

NEWSLETTER



 St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

 @marksteychurch

Ian Scott-Thompson *writes...*

Dear Friends,

How do you feel about the gradual opening-up again after Lockdown? At St Andrew's Church, we are re-starting worship services in the church building, but of course with precautions against spreading any infection.

We want to hold a Thanksgiving Service for the community of Marks Tey, when we can show our gratitude for the NHS, Key Workers, for the vaccination programme, Scientists and Health Workers who made it possible!

Later in the year, in November 2021, we shall hold our annual Memorial Service, when we remember our loved ones who have passed away. Sadly, Covid has taken more than a few before their time and we shall remember them particularly.

Commentators have called this past year 'the quickening', because of the way Covid has suddenly moved us forward 10 years in terms of the predicted shift to remote working, distance learning, medical consultation, e-commerce, online shopping, video conferencing, phasing out cash, changes to commuter travel and so on. The shops and businesses that have flourished and grown are the ones that have adapted to this, while others have not. It looks as if not everybody wants to go back to the old ways and shops and offices are closing to make way for home working.

Churches have found the same dynamic. Some have refused to pray online and are longing to get back into the church building, but others have said how good it is not to have to travel, but to join with worship or meetings from your own living room. So, we will need to offer both options and the churches that will grow, are the ones with a strong online presence. We are hoping at the very least to record the readings and sermon, but ideally to offer a fully interactive worship experience online.

With best wishes,

Ian

Worship at

St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Marks Tey

Church of England churches will soon re-open again carefully for worship on Sundays, but for now we are continuing Sunday worship and prayer meetings online, on Zoom.

Please contact us for details.

Services

2nd May, 11am

Sunday service in St Andrew's Church and on Zoom

9th May, 11am

Sunday service in St Andrew's Church and on Zoom

16th May, 11am

Communion in St Andrew's Church and on Zoom

23rd May, 11am

Sunday service in St Andrew's Church and on Zoom

30th May, 10am

Combined Sunday service on Zoom

Please also make full use of televised church services, websites, social media, smart speakers etc., which all offer worship in different forms. We are streaming our 11am morning service every Sunday on Zoom ([ask for details](#)).

If you have more time at home unexpectedly, why not take the opportunity to read your Bible at home, spend a few minutes praying and phone round friends and relatives, to encourage one another?

Look at the website

www.marksteychurch.org.uk for up-to-date information.

1st Tey Rainbows

We hope that you all had a nice relaxing Easter, despite the mixed weather of sun, snow and breezy winds. At 1st Tey Rainbows the term has flown by, but here is a snapshot of some of our zoom activities:

World Thinking Day 2021 – this was a very busy zoom meeting, our mission to focus on the world and to achieve a badge from one meeting. To Stand Together for Peace, to stand together with over 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world to call for and create peace in our lives and in the world.

Promise ceremony – our youngest Rainbow, made her promise and officially became a Rainbow. It was fabulous to see the Rainbows excitement on screen and to see our newest Rainbow be presented with her Promise badge.

Creative side – obviously, this term we have had Mother's Day and in preparation, our Rainbows made a beautiful card, with Dads coming up trumps when help was needed. After all it was top secret for our Rainbows Mum's. No one wanted to spoil the surprise!

For Easter – we made a beautiful mini egg basket, which we all decorated individually, using Easter stickers. The concentration on the Rainbows faces was priceless.

On our last term meeting, our eldest Rainbow left us to become a Brownie and gained her pot of gold badge.

Now with lockdown easing in line with the roadmap, we are looking forward to seeing the Rainbows face to face, next term. During the holidays, some of our Rainbows will be joining in on a virtual sleepover.

Looking ahead, if you think your daughter or granddaughter, would like to be a Rainbow or Brownie, please register your interest at:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

or to contact the unit directly please email

1stteyrainbows@gmail.com

Please take care & keep safe.

Alison Groves



Scouts

1ST MARKS TEY & COPFORD SCOUT GROUP

Further to our previous Group update (via Church Newsletter Facebook page), we are delighted to announce that we have commenced a staggered return to face-to-face meetings during this Summer term. This has started with our older members (Scouts) meeting outdoors where we will continue to undertake Risk Assessments to ensure we are satisfied that all members of our Scout Group can meet in a safe and welcoming environment. We are continuing with our virtual meetings for Beavers and Cubs and expect to welcome them back to some form of face-to-face meetings soon.

To enable more face-to-face meetings, we have been working with St. Andrew's Church Hall Committee sharing and agreeing Risk Assessments to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for our return.

We have also recently reviewed and updated our Beaver Waiting List and all of the young people, who are eligible to start, have now been invited to join our Group.

If you would like to know more about 1st Marks Tey & Copford Scout Group or would like to put your son or daughter on our waiting list (they are never too young to be added) then please visit our website www.1stmarkstey.org and complete the New Member Enquiry Form.

Also, if you are an adult looking for a new, challenging and exciting volunteer role in the community, we would love to chat with you. Please contact our Executive Group Chair our Group Scout Leader whose details can be found at www.1stmarkstey.org on our Contacts Page.

Marks Tey Guides and Rangers

Marks Tey Guides and Rangers have continued to meet throughout the lockdowns on a Wednesday evenings. The majority of the time we have met via Zoom and the occasional outdoor meetings when rules allowed. Despite being virtual, we have still enjoyed a number of different activities such as cooking, cake decorating, yoga and quizzes. This term we are very much looking forward to resuming face to face meetings outdoors and hopefully eventually to move indoors.

Girls can join Guides from the age of 10 and Rangers from the age of 14. If you would like further details please email markstey.guides@yahoo.co.uk or go to the Girlguiding website at www.girlguiding.co.uk



Thy Kingdom Come

#PLEDGE2PRAY

13 May – 24 May

St Andrew's will again be participating in what is now a global prayer initiative across 170 countries involving all the main Christian denominations (see www.thykingdomcome.global).

Locally we expect this to include 24 hours of continuous prayer for our community and nation. Individuals will also be praying for family members and friends to come to know Christ.

We have obtained a number of Prayer Journals, written by the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, the former Bishop of Chelmsford, that provides a simple clear step by step exploration of the Gospel. If you would like a copy either for yourself or to give to someone else please feel free to contact me on andrewandjoywaters@hotmail.com.

1st Marks Tey Brownies

Well, it's been quite a year! Due to the Covid restrictions we have not met Face to Face for over a year!

Due to this we have learnt new skills and met on Zoom! We have managed to adapt our programme and offer the girls a different set of skills!

We have cooked, crafted, played games, had three sleepovers and learnt how to do things together but apart! We have had some brilliant guests that include a puppeteer, an Elf from Santa at Christmas, a farm tour and a visit from a new born lamb!

We have been Zooming with Great Tey Brownies and Rainbows so have made new friends too!

We have had girls achieve badges and Awards. We are just about to award a Gold Award – the highest Brownie Award to one Brownie, who has completed all her challenges!

We are now able to meet face to face outside and will start to do this from May.

Unfortunately, this has also had an affect on our numbers and we are at an all time low. If you are aged 7 to 10 years old and would like to join us, we have plenty of space!

Just go to girlguiding.org.uk/joinus and follow the links!

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Roz Tarman

1st Marks Tey Brownies



Marks Tey Open Gardens Day

July 10th 2021



CAN YOU HELP?

To raise funds for the Church Tower appeal and to bring the community together again

Refreshments in the church hall Raffle with many prizes

Entrance by £5 programme which will be available just before or on the day from each garden

We would like as many open gardens as we can get to make it a lovely day for everyone attending so would you be willing to open your garden please? It doesn't need to be a 'Chelsea' special and it doesn't have to be big either; just one that is loved by you. You can sell any produce or plants if you would like to, too. Please be brave. We would like the gardens to be within walking distance of each other with possibly finishing/beginning at the church where you can get refreshments with many delicious home-made cakes in the church hall. The car park at the church will be available for parking. Alternatively, if you would rather not open your garden would you be willing to help out either on the day or beforehand. Or have anything, or make anything, that we could give as raffle prizes, or would you make a cake or two for the refreshments. The programmes will be £5 per adult, children free, and available at each garden and a couple of places beforehand but this will be advertised nearer the time. The raffle tickets will also be on sale at the church hall and at several gardens. You can contact Yvonne Norman on 07709064599 with either opening your garden, helping out, or with raffle prizes. Thank you.

Children's miniature garden competition for 12 yrs and under

We are going to be having a children's miniature garden competition for 12 years old and younger. Poplar Nursery have kindly offered to provide the first prize but there will also be prizes for second and third. The space is to be up to 30cm x 30cm x 5cm/ 12ins x 12ins x 2ins, about the size of a large foil tray that you can buy. It can be of any garden you like so feel free to use your imagination. These must be taken to the church at 10:30am on the 10th July so that they can be judged at 11am. Then everyone who goes into the church will be able to see them all and who has won. Come on kids, this is for you.



I am delighted to be appointed as the new Headteacher for **St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School** and am excited to work alongside all the children, parents and staff. Already I have been impressed with the welcome I have received and I look forward to being able to meet many more parents as restrictions ease over the coming weeks and months. I have been working in education for fourteen years and have been a senior leader for seven years, predominantly in Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea. I have a nine-year-old daughter who attends a Colchester church school and as a family, we are keen tennis players who enjoy the outdoors. St. Andrew's is known to foster good relationships with the local community, supported by dedicated staff, a committed governing body and motivated children.

I am looking forward to leading the school as we move into this new chapter.

Kind regards

Sam Wilding

Headteacher

Parish Council Newsletter

The statutory consultation of the Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan has completed. The Borough Council will be appointing a Planning Inspector to examine the Plan. The current indications are that the referendum date is slipping and may not take place until late summer.

The Parish Hall is now back in use for children's activities and updates on the progress of the restarting of adult activities will be best seen on the Parish Council website or Facebook.

Community Library and Café re-opening

All being well we are at last going to re-open the Community Library and Café on Saturday 5th June, being the first Saturday in June.

The opening times will be the same, **10am - 12:30pm**, but this time we will be in the much bigger main hall of the Parish Hall. Not only will it give us more scope to be able to do more activities but it will also allow much better social distancing between all the book shelves as we'll be able to space them out around the hall. There will still be the café so plenty of cakes and coffee/teas available as usual and if it is a nice day then we can have the tables and chairs outside. It is a good place to catch-up with people you may not have seen for some time, as well as chose some great books to read. Over 2000 to chose from; both fiction and non-fiction; adults and childrens. There are quite a few people with books at home that they borrowed the last time we met on 7th March 2020, our first anniversary, so would be lovely to see those returned and more borrowed of course.

Please come along and see what a great Community Library and café we have in Marks Tey on 5th June. New members are always very welcome.

For more information please contact

Yvonne on 07709064599

or Mo 07928810404

or Kate 01206 210767



Shops and Businesses

As we move out of lockdown it is good to remember our appreciation for those businesses that serviced us and to continue our patronage. Whilst those local businesses that were forced to close will be in urgent need of our support.

This month we will be praying for all who live and work in
**Keable Road, Godmans Lane
and Badgers Green**

For further details/prayer requests,
please contact: Peter Strode on
01206 212917



Weddings and Funerals

Weddings and funerals can happen,
but on a small scale and with careful hygiene.
We are your church – please ask and we'll do our best for you!



If you would like to advertise your business here, contact Yvonne Norman on 07709 064599

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 Tel: **01206 489212**

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To Advertise in this space contact Yvonne on **07709 064599**

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Who's Who in the Church www.marksteychurch.org.uk

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