



# ALDHAM

FEBRUARY 2024



## CAN YOU HELP US REPAIR THE CHURCH?

If you've recently walked up Green Lane, you will have seen the area on the end of the church from which flints have fallen, possibly due to Storm Ciarán and probably due to 170 years of wear and tear. Our architect has estimated that the repair will cost almost £25,000.

We are pursuing grants to help meet this target. The Friends of Aldham Church have £5,000 available for the repairs and we have been fortunate to get a similar grant of £5,000 from Colchester Deanery Charitable Trust. There are 4 or



5 other trusts that have helped us in the past, and we will be appealing to them shortly. **However it is the practice of most grant-awarding trusts to help those who help themselves by local fund-raising.**

Hence this appeal to church and village.

**If we can raise £3,000 we will be about half-way there.** This would give us a lot of brownie points when we come to appeal to other grant-awarding bodies. We've been promised £1,000 towards this appeal, so we are looking for just

***We exist to honour God and to enable people in our community discover Jesus***

£2,000. Twenty readers of the newsletter giving £100 each would do it! But, of course, we will be grateful for all donations.

The area where the flints fell has been fenced off, for safety.

It is obvious that the repair work should be done as soon as possible, but not when there is a risk of frost. The architect is looking at April or May 2024 for the work to be done.

We will, of course, put in a claim from our insurance but it will be hard to blame the damage on the weather.

If you are able to respond to this appeal, please use the form that is enclosed with this letter. Fold it, close it with sellotape and return it to me.

Thank you very much

*Iain MacCallum (assistant treasurer)*

**WHAT THE ARCHITECT SAYS**

If you wish to see more details of the repair job, here are two extracts from his report:

**Existing condition:**

This inspection was carried out following a fall of flint facing from above the window in the chancel east elevation. Refer to photograph. The area of detached flint facing includes a decorative stone with a blind quatrefoil motif. The thickness of the facing varies from approx. 125 – 175mm revealing a brick and flint core. Around the edges of the fallen area, a clear void can be seen between the flint facing and core of approx. 25 – 75mm and there is little evidence that the flint has been tied to the core with bonding flints or by any other means. There is however no evidence of recent movement of the face below the tiled verges nor any movement between the flint facing and the stonework surround to the window. There is also little or no evidence of any other areas of bulging flintwork on the remaining flint face nor any cracks through the flint facing.

**Recommendations for repair:**

a fixed scaffolding needs to be erected with particular attention being paid to RAMS (Risk Assessments and Method Statement) due to the risk of further masonry falls. Given the relative size of

**WHO'S WHO**

Priest-in-Charge	Revd Ian Scott-Thompson, The Rectory, Church Lane, Marks Tey, Col. CO6 1LW	01206 215772
Reader	Mr Iain MacCallum, 9 Handford Place, Queens Road, Colchester, CO3 3NY	01206 571070
Churchwardens	Mrs Coral Wingate, 79 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	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

the fallen area and the evidence of a void between the facing and core, it is recommended that the whole of the gable is refaced bounded by the roof tile verges, the head of the East window down to the level of the window arch springing line and extending out to the top of the buttresses. The existing flints should be re-used and the decorative gable stone reinstated. The flint facing will need to be tied back to the brick and flint core using stainless steel ties. If any additional flints are required, then these must match the existing in size and form.

## DIARY DATES

Feb 3	10.00 to 12.00 Book Exchange
Feb 4	2.30 for 3.00 pm Memorial Service
<b>Feb 6</b>	<b>Home Group Postponed</b>
Feb 10	Messy Church - 2.30 to 4.00 pm
<b>Feb 13</b>	<b>7.30 pm Home Group, at 7 Hines Close</b>
Feb 15	2.30 to 4.00pm Afternoon Tea
Feb 19	PCC 7.30 pm in church
Feb 20,27	7.30 pm Home Group, at 7 Hines Close

## CHURCH ROTAS

### *Cleaning:*

February	Wendy Doncaster Anne Hodgson
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### *Flowers:*

Feb. 4, 11	Yvonne Tomassi
Feb. 18–Mar. 24	<b>LENT</b>

## FOOD BANK

The "Christmas card scheme" this year produced £100 for the FoodBank.

# 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 flawless, 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,



Deadline for March Newsletter

**22 February**

To: Ian MacCallum or  
Jane Smith, 7 Church Grove

## WORSHIP AT ALDHAM

*You are warmly invited to all our services.*



**4 Feb 9.15 am MORNING WORSHIP**  
**3.00 pm MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**2.30 for 3.00 pm**

**11 Feb 9.15 am MORNING WORSHIP**

**18 Feb 9.15 am HOLY COMMUNION**

**25 Feb 9.15 am MORNING WORSHIP**



*Refreshments are served after services.*

## Worship at Marks Tey

*1st Sunday* 11.00 am Morning Worship  
*2nd Sunday* 11.00 am Morning Worship  
*3rd Sunday* 11.00 am Holy Communion  
*4th Sunday* 11.00 am Morning Worship  
*5th Sunday* 10.00 am Combined Service

**The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul.  
The statutes of the LORD  
are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.  
*Psalm 19:7***

## Please support your local Traders

BOILER SERVICING	J Butcher, 3 Game Close, Great Cornard, CO10 0ZJ.	07885 504036
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
<b>DEEVA NAILS &amp; BEAUTY</b>	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
REMOVALS & STORAGE	K.Dobbs, Unit 1-2, Bellhouse Farm, Stanway	01206 212444
ROOFING SERVICES	Falcon Contracting, 4 Honeywood Close, Marks Tey	01206 212032
<b>VIOLIN TEACHER</b>	Nadiia Riiako, Children and Adults.	07512 814813