



# ALDHAM



MAY 2024

IAN SCOTT-THOMPSON WRITES ...

*Dear Friends,*

'I come to your church', people tell me. Now I sometimes have trouble remembering names. But I don't remember ever having seen the person who just pledged allegiance to 'my' church.

Somewhat helplessly I ask some careful follow up questions. Which church? (we have six church buildings), and also when?

The clarifications put my own mind and doubts of insanity at rest. It turns out they used to attend occasionally at Christmas for midnight communion or even on Easter Sunday. I feel relieved, but only momentarily.

Can I simply say: if that's you, please read on. Because we - I - need you.

At crucial times we want to be here for you: when you want to affirm your or your children's faith in baptism, when you want to get married or when you have to say good bye to your loved one, but we can't do it alone.

The Christian church isn't just there for special occasions: it's about God, people and a way of life 365 days a year. Church is not a building, it's really the people who come and work out together what it means to follow Jesus - which is what it means to be a Christian. And if you are among those who say: 'Church is not for me', I would ask, 'Why not?' Is it because you think it's irrelevant, boring and out of date? Please

come and help us change that. Is it because you are not sure what to believe? Well, that would be most of us. We find comfort in what God promises us in his word, but we too wrestle with doubts, sometimes with life in general and don't have easy answers. What we try to do is allow God's love to change us and to serve others.

Other people have told me they are not good enough. Well, join the club. Most of the followers of Jesus follow him precisely because they are not good enough.

Others say they are not religious, and let me say this again and again: 'Nor am I'. Religion is a system of belief and a way of following a set of rules. However, Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and life." In other words, the Christian faith is about a person, Jesus, and about a relationship with an all-powerful God who deliberately gave himself for us, so that in exchange we can have a life worth living.

We have just celebrated Easter, Jesus' victory over death - that literally means no matter how difficult or dark life feels, in Jesus we have a sure hope of resurrection and new life. And it doesn't get more exciting or relevant than that.

So let me invite you to come to church, either again or for the first time. Do come and meet us - somebody recently said: 'You are not at all what I was expecting' - and I got the distinct impression they meant it as a compliment!

With best wishes,

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

DIARY DATES

- Apr 30 7.30 pm Home Group at 7 Hines Close
- May 4 10.00am Book Exchange
- May 12 3.00pm to 5.00pm Plant sale at Village Hall.
- May 13 **Deadline for Breakfast choices and money to Iain MacCallum**
- May 14 10.00am Open Church
- May 16 3.00pm Afternoon Tea
- May 18 **9.15am at the Cricketers - Men's Breakfast**
- May 21 7.30 pm Home Group at 7 Hines Close
- May 28 10.00am Open Church

CHURCH ROTAS

Cleaning:

May Jane Smith,  
Lindsay Gough

Flowers:

May 5, 12 Lindsay Gough

May 19, 26, Judith Vestey

Churchyard: Steve Jennings

THE APPEAL ...

... which was launched to the village and church in the February newsletter was extremely successful. The Treasurer has just told me that in addition to the sum of £4,920 raised, there will be at least £918.75 Gift Aid. this is nearly twice the amount I had originally dared to hope for.

Iain MacCallum

OPEN CHURCH ...

From May onwards, Open Church will be on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. For May, that is: 14 May and 28 May. As before, it is from 10.00 to 11.30am. All are welcome.

Barbara Rush

EAST END GABLE REPAIRS

In the April newsletter I reported that three contractors had submitted their offers, and that the Archdeacon had given her approval for Lodge & Sons to do the repairs. But then bad weather brought down more flints and an error was spotted in the specification in the area to be re-flinted, and the contractors were asked to tender again. This time Lodge & Sons could not meet our time requirements but Bakers of Danbury could, and furthermore they were now the cheapest!

A hurriedly set up meeting of the PCC was convened at which it approved our Architect, and Bakers as Contractor. As we now have enough funds to cover the revised costs, (see the item on the **APPEAL**) a start date of 22 April was set for the contractor so work should be in progress when you read this.

Because bats use the church, a survey by Natural England was carried out in January. The report said that their roost was inside, in the roof of the South Aisle at least 10m away from the location of the repair outside the building. It said the only safe time for the work, as far as the bats were concerned, was between 1 September and 31 October 2024. The Architect and the Contractor, have written to Natural England to say that this would lead to a Health and Safety issue., and that with due caution, they intended to keep to the original April/May period.

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

## ALDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting on 7 May will be held in the Village Hall starting at 7.00pm. The guest speaker will be Colchester City Council NSIP Project Manager, James Ryan.

Aldham Parish Council invites all residents to their Annual Parish Assembly meeting to be held on Saturday 27 May at 10.30am in the Village Hall. There will be updates on what the council has done this year and on the Pylons project from Rosie Pearson. Also, it's an opportunity to meet the new councillors and discuss the future of the village.

*Kevin B. Money*

*Aldham Parish Council Clerk*

**clerk@aldhamparishcouncil.gov.uk**

## ALDHAM ANNUAL PLANT SALE ...

... will be on Sunday 12 May, 3.00 to 5.00pm in the Village Hall. Homemade refreshments available. All plants are homegrown. Tomato and other vegetable plants and lots of Geraniums, Hostas and perennial plants. Eve Scott will be there with her delicious homemade Jams and Chutneys all in aid of Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. The plant proceeds will be divided between the E&H Air Ambulance and the Village Hall. This is a very popular event so please come early.

*Brenda Brown*

We will be serving teas, coffee and cake at the Plant Sale on 12 May. If there is anyone who would like to donate a cake, I will be very grateful. Contributions can be brought to the Village Hall from 10.00am onwards, or you can contact me to collect, or telephone me (07866 343 623) if you would like to deliver your cake to me. Many thanks.

*Anne Fulcher*

## FRIENDS OF ALDHAM CHURCH

On 27 April 7.30pm in the Church  
CONCERT by Icení and Resonate. Tickets  
£10.00 or £5 for under 16s from me.

*Andy Brown (01206 210963).*

## LAST CALL FOR BREAKFAST - MEN

Aldham and Marks Tey churches invite all men to join them for breakfast at 9.15am on Saturday, 18 May, at the Cricketers, Spring Lane, Fordham Heath. Their breakfast menu, as on their web page, will be available. **You must pre-book on a special invitation available from Iain MacCallum (or from Leon Parker, Marks Tey) and reply to us with your payment by 13 May.** Mark Tomassi, a barrister living in Aldham, will give an after breakfast talk. Invitations may be had from me in church, or by email: **maccallum.ir@gmail.com** or phone 01206 571070.

*Iain MacCallum*

## HOUSEHOLD DROP-OFF SERVICE.

Colchester City Council's Saturday household drop-off service will be in Hardings Close on 18 May and again 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.

## OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

**Put it in your diaries NOW**

**15 & 16 June 2024**

**Details next month.**

Deadline for June Newsletter

**22 May**

To: Iain MacCallum or  
Jane Smith, 7 Church Grove

## WORSHIP AT ALDHAM

*You are warmly invited to all our services.*



**5 May 9.15 am MORNING WORSHIP**

**12 May 9.15 am MORNING WORSHIP**

**19 May 9.15 am HOLY COMMUNION**  
*Pentecost*

**26 May 9.15 am MORNING WORSHIP**  
*Trinity Sunday*



*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

**Build houses and settle  
down;  
plant gardens and eat what  
they produce.**

*Jeremiah 29:5*

## 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