

NEWSLETTER

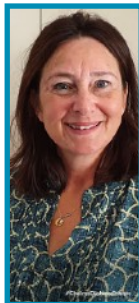


St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

www.marksteychurch.org.uk

Introducing Reverend Emma Barr

Although we are still seeking a full time Rector we are pleased to welcome the part-time self-supporting minister Reverend Emma Barr. Emma is married to Stephen, with three children and one grandchild. She lives and works on the family farm in the parish of Mount Bures. Life on the farm can be particularly hectic during lambing time, when ministry and farming compete for attention- although the experience of farm life often provides Emma with plenty of good stories and perhaps the occasional helpful analogy for a sermon!



Emma has been leading worship and serving across the six parishes that make up the King's Ridge for the past eight years. During that time, she has loved getting to know people, sharing in the life of the communities and discovering the many different ways in which faith is lived out in rural settings.

She now feels called into a new season of ministry: responding to pastoral needs, creating worship that is missional, welcoming and prayerful, and looking for new ways to share the love of God within the communities she serves.

Emma is passionate about community and believes that some of the most important moments of ministry happen in ordinary places, over conversations and cups of tea. So, if you see her popping up at future events, please do come and say hello – she would love to meet you!

Andrew Waters

September Worship Services at St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Marks Tey Sunday 6th September



11am Morning Worship - Nicky Sirett

Sunday 13th September

11am Morning Worship

Sunday 20th September

11am Holy Communion and Harvest Festival

- Rev Emma Barr

Sunday 27th September

11am Morning Worship- Rev David Beales

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 want to look around, do drop in.

A New Term, A New Beginning

September always seems to arrive with a little bit of excitement in the air. The supermarkets are full of shiny new school equipment, pencil cases and rows of smart new uniforms. I have to admit, I find myself transported back to those years when my own children were heading back to school, with the familiar frenzy of checking labels, finding shoes and making sure everyone had everything they needed!

This year, I have bought myself a new notebook. It may not have quite the same excitement as a new pencil case, but it will be coming with me as I begin this new season of ministry, helping me keep track of the people, places and details of the six churches I will be serving. In a way, it feels rather like going back to school myself!

There is something wonderful about a new beginning. Scripture reminds us that *"there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). A new term brings opportunities to learn, to meet new people, to make new friendships and perhaps to discover something unexpected along the way.

As I begin this new chapter, I am very much looking forward to meeting you, getting to know our communities and finding ways in which I can support and serve. And perhaps, as we begin again, we can all remember to look out for one another – a smile, a kind word or a helping hand can make a huge difference.

So, here's to a new term, new opportunities, new friendships and plenty of kindness along the way!

God bless,

Reverend Emma

Harvest Collection for Colchester Foodbank

Suitable Donations include small bags of rice, long life milk, long life juice, squash, tinned fruit, tinned tomatoes, tinned potatoes, tinned puddings, tins or packets of custard, jam peanut butter, small jars of coffee, small multipack chocolate biscuits (eg Penguins, Clubs Twix) Shampoo, deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, small washing powder/liquid. Donations for Colchester Foodbank can be left at the church ahead of the

Harvest Festival on Sunday 20th September.



Please Join Us visiting parish churches by bike or on foot on **Saturday 12th September 2026** to raise money for Friends of Essex Churches Trust (half the amount raised goes directly to our church). Contact Iain Anderson

iaingillanderson@gmail.com or phone 07810664876 for details and sponsorship forms.

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 **Motts Lane, Church Lane including the Rectory, Station Road including Old Rectory Court, the Laurels and North Lane**. For further details/prayer requests, please contact us on: prayer@marksteychurch.org.uk

St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy

As we begin another exciting school year at St Andrew's, there is much to look forward to. A new year brings new opportunities for learning, discovery and growth, and we are delighted to welcome our children and families back into school ready for all that lies ahead.

This year is particularly special for our school as we continue to grow. Following a full admission of 30 children into Reception, alongside a number of mid-year admissions over the past year, St Andrew's has grown from five classes to six. This is a wonderful reflection of the strength and reputation of our school community, and we are very proud to see St Andrew's continue to flourish. I am particularly grateful for the overwhelmingly positive support and encouragement we receive from our wider community. The kind words, recommendations and continued support of local families and parishioners are helping to strengthen our reputation and ensure that more families recognise the wonderful opportunities and experiences that St Andrew's has to offer.

As part of this expansion, we are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to our teaching team. Miss Harris joins us as our new teacher, and we are thrilled to welcome her to the St Andrew's team and wider community. We know that she will make a wonderful contribution to school life and look forward to seeing the children thrive under her care and guidance.

As we look ahead, it is also important to reflect on those who have given so much to our school over many years. At the end of the last academic year, Mr Bailey stood down as a governor after an extraordinary 28 years of service to St Andrew's. Such a remarkable length of service speaks volumes about his commitment to the school, its children and its community.

On behalf of the whole school, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr Bailey for the huge amount of time, energy and dedication he has given to St Andrew's over nearly three decades. His wisdom, support and commitment have been invaluable, and we are extremely grateful for everything he has done.

Thankfully, this is not quite goodbye! We are delighted that Mr Bailey will continue to be part of school life by supporting our children with reading and attending sporting events. We look forward to continuing to see him around school and are very grateful that his connection with St Andrew's will continue.

We look forward to another year filled with learning, achievement, friendship and opportunities for every child to flourish.

Here's to a fantastic new school year at St Andrew's!

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.*



Tes Schools Awards 2025

Winner

Trust of the Year - 9 schools or fewer



Marks Tey's Future

An indication of the probable future look of the village is shown in the update to **Colchester City Council's Local Plan**. At the moment it is only rough outlines with much work to do and agreement with the various land owners to share the infrastructure costs.

It suggests high density housing near the station and shops, 2500 dwellings by 2043, a better pedestrian bridge over the A12, a primary and secondary school north of the A120, a primary school behind the shops, better access to the station but no major changes to the A120 apart from crossings. There is still much to be done and a recommendation of no approvals until the master plan is complete.

Use the QR code below to see the petition to dual the A120. **Andrew Waters**

Dual the A120 between Marks Tey and Braintree Petition The Colchester Gazette and Braintree & Witham Times are calling for action to improve the A120 by dualling the section between Marks Tey and Braintree.

We urge everyone who cares about the future of Marks Tey and Essex to sign the petition, share it with friends and neighbours, and keep the pressure up. With your support, we can turn momentum into action and finally deliver the safe, modern road our region deserves before any more new houses add to the current congestion.

Laura Michael, Senior Editor Colchester Gazette.



The Deadline for Contributions for the October Edition of the St Andrew's Church Newsletter is 15th September 2026.



Churchyard Thank you to all who responded to the request for volunteers in the upkeep of the churchyard. The grass, but not the weeds, has stopped growing in the drought but when the rain comes things will soon change. In the meantime some great work has been done in tidying up bushes, some hedges and other areas.

Andrew Waters





Our Community Picnics held at the Parish Hall were popular and well attended in the school holidays. Families brought their own picnics and enjoyed the bouncy castle, dress up, crafting, toys and games all laid on. The hot weather gave families the choice of sitting outside in the sun or inside our air conditioned hall. We are very grateful to Holmes and Hills Solicitors for generously sponsoring these events.



The Young at Heart Group for the over 50's living in the Marks Tey area meets on **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 meeting on the **2nd of September** for a cuppa and delicious home made cake. All welcome. For more information contact **Trish** on **07815 125261**

www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil



MARKS TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Community Litter Pick Saturday, 26th September 2026

Lend a hand and make a difference to your village

Meet at the Parish Hall at 09:45
All equipment provided



Marks Tey Parish Council

To get involved,
nominate an area
or just for more
information
contact:

Trish
07815 125261

Hot refreshments
Available at noon



Colchester Early Music returns to St Andrew's Church Marks Tey on **4th October**, bringing you a wide range of Early Music concerts. We open our season with our informal artists in residence **Blondel** Medieval & Renaissance wind band, who will be joined by sackbut and slide trumpet player **Daniel Serafini**, to celebrate the launch of their new album "Cover Story". See www.colcheseterearlymusic.org.uk for details.

Knit & Natter

Sip and Sew

Crafty Corner
Saturday 5th
September
10.00 - 12.00
At Community Library
Parish Hall
Old London Road,
CO6 1EJ
Bring Your Own
Materials

Marks Tey Parish Council Community Events
and St Andrew's Church bring you...

Christmas Craft Fayre
Sunday, 15th November
11:00 - 15:00
Parish Hall, Old London Road, CO6 1EJ

All proceeds will be split between the church fund and Parish Council Community Events

- Over 30 tables with artisan gifts and decor
- Tea room with festive treats including mulled wine
- Tombola

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Please have a look for any suitable prizes for the Tombola Stall and give them to Yvonne.

SKATE Taster!

ALL ages welcome • Bring your own skates

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03 OCTOBER 2026

Marks Tey Parish Hall
5pm-7pm

1 ticket per waiver completion or email cllr.c.english@marksteyparish.gov.uk

FOR WAIVER & TICKETS



COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND CAFÉ SATURDAY 5th September In the Large MARKS TEY PARISH HALL 10am to 12:30pm

Come down to the Parish Hall on **5th of September** where you can borrow some good books to read, and eat delicious homemade cakes. Sue will have homemade cards and crafts to buy; Jo will have diamond art gifts to buy and Corinne will have plants to buy at £1 per pot. and there will be jigsaws to buy for £2.

There's no charge to visit or join the library and the cakes and drinks are by donation only for other community events.

We have also started a Craft Corner where you can bring your own crafts, whether it is knitting or crocheting or something else, and sit with others to chat and perhaps learn a new craft. Sue is usually there showing you how to make something new.

It is a good place to catch up with people you may not have seen for a while or even make new friends, over a cuppa and a piece of home-made cake, whilst having a good look through the books to see if you would like to borrow a book (You can borrow up to 4 books per person each month.) If anyone is a baker we would really appreciate a cake if you would be able to make one for us please.

On **Saturday the 3rd October** it will be our annual **MacMillan Coffee Morning**.

So please come along then with a cake if you can bake us one, and help us raise as much as we can for this great cause.

Look forward to seeing you. **Yvonne 07709064599**



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

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

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