

NEWSLETTER



St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

www.marksteychurch.org.uk

Scouts Lake District Summer Camp 2026

In Summer of 2026, me and my Scout group set off to the Lake District for a week and made many unforgettable memories and epic experiences I will never forget. On travels there and back, we took many varieties of transport. We took the train, the Underground, a bus, and hiked. I enjoyed being on the long trains as I felt relaxed and excited as it built up suspense to what this journey would bring as we played games, had snacks, and chilled out.

There were many varieties of activities and experiences we got to enjoy, but these were my top 3.

Number 3 – Bridge Building. In our time at Great Tower Campsite we got the opportunity to do some pioneering/bridge building because we got to try and cross a river with only sticks, logs and ropes. I thoroughly enjoyed this because we needed to use teamwork and our ideas put together to create a durable bridge.

Number 2 – Town Centre. On one of our final days in Windermere, we got to visit the beautiful town centre of Windermere.

This stunning village is full of life, sights and a sense of welcoming. We got to see the coast of the grand largest lake in England, and we also saw the enormous mountains of the Lake District.

Number 1 – Ghyll Scrambling. This activity was the main reason our Scout group wanted to come to the Lake District, and I can see why!

This was extraordinary for so many different reasons. But above all, my favourite part was the view in every corner, looking absolutely unreal.

You could just see every minute detail in such complexity. It felt like I could see and hear all the water rushing and birds chirping all in one go. It was a brilliant week and I would recommend it to anyone who was thinking about doing it and I would go one million times again.

Zack Rooney



As the Light Changes

October is a month when we really begin to notice the changing of the seasons. The leaves turn golden, red and brown before gently falling from the trees. The mornings feel colder, the evenings draw in, and we find ourselves reaching for an extra jumper and putting the heating on a little earlier.

As we lose the long light of summer and move into autumn, perhaps it is also a good time to think about one another.

The shorter days can be harder for some people. Someone who was out and about during the summer may find themselves staying indoors more. An elderly neighbour may appreciate a little company, a phone call or simply knowing that someone has noticed them. Sometimes the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference.

The Bible reminds us: **“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” – Galatians 6:2**

We do not have to carry everything alone. Being part of a village community means looking out for one another, noticing when someone might need a little help, and being willing to offer a listening ear, a cup of tea, or simply a smile as we pass by.

The leaves may be falling and the light may be fading earlier each day, but we can be a light for one another. In the darker months ahead, may our villages be places where kindness shines brightly, where no one feels forgotten, and where we remember that we are stronger when we walk together.

God bless,

Reverend Emma

Colchester Early Music concert series is back! Bringing Glorious Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music to St Andrew's Church Marks Tey on Sunday afternoons throughout the winter. All concerts 2.30-3.30pm with tea, coffee and biscuits served afterwards (contributions to church funds much appreciated). Concerts tickets are £16 or £11 with concessions available to anyone who wants one. Adult-accompanied under 18s FREE. Full details can be found at www.colchesterearlymusic.org.uk The first concert is on **4th October** Blondel Medieval & Renaissance wind band: "Cover Story" album launch tour, with Daniel Serafini on slide trumpet and sackbut.



Memorial Service At 3pm on 1st November we will be holding our annual Memorial Service when we read out the names of loved ones we have lost and light a candle in their memory. This is open to everyone. The service will be led by Reverend John Chandler and will be followed by tea and refreshments. Please let me know the name/s you would like to be remembered and come along to give thanks for them.
Andrew Waters copford43@gmail.com

This month we will be praying for all who attend or work in **St. Andrew's Primary Academy, Marks Tey Parish Council, and Local Businesses.** 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!

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

Sunday 4th October

11am Morning Worship - Christopher Lee

Sunday 11th October

11am Morning Worship - Andy Carter

Sunday 18th October

11am Holy Communion - Revd Emma Barr

Sunday 25th October

11am Morning Worship - Revd 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.

St Andrew's Church of England Primary Academy

As we move further into the autumn term, I am delighted to reflect on what has already been a busy, exciting and incredibly positive start to the school year at St Andrew's.

I am particularly thrilled to share the fantastic achievements of our children in last year's statutory assessments. St Andrew's achieved results above the national average in the Good Level of Development at EYFS, the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. At Year 6, our children also achieve above national results in nearly every area, including at the higher standard of Greater Depth.

These outcomes are a wonderful reflection of the hard work, determination and enthusiasm shown by our children, alongside the dedication and expertise of our staff. We are incredibly proud of every child and all that they have achieved. While assessment results are only one part of the rich and varied education we offer at St Andrew's, it is always pleasing to see the commitment of our whole school community reflected in such positive outcomes.

Alongside this academic success, we are also approaching the completion of our annual Art Project. This year, our work is closely linked to each class's 'Make a Difference Project', allowing us to take our learning around social injustice and turn it into meaningful action within our classrooms, our school and our wider community.

Each class has chosen an area where they hope to make a genuine difference:

Oak Class will be focusing on caring for our environment through litter picking and recycling fruit peel waste.

Maple Class will be reaching out to local retirement homes, exploring ways to build connections and develop meaningful relationships across generations.

Chestnut Class will be raising funds to purchase a Buddy Bench for our school grounds, helping to encourage friendship, inclusion and kindness.

Hazel Class will be exploring ways to build even stronger connections with our local community.

Juniper Class will be considering how we can make our school site even more welcoming and inviting for pollinators.

Sycamore Class will be investigating the impact of fast fashion and exploring how we can make more sustainable choices by upcycling and recycling our clothing.

I am incredibly proud of the thought, enthusiasm and sense of responsibility that the children are bringing to these projects.

They demonstrate so clearly that learning is not simply about what happens within the four walls of a classroom; it is also about understanding the world around us and recognising that, whatever our age, we can all play a part in making a positive difference.

Finally, we are thrilled once again to be supporting the Little Edi Foundation as part of our Harvest celebrations this academic year. We are very proud to continue this partnership and look forward to our school community coming together to support such an important cause.

It is wonderful to see our children achieving so much, both academically and beyond. From excellent outcomes in the classroom to projects that promote kindness, sustainability, community and social responsibility, there is certainly much to celebrate at St Andrew's.

As always, thank you to our families, parish and wider community for your continued encouragement and support.

It makes a tremendous difference and helps us to continue providing the very best opportunities for the children in our care.

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



Appeal for Nepal

We were all shocked by the news reports showing the ferocity and the speed of the floodwater in Nepal causing such utter devastation and loss of life. It is very apparent that many will need help for some time.

Marks Tey and Aldham Church have had a close connection with a church in Kathmandu for nearly 25 years and we played a major role in the funding of the building of a school and an orphanage. Both our previous Rectors Richard Morgan and Ian Scott-Thompson visited Chitra and his main church. Accordingly we feel able to safely transfer funds to a reliable source in the country. We are advised that clothes and food are getting through but the main concern is access to basic items that allow a home to be re-established. In many cases this comes down to cooking materials and utensils. We are initially running an appeal to the end of October as there are bank charges on every money transfer.

If you would like to contribute this can be done by Bank Transfer to

Marks Tey Parochial Church Council-

Sort code 20-22-67

Account number 50606979

Or by the QR code shown

Or via the Contactless Machine in the Church during October.

Please ensure that you put Nepal in the Reference Box.

Andrew Waters.



After the Flash Flood
Photos from Chitra in
Nepal.

Hello Autumn! 🍂

After what feels like one of the hottest summers, we're looking forward to cooler days and a fantastic few months of community events! Our Community Committee aims to bring local people together through affordable, welcoming events for all ages. Some events are ticketed and others are donation-based, but what you may not realise is that **all money raised goes straight back into our community** – helping to fund community projects, play equipment and valuable resources, including a defibrillator in recent years.

We're also incredibly grateful to **Holmes & Hills** for sponsoring our Community Picnics during the school holidays.

Of course, none of our events would be possible without our wonderful volunteers, who generously give their time to help make them happen.

Could you spare an hour or two? Volunteering is a great way to meet people, get involved and support your local community – you can give as much or as little time as you wish. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more. cllr.c.english@marksteyparish.gov.uk



What's coming up?

Saturday 3rd October - Community Library | 10am-12.30pm

Pop in to borrow some books, enjoy delicious homemade cakes or bring your latest project along to our friendly Craft Corner.

Saturday 3rd October - Skate Taster | 5pm-7pm

Bring your own clean, well-maintained skates and come along for a skate! Scan the QR code on our poster for tickets and the waiver.

Wednesday 7th October - Young at Heart | 2pm-4pm

Our friendly group for over-50s living in Marks Tey. Join us for games, quizzes, tea and cake – or simply come along for a chat.

Wednesday 28th October - Halloween Party | 3pm-6pm 🍁

Fancy dress, games and prizes! Bring your own food and drink. Tickets are £4 per person, with under-2s FREE. Book online using the QR code.

Dates for your diary:

- 4th November - Young at Heart
- 7th November - Community Library
- 15th November - Christmas Craft Fair
- 2nd December - Young at Heart
- 5th December - Community Library
- 13th December - Christmas Party



📍 Marks Tey Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ
Keep up to date with all our events through the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events soon – and thank you for continuing to support your local community!



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



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



On Saturday the 3rd October it will be our annual MacMillan Coffee Morning at the Community Library and Café.

In the Large MARKS TEY PARISH HALL 10am to 12:30pm



So please come along and help us raise as much as we can for this great cause. We raised an amazing £438 last year all together, so it would be great if we could send Macmillan more than that this year. If you could bake us a cake(s) to sell that would be very much appreciated. You can either bring it along with you or I'm happy to pick it up if you give me a call. We will still be putting out the 4 bookcases of books for you to borrow one, or four, from across all genres for adults and children, and there isn't a fee to join. We may have the perfect one for you in our other cupboards so please ask. The children also have a craft table. Please come and support your community library which you, the community, started in 2018.

We now also have a craft table where you can either bring your own crafts to share with others, or perhaps learn a new one..

Sue will be there with her beautiful homemade cards and Jo will be there with her lovely diamond art gifts for you to buy. Hopefully so will Corinne with her plants at £1 per pot. All the jigsaws will also be out at £2 each.

It is a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning, borrowing a book, meeting up with friends and making new ones over a cuppa and homemade cake. And to help us raise a lot of money for Macmillan. So come down and see what it is all about on 3rd October. You'll be sure of a warm welcome.

Look forward to seeing you. Please use the QR Code to donate if you can't make it. **Yvonne 907709064599**

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