

# NEWSLETTER



St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

[www.marksteychurch.org.uk](http://www.marksteychurch.org.uk)

## Marks Tey Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Group

**Local Plan Update** Thank you to everyone who attended the public meetings or submitted feedback on Colchester's proposed local development sites.

The Parish Council has actively reviewed the draft Local Plan for Marks Tey and engaged with neighbouring councils on shared concerns.

The meetings highlighted significant local dissatisfaction, particularly with the two proposed sites, which are separated by major roads and the railway—further dividing the village contrary to key principles of our Neighbourhood Plan.

With support from a planning consultancy, we submitted a formal response to the City Council requesting a collaborative approach to develop a comprehensive long-term plan for Marks Tey, rather than a short term, developer led approach. This plan should address infrastructure needs and the issues raised by residents.

We are also working with six neighbouring parishes on common infrastructure challenges and progressing our proposals with councillors. A timetable for the Local Plan's progression has not yet been provided. Further information is available on the Parish Council's website, including our recent submission to the Local Plan Committee.

<https://www.marksteyparish.gov.uk/news/2025/11/local-plan-public-consultation>. **CIlr Kate Evans**

**Arctic Camp** On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 14 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from 1<sup>st</sup> Marks Tey and Copford Scout group arrived at Thorington Scout camp at 7pm to spend two nights and two days there on a camp with an Arctic theme (chosen by the scouts via a vote).

When we arrived, we were shown to our rooms which contained sets of bunk beds. We were told to unpack our stuff, grab our waterproofs and come downstairs. We put our waterproofs and walking boots on and headed outside. Outside it was rainy and cold but we made our way to a clearing. We played a game that entailed two of the leaders standing either side of a pair of keys then in the dark you would creep towards the keys and try to steal them. However, if the leaders shone their torch on you had to go back to the start. It was very exhilarating considering it was pitch black. After we had finished playing, we came inside and had bacon sandwiches and hot chocolate, which we ate and drank with great gusto. Afterwards we played board and card games, which we had been told to bring, it was great fun. Soon after we had finished the cubs and beavers were asked to get ready for bed. The scouts played a game of Uno with the leaders which I admit got a bit competitive. After that we headed up to bed and in few minutes, we were all asleep, well I was, but apparently not everyone else was, as I gathered from the bleary eyes the next morning. **Continued page2.....**

## The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Thanks to the fund and the players of the Lottery a huge amount has been achieved in the last 18 months.

The fund provided a substantial amount towards the cost of Tower restoration, funded energy improvements to the Church buildings, financial support for the creation of the heritage website, planting of trees and engagement with the school. Although their support finishes at the end of February the [www.marksteyheritage.org](http://www.marksteyheritage.org) website will

continue to expand and develop. If you feel able to contribute or help in any way.

Do get in touch. **Andrew Waters.**



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

1st March

11am Morning Worship with David Beales

8th March

11am Morning Worship

15th March Mothering Sunday

11am Family Service with Rev John Chandler

22nd March

11am Holy Communion with Graham Dowling

29th March Palm Sunday

N.B. 10am Combined Service at Aldham with Paul Greenland.

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 **Mandeville Road, Honeywood Close, Norman Close and Bree Avenue.**

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

## 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 Newsletter 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](mailto:yvonne.norman@live.co.uk)

## Dear Friends,

Most of us like a good story and the Bible is a rich treasure trove. One of the most popular and influential is that of the Good Samaritan the parable that Jesus told as the answer to the question 'Who is my neighbour?'

A traveller is badly beaten up on a lonely road. The next two travellers find excuses in their mind to doing nothing and hurry along.

Finally a Samaritan, a social outcast, sees that the robbed man will probably die if left. He ignores the risk of stopping and compassionately tends to the man's wounds before taking him to a nearby inn. In the morning the Samaritan goes the extra mile in not only paying the innkeeper to continue looking after the mugged man but saying that if the money left is not enough he will settle up when next passing.

Jesus asked who the neighbour was to the robbed man? Before finally saying **'Go and do likewise'**

Those words have resonated down the centuries, providing the inspiration for the founding of many hospitals and providing homes for the needy. Colchester's 300 year old Winsley Almshouse Charity provides accommodation for about 100 people. The original Chapel has a stained glass window depicting the Good Samaritan.



### SAMARITANS

Anglican Vicar Chad Varah founded the Samaritans in 1953 after taking the funeral of a 14 year old girl who committed suicide.

There are now 200 branches, and similar organisations are now around the world.

'Go and do likewise' still challenges and inspires.

Best Wishes, **Andrew Waters Churchwarden**

## St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy

It has been another busy month at St Andrew's, filled with exciting activities and achievements that truly showcase our vibrant school community.

We are thrilled to announce that the Boys' and Girls' Football leagues have kicked off, alongside our mixed Netball team. The children are showing great sportsmanship and teamwork, and we can't wait to see how the season unfolds! Recently, the children participated in a Cross Country event and a Sports Hall Athletics competition, where they demonstrated their athletic skills and determination. It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils pushing themselves and supporting one another.

In addition to sports, we held a Book Corner Competition, with Juniper Class emerging as the proud winners! Their creativity and renewed enthusiasm for reading has been impressive this year. A special shout-out to Mrs Walker whose passion and dedication to encouraging reading for pleasure is contagious to all! Looking ahead, we are excited to update our Library area, and we will be inviting the children to design a wall mural that reflects their love for books as part of our World Book Day celebrations. Earlier in the half term we celebrated Number's Day and this was a fantastic success, with each class collecting data and presenting their findings in progressively challenging ways. The children also explored the importance of numbers across the curriculum, making connections that enhance their learning and hopefully, appreciation of numbers.

Lastly, Mrs Shirt and the Gardening Club have been hard at work, planting over 20 new trees in our forest school and field area. This initiative is part of our larger-scale plans, which we look forward to unveiling later this academic year.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. We are excited about what the future holds and are grateful to have such a wonderful community supporting us!

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 - 5 schools or fewer



## Arctic Camp continued..

For breakfast, we started off by having a bowl of cereal followed by an English style breakfast which included a sausage, some bacon, eggy bread and beans. It was delicious! After breakfast we put our waterproofs on laced up our walking boots again, packed up our day bags and stepped outside. It was a beautiful day. We headed towards a set of targets set up next to the climbing wall. One of the leaders briefed us on how to throw the axes. We got into groups of three and, one by one, were invited into the throwing area, I managed to get two axes out of four into the target. Then we played a game with the axes where we got into pairs and had to throw one axe at the target and the first one to get it in would move on to the next round. In the end, a young cub won, they were very good! Soon after, we set off on our hike. However, before we left, Richard our Scout Leader, gave us an egg to pass around from pocket to pocket, then at the end Richard had to guess who had the egg. Little did the Cubs know that the egg had been soft boiled and was just cooling down. My friend was given the egg first she then passed it to me I hid it in my pocket ready to pass on to the next person when it exploded all over my hand and my pocket! It was not very nice. Anyway, we carried on walking, and it began to get muddy. A few of the cubs got stuck in the mud but were rescued. After a long and muddy walk, we made it to our destination, the chip shop! I was eager to get inside as it was lunch time, we were shown to our table which considering there were over 20 of us was quite long. We each got a tub of chips which were incredibly yummy as we were all very hungry. When we were all finished, we had a group photo and then caught the bus which took us all the way back to Thorington.



When we got back, we cleaned ourselves up and headed downstairs to take part in some arctic themed activities. We started off by doing some painting. I painted the northern lights, which was very enjoyable. After that we headed outside and split into two teams and attempted to build the tallest ice tower out of real ice! The ice was in a cylindrical shape, so it was extremely difficult, though fun. Then, to finish it off, we made igloos out of cotton wool. For dinner we had meatballs and tomato sauce, which was very tasty, then we did the washing up and were then told to get ready for the movie. We were told to bring an arctic themed costume; I went as an arctic fox. The movie choice, to go with the theme, was Ice Age, it's a great film. For a movie snack we were given sweets and popcorn. Once the movie had finished, we were all given hot chocolate, and the Cubs and Beavers were sent to bed. Once again, the Scouts played Uno, which, once again, was extremely competitive. We then headed off to bed as we had to get up early the next morning.

We got up early, packed up our stuff, got dressed and headed downstairs for a breakfast of pancakes, which was divine!

After breakfast we headed to the climbing wall. The cubs climbed twenty feet and the scouts forty. I managed to get to the top twice. It was great fun!

We then split into two teams and went bird watching for half an hour, it was very calming. Finally, we headed to the jungle run, a giant outside obstacle course. We spent an hour there and then our parents arrived to collect us and we all went home.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable trip! Tilly Ashby (aged 12). Thank you Tilly for a lovely report. **Richard Hayes - Scout Leader**



### Community Library and Café Warm Space Saturday 7th March Marks Tey Parish Hall 10am-12.30pm

Come and join us at our warm space Community Library and café 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. Many jigsaws at £2 each.

We have a lot of books across all genres for adults. If you have a favourite author then we may have more books of theirs in our stock cupboards, so please ask. There is a big children's section with lots of books for them to read and a craft table for them too. There isn't any fee to join, and you can borrow up to 4 books per person for a month. Sue will be there with her beautiful homemade cards to buy. Come down to the Parish Hall on March 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](mailto:Yvonne.07709064599)

**MARKS TEY SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
In aid of Essex & Herts Air Ambulance  
St Andrew's Church and MTPC Community Events

**SATURDAY, 29TH AUGUST**  
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More info: [Markjhull42@btinternet.com](mailto:Markjhull42@btinternet.com)

### Community Picnic

Holmes and Hills Solicitors have kindly agreed to sponsor our community picnics again this year which goes a long way to covering costs allowing us to offer free entry to these fun-filled afternoons. We do, however, ask for donations for refreshments to recoup the remaining costs. Our first Community Picnic for 2026 was on Wednesday, 18th February and the children made bird feeders among other crafts. The next one will be on **Wednesday, 8th April 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.

**MARKS TEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Community Litter Pick**  
Saturday, 21st March 2026

Lend a hand and make a difference to your village

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

Facebook icon: Marks Tey Parish Council

To get involved, nominate an area or just for more information contact:  
Trish 07815 125261

Hot refreshments Available at noon

**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-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 March** for tea, coffee and delicious home made cake and maybe, a hot sausage roll. **All welcome.**



For more information contact  
Trish on 07815 125261

Facebook icon: Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil](https://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.

**The Deadline for Contributions for the April Edition of the St Andrew's Church Newsletter is 15th March 2026.**

## Colchester Early Music

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

**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" (£20)**  
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](http://www.colchesterearlymusic.org.uk)



### Tree Giveaway

The surplus trees left over from the community planting day in November have been rehomed to St Andrew's Academy, the local scout troupe who planted theirs at the Parish Church and to local residents who collected them from the Parish Hall at the February community library. They will be providing habitat for local wildlife all over Marks Tey in years to come. Amy Burge collecting trees for the children to plant at the school.

## Church Website [www.marksteychurch.org.uk](http://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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