

NEWSLETTER



St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

www.marksteychurch.org.uk

Church Tower Renovations Update

On June 7 thirty people joined the hard hat tours and appreciated inspecting the heavy oak tower frame at close quarters and seeing the extent and quality of the repairs and the new work. Our builders Punch Construction have done an excellent job.

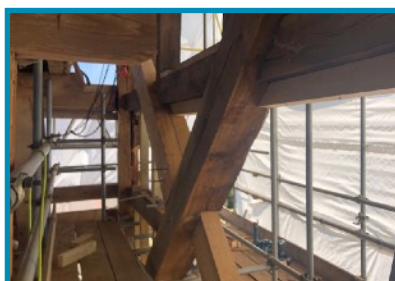
The building works are now proceeding well. The current anticipated completed date is around the beginning of August. The oak shakes/shingles are all in place and a new weather vane will shortly be fitted. The oak planks to the parapet have been retained as they are 60mm thick with decades of life yet. The 'wallpapering' fixing of the new oak planks to the belfry upper stage is well underway. The significant additional repairs have increased our costs. The current indication is **an increase of £25000 and could be higher**. Any donations would be much appreciated. **Andrew Waters**



Photos of the Second Hard Hat Tour,
New strengthening joints.



New oak planks on belfry
New oak beams and joints.



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

6th July, 11.00am MorningWorship

13th July, 11.00am Morning Worship

20th July, 11.00am Holy Communion

With **Bishop of Colchester Roger Morris**
followed by **Blessing of the Tower**.

27th July, 11.00am Morning Worship

3rd August, 11.00am Morning Worship

10th August, 11.00am Morning Worship

17th August, 11.00am Holy Communion

24th August, 11.00am Morning Worship

31st August, 10.00am Combined Worship
at Marks Tey

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

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

This month we will be praying for all who live or work in **Wellside, Patten Close, Hawlmark End, and Domsey Bank**. For further details/prayer requests, please contact us on: prayer@marksteychurch.org.uk

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!

HIRING OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL

The church hall at St Andrew's has been redecorated and been fitted with new acoustic boards.

It is available to hire during the daytime during the week. It is ideal for any groups who meet regularly or perhaps a Toddler Group who is looking to either start up or looking for new premises.

It is also available most weekends for parties, both children and adults, and general get-togethers.

The size of the hall is 24ft x 35ft.9ins or 7.3m x 10.9m but the height is only 7ft 6ins with a maximum of 16ft or 2.2m x 4.8m. There is also another small hall which is 18ft 10ins x 10ft 8ins or 5.75m x 3.5m.

The use of Kitchen is included with plenty of crockery & cutlery together with oven, hob & microwave. There are toilets including one disabled toilet. Parking available. Good access for wheelchairs. Good venue for seminars and meetings.

Tables and Chairs for about 70 people. 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.



Marks Tey Heritage Project

The main scanning and digitalisation of photos, records, documents, newspaper cuttings etc is complete for now. This is currently somewhere north of 12000 items. There is ongoing checking and co-ordinating before downloading onto a website. The intention is that further material will be added and two offers have been made from families who moved into Marks Tey more than 50 years ago. A grant requirement is engaging with the school. There was a display of material relating to WW2 with photos of the original school and photos of school children over the last 100 years which the top two classes worked with learning about the past.

Andrew Waters

Dear Friends,

July and August are the principal months when we take holidays. Having time to relax in changed surroundings and to operate at a slower pace are known to be good for relationships and for our physical, mental and spiritual health.

The availability of significant holiday time is a relatively modern phenomenon. At one time most of the men in the village were busy from July through to September in getting the harvest in. Often other members of the family were drawn in. In the early School log books there are notes that the school would be closed for a few days for pea picking or other agricultural activity.

Families from the East End of London descended on Kent for the hop picking harvest.

The word holiday comes from Holy Day when work stopped for some form of religious observation or celebration. The benefits of having a time of rest goes back a long way. The Bible's Genesis story of creation has God resting on the seventh day. The Jewish religious laws required no work to be done on the Sabbath. A number of Christians each year will go on a retreat to be away from everyday demands and to spend time in prayer and reflection to be spiritually refreshed.

We now live in a world where there is little downtime so make the most of your break and may you be refreshed.

Best wishes **Andrew Waters** Churchwarden

DONATING TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH VIA QR CODE

We have now had a QR developed for donations to St Andrew's church to help with our mission and ministry. If you would like to help us it is very easy to use. The QR code will take you straight to the give-a-little giving page. Tap the link and it will take you to our donating page where you have the chance to choose how much you would like to donate and then you just enter your card details.

Anything up to £30 can have gift aid added to it under the small donations scheme, regardless of whether you pay tax or not. Every amount is a great help to us so thank you in advance.



On your marks... On the second Saturday in September each year, 30 counties across the UK 'Ride and Stride' to raise money to help preserve and improve our historic church buildings

Get set... ■ Add **Saturday 13 September 2025** to your diary ■ Source sponsorship from friends and family ■

www.friendsofsexchurches.org.uk/ride-stride for further information or speak to Pauline Standen. Go! ■ Explore villages and parish churches by bike or on foot ■ Enjoy the exercise, meet new people and raise much needed funds for your church.

Charity number 236033



St. Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy

In June we were pleased to welcome Beth Lincoln, an award-winning author to St Andrew's, who spent time talking to Juniper and Sycamore classes about how she designs characters for her novels. In the same week, these two classes visited London and spent time at the Science Museum before watching 'Wicked' in the West End. For many children this was their first visit to London and/or their first visit to a London theatre. Throughout the day the children were polite, engaged, enthusiastic and listened intently during the performance. This was a truly memorable day for all.

Mrs Hope, our PE lead, did a tremendous job at organising a Sports Day that allowed the children to build points in teams completing a range of carousel activities as well as take part in competitive races such as sprint, egg and spoon, hurdles, sack race and relay. This year we also included a BBQ (organised by our terrific PTA) and a picnic which all parents and carers were invited to. This was a relaxed and enjoyable time and something we hope to continue. Throughout the day our children, staff and parent/carer community were positive, encouraging and supportive and this was a truly delightful experience for all.

We are currently welcoming our new admissions for September 2025. Mrs Shirt and her team create a fantastic programme which includes 3 taster sessions, a parent talk, pre-school visits and home visits. All of this is to ensure we offer each child the best possible start to their time with us at St Andrew's. Our Production this year is 'Porridge' and the singing and acting has got to be some of the best we have ever had - some potential stars I feel!

This time of year is always one of goodbyes. Firstly, Mrs Crowley, our incredible Deputy, will be taking up a position as Head of School in another Trust school. Her passion for providing the very best education possible, will be missed, but we know she will inspire a new set of staff and children as she moves on.

Mrs Rowe will also be leaving St Andrew's, moving to a school closer to her home. She has spent her whole teaching career, so far, at St Andrew's and her positivity, considerate and dedicated attitude and general kind demeanour will be missed - we wish her the very best.

Finally, our year 6 children will of course be moving on to secondary school. This group of children have truly been a joy to have in school every day. They are keen, motivated learners whose attitude to their time in school has been exemplary. Throughout their time with us they have been a shining example of our vision and on behalf of all of the staff I would like to wish them all the best for what we are sure will be bright, exciting futures. Best Wishes, **Mr Keith Birbeck** Head of School. **St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy, Mandeville Road, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex. CO6 1HL Telephone Number 0120638**

Community News.

1st Tey Rainbows

This half-term we have completed the 'Express Myself' theme and have enjoyed navigating a maze, being astronauts and making gifts and cards for Father's Day. At our termly Badge Presentation we will be proud to present Bronze, Silver and Gold awards as well as enrolling our newest Rainbows and saying Goodbye to our oldest ones. This will be followed by a final evening taking part in a District Litter Pick-nic at the beach with other Brownies, Guides and Rangers from our area, so we can have some outdoor fun whilst helping the environment.

If you feel your daughter (or granddaughter) would be interested in becoming a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Ranger, please register at:

<https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-member/>

Community Picnics.

Come and join the fun at our family summer holiday picnics which are from **12 noon to 3pm on 23rd & 30th July and 6th, 20th & 27th August** at the Parish Hall. Bring your own picnic and we'll supply crafts, bouncy castle, dress up, toys and games. Thanks to generous sponsorship from Holmes and Hills Solicitors, we don't need to charge an entrance fee. Tea, coffee, squash, biscuits and fruit & veg snacks are available and we do ask for a donation towards the cost of these.

We would like a few extra volunteers to ensure we have enough for each day. If you are able to help at any of these events please contact **Trish on 07815 125261**. We will be most grateful for an extra pair of hands. We hope to hold all the summer picnics but do check the Parish Council notice boards, website and Facebook sites nearer the time to confirm they are going ahead.



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. We have a variety of activities including quizzes, bingo and games or just come for a chat and to meet and make friends.

Our next meetings are on 9th July and 13th August. Come and join us at the Parish Hall, Old London Road for tea, coffee, home made cake. All welcome.



For more information contact
Trish on 07815 125261



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil



Save The Date Christmas Craft Fair November 22nd 2025 from 11am to 3pm at St Andrew's Church

Over 20 tables and tombola, great cakes and refreshments Plenty of parking. Marks Tey Parish Council and St Andrew's Church



COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND CAFÉ

On Saturday 5th July and 2nd August.

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



At our August Community Library and Café we will be having another visit from the Digital Access team. Luke came in June and had people asking for his help with their phones/laptops/tablets so he is coming back to help you with yours. Please come and see him if you have any issues with access to anything on your phones/tablets/laptops.

Sue will be at both sessions with her beautiful homemade cards and hopefully so will Corinne with her plants at £1 per pot. All the jigsaws will also be out at £2 each.

So, come down to the Parish Hall to borrow a great book, 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 cake. The café will have all the usual lovely homemade cakes. We can always do with more though if you are baking. Please think of us.

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 than we can put out on the bookcases so please ask. There isn't any fee to come to the library nor to join, and you can borrow up to 4 books at a time, per person, for a month and renew them 3 times if you haven't quite finished reading them.

Come down and see what it is all about at our Community Library and Café on 5th July and 2nd August and enjoy a cuppa and a cake and chat with friends whilst browsing all our books.

You'll be sure of a warm welcome. Look forward to seeing you. Yvonne 07709064599

Church Website www.marksteychurch.org.uk

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