



ALDHAM



MARCH 2024

IAN SCOTT-THOMPSON WRITES...

Dear Friends,

Lent is traditionally a time for giving up and cutting back on some of the 'extras' in our lives, with the aim of getting back in touch with God and the things that really matter.

In our house, we've been having a clear-out of books and files, furniture and tat, all the material things that accumulate and gather over the years. It's not easy, because many items bring back memories of people we loved and good times we had. It's hard not to stop and enjoy these things again!

We've been helped by our children, now in their thirties, who are much more ruthless than us at throwing things out! We always say that it's much easier to do this for someone else, than for yourself. They also suggested some tips for coping, like taking good photos of things, thanking God for the pleasure they've brought you, and telling yourself that they've gone to a good home where they'll be appreciated afresh.

A colleague told me that it may be difficult to say goodbye to much-loved items, but there is a real sense of lightness at the space redeemed. Less to dust, and less to maintain. Let's pray that we can live life more 'cleanly' in Lent, and perhaps focus more on God and the things and people that really matter.

With best wishes,

Mothering Sunday 10 March

All-Age Worship at 9.15am



You are warmly invited to a

short All-Age Service
at 9.15am

Come and find the
Secret Baby



DIARY DATES

- Mar 2 10.00 to 12.00 Book Exchange
- Mar 12 7.30 pm Home Group, at 7 Hines Close
- Mar 16 9.30am Spring-cleaning the church and Churchyard Blitz
- Mar 21 2.30 to 4.00pm Afternoon Tea
- Mar 28 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Meal at Marks Tey
- Mar 31 2.00am Clocks go forward
- EASTER DAY
- Apr 6 2.30 to 4.00pm Messy Church
- Apr 15 APCM 7.30 pm in church

CHURCH ROTAS

- Cleaning: Spring Clean!
- March
- Flowers: LENT
- March
- Mar 31 EASTER - Wendy Byford and team
- Churchyard: Steve Jennings

AWAY DAY

Andrew Waters invites Aldham Church to join St Andrew's Marks Tey in an Away Day, possibly on 21or 28 September 2024 at Assington Hall Christian Centre on the A134 between Nayland and Sudbury. Andrew is applying for a small grant which should mean it won't cost us anything - or at least not much!

The purpose: to get to know each other better, and think about the future.

It would be helpful if you could indicate to me whether you would wish to go. Iain MacCallum

OPEN CHURCH ...

... continues on Tuesdays, 10.00 to 11.30 am. Drop in for a coffee and a chat. You will always be very welcome. Barbara Rush

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

Can you spare a few hours once a year to help mow the grass in the churchyard? Sadly we are very short of volunteers and your help would be much appreciated.

If you feel that you are able to help, please contact Steve Jennings on 01206 211408 for more information.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

St Andrews Marks Tey have invited Aldham to share their Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion with them on 28th March at 7.30pm. This will be a lamb meal in the church interspersed with a short service and reflection. Please let Iain MacCallum know if you wish to attend. Offers of supply of food will be much appreciated.

Iain MacCallum & Leon Parker

EAST END GABLE REPAIRS

There are three items of really good news to report:

1. The architect has produced the 21-page specification for the repairs and on this basis has asked three contractors: Lodge & Sons Ltd., Bakers of Danbury Ltd. and Punch Construction Ltd. to tender for the work. When the tenders are in, the architect will select one contractor and send the tender to our Archdeacon. She will contact the

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 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

Diocesan Advisory Committee who should give the go-ahead for work to begin.

2. The response to the Appeal in last month's newsletter has been amazing! I cannot say THANK YOU enough to the village and the church for the response. From the 220 addresses in Aldham that the newsletter goes to, there were 27 responses. Your generosity has raised nearly £5,000. To that Gift Aid will be added when the Treasurer has calculated it. My guess is that Gift Aid will add a further £1,000 or thereabouts.

3. Meanwhile 7 grant applications and an Appeal have been written, emailed or posted. Four of these have already given us money:

Colchester City Council (£500),

Friends of Aldham Church (£5,000),

Fowler, Smith & Jones (£2,000), and

The Appeal to Aldham village and church has given us at least (£4,820).

Colchester Churches Charitable Trust has awarded and promised (£5,000).

We are therefore assured of £17,320 towards the target I guessed at £25,000.

The 3 remaining grant applications are conditional on a contractor's quote being accepted. We hope to get £8,000 from these 3 sources. Once we have paid for the work we can reclaim VAT on the invoices.

Because of the materials to be used, the work cannot be done while there is a risk of frost. The architect is looking at April or May.

The fact that Aldham will have produced over £10,000 (FOAC + Appeal) to the cost of the job, means the 3 remaining grant-awards will look kindly on our applications.

Iain MacCallum

EASTER LILIES ...

... for loved ones to be remembered on Easter Day are at the same price as last year - £2.50. Please give your name(s) and money to me by 24th March.

Jennifer MacCallum

BEACON HOUSE ...

... continues its essential role in providing all kinds of services to the homeless and struggling. In mid-March, we will be taking items collected in church. Could we include some Easter-themed goodies?

Jennifer MacCallum

NEW LIFE!

Congratulations to Poppy (née Holme) and Ed Lea (together they wrote the Church Column in the December Grapevine) who have a new baby girl born a few days ago in Kenya. Sorry, we don't know the name or weight yet!

Also, Poppy's brothers, David and Henry have added a new son to each of their families recently. A busy time is coming up for grandma Pippa!

REVD ROBIN SPITTLE

Robin Spittle has been helping with the preaching at Aldham since November 2023. A retired priest, his last incumbency was at Kesgrave, near Ipswich, where he served from 1999 to 2020. He had expressed a strong interest in CYO which is where Jane Scott-Thompson got to know him and recommended him to us. He tells me he loves preaching and he leaped at the opportunity to preach about once a month in Aldham. Ian met Robin briefly while training at St John's College, Nottingham in the 1980s.

Iain MacCallum

Deadline for April Newsletter

22 March

To: Iain MacCallum or
Jane Smith, 7 Church Grove

WORSHIP AT ALDHAM

You are warmly invited to all our services.



3 Mar	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP
10 Mar	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP Mothering Sunday
17 Mar	9.15 am	HOLY COMMUNION
24 Mar	9.15 am	MORNING WORSHIP Palm Sunday
29 Mar	9.15 am	GOOD FRIDAY Meditation on the Cross
31 Mar	9.15 am	EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY COMMUNION



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

**Unless the LORD
builds the house, its
builders labour in
vain.**

Psalm 127 :1

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
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
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	Nadiia Riiako, Children and Adults.	07512 814813