



DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

THE CHURCHWARDENS WRITE...

As we now go into what is officially called a “vacancy” we are going to try to answer a couple of your most pressing questions.

How long will it be before we get another Priest-in-Charge? Probably about a year. The process is this: on Monday 18, November, the Bishop called 6 PCCs to a “pre vacancy” meeting in White Colne Village Hall. He said the only chance of getting a new incumbent will be one for the 6 churches Aldham, Marks Tey, Great and Little Tey, Chappel and Wakes Colne. These 6 churches must get together and write a “Profile” which describes the location; what each church is doing and would like to do; and what we would like our next incumbent to be. The Bishop of Colchester says we should have this prepared by the end of March! Then in May we could advertise in the Church Times or the Diocesan website, or we could ask our patron, CPAS, if they have any clergy looking for incumbencies that match our profile. If we get a short list from that, we interview. If not, we continue looking. If an interviewee is offered the job, and accepts, then he or she will normally have to give 3 months’ notice.

In the meantime, what happens? We have been greatly blessed by two priests who have each offered to take

communion and preach on a monthly basis. Thanks to them and to other clergy, and to authorised lay preachers, we have filled every Sunday at Aldham and Marks Tey through to the middle of May 2025. And we’ve got the Bishop of Colchester to come to both churches on 6 July. Put it in your diary now! For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, the churchwardens should be approached in the first instance and we will contact the Area Dean, Rev Canon Erwin Lammens, Rector of St Mary’s Wivenhoe.

So we hope you will come and sample a rich offering of services and talks. You will be most welcome, and please stay for coffee, tea and biscuits after the service at both churches.

We are approaching an important time in our faith calendar, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. On 22 December, there will be Carol Services in both churches. And for both churches on Christmas Eve there will be midnight Communion at Marks Tey, and on Christmas Day a Family Service in Aldham Church. We’d love to see you at one or all of these services.

We wish you a happy and blessed Christmas

With best wishes,

Iain, Coral and Andrew

DIARY DATES

- Nov 30** **Free Alham Lunch** - See item.
- Dec 7 10.00 to 12.00 Book Exchange
 Crafts by Pat Welsh and
 Anne Fulcher and scones.
- Dec 7 2.00pm Chorus Icení Concert.
 See item
- Dec 9 PCC 7.30 pm at 20 Hines Close
- Dec 10 Prayer. 9.30am in church.
- Dec 10 Open Church. 10 to 11.30 am
- Dec 12 Christmas Afternoon Tea 2.30
 pm
- Dec 14** **Messy Christingles** 2.30 to
 4.00
- Dec 22** **6.30 pm Carols by**
 Candlelight

2025

- Jan 4 10.00 to 12.00 Book Exchange
- Jan 14 Prayer. 9.30am in church.
- Jan 14,28 Open Church. 10.00 to 11.30
- Jan 16 Afternoon Tea 2.30pm
- Mar 28** **Men's Breakfast**
 Speaker: Bishop Roger

CHURCH ROTAS

- Cleaning:*
- December:* Anne Matthews
 Jennifer MacCallum
- January* Sally Green,
 Felicity Chapman
- Flowers:*
- December ADVENT and
 CHRISTMAS
 Wendy Byford and team
- Jan 12, 19, 26 Yvonne Tomassi

BLUE BOXES

In 2024 we collected £228.00 in our blue boxes, many thanks to everyone who has contributed and for delivering your boxes so promptly. Thanks again,

Jean Jennings

SHOE BOXES

I took all the shoeboxes to Kingsland and cartoned them up in the big boxes ready to be collected and taken to the warehouse. I picked up 9 boxes from Aldham Church and I made up a further 41 including the donated items and money, so a total of 50. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed!

Lindsey Gough

BOOK EXCHANGE

Pat Welsh's Craft and Anne Fulcher's Card stall at the Flower Festival were much appreciated, to the extent that there were requests for a repeat at the December Book Exchange. There will be cheese scones for everyone too.

CHRISTMAS TEA

Afternoon Tea in the church at 2.30 pm on 12 December will be festive. We'll prepare for Christmas with some Carols and seasonal fare, so please don't have too much lunch!

DAY-TIME HOME GROUP ...

... has resumed with a series on Jesus in John's gospel. It meets at the home of Felicity Chapman, 12 Church Grove, on Wednesday, 4 December at 11.00am. If anyone else would like to join, that would be lovely.

Sally Green, Barbara Rush

WHO'S WHO

Priest-in-Charge	Vacancy	
Reader	Mr Iain MacCallum, 9 Handford Place, Queens Road, Colchester, CO3 3NY	01206 571070
Churchwardens	Mrs Coral Wingate, 79 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1 LS	01206 210369
	Mr Iain MacCallum, 9 Handford Place, Queens Road, Colchester, CO3 3NY	01206 571070
Secretary	Mrs Anne Matthews, 18 Scott Drive, Lexden, CO3 4JD	01206 575603
Newsletter Editor	Mr Iain MacCallum, 9 Handford Place, Queens Road, Colchester, CO3 3NY	01206 571070

TUESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP .. ALDHAM CHURCH WEBSITE

... is taking a break until March 2025 when we will have a Lent Course. If anyone would like to join, please tell me.

Iain MacCallum

AWAY DAY

Under the leadership of Revd. Graham Dowling about 25 members of Aldham and Marks Tey Churches gathered at the beautiful Assington Hall for a day of reflection and forward looking. We were directed to think about what each church did best; what we valued most about our church; what we would like it to be; and finally to put our thoughts in writing - about a paragraph.

Those of us who had been here before recognised this as part of a profile document.

Iain MacCallum

FREE ALDHAM LUNCH

Saturday 30th November 12-3pm in the Village Hall. Two choices of homemade soup and Sweet Treats to follow. Raffle, Mystery Tombola and a Picture Quiz.

All Aldham residents welcome. Bring a friend for a £5 lunch.

Aldham Village Hall Committee

CHORUS ICENI CONCERT

The next concert Chorus Icení are having is at St Botolph's Church on Saturday 7th December at 2.00pm. We are raising funds for Headway Colchester.

If you fancy coming along, tickets are available from Headway.

<https://www.headwayessex.org.uk/headway-events/headway-essex-christmas-choir-2024-2/>

Catherine Scott

One of the advantages of being in a group of six churches is that you see up front what they are doing. Recently, on meeting a churchwarden at Great Tey it became clear that they were pleased with their newish website. I liked it too, and to cut a long story short went to the same company to have our crumbling website rebuilt - and renamed:

www.aldhamchurch.org.uk

which is the standard way to name a church on the internet.

Updating the old website became probmatical for me: the web software was too complicated and did not run on my Mac Laptop.

Take a look. There's some work still to do, but it is functional and up-to-date.

Iain MacCallum

THANK YOU

I've just come away from the November Afternoon Tea at which 20 or more were served with sandwiches, scones, cake, tea and coffee. We love to serve tea and provide a good place where anyone can come to chat and meet. Behind the scenes were 7 ladies serving four tables and it occurred to me that that is how churches are run: a lot of mainly invisible people keeping the show on the road. Without the cleaners, the flower arrangers, the churchyard workers, the musicians, the children's leaders, those who get the church ready for worship we'd be lost. It's what theologians call "*All member ministry*". You know who you are, so THANK YOU for all you do!

Iain MacCallum

Deadline for Feb/March Newsletter

22 January

To: Iain MacCallum or Jane Smith,
7 Church Grove

WORSHIP AT ALDHAM

You are warmly invited to all our services.



1 Dec	9.15 am	ADVENT MORNING WORSHIP
8 Dec	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
15 Dec	9.15am	HOLY COMMUNION
22 Dec	6.30 pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
24 Dec	11.15pm	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION <i>at Marks Tey</i>
25 Dec	9.15 am	FAMILY WORSHIP
29 Dec	NO SERVICE AT ALDHAM	
2025		
5 Jan	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
12 Jan	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
19 Jan	9.15 am	HOLY COMMUNION
26 Jan	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP



Refreshments are served after services.

Worship at Marks Tey

<i>1st Sunday</i>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
<i>2nd Sunday</i>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
<i>3rd Sunday</i>	11.00 am	Holy Communion
<i>4th Sunday</i>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
<i>5th Sunday</i>	10.00 am	Combined Service

**The Word
became flesh
and made his
dwelling
among us.**

John 1:14

Please support your local Traders

BUTCHER	Willsher, 87 London Road, Marks Tey	01206 210365
CARPETS & FLOORING	Unit 1, Flyover Nurseries, 8 Coggeshall Road, MT	07973 407986
COMPUTER ASSISTANCE	Roger Walker, 16 Hines Close, Aldham	01206 211143
DELOTO DOG GROOMING	Karen, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey CO6 1LS	07970 990564
DEEVA NAILS & BEAUTY	Day and evening appointments available	07516 699101
DOG BOARDING	Small friendly dogs only. Contact Mark	07790 087460
DOG TRAINER	Susie@bestpawforwarddogs.co.uk. Marks Tey	07305 383631
ELECTRICAL	Aaron Pearson, 1 Rowan Close, Stanway	07825 224420
FLOORING	LT Flooring, Unit 2, 91 London Road, CO6 1LG	01206 575222
FLORIST	The Blue Geranium, May Cottage, Aldham	07822 003125
FUNERAL CELEBRANT	Graham Stein, 32 Hazelton Road, CO4 3DT	07563 210677
FUNERALS	A.Birkin & Sons, 6 West St., Coggeshall	01376 561316
FUNERALS	Hunnaball Stanway, 8 Chapel Road, CO3 0PU	01206 489212
FUNERALS	R. Gwinnell & Sons, 112 Ipswich Rd.	01206 868585
GARDEN & HOME MAINTENANCE	SJT, 59 Keable Rd. Marks Tey	07985 386758
GARDENING & ODD JOBS	Gary Todd, 3 London Road, Marks Tey	01206 212274
HAIR CARE AT HOME	Charlotte takes Ladies, Gents and Children	07791 426634
MILITARY COLLECTABLES, BOUGHT & SOLD, VALUATIONS:	Dave Brookes	07587 164068
PLASTERER	M.J.Reeve, 5 Ashbury Drive, MT, CO6 1XW	01206 920462
PLUMBER	Mark Nayler, 1c King George Rd, CO2 7PE	07763 468391
PLUMBING & HEATING	PatrickHasted@gmail.com 24 hr call out	07930 149046
REMOVALS & STORAGE	K.Dobbs, Unit 1-2, Bellhouse Farm, Stanway	01206 212444
ROOFING SERVICES	Falcon Contracting, 4 Honywood Close, Marks Tey	01206 212032
VIOLIN TEACHER	Nadia Riiako, Children and Adults.	07512 814813