

NEWSLETTER



St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

www.marksteychurch.org.uk

Jamboree On The Air.

This was my first time on a camp with Marks Tey and there were 8 of us not including the leaders. We went to **JOTA** which stands for **Jamboree On The Air**.

On the first night when we got there it was cold, dark and damp and when I say cold I mean cold. We had to set up our tents unpack our bags and see who we were going to share a tent with for that weekend. After we found out the news we were then given supper (which was nice hotdogs) and they tasted so good. We then stayed up for a little bit then went to bed not too soon after as we were all tired from the day.

On the morning of the second day we woke up quite early to a very very cold morning. We came out for breakfast (which was sausages, bacon and beans) which was so good by the way. We then went out for the wide range of activities. The first thing we did was axe throwing (which I did multiple times) I then made a nice woggle for my scarf and tried to make a rope made of different colours (but it didn't go too well). I then spoke to a twelve year old from Wales on a radio and was able to understand what life in scouting was like in Wales. I then ended up doing rifle shooting and that ended my activities for the morning. We then headed back to camp to start getting ready for lunch which was a normal camp lunch which included a sandwich or wrap with whatever pack of crisps you wanted and a piece of fruit. We then went back out for more activities in the afternoon such as making bread in the forest. We then for a second time went back to camp to get ready for dinner, which was yummy as always. Later that night we played games for a while with just us in the camp and then we started to sing campfire songs as one collective group. We then went to bed but it was so cold me and my tent mates decided to all huddle up in one corner to get more heat.

The next morning after having a very cold night we woke up and started to get packed up for the day to come. We had breakfast, same as the day before, and we had one last opportunity to speak to someone on the radio. We then pulled the flag down and then waited for our parents to pick us up to take us back home. Written by Jack Rowland.

Our Thanks to **Jack Rowland** for a great report. **Richard Hayes** Scout Leader.

Photos from Remembrance Service and JOTA.



Photos from Christmas Craft Fayre



Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals for your family can take place in St Andrew's Church. You don't need to be a regular Sunday worshipper. We are your church, please ask and we'll do our best for you!

This month we will be praying for all who live or work in **Bury Close, Ashbury Drive, Maybury Close and Norbury Close**. For further details/prayer requests, please contact us on: prayer@marksteychurch.org.uk

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

7th Dec 11am Morning Worship with Rev Paul Greenland

14th Dec 11am Morning Worship

21st Dec 4pm Traditional Candlelit Carol Service with Rev John Chandler

24th Dec 4pm Family Nativity Service

24th Dec 11.15pm Midnight Communion

with Revs G & J Lewis

25th Dec 10am Holy Communion at Great Tey Church

with Archdeacon Kate Peacock

28th Dec 10am Morning Worship at Little Tey Church

4th Jan 11am Morning Worship

11th Jan 11am Morning Worship

18th Jan 11am Holy Communion with Rev John Chandler

25th Jan 11am Morning Worship with Rev David Beales.

N.B. The Joint Benefice Services this year will be held at Great Tey and Little Tey Churches.



ST ANDREWS CHURCH MARKS TEY

Traditional Carols by Candlelight.

SUNDAY 21st

December

4PM

Followed by Complimentary Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Hot Chocolate.

A Special Thank You to the Barn Garden Centre for providing the church with a Christmas Tree.



Dear Friends,

We now live in an age when so much is instant that many of the joys and blessings in waiting have been lost. Previously seasonal foodstuffs are now available all year round and some companies provide same day deliveries on a wide range of goods.

One thing will not change is the waiting of expectant mothers. There is so much preparation, especially for the first born, with changes to the home and the purchase of a wide range of new necessities. All feeding mounting excitement and expectation of what lies ahead. Followed by joy at a safe arrival.

Waiting is good for us. We appreciate and value the outcome so much more. The weeks before Christmas are known as Advent. The season of waiting and preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to remember the promise of His return.

The coloured candles of an Advent wreath represent Hope, Peace, Joy and Love which we all need in an ever changing and challenging world. We wait with hope for the appointment of a new Rector and there will be much preparation before their arrival.

In the hectic busyness of preparing for the Christmas Day celebration I always find it good to reflect on those less fortunate than myself as it helps me to moderate my actions and to remember that love is the most valuable gift. Special consideration is required for those who find Christmas a difficult time.

We look forward to welcoming you at our Christmas services
Sunday 21st December at 4pm Traditional Candlelit Carol Service,
Christmas Eve 4pm Family Nativity Service led by the Open the Book Team,
Midnight Communion 11.15pm.

Best Wishes,

Andrew Waters Churchwarden

St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy

We have had 3 class trips this half term starting with our Year 5/6 class visiting the Imperial War Museum Duxford, a great way to close their WWII learning. Next, Maple class (Year 1/2) visited the Mountfitchet Castle and Toy Museum. This acted as a close to their 'History of Toys' learning and an opening for their next unit on Castles. Finally, Juniper class (Year 4/5) spent the day at Colchester Castle, putting their learning on Romans to good use as well as learning additional information to close their topic.

Our sporting achievements have continued this year with our recent 2nd place finish in a Year 5/6 Basketball tournament. This half term we will also be hosting a Trust-wide Tag Rugby tournament that we are sure will be as successful as the one we hosted last year.

Foundation subjects are an important part of the curriculum at St Andrew's and Mrs Shirt has worked hard to raise the profile of Music at the school. This half term we have introduced 'Rock Steady', weekly in-school band lessons that celebrate fun, individuality and creativity through music!

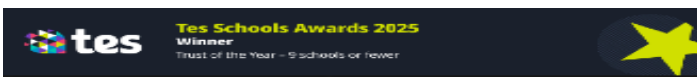
As we head towards Christmas, we are looking forward to many traditional events including a Nativity Performance, a Christingle Service and Christmas Dinner. We will also be having a visit from a touring Pantomime, who will perform Aladdin and of course hold our Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December. The whole community is welcome to this event which will run from 3:30pm-5pm and have a range of stalls and games along with a raffle and sweet treats to enjoy with a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate - I hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes, **Mr. Keith Birbeck Headteacher**

St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy

Mandeville Road, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex. CO6 1HL

Telephone Number: 01206 210638

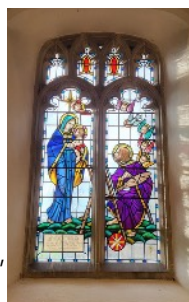


Tower and Heritage Project Celebration Saturday 24 Jan 10am - 3pm

Celebrating the Completion of the Tower Renovations and the Heritage Project.

There will be a **Talk at 10.30 am** by the granddaughter of stained glass window painter Arthur Erridge. The photo shows the stained glass window in our church erected to his memory by his wife, children and colleagues.

There will be displays of school artwork & poetry, interactive children's activities including dressing up, guided tours, a chance to hear some of the oral history recordings, demonstrations of accessing the heritage website and much more, with refreshments.



To Hire St. Andrew's Church Hall The hire fee for private hire is currently £55 for 3 hours, then £16 per hour after or £8 for 30 minutes. For regular hire charges & to hire the Hall please contact

Yvonne Norman 07709064599.

Available to Hire during the daytime during the week. It is ideal for any groups who meet regularly or a Toddler Group who are looking to start up or looking for new premises. It is also available most weekends for parties, both children and adults, and general get-togethers. Tables and Chairs for about 70 people.



Colchester Early Music

Glorious Early Music at St. Andrew's Church, Marks Tey.

14th December 2.30-3.30pm – Christmas with The Colchester Waits

Medieval and Renaissance Christmas hits on shawms, sackbuts, recorders, bagpipes and more, delivered with the Waits' usual vibrant shawm band sound and sense of fun. Finishing up with a chance to sing some traditional carols.

18th January 2.30-3.30pm - Stephanie Dyer: "Sackbut Soliloquy"

Welsh virtuoso trombonist Stephanie Dyer transforms a single sackbut into a rich, multi-voiced sonic world. Through improvisation on ground basses, diminutions, works by Diego Ortiz, variations by Jacob van Eyck, and vocal repertoire played instrumentally, the performance moves effortlessly between intimate reflection and bold, textured sound.

1st February 2.30-3.30pm – Mosaic Recorder Ensemble: "Triple Tapestries"

A selection of Baroque music for three recorders. Composers include Telemann, Quantz and Bach, with a selection of instrumentations.

1st March 2.30-3.30pm – Passamezzo: "The King's Delight"

17th Century music, words and song give a picture of Restoration England, with: ballads about the Plague, the Great Fire, the Frost Fair, horse racing, chocolate and coffee; loyal songs and theatre songs; tavern rounds, dance music, and divisions and solos for the violin, viol and cittern.

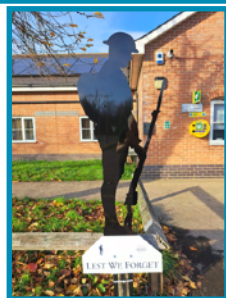


Tickets £15/10 online & on the door (cash please), accompanied UNDER 18s FREE

www.colchesterearlymusic.org.uk

Thursford Christmas Spectacular.

The Parish Council coach trip to 'the biggest Christmas show in Europe' on 14th November was a very enjoyable day out. Although it rained we managed to find shelter and sustenance at our brunch stop in Swaffham then on to Thursford making good time so we arrived ahead of the crowds to enjoy the shops, cafés and bars before they got too busy. The show was amazing living up to its 'Spectacular' title showcasing the talented singers, dancers and other skilful acts. The dazzling costumes all added to the wow factor.

**Remembrance Figures**

Have you seen the remembrance figures standing guard at the entrance to the main Parish Hall? They are "Unknown Tommy" and "Unknown Woman in War". They were purchased from RBLI (Royal British Legion Industries) with funds raised at community events and were on display in time for Remembrance Sunday.

**The Young at Heart**

From January the Young at Heart group for the over 50's living in the Marks Tey area changes to the **First Wednesday of the Month from 2pm to 4pm**. We have a variety of activities including guest speakers, quizzes, bingo and games or just come for a chat and to meet and make friends. Come and join us at the Parish Hall, Old London Road for our next meetings; on **10th December** enjoy a festive mince pie, mulled wine and sausage roll and on **7th January** for soup and sausage rolls. There will, of course, be the usual tea, coffee and delicious home made cake at both. All welcome.



For more information contact
Trish on 07815 125261

Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil



The Community Tree Planting Day went ahead despite the forecast of cold, wet and windy weather. The rain held off long enough for our hardy band of volunteers to plant lots of trees, mainly English oak, silver birch and rowan. A big thank-you to Shaun, Karen, Jen, Terry and Mo for turning out in the cold and to Yvonne and Brenda for manning the kitchen to welcome us back inside with hot soup and snacks to warm us up.

**Christmas Community Library & Café**

On 6th December Parish Hall 10am-12.30pm

Come and join us at our Christmas Community Library and café where we will be having mulled wine, mince pies, sausage rolls and soup as well as the usual wonderful homemade cakes. We'll have Christmas music playing so it will be a lovely morning full of Christmas cheer. 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 6th 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's a lovely way to spend the morning when it's chilly outside. Look forward to seeing you. **Yvonne 07709064599**

**COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND CAFÉ**

Warm Space

Dates for 2026

January 3rd

February 7th

March 7th

April 4th

May 2nd

June 6th

July 4th

August 1st

September 5th

October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th

Parish Hall

10am-12.30pm.

**Dickensian Christmas Event**

Join Camp Jojo for a festive and magical afternoon with Colchester Arts Centre Director's Anthony Roberts' traditional rendition of the Dickens classic: **'A Christmas Carol'** with musical accompaniment by Jamie Cunliffe.



When - 13th December 2025 - Doors - 3.30pm for 4pm

Where - Marks Tey Parish Hall, CO6 1EJ

Cost - £10 per adult and £5 for under 18's

Proceeds go to Camp Jojo

Mulled wine, Hot Chocolate and mince pies

Raffle with tickets available on the day

Please note - this show is recommended for over 11's

www.buytickets.at/campjojo1929539

or scan QR Code

**2026 Litter Picks**

We will be holding two litter picks next year; one in the spring and an autumn one. Dates will be published in the New Year when we will be looking for volunteers to help clean up the village.

You are invited to join us for a Carol Concert on Sunday 7th December 3pm at St Andrew's Church in aid of Bridgeway Mission with refreshments.

The deadline for the Next Edition of the Newsletter is 15th January 2026

Community Events

The Marks Tey Parish Council Community Events Committee organise regular events for the residents of the village and surrounding area. To make sure you don't miss out, all community events will be advertised as follows:-

- In this Parish Newsletter
- The Parish notice boards around the village
- Facebook pages/groups:-
 - Marks Tey Parish Council
 - Marks Tey Parish Hall
 - Marks Tey Community Hub and Support (and usually shared to other local facebook groups).

**Fun, friends and new adventures.**

Aged between 6 and 14? Looking for new adventures, fun and friends? We're Scouts and everyone's welcome here. All genders, races and backgrounds. Every week we give young people like you the skills you need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills you need for life. From archery and abseiling, to kayaking and coding, no two weeks are the same in Scouts. Sound good? Start your adventure today. Richard.hayes@1stmarksteyscouts.org

Scouts.org.uk/join
#SkillsForLife





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**Community Picnics**

Our first two Community Picnics for 2026 will be on Wednesdays, 18th February and 8th April 12:00 to 3pm at the Parish Hall. Bring your own picnic and we'll provide the fun with bouncy castle, dress up, crafting, toys and games.

Church Website www.marksteychurch.org.uk

Rector: Vacancy (The Rectory, Church Lane CO6 1LW)
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
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 I am a Violin Teacher.
 I graduated from the Conservatory in Ukraine. I have extensive experience teaching violin. My name is Nadiia.
 I am happy and able to give Violin lessons to Children and Adults.
 Call me on 07512 814813

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