



# NEWSLETTER



St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey



@marksteychurch



*The Churchwardens writes...*

*Dear Friends,*

As we now go into what is officially called a "Vacancy" we are going to try to answer your most pressing questions. How long will it be before we get another Priest-in-Charge? Probably about a year. The process is this: on Monday 18, November, the Bishop called 6 PCCs to a "pre-vacancy" meeting in White Colne Village Hall. He said the only chance of getting a new incumbent will be one for the 6 Churches, Aldham, Marks Tey, Great and Little Tey, Chappel and Wakes Colne. These 6 churches must get together and write a "Profile" which describes the location, what each church is doing and would like to do and what we would like our next incumbent to be. The Bishop of Colchester says we should have this prepared by mid-March. Then we could advertise in the Church Times or the Diocesan website, or we could ask our patron, CPAS, if they have any clergy looking for incumbencies that match our profile. If we get a short list from that, we interview possibly in May. If not, we continue looking. If an interviewee is offered the job and accepts, then he or she will normally have to give 3 months notice. In the meantime, what happens? We have been greatly blessed by two priests who have each offered to take communion and preach on a monthly basis. Thanks to them and to other clergy and to authorised lay preachers, we have filled every Sunday at Aldham and Marks Tey through to the middle of May 2025. We've got the Bishop of Colchester to come to both Churches on 6 July. Put it in your diary now! For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, the Churchwardens should be approached in the first instance and we will contact the Area Dean, Rev Canon Erwin Lammens, Rector of St Mary's Wivenhoe. So we hope you will come and sample a rich offering of services and talks. You will be most welcome and please stay for coffee, tea and biscuits after the service at both churches.

We are approaching an important time in our faith calendar, as we celebrate the birth of our saviour and creator, Jesus Christ. On 22 December, there will be Carol Services in both churches. On Christmas Eve there will be a Crib Service at Marks Tey and later a midnight Communion at Marks Tey and on Christmas Day a Family Service in Aldham Church. We'd love to see you at one or all of these services.

We wish you a Happy and blessed Christmas  
With best wishes,  
Iain, Coral, and Andrew

*Signing off...*

It has been a pleasure to be of service over these 6 years to St. Andrews, but due to life pressures it's time to hand over the reins to the next eager Editor, my advice to them, just have fun.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Graham*

## Worship at St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Marks Tey

You are very welcome to join us on a Sunday morning and afterwards to stay for a drink and refreshments.

### Services

**1st December**, 11am Morning Worship

**8th December**, 11am Morning Worship

**15th December**, 11am Holy Communion

**22nd December**, 11am Traditional Carol Service

**24th December**, 4pm Crib Service led by  
the Open the Book Team

**24th December**, 11.15 pm Midnight Communion

**25th December**, 9.15 am Family service at Aldham

**29th December**, No Service

**5th January**, 11am Morning Worship

**12th January**, 11am Morning Worship

**19th January**, 11am Holy Communion

**26th January**, 11am Christingle Family Service

*The Church is always open so if you would like a time of quiet reflection or just to look around, do drop in.*

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## Tower Restoration Works

Scaffolding starts going up in week  
commencing 16th December

## Marks Tey Heritage Project

We have now engaged experienced advisers who are formulating the way the current and new material will be recorded indexed and presented.

Volunteers to help with this and forthcoming oral history recordings will be very welcome.

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Your chance to win first prize of a hamper of Christmas goodies or other prizes of festive treats. Tickets are £1 per strip of 5 or 3 strips for £2 and will be on sale on the coach trip on Thursday, 28th November, Community Library on Saturday, 7th December, Young at Heart on Wednesday, 11th December and the Christmas Party on Sunday, 14th December at the Parish Hall where the draw will take place.

**Good Luck!**



# 1st Marks Tey and Copford Scout Group

## Remembrance Sunday:

We were proud to see nearly 40 young people and leaders in full uniform attending the Remembrance Sunday service at St. Andrew's Church on November 10th. During the service, our group had the honour of laying poppy wreaths, with Cubs and Scouts taking part in prayers and readings. It was a meaningful and respectful way to pay tribute.



## Beavers:

This term, our Beavers have had some fantastic adventures! From exploring the Gridserve Electric Forcourt and learning about sustainability, to visiting the RNLI at Clacton, it's been an exciting time. Highlights also include a fun-filled Sausage Sizzle sleepover at Thorrington, along with many other memorable experiences.



## Cubs:

It's been a busy and adventurous term for our Cubs! They've enjoyed a spooky adventure day, visited Gridserve Electric Forcourt and had a hands-on experience with fire lighting and making s'mores in Hobday Woods. We're also thrilled to announce that our Cubs won the district Dodgeball competition and brought home the trophy – a fantastic achievement!



## Scouts:

Our Scouts have been hard at work, focusing on their badge work and group forum ideas. There's been plenty of cooking, fundraising, and games to keep everyone engaged. As we look ahead, we're excited to offer our Scouts the chance to attend Winter Camp in just a few weeks, promising more adventures and growth opportunities.

Colchester Early Music regulars Blondel return to St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey on 2nd February with their new programme "Cover story" 2.30-3.30pm with refreshments after the concert, donations to church funds.

During the Middle Ages and Renaissance music traveled across Europe, sometimes with the musicians themselves as they journeyed from one employer to another or to the great "minstrel schools" and sometimes in written manuscripts that were copied, gifted and exchanged between musicians and patrons. The melodies themselves often remained intact, with identical versions appearing at opposite ends of the continent. Other tunes underwent a series of adaptations, expansions and cover versions: new words were fitted to old melodies, or new melodies to old words, ornaments and countermelodies were written, dances became songs and songs became dances in a fascinating web of musical connections. Musicians being musicians there were also a fair few puns and in jokes. In this programme Blondel trace connections between pieces and demonstrate the evolution of some of them on their shawm, bagpipe and recorder trios. Includes works by Machaut & Wolkenstein, Bedyngham and Binchois.



Tickets are £15/£10 on a flexi concessions scheme (anybody can have a concession, no explanation required) Under 18s get in free when accompanied by paying adult. Cash on the door please, or you can pre-pay at [www.colchesterearlymusic.org.uk](http://www.colchesterearlymusic.org.uk)



The Bridgeway Mission in Colchester, run by Souzan Yousif, has been supporting the Afghan families and single men who have been in the Marks Tey Hotel. Some of the families have been housed but some are still there and so are some single men who are under threat of moving to the Bibby Stockholm barge. The Bridgeway Mission offers support to them by weekly meetings where they can practise their English, help with job applications, work experience, life skills and socialise together. Our band lead the sung worship at St Andrew's Church Marks Tey once or twice a month and some of us also performed a secular set at the Red Lion Manningtree under the name: 'Handbags and Gladbags'. We had a very successful concert in 2023, in aid of the Bridgeway Mission and are having another one this year.

Please come along at **3pm on Sunday 8th December at St Andrew's Church Marks Tey** to sing traditional Carols, learn some contemporary Christmas songs and find out more from Souzan about the Bridgeway Mission and the work they are currently doing with the Afghan families and men. We aim to make the afternoon an enjoyable and inspiring afternoon of music and singing, as well as supporting Bridgeway. There will also be an opportunity to help raise funds for the Bridgeway Mission. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Mark J Hull (St Andrew's Church Marks Tey Sung Worship Leader).

## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IS SOLD OUT!

This is a ticket only event so please do not turn up unless you have bought a ticket. Also, if you have bought tickets from someone who can no longer attend please contact Mo on 07928 810404 so she can let Santa know of the changes.





# St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

www.st-andrewscofe.essex.sch.uk

**'Inspiring children to achieve their 'Personal Best within a Caring Christian community.'**

Well, just like that we are heading towards the end of the Autumn Term. Over the last few weeks we have been pleased to launch many of the important parts of what makes life at our school 'tick'. This includes the School Council, with 2 representatives from each class coming together to help shape future projects for the school and share the voice and opinions of their peers; Play Leaders, a group of year 5 children who organise playground games for children across all year groups to ensure an active and happy lunch for all; Reading Champions, who champion books and deliver a special 'Story Time' twice a week to other children to help build a love of reading and our Multi-Skills council, whose job it is to help us continually strive to be inclusive and supportive of each other's mental health. This term we have also held a Tag Rugby tournament for the other schools within our Trust which we hope will lay the foundations for future opportunities for children at all of the schools to work and compete together in a sporting capacity. This term also included this year's first 'make a difference' project - the *Shoebox appeal*. The children worked in cross-class groups to pack and wrap 21 boxes which were filled with items greatly needed and appreciated by other children across the world. Of course, in the next few weeks we are very much looking forward to our Nativity performances, Christmas Dinner and our exciting trip to Colchester Mercury Theatre to see this year's Pantomime - oh yes we are! As ever, we thoroughly enjoy working alongside our community which includes the Open the Book team who continue to deliver engaging and enjoyable Collective Worship sessions and our PTA (FOSTAPS) who organised an absolutely wonderful Christmas Fair and partly funded our trip to the Pantomime this year - thank you all for all that you do. We would like to wish the whole Marks Tey community a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Best wishes

**Head of School Mr. Keith Birbeck**

St. Andrew's C of E Primary School



## Community Library and Café

**Next one is 7th December**

In the large hall at the Parish Hall Marks Tey 10am to 12:30pm.

The dates for 2025 are January 4th, February 1st, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st, December 6th. Same place, same times.

Please keep a note of all the dates as we would love to see you all in 2025 at the Community Library and Café. At our January library we will be having a visit from Colchester City Council and later in the year Anglian Water and hopefully Essex Fire and Rescue and coffee with a Police Officer so please keep a lookout for these.

We will also be having Nicola Wardrop in January hoping to help you save some money on your bills with Utility Warehouse.

Is there anyone else you would like us to invite?

Come and join us at our Christmas Community Library and café where we will be having mulled wine, mince pies, sausage rolls as well as the usual wonderful homemade cakes. We'll have Christmas music playing and a Tombola for community funds so it will be a lovely morning full of Christmas cheer. We'll have some really nice craft tables for you to browse for some lovely homemade gifts to give so please give them a look. Colchester City Council are also coming to give you any help and advice you may need. So please come and see them with any questions you have. This is a good opportunity to talk to someone. Come and have a look at the wonderful selection of books we have for you to borrow. We have over 2000 books, fiction and non-fiction across all genres, and a very big children's section for all ages, with a craft table for them too. If you have a favourite author then we may have more books of theirs in our stock cupboards as we can't put them all out on the bookcases at once, so please ask. There isn't any fee to join, and you can borrow up to 4 books per person for a month and renew them if you haven't quite finished reading them. We always have a lot of jigsaws to buy at £2 if you like doing them. Come down to the Parish Hall on December 7th and see what it is all about. Borrow a great book and enjoy a mince pie and mulled wine or have a coffee/tea, cake and chat. It is a good place to catch up with people you may not have seen for a while and have a chat over a drink and great home-made cakes.

**Look forward to seeing you.**

Yvonne 07709064599

The Young at Heart group for the over 50's living in the Marks Tey area meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm.

Our next meeting is 2pm on 11th December.

Come and join us at the Parish Hall, Old London Road where we'll be getting festive with mulled wine, mince pies, tea, coffee, home made cake and a chat. All welcome.



For more information contact  
Trish on 07815 125261

Find us on  
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www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil



## 1st Tey Rainbows

It has been a busy start to the term, with the opening of an additional session before our usual meeting which has enabled more girls to start their Girl-guiding journey. We have also been fortunate to be joined by two additional unit helpers, one of whom has previously run a Rainbows unit. This term we are working on Feel Good 1 and the girls are enjoying getting to know each other with lots of games, crafts and activities. Girls at both sessions follow the same programme which has included making playdough to form into friendly monsters and making pompoms then creating a cheerleading routine, as well as doing Promise and Remembrance Day activities. The girls have also enjoyed choosing toppings to prepare and put on their pizzas for their Pizza Party. Nearly all of the Rainbows attended the District Halloween Party and a few of them took part in the District's Winter Weekend sleepover. We still have a cinema trip, a movie night and Christmas activities to look forward to, as well as two busy enrolment and badge presentation ceremonies at the end of term, including the presentation of two Gold Awards.

If you think your daughter (or granddaughter) would like to join Rainbows you can register at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/)

This month we will be praying for all who live and work in  
**Bury Close, Ashbury Drive, Maybury Close  
and Norbury Close**

For further details/prayer requests, please contact us on:  
[prayer@marksteychurch.org.uk](mailto:prayer@marksteychurch.org.uk)



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## Who's Who in the Church [www.marksteychurch.org.uk](http://www.marksteychurch.org.uk)

**Rector:** Vacancy The Rectory, Church Lane CO6 1LW 01206 215772

**Church Warden:** Andrew Waters, 43 London Road, Copford, CO6 1LG 07774 709989

**Church Hall & Bookings:** Yvonne Norman 29 Coggeshall Rd Marks Tey CO6 1LL Mob 07709 064599

**Pastoral:** Tim Dooley, 65 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey CO6 1NQ Mob 07878 769843

**Treasurer:** Yvonne Norman 29 Coggeshall Rd Marks Tey CO6 1LL Mob 07709 064599

**Newsletter Editor:** Vacancy