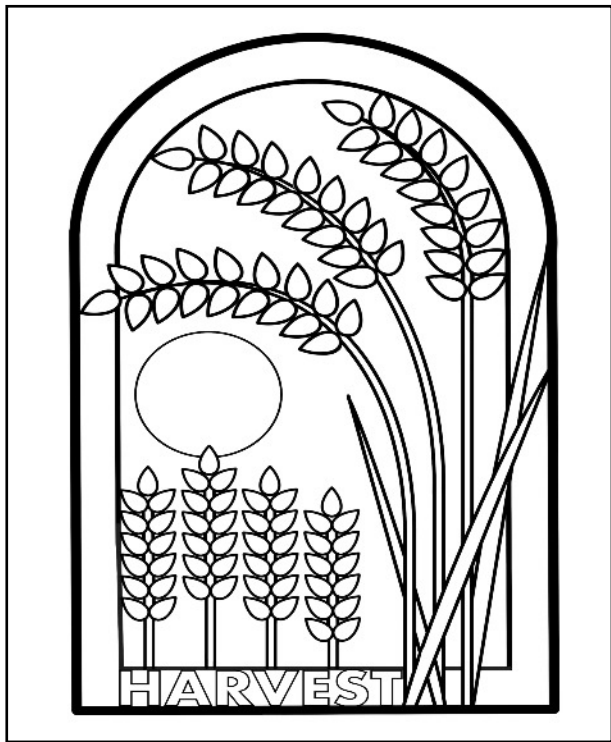


PEWTALK

£1

September 2025



EAST & WEST TILBURY AND LINFORD PARISH MAGAZINE

Parish web site: www.stcatherinesthurrock.org.uk

BITs AnD PiECes

100 Club - Revd. Michèle drew the first winning ticket of the 2025-2026 season on August 3rd and the winner of the £10 was Joan Dighton. Joan has not been in good health and has not been able to join us at St. Catherine's but John is a regular member of our congregation and took the prize with our best wishes to Joan.

If you have yet to renew your ticket for the 100 Club the next draw is September 7th and if you would like to join please contact your Pewtalk distributor or preferably join us at Church for a service.

Norman

This year our harvest celebrations will be over the weekend 20th and 21st of September. On the Saturday we will be having a Harvest Supper starting at 5 o'clock particularly so that children can join us if they would like to be there. The evening will take the form of a 'bring and share' meal with some table games and a time playing 'beetle' or perhaps it will be 'harvest mouse'. On the Sunday we will be having a Harvest Celebration at 10am and during the service we will collect donations of non-perishable food for the Thurrock food bank and cash for two of Tearfund's projects. If you wish to donate food but will not be at St. Catherine's on the 21st your donation can be left at St. Francis on a Wednesday between 10:30am and noon or on a Thursday between 11am and 1pm.

While thinking of Tearfund, we will be once again supporting them with their Big Quiz Night on Saturday the 25th of October at St. Catherine's. The doors open at 6:30pm for a

7pm quiz start. Tickets cost £7.50 per person and although we aim to have tables of 6 we can accommodate anyone who wishes to take part. Tea and cake will be available during the interval but feel free to bring table snacks and drinks for during the quiz itself. Be assured that this is intended to be a **fun fundraiser** in support of a great cause. Tickets are available from Kim or Chris Ford from the beginning of September. Please do support this very worthwhile event.

Another charity to support is MacMillan Cancer Support and Claire Frend is planning her annual event for Friday 26th September at St. Francis.

We continue to be helped with our churchyard maintenance by the Community Payback Team. And on a recent visit one of their number remarked on our 'toilet twinning' certificates in the 'loos' at St. Catherine's. If you would like to know more about this scheme visit their website <https://toilettwinning.org>.

While on the subject of the churchyard it is worth remembering that there are a number of regulations governing its upkeep and appearance with the idea of making sure that it is safe and in a natural state. Recently it appeared to be a little too natural to the horses in the field next door and they decided to break through their fence and sample the churchyard 'pasture'. They were eventually persuaded to leave and the fencing was repaired by their owner. However they did decorate the churchyard with a few 'droppings' before leaving

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

I recently came across these words describing what 'home' should and shouldn't be;

A home is not where you come back to sleep

A home is where you come back to feel alive

A home is not a place to store your worries

A home is a place to let your happiness thrive

A home is not where you live in darkness

A home is where you say goodbye to gloom

A home is not where you argue and fight

A home is where you let love bloom

They are lovely words and it is my prayerful hope that all of us experience the positive aspects of home rather than the negative. I am aware however, that for a great many of our brothers and sisters around the world home is anything but safe. In fact for some 'home' may no longer physically exist because it has been lost as a result of war and conflict. 'Home' may well have become whatever you can carry on your back. It has become a place where you feel fearful, anxious and every morning brings noise, chaos and confusion. It is no wonder then that so many flee their war torn homes to seek asylum and refuge in countries of safety.

Asylum seekers and Refugees and the challenges they present to Government, local councils and communities are regularly highlighted in the media. On the 13th August, Bishop Guli shared a message with church leaders in Chelmsford Diocese about the protests that have been taking place across the country concerning accommodation for asylum seekers in local communities, including in our own diocese. She said,

"In recent weeks we have seen numerous protests across the country, including in our own diocese, about the use of hotels and other accommodation, to temporarily house people seeking asylum. It is absolutely right that we debate and discuss how the Government manages arrangements for those who seek asylum here. There are long standing problems with the asylum system in this country that impact both those who seek refuge and the communities in which they are placed. Peaceful protest also has a legitimate and important role in our democracy. At the same time we are seeing the cynical hijacking of people's legitimate concerns by those who use misinformation to sow fear and hatred, to encourage division and in some cases to intimidate and use violence against innocent people. This not only impacts those who are targeted, but is corrosive for the communities we serve.

On some occasions we have seen the defence of Christian values used as a justification for this divisive politics. This is disturbing for us as Christians, not least because it is profoundly wrong. Jesus Christ modelled love, mercy and justice. The Gospel calls us to love our neighbour; including the outsider, the stranger and those who are different from us.

Invoking Christianity in defence of cultural purity is both theologically false and morally dangerous. It is because of our Christian faith and values that Christians of all denominations

across our country work with those who seek asylum. It is because of our faith and values that we support disadvantaged people of all backgrounds, without prejudice or judgement, to eat, sleep, worship, find shelter and access the services that can support them. I am deeply grateful to the many churches across the Diocese of Chelmsford who undertake this important ministry. It is something I hope we will continue to do with faith and confidence during these challenging times. I want to conclude by offering a prayer:

Gracious God,

We pray for peace in our communities this day.

We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,

And those who work to uphold law and justice.

We pray for an end to fear,

For comfort and support to those who suffer.

For calm in our streets and cities,

That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.

In your mercy, hear our prayers,

now and always. Amen.

We may not feel as if we can do very much to change the world's problems but we can all do as Jesus did and model love, mercy and justice. As Bishop Guli reminded us the Gospel calls us to love our neighbour; including the outsider, the stranger and those who are different from us. So let us strive to do all we can to ensure that 'home' for everyone is a place of safety, warmth, love and an environment where all can flourish.

Stay safe and keep well,

Every Blessing,

Revd. Michèle

Is Gen Z coming to church? - By Dr. Peter Brierley

Could it be true that a *Quiet Revival* (as the report is called) is taking place? Another reasonably large survey commissioned by the Bible Society's research team suggests it could be.

In March 2025 Bible Society repeated a survey they had carried out in 2018, asking 13,000 people if they went to church (It was 19,000 in the 2018 study).

Perhaps to their surprise, but, as suspected by others, and to the incredulity of still many others, they reported that attendance at church once a month in England and Wales had increased from 8% in 2018 to 12% in 2025, and the increase was mostly seen among those aged 18 to 34, defined generally as those born between 1997 and 2012; that is, those now aged 12 to 27 in 2024.

A more detailed breakdown showed that in every age-group, men are attending more than women, except for those aged 65 plus, where the percentages are equal. For men aged 18 to 24, this meant an increase from 4% in 2018 to 21% in 2024 and for women from 3% to 12%, respectively.

Whatever the reason some Gen Z people are coming to church, the report's findings agreed with other studies - that churchgoers are often happier than those not going to church.

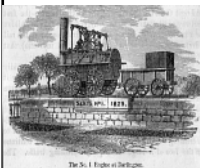
As for denominations, the Roman Catholic growth has been substantial and widespread. The *Daily Telegraph* 'Features' supplement in April had the headline: 'The extraordinary resurgence of Catholicism in Britain', and explained, "Gen Z want to belong – modern life can be lonely They have digital friends but never meet them. They are crying out for community." The Catholics have 1.8 million people attending Mass on a Sunday.

Celebrating 200 years of the public railroads - by Tim Lenton

Two hundred years ago, on 27th September 1825, the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

Inspired and supported by a prominent Quaker, Edward Pease, and backed financially by many Quakers nationally, it has been described as "the great theatre of railway operations", sparking the explosion of railways across the world and boosting the industrial revolution. About 20 miles of the original 25 mile stretch still exist, now as part of the Northern Rail line.

The technical expertise behind it all came from George Stephenson, an extraordinary self-taught engineer whose expertise, which originated in the mines, stretched beyond railways. His *Locomotion No 1*, built for the Stockton and Darlington line, was the first steam locomotive to carry passengers on a public rail line. He worked with his 18-year-old son Robert, who is known for creating the more famous *Rocket* four years later.



The first Stockton and Darlington train – which in fact ran from Old Etherley Colliery, some distance north of Darlington – was led by a man on horseback with a flag. The motto of the organising committee was "At private risk for public service".

With brakemen stationed between the wagons, the train reached 12 to 15mph and was greeted by an estimated 10,000 people at the Darlington junction, where some passengers left and more boarded. The average speed was calculated at about 8mph. Six wagons of coal were given to the poor by way of celebration.

A nine-month festival in County Durham and the Tees Valley – with artwork, spectacles and community events – is marking the bicentenary of the opening of the railway.

As a tribute to his life and achievements, a bronze statue of George Stephenson was unveiled at Chesterfield railway station in 2005. An earlier statue stands in Neville Street, Newcastle.

More info at: <https://railway200.co.uk>, <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk>





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

Registered office: Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, Registered in England: 394329. A company limited by guarantee. Registered Charity No. 255484 (England & Wales); Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)

tearfund

My trip over the O2



After many years of asking my family to take a trip to walk over the O2, during a chance chat at the food bank one day, Sandra said she would like to do it as well. We agreed to do it together and she organised everything. So on Wednesday 20th August 2025 I finally got my wish! We set off to catch the 9:30am train from East Tilbury with the walk booked for 11am. There was about a dozen of us kiting up with harness and trainers, and after a little instruction we started our climb. Sandra and I were the second couple to set off.

The first section of the walkway is rubberised and so very bouncy and then further up it is metal and a lot easier. Arriving at the top, where it was slightly windy, there was a lovely view around. The guide then pointed out places of interest. We were at the top for about 20 minutes before starting back down again, stopping to have our photo taken. Walking down was a lot easier than climbing up.

I really loved the experience and would happily go again.

Once on the ground we went to find some lunch at the 'Slug and Lettuce', which was also enjoyable, before making our way back home.

We had a lovely day out.

Iris Crane

Scammers everywhere.

Just a reminder that 'scammers' are always on the lookout for a new or re-imagined way to trick us into giving them a 'pay-day' and it is worth remembering that scamming is, more often than not, their 'job'. Recently both Les and I received emails purporting to come from Revd. Michèle and asking for our help. If we had followed the scam to its logical end we would have lost money and the scammer would have it. I also regularly get 'phishing' emails which are trying to get me to download something which would no doubt infect my computer or give me an opportunity to part with my cash. So how do we identify these scams? The first question to ask is does it seem credible? Why would the person that is being impersonated need your help and if they do why not speak to you directly? Secondly, particularly if a bank or other organisation is being impersonated, is the message in their normal style? Is the English language correct? Were you expecting to be contacted? Finally it is a good idea to check, in the case of an email, are you really the addressee and by checking the senders email address, is it really from who they say they are? As I write this I have just taken a telephone call from a women who wants to save me money on a service that I do not have - they will try anything! Remember, in all of these things - **it is your money they are after.**

Chris Ford

Why fair trade?

From time to time we are asked in the church why we support many different initiatives.

A common one is, why are we keen to support fair trade? Fair trade has been a term in the English language for many years and when we look in supermarkets, particularly for tea, coffee and chocolate, we often come across the fair-trade logo - not to be confused with the rainforest alliance one.

The logo can also be found on other products including fruit, sugar and in some cases biscuits as well as clothing and craft items although you may have to seek these out in more specialist shops. For some years, soon after we came to St. Catherine's, Kim ran a Tradecraft table in the church where she promoted the idea of fair trade and made fair trade products available. Sadly, when support dropped as products became more widely available, it became impossible to continue with it.

So why, particularly as Christians, should we be supporting the fair-trade movement by buying products that bear their logo? It is true that they may be a little more expensive but this is not always the case as proved by the instant coffee we use in both our churches. The whole point of trading fairly is to ensure, as far as possible, that the people who actually grow, and harvest the product are fairly recompensed for their labour as we would expect to be if we were doing the work.

If you have watched Simon Reeves television programme about the tea trade in Kenya you will have seen how little the tea pickers receive and, in many instances how child labour is employed. Surely it cannot be right that we in the west maintain our standard of living by depressing that of our fellow man elsewhere. And we shouldn't kid ourselves that this imbalance in our standards of living goes unnoticed, since the western lifestyle is paraded in all the social media content seen around the world.

So what is Fairtrade? This from the Fairtrade Foundation:-

"Fairtrade is more than a label

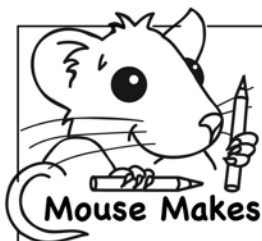
The Fairtrade Foundation is part of a global Fairtrade system. We work to change the terms of trade through our certification, campaigns, policy work, and business partnerships.

That includes working to secure fairer prices, safer working conditions, and more power in the hands of farmers and workers".

See <https://www.fairtrade.net/uk-en.html>

So in this era of **'influencers'** let us all try to be influencers for good and not only support fair-trade where we can but also 'bang the drum for it'!

Chris Ford



Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."

- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."

- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."

- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
 REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

PARISH DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER

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



3 Sep	Holy Communion at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
4 Sep	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
6 Sep	Church cleaning at St. Catherine's Service of Holy Baptism at St. Catherine's	10am-1130am 12noon
7 Sep	12th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
10 Sep	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
11 Sep	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
14 Sep	13th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am
15 Sep	P.C.C. Meeting at St. Francis	2.00pm
17 Sep	Mid-week Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
18 Sep	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
20 Sep	Service of renewal of Marriage vows Harvest Supper and Beetle drive at St. Francis	12noon 5.00pm
21 Sep	Harvest Festival Harvest Celebration at St. Catherine's Café Communion at St. Francis	10.00am 4.30pm
22 Sep	Bible study and Fellowship Group at St. Francis	10.30am-noon
24 Sep	Morning Prayer at St. Francis <i>Then the community support 'drop-in'</i>	10.00am 10.30am-noon
25 Sep	Foodbank at St. Francis	11.00am-1pm
26 Sep	Coffee Morning at St Francis. Hosted by Claire Frend and in support of MacMillan Cancer Charity.	10.00am-noon
28 Sep	15th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion at St. Catherine's	10.00am

Future Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th September - Harvest 'bring and share' supper - 5pm.

Sunday 21st September - Harvest celebration at St. Catherine's - 10am

Friday 26th September - Claire Frend MacMillan coffee morning at St. Francis - 9am

Saturday 18th October - Filling Blythswood shoe boxes - time TBA

Sunday 19th October - Blessing of the shoe boxes at St. Catherine's - 10am

Saturday 25th October - Tearfund Big Quiz Night at St. Catherine's - 6.30pm

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 August

Baptism

17 August Violet Rose Leatherbarrow

Weddings

28 August Ryan Martin & Cassie Fawsitt

Funeral

18 August Shirley Daisy Archer

Committal of Ashes

2 August Lynda Weyell

British Food Fortnight 2025 – 26th September to 12th October

This annual 'celebration' of the diversity and quality of British Food is aiming to be bigger than ever this year, involving restaurants, pubs, schools, universities, care homes, the NHS, and even the Houses of Parliament.

Why not take advantage of the fortnight, and see what one of our local restaurants and pubs might offer?



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

E:- leslie.bowles2@gmail.com

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

19th September 2025

22nd October 2025

22nd November 2025