

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED BY THE CHURCH IN



ALDHAM



JULY/AUGUST 2024

IAN SCOTT-THOMPSON WRITES ...

Dear Friends,

I don't know if you've heard ... but apparently there's an Election coming! The Church of England has produced a little booklet of prayers (or daily emails) called "Pray Your Part" (reminding you to "Play Your Part" with prayer!) How can we get ourselves ready to vote?

At its most basic level, engaging in politics can simply be turning up to vote at elections. I suspect this is something Christians are already good at. 93% of Christian respondents to a recent survey said they are certain or likely to turn up to vote in the next general election.

However, for many of us, perhaps we turn up to vote because it is our civic duty but we do not give much thought to how we use our vote. We vote for 'X' party because it's the party we have always voted for. It might even be the party our parents always voted for too. Or maybe we have consulted a trusted friend who "knows their stuff" about politics, and plan to ask how they will vote because surely that must be a safe choice?

I suggest that if we are to be good stewards of our vote, and make full use of it, we should give more serious thought to who we vote for. We can start by taking some time to pray to God and consider what are some of the big themes that Scripture suggests we should care about

(e.g. issues like poverty and the sanctity of life are themes that are threaded throughout the bible). Once you have thought of a few policy areas that you feel called to care about, start looking at what each of the parties are saying (or not saying) about these things. Think about some of the big issues facing society today from God's perspective.

When considering how we vote, it is good to remember the advice to Christ's followers in Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

The good news is that many Christians are already thinking about others as they cast their vote. 58% of respondents to that survey said that one of the top factors determining the way they vote is which party they believe will best help others who are most in need. Only 11% said they vote for the party that will most help themselves and their family.

Of course, it's complicated: we're not just voting for a national leader to be Prime Minister, with national policies, but also a local MP with local policies. Our vote has several aspects to it, including the previous history of results in our area.

Let's pray, then, for a good and fair election process; and let's pray that our future Government will lead our country well, in the coming years!

With best wishes,

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

DIARY DATES

July 6	10.00am Book Exchange
July 9	10.00am Open Church
July 18	3.00pm Afternoon Tea in Church
July 23	10.00am Open Church
Aug 3	10.00am Book Exchange
Aug 17	Big Skips at Hardings Close

Please note: there is NO Afternoon Tea and NO Open Church during August.

CHURCH ROTAS

Cleaning:

July	Judith and Peter Vestey
August	Wendy Doncaster Anne Matthews Jennifer MacCallum

Flowers:

July 7, 14, 21	Anne Matthews
July 28, Aug 4, 11	Janet French
August 18, 25	Angela d'Angibau

Churchyard: Steve Jennings

FRIENDS OF ALDHAM CHURCH

Thanks to a splendid spring concert, a magnificent Open Gardens Weekend, and the self-sufficiency of the Emergency Repair funding, FOAC funds now stand at nearly £10,000 which is a huge encouragement to the church fabric team. OGW was a great FOAC team effort!

Neil Byford, Iain MacCallum

OPEN CHURCH ...

Open Church is now on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. For July, that is: 9 and 23 July. As before, it is from 10.00 to 11.30am. There will be no Open Church in August. All are welcome.

Barbara Rush

EAST END GABLE REPAIRS

The emergency repairs were finished on 15 May and all invoices were paid by 14 June. Thanks again to the wonderful support of the village for the Appeal, and to Bakers, the builder, for coming in below their tender offer. We did not need to use the Friends of Aldham Church Funds to pay the bills.

Furthermore, there was a small surplus which we offered back to two donors to the Appeal, which they refused to take!

When we get the refund of VAT on the bills, we will have nearly £4,000 to be spent on completing the remaining jobs from the 2021 quinquennial survey. The work is in four categories:

Internal window decoration
External rainwater gutters
Repainting external flint-work
Treatment of pews and pulpit for
woodworm and beetle damage

Ken Thompson and I are already working on this multi-job project which has the support of the PCC and will need additional grants.

Iain MacCallum

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

and a much loved resident of Aldham.

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

The weather on 15 and 16 June was quite kind: showery in the morning but sunny in the afternoons. About 276 visitors came from all over Essex on the two days and the Village Hall team sold out of Ploughman's Lunches on Sunday. Lunches and garden teas made £1,140 while Plant sales made £144. There was a steady flow of visitors to the church to see the Art Exhibition. Sale of pictures made £102, books and jigsaws £95, Crafts £30, and the Donations bucket in the church took £105. Sponsors, listed on the back of the programme gave £330. At the end of the weekend the net proceeds was a magnificent £3,500.

When a small community, such as Aldham, opens itself to the public for an OGW, it involves many people who don't get their names in the programme. So we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who cut their lawn, tidied up their front garden, helped at a neighbour's garden, spread the word to friends, baked a cake or scones, served tea in a neighbour's garden, washed up at the village hall, put up garden number boards and parking signs, sat in the church, set up the Art Exhibition, swept up in the village hall, and many many more

BIG SKIP AT HARDINGS CLOSE.

Colchester City Council's Saturday household drop-off service will be in Hardings Close on 17 August. Please note new time. 10.00 to 10.45am. This service is ideal to get rid of small broken or unwanted household items which are not normally collected at the kerbside collections. Items not accepted are fridges, freezers and other electrical goods, hazardous waste such as asbestos, batteries, liquids or gas bottles or business waste.

NOTES FROM THE PCC

The PCC on 24 June was held at 20 Hines Close, by kind invitation of Ken Thompson.

Ken outlined the project to complete the 2021 quinquennial repairs and Iain reported on the Emergency Repairs closing Accounts. Details of both are elsewhere in this newsletter. It was agreed that Harvest will be on Sunday 6 October and that there will be a Flower Festival on 12 and 13 October.

REVD WENDY PAGDEN

Wendy is retiring from full-time ministry based at St Albright's, Stanway. Wendy did her Curacy with Aldham and Marks Tey between 2016 and 2019 and became a Pioneer Minister at St Albright's, Stanway, in 2019. A farewell service for Wendy was held on 30 June at St Albright's.

Wendy and Robin will be moving to Copford so we will probably see her from time to time again at Aldham.

FUNERAL

The funeral of Muriel Jeckells of Oaktree Cottages will be on Friday, 5 July at 2.00pm in Aldham Church. She was 98



Deadline for September Newsletter
22 August

To: Iain MacCallum or

WORSHIP AT ALDHAM

You are warmly invited to all our services.



30 June	10.00 am	COMBINED WORSHIP <i>with Marks Tey at Aldham</i>
7 July	9.15am	MORNING WORSHIP
14 July	9.15am	MORNING WORSHIP
21 July	9.15 am	HOLY COMMUNION
28 July	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
4 Aug	9.15am	MORNING WORSHIP
11 Aug	9.15am	MORNING WORSHIP
18 Aug	9.15 am	HOLY COMMUNION
25 Aug	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

From the rising of the
sun to the place where it
sets,
the name of the LORD
is to be praised.

Psalms 113.3

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