:** Mrs. Kim Ford  
Mr. Chris Ford

**Elected Members:** Mr. Norman King  
Mrs. Sheila King  
Mrs. Pamela Painter  
Mrs. June Schroeder  
Mrs. Valerie Schwar  
Mrs. Pat Webb

### **Structure, governance and management.**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election.

### **Objectives and activities**

The PCC of East and West Tilbury and Linford has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in Charge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for St Catherine's Church in East Tilbury and St Francis in Linford. In addition it is responsible for the insurance of the churchyard of St James, West Tilbury. The maintenance of the West Tilbury closed churchyard is now the responsibility of the local authority (Thurrock Council).

The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). We are committed to Safeguarding Children, Young People,

Victims/perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and Vulnerable Adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding. Following these guidelines, the parish has a safeguarding policy and a Parish Safeguarding Officer.

### **Safeguarding Report**

The safeguarding of all and especially children and vulnerable adults, in the Parish is very important and taken seriously by all members of our congregation. The P.C.C. follow the Church of England's safeguarding policy and a link to this and the parish safeguarding information can be found on our website. A Safeguarding report is on the agenda at every PCC meeting.

Where a D.B.S. (Disclosure and Barring Services) enquiry is required, these are processed online and those that are required are up to date. We continue to review our training requirements and use the Diocesan on-line training.

I can confirm that there were no safeguarding issues identified during the year under review.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to Safeguarding of children or adults, please contact me on 07931 341 052 or email [kim.pewtal@outlook.com](mailto:kim.pewtal@outlook.com).

*Kim Ford – Parish Safeguarding Officer*

### **Statutory Reports**

#### **Electoral Roll Report 2025**

In preparation for the annual meetings our parish electoral roll has been completely renewed in keeping with the Church Representation Rules this being a 6<sup>th</sup> year. The electoral roll is a reflection of those that regularly worship at St. Catherine's and St. Francis.

We now have a total of 37 members on the electoral roll made up of 30 resident in the parish and 7 non-resident.

All data is treated as confidential and a names only list is published in keeping with GDPR.

*Valerie Schwar - Electoral Roll Officer*

#### **Proceedings of the PCC 2024**

The PCC had 12 members during the year comprising of: Rev. Michèle Marshall.

Churchwardens: Chris Ford and Les Schwar. Deanery Synod representatives are Chris Ford and Kim Ford. Six members of the PCC were elected at the APCM on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Norman King, Sheila King, Pamela Painter, Valerie Schwar, Patricia Webb and June Schroeder.

Julie Guest was co-opted on to the PCC.

There were 7 PCC meetings since the last APCM held at approximately 6 weekly intervals.

The average attendance was 80%.

The PCC has regular reports from the Churchwardens on the fabric of the two buildings, the churchyard at St. Catherine's and the grounds at St. Francis. Reports were also made by the Treasurer, the Electoral roll officer and the Safeguarding officer.

There is a review of services and Church events at each meeting and looking forward to planning future services and events. Pastoral concerns are discussed but not minuted.

Reports on PCC activity have been included in Pewtalk.

*June Schroeder – PCC Secretary*

## **PCC Financial Statement Summary**

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

The PCC currently hold three bank accounts with Lloyds plc and one with CCLA. The balances in the four accounts are healthy. One account opened in 2024 is a Commercial Instant Access Account which pays Interest.

#### **General/Treasurers Account**

This account is effectively the PCC Current Account. The Congregation gives regularly and generously and there was a significant increase in giving in 2024.

#### **Income**

Gift Aid is claimed on all donations which includes donations by BACS and weekly envelopes, and donations for votive candles and for after service refreshments.

Easy Fund Raising adds to our Income and a significant amount has been donated through Digital Giving particularly at Life Events.

The Christmas Coffee morning raised a magnificent £1100 despite a Storm and phone lines in the village being down

The additional fund- raising came from Lent Lunches, Pancake Evening, Open Weekend & Afternoons, 100 Club, Concerts and Raffles. The 100 Club runs from July to July and for 2024-2025 raised £350.

#### **Expenditure**

Our major items of Expenditure are the Family Purse Insurance and Utilities.

The Parish Share for 2024 was £23,704. The Parish Insurance includes St. Francis and West Tilbury Churchyard.

Essential work on the trees in the Churchyard was £1740 and Water/Sewerage charges were £350.



Our Charitable Giving of £967 included The Tear Fund Quiz night and Donations to Friends of the Holy Land and Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.

### **St Francis Account**

It has been a long term aim for St. Francis to be a self-financing centre for Parish Outreach and Community Support. The Income and Expenditure gave us a surplus of £98 despite having to purchase a new water boiler.

More services and social events are held at St. Francis to ensure that Linford is recognised as an important part of the Parish and Church Community. Sunday services include Café Communion and shared services with Linford Methodist Church and there is a regular service on Wednesday.

The principal outreach and community events which are arranged, manned and organised by the Church are a Community Drop-In Coffee morning which is well attended and the Weekly Foodbank Distribution Centre.

St. Francis is hired regularly for Keep Fit (Reduced in 2024) and by Linford Ladies, The Women's Institute and The Carer's Craft Group.

The major regular expense is for Utilities but a Deep Clean is needed.

### **Special Projects Account**

This Account was originally opened for the purchase of the Millenium Window.

In 2024 £10,000 was received from the sale of land in West Tilbury Churchyard and a Grant from London over the Border is included. As our Treasurers account balance was substantially increased, I have opened an Instant Access Fund paying 1.8% Interest. This account includes money from the formerly referred to SP or Special Purposes Account.

Our Quinquennial Inspection is due in 2025 and the PCC will have to arrange for essential work to be both arranged and funded.

### **CCLA Account**

The CCLA formerly Central Board of Finance of the Church of England is an ethical Bank whose investment decisions are aligned with the objectives and maintains the values and beliefs of the Church. The money accumulated over many years comes from a Chancel Tithe Fund the sale of Land in Linford, Little Angels Day Nursery and Cory Environmental Trust.

*Norman King – PCC Treasurer*

### **Fabric, Goods and Ornaments Report (Churchwardens Report) for 2024**

We are able to report that the fabric, goods and ornaments of both St. Catherine's and St. Francis are in good repair. As with any buildings there are a number of ongoing maintenance issues which include the requirements of the regular quinquennial surveys.

At St. Catherine's several small maintenance jobs were carried out. All the utility services are in good order with the electrical installation to be re-certified in 2025. Towards the end of the year the record of parish priests which is mounted on the West wall of St. Catherine's was updated with Revd. Michèle's name – an accomplished calligraphist being discovered.

The churchyard at St. Catherine's has continued to be maintained by our team of volunteers and regular visits from the Community Payback Team who, together, keep the churchyard tidy and the grass under control. The outstanding tree work was completed at the beginning of the year. During the year two yew saplings were donated and planted in the churchyard. During the summer a bees' nest was discovered in the exterior of the chancel wall and the bees were troubling those working in or visiting the churchyard. The nest was too high for the bees to be collected and so they had to be destroyed. In the autumn a leaf blower was purchased, with money donated by a member of the congregation, to help with the maintenance of the churchyard.

At St. Francis, general maintenance also continued and in June the kitchen water heater was replaced after it had failed and was beyond economic repair. As a result of the gas supply at St. Francis being transferred to Pozitive Energy (who supply St. Catherine's) a smart gas meter was installed. During the year two planters were installed at the entrance to St. Francis and together with the fruit trees considerably enhance the appearance of the property.

During the year the Diocese offered parishes the opportunity to have a digital 'collecting tin' to enable them to accept card payments instead of cash. We applied and in June collected our device and were trained in its use. It has proved to be a very useful addition to our collection options which also include a 'QR' code in our publications to direct people to our giving page. In the course of the year approx. £900 was donated in this way.

During the summer both of our churches were inspected by a representative of Thurrock Council's 'Emergency Planning and Resilience Team' with the view that they could be used as refuges in an emergency.

*Chris Ford & Les Schwar - Churchwardens*

### **Proceedings of the Deanery Synod Report – Thurrock Deanery 2024**

The Thurrock Deanery Synod meets four times a year and is the forum where matters relevant to the parishes in our deanery are communicated and discussed. Revd. Michèle is automatically a member and our Parish representatives for the year were Kim and Chris Ford. Chris was also elected to the synod standing committee. As this was the second year of this synod which last for three years, no representatives will need to be elected this year.

The first meeting of the synod in the year under review was held on 30th January at St. Mary's Corringham and at the start of the meeting Archdeacon Mike Power commissioned Fr David Rollins as Area Dean and Revd Kate Carter as Assistant Area Dean. This was followed by a presentation from Revd Sharon Quilter who is the Racial Justice Advisor for the Diocese of Chelmsford. Sharon explained that her role was created as a result of the Archbishops Commission for Racial Justice following the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement. Her role consists of giving advice to parishes on ethnic minority issues. For further information people can read the Archbishop's 'Lament to Action' Report and the Diocesan 'Action to Real Change' Report. These can be found on the Church of England and Diocesan Websites.

The April meeting of the synod was held at St. Margaret's, Stanford le Hope and the speaker was the Bishop of Bradwell, the Venerable Adam Atkinson, who preached on the subject of

friendship and its importance in uniting us in the cause of Christ. He emphasised that as Christians we need to be seen as friends to all.

There was no guest speaker at the synod meeting held in July was at St. Peter and St. Paul in Grays. Instead, the meeting divided up into groups to discuss various aspects of the Diocese's document 'Travelling Well Together' which attempts to set out the future direction of travel for the Diocese. Full details can be found on the Chelmsford Diocesan website.

The final meeting of the year was held at St. Mary's North Stifford on 14<sup>th</sup> October when the speaker was Michelle Cottis who is one of the Diocesan Parish Giving Advisors. Michelle spoke about the concept of 'Living Generously' and not only in a financial sense. She spoke at length about the 'Parish Giving Scheme' which is targeted at helping parishes administer the free will giving of their congregations. She also touched on the advantages of having support for digital giving as increasingly people are carrying cards rather than cash.

*Chris & Kim Ford & Revd. Michèle Marshall – Deanery Synod members*

## **Parish and Church Life Reports**

### **Priest in Charge**

Every year as I sit to prepare this report I am amazed, surprised and delighted at just how busy we have been and the wide variety of services and events that we have undertaken and enjoyed together.

In January I was invited to visit the East Tilbury Cubs pack and talk to them about the Shoebox project and how we can support children in other places around the world ensuring that they too have a special gift to open on Christmas Day.

In February we prepared for Lent by having a Pancake social evening together and then during Lent several soup lunches and a Bible Study Course.

In March we hosted a World Day of Prayer Service at St Francis and the East Tilbury Beavers came to St Catherine's and thought about how we can help others just like the Good Samaritan.

In Holy Week we had our lovely Agape Meal at St Francis on Maundy Thursday, observed the Last Hour at the Cross on Good Friday and on Easter Saturday we had our first 'Come and make an Easter Garden' Family Activity. Later on Easter Eve I had the very great privilege of supporting Pat Webb being 'Received in the Church of England' at Chelmsford Cathedral.

From Easter to October we had our monthly Open Afternoons with tea and cake for visitors and passersby and in June we opened the church for a whole weekend. The Grays Town Brass Band helped us finish the weekend with a lovely Songs of Praise style service in the churchyard.

In July we welcomed once again the 'Valentine Singers' who used St Catherine's as a base for their 'day away' and in return gave a free concert raising funds for our beautiful church.

In September we had a very successful 'Bring and Share Harvest Lunch' and for the very first time a 'sleepover' for the East Tilbury Cub pack. They had accepted the Essex Scouting

Groups challenge of 'sleeping in an unusual place'. Great fun was had during the evening before they settled down to sleep in St Catherine's.

In October we hosted a 'Big Quiz Night' fund-raiser for Tearfund and a coffee-morning at St Francis.

In November we packed Shoeboxes for Blythwood Care Charity; held a Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving for the Bereaved; had our annual Act of Remembrance at the Bata Memorial and on the following day I was pleased to join East Tilbury Primary School for their Remembrance Day Memorial Service.

In December we had our Christmas Fayre at St Catherine's; welcomed two Beaver packs to St Francis to come and make Christingles; had a wonderful Carols and Candlelight service with the Grays Town Brass Band; a Christmas Eve Crib Service and midnight communion. I was also invited to spend a day at East Tilbury Primary School talking to each class about how the church prepares for Christmas returning the following week to lead three Christingle assemblies.

This busy year came to an end with the first of our fifth Sunday Joint Services with the Linford Methodist Church on the 29<sup>th</sup> December and on the last day of the year a New Years Eve Party at St Francis.

Life events and welcoming people to the church in their happiest and saddest times is a vital part of our ongoing mission and ministry. In 2024 we had 10 Baptisms, 3 Weddings, 10 funerals and 4 committals of ashes.

It has been a year when we have welcomed new people to our church family and sadly said farewell to others. I think of course of our dear friends Gena Blackbond and Pat Doyle who have both been 'promoted to Glory'.

As Priest in Charge of this parish I am extremely proud of all the hard work and commitment freely given by so many of you. There is a real sense of team work here and I am so thankful to God for calling me here to serve and work alongside you. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Churchwardens Chris and Les, all the members of the PCC and everybody who serves the Lord and His church in ways large and small, seen and unseen. Thank you once again.

*Revd. Michèle Marshall*

### **Children's Ministry**

Every family visiting St Catherine's receives a warm welcome. There is a dedicated space within the church for small children. This year some of the younger members of our congregation have started to do the readings on a Sunday morning and we have all been blessed by them doing so. Well done and thank you to Tallulah, Bryce and Zakura. We have also had a couple of Family Activity afternoons which have worked well.

*Kim Ford & Revd Michèle*

### **Bible Study and Fellowship Group**

The Bible Study and Fellowship Group meet on a regular basis on a Monday morning at St Francis. We spend time reflecting on the lectionary readings set for the Sunday service and look at each passage in its broader context. For our Lent Course our sessions were built around the book '**Seven Last Words**' by Timothy Radcliffe OP'. Our discussions are always

interesting and lively and it is good to have a space where we can ask questions and explore together what it means to be a Christian.

*Revd Michèle*

### **The Children's Society.**

The Children's Society is a national charity working with the Church of England to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. The children are supported through their most serious life challenges and the Society campaigns for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most.

I have been box Coordinator for East & West Tilbury and Linford since 1985 when I took over from Jane Gowers. It involves collecting the boxes from the box holders and counting the money therein before sending it off to the Children's Society.

I have some spare boxes if anyone would like one.

Last year there were eleven box holders and we made a total of £143.37. Quite good from all those pennies.

*June Schroeder.*

### **Thurrock Foodbank at the St Francis Centre**

The parish continued to support the Thurrock foodbank which exists to help people in Thurrock who find themselves in a crisis situation, by:-

- Individuals regularly donating food – a list of urgent requirements is included in our weekly newsletter.
- Individuals making financial donations.
- Operating the food distribution centre at St. Francis in Linford.
- Our Harvest thanksgiving collection of food.

The Linford distribution centre is open every Thursday morning between 11am and 1pm with the help of volunteers from the church and elsewhere. We are most grateful for their commitment. We also work closely with Rachel Farmer, the Council's Local Area Coordinator for East Tilbury and Linford. The continuing cost of living crisis with the increased pressure on household budgets has meant a sharp increase in the demand for support from the foodbank. We are very grateful for the support of our volunteers and donors.

Donations of food can be left at St. Catherine's on a Sunday morning, at St. Francis on a Wednesday between 10.30am and noon or on a Thursday when the foodbank is open.

*Chris Ford*

### **The Wednesday 'Community Support Drop-in'**

After our 10am Wednesday morning service at the St. Francis centre, the hall is swiftly transformed into a 'drop-in' coffee shop. While some of the worshippers remain, many other folk join us. All are welcome to come to this warm space for refreshments, friendship and chat. The drop-in is much appreciated by those living on their own (especially if living in a House of Multiple Occupation) and the lonely.

The centre is equipped with high-speed broadband and 'wi-fi' which enables technical advice regarding computers, mobile 'phones etc. to be shared. There is also a very well used book exchange.

Rachel Farmer, our Local Area Coordinator, sometimes uses this time to meet with clients.

*Chris Ford*

### **Pewtalk and Parish Communications**

'Pewtalk', our monthly parish magazine continued to be published during the year. 90 copies are printed monthly, with some 60 copies being delivered to subscribers in the parish by our band of dedicated distributors. The remainder are available at St. Catherine's and St. Francis, both inside the building and on the gates, for visitors to pick up. Copies of the magazine, for the most recent twelve months, are also posted on our website and we know, from feedback, that it is accessed from there.

The magazine consists of contributions from the editor, parishioners, and articles from many other sources including the Chelmsford Diocese and 'Parish Pump' (a resource for parish magazines to which we subscribe). It includes our monthly calendar of events. The contributors and distributors make the magazine possible and we thank them for their support. In addition to the monthly magazine, we produce a weekly newsletter which is available at both churches, maintain a website ([www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk](http://www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk)), have a Facebook page and entries on the Church of England's website – 'A Church Near You' - which can be accessed by people wanting to contact the parish and church.

*Chris Ford (Pewtalk editor)*

### **Carer's Craft Group**

The Craft group still has only nine members and would be pleased for any other carers or ex carers to join us on Tuesday afternoons from 1-4pm. There is a weekly charge of £5.00 which pays for the hall hire, refreshments and craft supplies. Last year we had a summer fair and sold quite a lot of our craft items, we also had a successful Christmas bazaar. At Christmas time we mostly have enough cash in our kitty to have a Craft outing and last year eight of us enjoyed a meal and then went to see the pantomime at Basildon.

Pat Webb

## **St Catherine's Flower Arranging**

Flower arranging at St Catherine's is always a pleasure and relaxing.

Easter is really when the flower arranging takes off for the start of the year. We decorate the Church of St Catherine's with Lillies and Spring flowers. The Lillies are paid for by members of the congregation in memory of loved ones. Alongside this we have the Easter Garden on the tomb which in 2024 was arranged by the children attending an Activity afternoon on Easter Saturday with help from the ladies of the Linford Craft Group.

We arranged poppies in June for the D Day Commemoration and in November marked Remembrance Sunday with Poppies and a wreath which was blessed before being taken to the Service at the Bata Memorial.

For Weddings brides are asked for their colour schemes and the church flower arrangements fit in with this.

Summer always brings arrangements in the bright summer colours. The flowers are economically used so that at all times the Church is decorated to welcome our congregation and visitors.

Harvest brings the Autumn colours marking the beginning of a new season alongside some various fruit and veg around the arrangements. As we draw towards early winter and Advent and Christmas the thinking goes out to flowers and Christmas Trees. Kim and Chris usually arrange the getting of the tree which comes in for the Carol Service and flowers are arranged for this Event.

I would like to thank Kathy, Carol Harris and Michèle for all their help and ideas throughout the year. Big thank you to John Blackbond for allowing me to pick greenery from his garden.

We hope that the Flowers in Church add to the welcome we offer congregation and Visitors alike. If anybody would care to join us on a Friday morning please speak to myself or Kathy. If a member of the congregation would like an arrangement either in memory of someone or a special occasion please just ask Pam or Kathy.

Many Thanks on behalf of the team for your Support.

*Pam Painter*

**THE PCC OF EAST AND WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD**

**St Catherine's Church East Tilbury**

**and**

**St. Francis Church, Linford**

**Annual  
Financial Statements  
Of the  
Parochial Church Council**

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

**Priest in Charge**

Revd. Michèle Marshall

**Bankers**

Lloyds TSB Bank PLC  
34 High Street  
Grays  
Essex RM 17 6LX

**Independent Examiner**

Mr P Chandler  
16 The Spinneys  
Leigh-on-Sea  
Essex SS9 5QZ

**Account Balances at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
St. Catherine		
General Fund	24,589.78	17,374.89
SP Fund	183.42	9,143.52
Churchyard Maintenance	0.00	3,634.33
St Francis	5,414.97	5,316.36
CCLA (St. Francis community a/c)	48,104.56	45,679.95
Business Account	19,043.65	0.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>97,336.38</u></b>	<b><u>81,149.05</u></b>



## Parish of East and West Tilbury and Linford

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024

General Fund Receipts and Payments Account

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
Planned Giving	18,725.70		15,050.70	
Loose Collections	1,526.12		1,528.24	
Donations	715.80		522.50	
Tax Recovered	5,486.19		4,171.59	
Parochial Fees	4,856.00		3,274.00	
Parish Magazine	610.03		714.31	
Digital Giving	665.00		0.00	
Church Hall rents	0.00		932.86	
Fund Raising	3,050.03		1,596.93	
Charity Collections	648.50		0.00	
Mission Boxes	0.00		337.76	
Votive Candle Box	239.51		0.00	
Other Income	96.54		4,587.48	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>36,619.42</b>		<b>32,716.37</b>	
<b>Payments</b>	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
<b>Church Expenses:</b>				
Church Office	0.00		102.71	
Churchyard	2,094.00		1,500.00	
Utilities	2,757.61		4,047.36	
Minor repairs/maintenance	337.72		278.46	
Upkeep of services	777.90		845.09	
Insurance	2,429.46		2,228.10	
Church Hall costs	0.00		0.00	
Parish Magazine	437.55		225.74	
		8,834.24		9,227.46
<b>Ministry Expenses:</b>				
Vicars expenses	0.00		0.00	
		0.00		0.00
<b>Training, Mission, Outreach:</b>	0.00		0.00	
		0.00		0.00
<b>Out of Parish Expenses:</b>				
Family Purse	23,704.68		18,009.00	
Assigned Fees	1,192.00		778.00	
Deanery Synod	0.00		0.00	
		24,896.68		18,787.00
<b>Giving:</b>				
Charities	967.50		1,065.50	
		967.50		1,065.50
<b>Misc Expenses</b>				
Miscellaneous	355.97		2,531.66	
		355.97		2,531.66
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>35,054.39</b>		<b>31,611.62</b>	
<b>Excess of Receipts over payments</b>	<b>1,565.03</b>		<b>1,104.75</b>	

## The Parish of East and West Tilbury and Linford

### Current Account Bank Reconciliation 2024

Balance at 31.12.2023	17,374.89
Excess of receipts over payments	1,565.03
Sub Total	<u>18,939.92</u>

Transfer from Churchyard maintenance	3,634.33
Transfer from St. Francis	40.89
Parish share	1,974.64
<b>Balance at 31.12.2024</b>	<b><u>24,589.78</u></b>

### Special Purposes Fund 2024

<b>Balance at 31.12.23 &amp; 31.12.22</b>	<b>9,153.42</b>	<b>17,723.42</b>
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	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>		
100 club	70.00	630.00
Memorial Donation	0	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>1,630.00</b>

### Payments

100 club prize money	0	200.00
Transfer to St. Francis account	40.00	
Transfer to Business account	9,000.00	
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>(8,970.00)</b>	<b>1,430.00</b>
<b>Transfer to current account</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Balance at 31.12.2024</b>	<b><u>183.42</u></b>	<b><u>9,153.42</u></b>

### Business account (instant access)

Balance at start of year	0
Transfer from Special purposes fund	9,000.00
Sale of West Tilbury churchyard	10,021.10
Bank interest	22.55
<b>Balance at 31.12.24</b>	<b><u>19,043.65</u></b>

### Churchyard Maintenance 2024

<b>Balance at 31.12.23</b>	<b>3,634.33</b>
Transfer to current account	3,634.33
<b>Balance at 31.12.2024</b>	<b>account closed</b>

**The Parish of East and West Tilbury and Linford**

**St Francis Centre 2024**

Bank Balance at 31/12/23	<b>5,312.51</b>
Cash in Hand at 31/12/23	<b>3.85</b>
Total	<b>5,316.36</b>

	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
	<b><u>£s</u></b>	<b><u>£s</u></b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Hall Hire	3,057.50	3,019.00
Donations (Drop in)	714.36	748.96
Transfer from St Catherines Acct.	100.45	268.00
Fruit Tree Donations		130.00
Utilities Grant		2,280.00
 Total	 <b><u>3,872.31</u></b>	 <b><u>6,445.96</u></b>

**Payments**

Drop in Expenses	134.97	234.72
Utility bills		
Broadband	373.36	359.07
Electricity	708.87	770.00
Gas	1,415.37	1,856.94
Water	112.29	89.48
<u>Total</u>	<u>2,609.79</u>	<u>3,075.49</u>
Maintenance / Water heater	747.98	3,074.40
Fruit trees		252.00
Other Expenditure	239.97	248.90
Transfer to St. Catherine's	40.89	
 <u>Total</u>	 <b><u>3,773.60</u></b>	 <b><u>6,885.51</u></b>

Excess of receipts over payments	<b>98.61</b>	<b>(439.55)</b>
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<b>Balance at 31/12/2024</b>	<b>5,414.97</b>
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<b>Balance at Bank 31/12/2024</b>	<b>5,409.83</b>
<b>Cash in hand (C Ford)</b>	<b>5.14</b>

<b>Balance</b>	<b>5,414.97</b>
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**CCLA Linford Community Account**

Balance at 31.12.2023	45,679.95
Bank Interest	2,424.61
 <b>Balance at 31.12.24</b>	 <b><u>48,104.56</u></b>

## **Independent examiner's report to the PCC of East and West Tilbury and Linford**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are attached.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

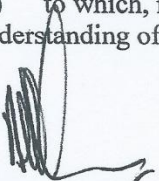
### **Basis of Independent Examiners Statement.**

My examination was carried out remotely this year and in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act: or
  - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Peter W Chandler  
15 The Spinneys  
Leigh on Sea  
SS9 5QZ

6<sup>th</sup> February 2025