

NEWSLETTER

 St Andrew's Church, Marks Tey

 @marksteychurch



Church Tower Appeal

We now know the cost of the repair project, the contractor we hope to instruct - Punch Construction of Inworth and the amount of additional money we need to raise - **£130000**. Several applications for Grants have already been submitted and more applications are planned. If our fund raising goes to plan work will commence in the summer. The 900 year old Grade I listed building with its unusual and very distinctive tower is treasured for its beauty, its setting, being a familiar sight leaving for or returning home from London on the train, its depiction of Marks Tey, being the connection to the village's ancient past and to the future. Whilst for many others it is where they attended Sunday School, where they or their parents were married, where loved ones are buried, was part of their faith journey or where they first came to faith. Any financial support you feel able to make will be much appreciated, will help us to reach our target and will demonstrate to Trust Funds that the Church is valued by the Community. Cheques can be sent to our treasurer Yvonne Norman at 29 Coggeshall Road CO6 1LL and should be made out to **Marks Tey Parochial Church Council**. Alternatively money can be transferred, the **sort code is 20-22-67** and the **Account number 50606979**. In addition, Your donation can be increased by **25%** simply by signing a **gift aid form** (available from Yvonne) if you are a UK tax payer enabling us to reclaim Income tax on your gift.

Thank you

Andrew Waters



1ST MARKS TEY & COPFORD Scouts SCOUT GROUP

Christmas is always a fun time at 1st Marks Tey & Copford Scout Group and 2023 was no exception. Each Section had the opportunity to take part in Christmas crafts, the Beavers and Cubs made cards and tree decorations and the Scouts made wreaths. All members of the Group enjoyed an evening a Ten Pin where not only did we celebrate the achievements of our Young People but was also said a sad farewell to William who turned 18 and is now going onto pastures new. We wish him all the best for the future. The Cubs and Scouts had an exciting sleepover at Go Bananas where they took part in lots of activities and had the opportunity to sleep in Tiny Town. Some of our Cubs also attended the Colchester North District Cub Christmas Party at the Girls High School along with 170 (yes 170!!!!!!) Cubs from across Colchester. A mad afternoon of craft, party food, games and they got to meet Santa and receive a gift. These events could not be possible without the support and dedication of our Leader Teams and Trustee Board. They are all amazing and do such much for our Young People. If you would like to join in and help out, please feel free to get in touch. Finally, last Sunday some of our Young People and Leaders joined in with the Christingle Service which was great fun. A big shout out to Milo (one of our Scout Leaders) for being a good sport and dressing up. We are all now making plans for the spring and summer terms where we hope to get out and about with hiking and camping. We are also looking forward to planting some bulbs in the church garden in the spring.



Liz Welch Group Lead Volunteer
1st Marks Tey & Copford Scout Group
Email – 1stmarksteyandcopford@gmail.com

Community Library and Café

Next one is Saturday 3rd February

Dates for the rest of 2024 are 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May,
1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 5th October,
2nd November, 7th December

Please keep a note of the dates for your diaries

In the large hall at the Parish Hall Marks Tey **10am to 12:30pm**.

Come down to the Parish Hall to borrow a great book, have a coffee/tea, cake and chat. 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 and cake. The café will have all the usual lovely homemade cakes. For February we will also be serving up soup and sausage rolls and it will be a lovely warm space for you too. Come and have a look at the wonderful selection of books we have for you to borrow. We have over 2000 books, fiction and non-fiction across all genres and a very big children's section for all ages, with a craft table for them too.

There isn't any fee to join and you can borrow up to 4 books at a time per person, for a month and renew them 3 times if you haven't quite finished reading them. We also have a lot of jigsaws to buy at £2 if you like doing them. During the year we sometimes have craft tables, plants for sale, Coffee with a Cop, someone from Colchester City Council to answer your questions and much more. Come down and see what it is all about at our Community Library and Café on 3rd February and enjoy a cuppa, cake and chat with friends whilst browsing all our books.

Look forward to seeing you

Yvonne 07709064599



Ian Scott-Thompson writes...

Dear Friends,

Have you seen "Mr Bates vs The Post Office"? It's a brilliant drama and all the reports in the news since then have only confirmed the story. I've found myself thinking about it ever since, as have a lot of us, judging from the ongoing reports and investigations.

How was it possible to believe that all these sub-postmasters were thieves and criminals and the computers were faultless, bug-free? "You're the only one, nobody else has had a problem." "Nobody can access Horizon remotely, it has to be your transactions." So many statements that have since proved false, but nobody willing to accept responsibility. Protecting the Post Office's reputation, rather than admit to problems with Horizon. Compensation that has still to be paid years later, while some victims have since died. A tragedy at every point. Even the Church of England accused, for ordaining Paula Vennells and then recommending her to be a Bishop!

We are viewing some dark sides of human nature and hoping that they will be brought to justice. We are also seeing some quiet British heroes in Alan Bates and his colleagues, who refused to give up. We have an inbuilt sense of right and wrong, thanks be to God. Let's pray that individuals in similar positions of power and authority consider the consequences of not acting with integrity at all times. Let's pray for truth and justice to triumph and soon!

With best wishes,

Ian

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

You are very welcome to join us on a Sunday morning and afterwards to stay for a drink and refreshments.

Services

4th February, 11.00am Morning Worship

11th February, 11.00am Morning Worship

18th February, 11.00am Communion

25th February, 11.00am Morning Worship

3rd March, 11.00am Morning Worship
with Annual Meeting

The Church is always open so if you would like a time of quiet reflection or just to look around, do drop in.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

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!

The Young at Heart Young at Heart group for the over 50's living in the Marks Tey area meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. We are a friendly group and have quizzes, raffles, games and of course, tea and cake.

Come and join us at our next meeting on **14th February at 2pm** at the Parish Hall, Old London Road for tea, coffee and a chat. **All welcome.**



For more information contact
Trish on 07815 125261



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil

This month we will be praying for all who live and work in

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

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

prayer@marksteychurch.org.uk



St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

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**'Inspiring children to achieve their
'Personal Best' within a
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The Spring Term is up and running and we are all looking forward to what 2024 will bring for us here at St Andrew's Academy. EYFS have started their topic of '**Bears**' and are planning a trip to Jimmy's Farm later this term. In Year 1, the children have started their new topic '**Poles Apart**' creating some wonderful Penguin Art. In Year 2/3, the children will be engaging with an '**Earth Defenders**' topic, which is always incredibly popular. Year 4 are focusing on Inventors and will be designing and writing about Robots. In Year 5 the children have begun their topic on Space and have created a wonderful pictorial representation of the solar system using fruit! Finally, Year 6 are focusing on Britain's National Parks, exploring the natural beauty of our Islands. Alongside this, we are also taking part in the RSPB Bird Watch, holding a storytelling and dance week and we have Maths Day all before the February half term. An exciting and engaging start to the new term indeed!

Best wishes

Head of School

Mr. Keith Birbeck

St. Andrew's C of E Primary School



Spring Litter Pick 13th April 2024

Come and help spring clean the village. We'll meet at the Parish Hall, litter pick around the village for a couple of hours then head back to the hall for refreshments. This is a family friendly event but not suitable for very young children.

If you would like to volunteer to pick litter or help out in the kitchen then please contact

Trish Wynne-Willson on 07815 125261.

Community Picnic

Our first picnic of the year will be on 21st February. Picnics are held most Wednesdays in school holidays and half term. Bring your own picnic and we supply hot drinks, squash, fruit and biscuits. There will be a bouncy castle, dress up clothes, crafts and toys. There is no charge but we do ask for a donation to cover our costs.

Colchester Early Music

Medieval & Renaissance concert in St Andrew's Church

Our winter 2023/24 season continues with two more concerts coming up, both at 2.30pm for one hour in St Andrew's Church. The November and December concerts were very well received, and the February concert is at a special low price so if you've not been before perhaps this is your chance to give it a try. Performances are fairly informal with lively chat between the music to explain some of the background and instruments and tea, coffee and biscuits served afterwards (donations to the church welcome please for these). Concession price tickets are available to anyone who asks for them, on a pay as you feel basis, and under 16s get in free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Tickets are available for cash on the door, or from

www.colchesterearlymusic.org.uk

4th February: Consort of 1 - Playing Playford

Consort of 1 is a project by local resident and organiser of the Colchester Early Music concert series Lizzie Gutteridge, using modern live-looping equipment (as used by the likes of Ed Sheeran) to make new arrangements of ancient music. This performance will feature dance tunes, catches (rounds) and divisions from 17th London's famous music publisher: John Playford. Instruments will include violin, recorders, bagpipes, pipe and tabor and curtal (early bassoon).

Tickets £12/8

17th March: The New Cambridge Waits

Waits were groups of official musicians who worked in cities and towns from medieval times to the 18th Century. They would play for the Mayor and civic occasions, but could also knock out some popular music for the people. Band members Terry Mann (chief Wait, composer and instrument maker), Emma Mordue (minstrel, sprite, juggler and all-round Tudor entertainer) and Lizzie Gutteridge (see above) will bring you a selection of their favourites Medieval and Tudor tunes on shawms, recorders, bagpipes and crumhorns.

Tickets £15/10



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

Rector: Rev Ian Scott-Thompson The Rectory, Church Lane CO6 1LW 01206 215772
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: Graham Stein 32 Hazelton Road, Colchester CO4 3DT email: graencs@icloud.com