

NEWSLETTER



St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

www.marksteychurch.org.uk

Busy Months for 1st Marks Tey & Copford Scout Group

The 1st Marks Tey and Copford Scout Group have enjoyed a very busy and exciting couple of months in the lead-up to Christmas.

Our young people took part in a wide range of activities, including a fun and energetic game of Human Hungry Hippos, and celebrating Parliament Week with a healthy House of Commons-style debate alongside other scouting challenges.

One of the highlights of the term was a trip to the ski slope in Ipswich. Beavers and Cubs had great fun trying their hand at tobogganing, while the Scouts took to the slopes on ringos.

We rounded off the term with a fantastic family fundraising bingo night, which was well supported and enjoyed by all.

As always, we are in need of volunteer support. If anyone in the parish is able to give a little time to help, we would love to hear from you. We also currently have some spaces available for young people in Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts on Thursday evenings.

If your young person is aged 6–14, we may have space and would be delighted to welcome them along.

For more information, please get in touch by email: Richard.hayes@1stmarksteyscouts.org

Richard Hayes Group Lead Volunteer

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

1st February

11am Morning Worship

8th February.

11am Morning Worship

15th February.

11am Holy Communion

with Rev John Chandler

22nd February

11am Morning Worship

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 **Danbury Close, Jays Lane and A120 Coggeshall Road.**

For further details/prayer requests, please contact us on:

prayer@marksteychurch.org.uk

Do You Have Your Own Business?

Are You In Marks Tey Or Surrounding Area? Advertise Your Business In The Local Traders Section Of The Parish Newsletter.

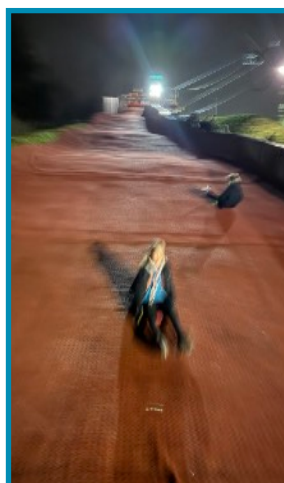
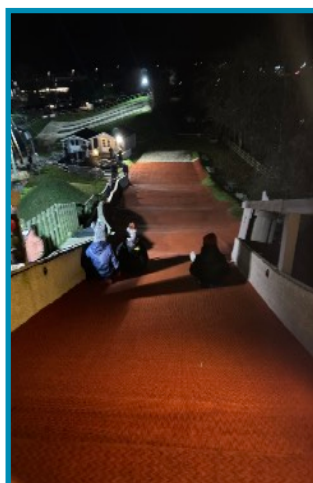
This Is Delivered To All The Houses In Marks Tey Each Month And Is Posted On The Local Facebook Sites.

Please Contact Yvonne Norman For More Information

Yvonne.norman@live.co.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!



Dear Friends,

New Year Resolutions

Did you make any? Are you still keeping them? The pundits tell us that many New Year Resolutions have already faded or are struggling by February.

What drives us to make them? Often it is tradition. Also the New Year feels like a new start with the evenings suddenly stretching out and the promise of spring. However many resolutions are driven by guilt or by trying to rebalance the effects of over eating, over drinking or over spending at the seasonal period.

Some resolutions are simply too ambitious. If yours is to run a half marathon for charity I would not expect you to run 13 miles in Week 1. You would need to build up gradually for it. You might well hit setbacks from having a heavy cold or muscle strains meaning you would miss a number of running opportunities. You might be obliged to rebuild your progress.

I generally don't make New Year Resolutions but I have started several new things in January. In 1985, when the late Peter Adams was Rector, I accepted the challenge to buy a book setting out different Bible passages to be read each day so that in a year I would read the whole Bible. I still read a passage from the Bible everyday, currently along with study notes relating to it.

Engaging in new activities, such as walking more or volunteering, is not confined to early January. So if your head, heart or inner spirit is nudging or challenging you to do something new that is beneficial to you and/or a blessing to others, listen. Consider the commitment required, the benefits and if you are a Christian pray over it. May you be enriched and blessed from your new path.

Search for New Rector

We nearly interviewed a good candidate in December but the priest's Bishop persuaded the candidate to stay in the current post. So advertising continues and St Andrew's runs largely as normal thanks to help from various quarters.

Best Wishes, **Andrew Waters** Churchwarden

Stories And Spires The Tower and Heritage Project Celebration

After lots of work in the background by a band of dedicated volunteers the website went live on January 23rd.

It is still work in progress and will continue to expand.

There is the facility for additional items to be offered for inclusion on line.

Otherwise feel free to contact me on copford43@gmail.com.

The website is www.marksteyheritage.org

Saturday 24th January saw a celebration of the finish of the project with a talk about Arthur Erridge a well known local stained glass window designer who has a memorial window in our church..

Andrew Waters



The deadline for the March Edition of the Newsletter is 15th February 2026.

Carols By Candlelight
Service 21st December
2025
Photo by R.Robinson



St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy

It is wonderful to be back in school after the Christmas break and classes have started the new year focused, engaged and calm.

Each class has started new learning across the curriculum and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing this in action and being part of this in class. In the first week alone our Oak Class children were writing about 'The Naughty Bus' as well as looking at the 'Part - Whole' model for numbers to 5. In Maple Class, the children started a new unit on Materials and were writing about Jack and the Beanstalk. In Chestnut Class, the children made their own Igneous rocks using food to replicate and understand how these types of rocks are formed. In Juniper Class, the children started their close reading exploring the story of Pandora's box as well as learning about how to measure the volume of shapes. Finally, in Sycamore class the children have explored the property of shapes, learnt about the basic function of the heart and the circulatory system as well as begun to look forward to their weekly music sessions where they will be learning to play the 'Toot'.

Parents and Carers are being invited into school to engage in two workshops this half term which focus on Phonics and Early Reading for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3. These workshops aim to give parents and carers a better insight into how this element of the curriculum is taught in school, and to offer ways in which to support their children at home.

This term in school we are also looking forward to many additional events alongside our curriculum learning. These include World Book Day, Numbers Day, Safer Internet Day, Juniper and Maple class trips and a Chestnut Class Easter Performance!

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



Colchester Early Music

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

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

Baroque music for three recorders, including works by 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.



8th March 2-5pm - Dance workshop: "Playford Plus"

Country dances from 17th and 18th century ballrooms with Jackie Marshall-Ward, dance tuition & Lizzie Gutteridge, live musical accompaniment. Learn dances from Playford's Dancing Master and other 17th & 18th century collections in a relaxed and welcoming environment, with experienced Historical Dance Tutor Jackie-Marshall-Ward.

19th April 2.30-3.30pm - Blondel: "Short & Sweet"

Blondel are back, and this time they're bringing out the curtals! Invented in the 16th century, the double bore of these instruments made them more compact and gave them a sweeter tone. Consorts, chansons and dance tunes from the 16th & 17th centuries performed on trios of curtals, recorders and bagpipes.

Tickets £15/10 online & on the door (cash please)

accompanied UNDER 18s FREE

www.colchesterearlymusic.org.uk

1st Tey Rainbows In December, the Rainbows visited the cinema to watch a Girlguiding -exclusive screening of Zootropolis 2.

Everyone enjoyed the film and it was lovely to see so many other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides there.

Just before Christmas, 12 Rainbows joined in a Winter Sleepover with 1st Copford Brownies. The Rainbows were excited (and maybe a little nervous) as all except one had never been on a Girlguiding sleepover before. They all did extremely well and the Brownies helped them feel at home. All the girls enjoyed festive activities including Christmas crafts and Secret Santa.

This term we will be working on our Lead badge from the Skills for my Future theme and the girls have helped plan some exciting activities for the Animal Antics challenge they have chosen to do. We are also looking forward to celebrating 100 years of World Thinking Day in February.

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/>

2026 Litter Picks

We will be holding two litter picks this year.

Our village spring clean on **Saturday, 21st March** and the autumn one on **Saturday,**

26th September. We meet at the Parish Hall,

litter pick in pairs or small groups for a couple of hours then return to the halls for well earned refreshments. These are family friendly events and we encourage

accompanied children to take part. If you

would like to volunteer for the spring event, either to litter pick or help in then kitchen, please contact Trish on 07815 125261 or email cllr.p.wynnewillson@marksteyparish.gov.uk



Community Picnic

Our first Community Picnic for 2026 will be on

Wednesday, 18th February from 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. Tea, coffee, squash and snacks are available for a small donation.

Music Festival - Save the date Saturday 29th August

Exciting outdoor music festival at the Parish Hall on Saturday, 29th August from 12:00 to 6pm. There will be live music from 6 bands, food and drink with fun for all the family. Look out for updates in this newsletter and the Parish Council notice boards and social media sites.



The Young at Heart

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 **4th February** for tea, coffee and delicious home made cake. We will also have hot sausage rolls in these colder months.

All welcome.



For more information contact
Trish on 07815 125261



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil



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

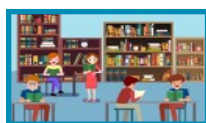
October 3rd

November 7th

December 5th

Parish Hall

10am-12.30pm.



Community Library and Café Warm Space

Saturday 7th February

Marks Tey Parish Hall 10am-12.30pm

Come and join us at our where we will be having soup and sausage rolls as well as the usual wonderful homemade cakes with a cuppa or coffee. We don't make a charge but do ask for donations towards future community events..

We hope to have a couple of crafts tables of some beautiful homemade cards across all occasions which are very reasonably priced, and another of lovely homemade gifts to give for any occasion too. And the large selection of jigsaws at £2 will also be out.

There is a big children's section with lots of books for them to read and a craft table for them too. We have a lot of books, fiction and non-fiction across all genres for adults. We put out as many as we can on the bookcases but if you have a favourite author then we may have more books of theirs in our stock cupboards, 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.

Come down to the Parish Hall on **February 7th** and see what it is all about. It's a lovely way to spend a morning in a warm space and for the children to look at a book and do some crafts. Come and borrow a book or two and have a coffee/tea and cake. 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 or mug of soup and a sausage roll or even a piece of home-made cake. What could be better. Look forward to seeing you. **Yvonne 07709064599**

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.



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
Newsletter Editor: Julie Briggs, 8 Keable Road, Colchester CO6 1XB email : juliebrig8@gmail.com

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