



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

**THE BENEFICE OF
ST ANDREW'S, MARKS TEY AND
ST MARGARET'S AND ST CATHERINE'S, ALDHAM
&
THE BENEFICE OF ST BARNABAS, GREAT TEY AND
ST JAMES THE LESS, LITTLE TEY WITH
ALL SAINTS, WAKES COLNE AND
ST BARNABAS, CHAPPEL**



PARISH PROFILE

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP GULI



Covering Essex and East London, Chelmsford is one of the largest, most diverse dioceses in the Church of England. We are home to more than 3 million people representing many socio-economic, ethnic and faith groups and a fantastic variety of cultures and traditions.

We have enormous opportunities for mission and service and considerable challenges to face and resolve as we continue to deal with the local, national and global challenges that have a direct impact on our parish churches, schools, chaplaincies and the communities we serve.

It is within this context and following a period of listening and discernment that started when I became Bishop of Chelmsford in 2021, that we set out a future direction of travel as a Diocese with a focus on travelling well together:

- Our purpose is to love God and to love our neighbour; to worship faithfully and empowered by the Holy Spirit, witness to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ as we serve the extraordinarily diverse array of local communities in Essex and East London.
- Our approach is to enable and empower parishes and worshipping communities to discern how they are to be God's people in their own very different local contexts and as part of one diocesan family.
- Underpinning our approach is an invitation to a way of being articulated by shared diocesan values which might shape how we travel together, support each other and provide mutual accountability.

Since I became Bishop of Chelmsford, I have witnessed people's great warmth and I have seen first hand the wonderful things going on in our parishes. Any new priest joining us in the Diocese of Chelmsford does so at a time of challenge, a time of change and most significantly a time of hope for our Church in this most diverse and exciting of dioceses.

Find out more about our Diocesan Direction of Travel and Values:

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/travelling-well-together

+Guli

Bishop of Chelmsford



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THE BENEFICES

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to read our Parish Profile. Everyone in our benefices is praying for you as you take time to discern if you share a vision as exciting as ours for the future. We are seeking a Priest-in-Charge, as the parishes are currently suspended. We enjoy a good relationship with our Patrons CPAS, and hope that you have been called to explore this exciting opportunity for growth and development.

The Marks Tey and Aldham Benefice' (Colchester Deanery and Colchester Archdeaconry) and Great Tey and Little Tey with Wakes Colne and Chappel Benefice' (Hinckford Deanery and Stansted Archdeaconry)' are a vibrant and historically rich grouping of rural parishes situated in North Essex. Each village, within the two benefices, offers a unique charm and heritage, contributing to a deep sense of community and tradition. These neighbouring parishes are no further than a 10 minute drive from each other and share cultural roots and a focus on local church life.

Marks Tey: Situated to the west of Colchester, Marks Tey is a key village in the benefice, known for its excellent transport links to London (50 mins) with the Rectory being a 10 minute walk from the train station. Marks Tey is also within travelling distance of Tollgate Shopping Centre (3 miles), Colchester (5 miles), Braintree (10 miles) and Chelmsford (17 miles) where you will find excellent centres of learning and a plethora of other facilities. Marks Tey also has a range of local shops. There is also easy access to beautiful coastlines.

Aldham: A small village community in rural North Essex. St Margaret's and St Catherine's church is at the heart of the village, with a long history of faithful service stretching back to its ancient precursor.

Great Tey: A village steeped in history, Great Tey features St. Barnabas Church, an important landmark in the region. The church's origins are believed to stretch back many centuries, and it continues to be a hub for both traditional and modern worship. The village itself is home to a close-knit community that values its local history, and many of its buildings reflect the charm of rural England.

Little Tey: The smallest parish in the benefice, Little Tey offers a peaceful, tranquil setting. St. James' Church is a beautiful and intimate place of worship, offering a serene atmosphere. The village is surrounded by farmland and open spaces, enhancing its rural character and appeal.

Wakes Colne and Chappel: These two adjoining villages are located along the scenic Colne Valley and are home to St. Barnabas' Church Chappel, and All Saints, Wakes Colne. The area is particularly famous for the Chappel Viaduct, a stunning example of Victorian railway architecture. Our Churches have long histories and continue to be places of both worship and social engagement for the local community.

A new ministry team is forming across our benefices as we are delighted to be joined in September 2026 by the Reverend Emma Barr, an SSM priest who farms within our benefice. Emma was ordained in 2023 and has just finished her curacy in a group of neighbouring parishes. We are looking forward to her ministry and her licensing service in the late autumn. She brings with her huge energy and creativity and a heart for pastoral care and work with our young people, including a new pioneering youth group on the farm. She offers 3 Sundays per month and around 25 hours per week.



OUR NEW INCUMBENT

We are searching for a new kind of leadership—to encourage us to go deeper into prayer and our relationship with God.

We call now for the appointment of a new incumbent who not only upholds the values of the Church but also revitalizes its relevance in the modern world. Our churches must serve not just as places of worship, but as vibrant, transformative community centres that address both the spiritual and practical needs of the people. We would love our new incumbent to be:

- A collaborative leader, who with energy and enthusiasm who will help us grow our churches and our mission to younger people and our work with Schools.
- A leader with vision to help us work together with integrity, humility, joy and friendship, as together we ask the Spirit to revitalize our mission to our communities.
- A minister who will encourage our churches and members to a greater spiritual commitment to God from faithful Bible based teaching that is thoughtful, challenging, relevant, and equips them for everyday life and ministry.
- Someone who will inspire worship that is accessible to all generations. We would like our new incumbent to be able to identify and support those who have taken the first steps on the journey in faith and to provide encouragement in pursuing a life in Jesus Christ.
- A leader who will celebrate and relish the liturgical differences across our churches
- A forward thinking person who is a good communicator and is open to advancements in an ever changing technological world.

- We believe in every member ministry and want a leader who will encourage the members of the church to be 'salt and light' in the community by their holiness, prayerfulness, integrity and generosity. Encouraging vocations and callings within the teams. Someone who can build on our existing work in the churches and the community and through our existing connections, such as the schools. We need to be challenged to discover our gifts and to be more faithful disciples of Jesus.

'It's not simply about filling a pulpit; it's about revitalising a community, re-engaging the faithful, and offering a beacon of hope in a rapidly changing world' - a congregation member



WHAT WE OFFER

In working with our 6 churches and 4 PCCs these two kind, caring and compassionate benefices offer a new incumbent:

- Spiritual and pastoral support: Our PCCs and church families will help to ensure you are supported in your ministry, providing prayer, encouragement, and a team-oriented approach to church life.
- Administrative backing: We will assist you with the day-to-day operations of the churches, from managing finances and maintenance to leading and helping with church events, ensuring you can focus on spiritual and pastoral duties. We also have access to a paid admin at Great and Little Tey.
- Ambition: A clear ambition to work alongside you to encourage, run and manage for you a variety of Enquirer's courses, such as '*Alpha*' and '*Christianity Explored*' and work with you in developing 'Leading your Church Into Growth' training.
- Local insights: Our PCCs are well-versed in the history, needs, and concerns of the congregation and local community, which can help you to understand the churches context and adapt approaches to a variety of church traditions.
- Collaboration in decision-making: We will work with you and support you with major decisions about church life, direction, mission, and vision; offering guidance in shaping and executing these decisions.
- Practical assistance: Whether it's help with church activities, outreach programmes, or even just being a sounding board for you, we will be there to provide practical assistance to make your work smoother and more effective.
- Hope: A church family full of hope for the future, vision and mission for growth, holistic support and who are community focused. Each Parish is prayerfully exploring the future of its churches and is keen to work alongside you to develop.
- Growing together: Throughout our vacancy the benefices relationships have grown in a hugely positive manner. Time is spent sharing ideas, building relationships and our bi - monthly joint service is growing in strength to strength

We believe the relationship between an incumbent and their PCCs is a partnership where both are invested in the well-being and growth of the congregation.

THE CHURCHES



ST BARNABAS, CHAPPEL AND ALL SAINTS, WAKES COLNE

All Saints Church, Wakes Colne has Norman origins with a Victorian chancel. The smaller church, St Barnabas, Chappel dates from 1285. All Saints holds 130 and St Barnabas 100. Both churches and churchyards are in good condition and fully maintained following regular quinquennial requirements. The windows at St Barnabas have been restored using grant based funds. Each church has a vestry. Neither church has communal or toilet facilities and we are actively seeking funding for toilet and catering facilities for both churches. Both churches have functioning bells, organs and electric pianos. Heating is by oil boiler at All Saints and electric pew heaters at St Barnabas. Both churches have newly installed sound systems. There are risk assessments for both churches and full church records are maintained. There is a well appointed village hall.



GREAT TEY AND LITTLE TEY

St Barnabas, Great Tey, has possibly the finest pre conquest and Norman tower in Essex. Much Roman tile, taken from a nearby villa, has been used in its construction. It has a ring of 8 bells and an enthusiastic band of ringers. The interior is simple and flexible. The pews are removable, so that we can use the space for church and community functions. We have a lavatory and tea and coffee making facilities.

St James the Less, Little Tey also has Norman origins and interesting remnants of mediaeval wall paintings. It is a small, one volume, charming little church.

Both churches have been well maintained, supported by the 'Friends', which exists to help defray the cost of repairs and new facilities.



ST ANDREW'S, MARKS TEY



The church is a Grade I listed building, dating back from approx 1120 - 1140, with the chancel being added in 1330. The church underwent a comprehensive and award winning reordering in 2006/2007 which has given us a flexible building with level access throughout and new lighting and facilities whilst still respecting its medieval roots. In 2025 a major repair project was undertaken on the Church tower. The adjoining hall, built in the late 1960s, has also undergone a full redecoration project including acoustic tiles and is available for hire and is used by a variety of organisations and groups. This has increased following the renovations. The church and hall can operate separately with independent access.

The church has excellent facilities to host wider church events including a large floodlit car park, open churchyard, a brand new sound and visual system, which allows words and images to be displayed on a large screen, recently installed energy efficient lighting throughout, good disabled access and a grass area for outside events.

There is currently also a project focusing on making the church porch entry more welcoming and effective.

ST MARGARET'S AND ST CATHERINE'S ALDHAM

The church is a well maintained Victorian Grade II* listed building. The tower has two bells that are rung for special services. We have a kitchen, toilet, PA system and a meeting room. Aldham Church is sometimes known as 'The Church that was Moved': in 1855 it was taken down from a remote corner of the parish and rebuilt at its present central position at the cross-roads.



We have a well informed and organised team for the fabric. We have recently completed all outstanding articles from the last Quinquennial Report. Our fabric needs are supported by our very proactive Friends of Aldham Church group, who donated the handsome sum of £10,000 towards our latest project. As a community church replacing the old heating system with a more efficient carbon neutral system will allow us to use the building more as a warm and usable space. Our further plans include the removal of the pews in the South Aisle creating more space, adding a shelving system to store the books for our Book Exchange and with a more effective heating system our Messy Church can thrive along with our other activities; monthly Afternoon Teas, weekly coffee mornings as well as Book Exchange. Our church in its central position in the village serves as a community hub.

MINISTRY AND MISSION

MARKS TEY

Our weekly service takes place at 11am each Sunday, with every third Sunday being a Communion service, we currently have plans to start a monthly all age service, delivered through Bubble Church. Our style is informal with limited liturgy, influenced by New Wine values. Our style generally follows the readings as set in the Lectionary in order to give breadth and continuity to the preaching and teaching themes. For all

our services we use easy-to-follow booklets or the service words are projected onto a screen dropped down in front of the East Window.

ALDHAM

Our church services are Bible based and we use a relaxed traditional style of worship. Our weekly service is at 9.15am, with a Communion on the third Sunday of the month. We base our service typically on the readings from the Lectionary and use a service sheet and accompanying books or songs from our own compilation. Three members lead services and we have a number of speakers who visit us regularly. We are discussing future

All Age services and one of our congregation is actively seeking members for a children's choir. At our carol service several members of Messy Church and children from the surrounding area performed Away in a Manger to the delight of the congregation.

WAKES COLNE AND CHAPPEL

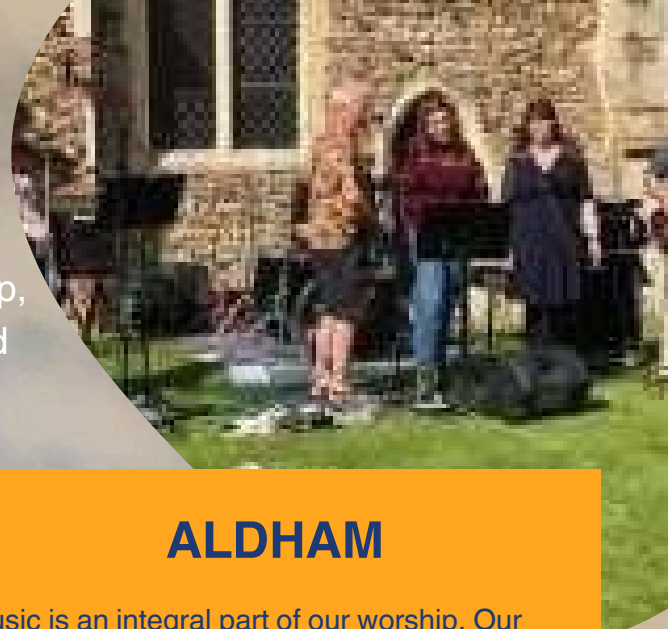
We hold regular Morning Worship and HC services for our growing congregation, together with Christmas and Easter services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, Remembrance service, termly school services, Harvest Festival, Christingle Service and a Good Friday Vigil. We provide extended Holy Communion for the house-bound and elderly plus visiting for those in need. We have lately had the joy of an adult and two children baptised, with two children and two adults recently confirmed. Our mission is witnessed by our openness to our thriving villages and close relationship to our CoE school, where 'Open The Book', led by PCC and congregation members flourishes. Chappel Church opens daily for prayer. We present Bibles to Chappel school leavers. We seek to restore Sunday School and commence Messy Church, House and Prayer Groups. Guidance and leadership in these and other ministry activities is actively sought. Two congregation members recently attended an open day on 'Leading Your Church into Growth' - our PCC of 8 is keen to enhance our church life and mission with more growth activity. We are receptive to innovation, whilst honouring our core Anglican ethos.

GREAT AND LITTLE TEY

The style of our regular services is best described as traditional, 'middle of the road' Anglican. Vestments are worn, the choir is robed. However, we do often break the mould to attract and serve sections of the community for whom such a traditional approach may feel old fashioned or difficult to understand. We try to be a spiritually caring and listening church. Whilst the Pastoral Caring activity is aimed at all ages in the community, we especially listen to the housebound. We arrange home Communion or Prayers, for those who are unable to come to Church. The recent retirement of our Pastoral Assistant prompts an opportunity for further development in this area. We too hold regular Morning Worship and Holy Communion services, together with celebrations of all the major festivals.

WORSHIP

Music stands at the core of our praise and worship, with each church in the benefice enjoying a varied style of Worship Music.



MARKS TEY

Music is at the core of worship at St Andrew's. Our worship band, led by Mark, is made up of a variety of instrumentalists and vocalists who support services where they can. This group often also perform in community events and fundraisers for church focused and Christian valued charities. We also use ISING worship to ensure that music forms a fundamental part of all services.

ALDHAM

Music is an integral part of our worship. Our music is led by a pianist and a flautist, occasionally the organ is used. We sing from a selection of traditional hymns and modern songs in our own compilation chosen as appropriate by our principal pianist. Occasionally the guitarist and violinist from St Andrews, Marks Tey visit us and we have a change of tempo. A children's choir is in it's early stages and is being supported by our Messy Church.

WAKES COLNE AND CHAPPEL

We have good mutual attendance with Great and Little Tey churches, with whom we alternate services, reflecting loyal fellowship within our Benefice & sharing a traditional Anglican style, based on Common Worship. Our reading and intercession leadership is conscientious and prayerful. Our Ministry is deep rooted, Bible-based worship & teaching, and is Gospel led. We hold monthly Benefice HC, using Trinity Mass for Sung Setting with organist, with a small group of lead singers. We hold first Sunday, PCC-led 10am Morning Services with pianist accompaniment. We share a Benefice Worship and Spirituality Group to plan Worship and Ministry and enhance spiritual growth. Music and singing are an essential and uplifting part of our worship. The organist and pianist are experienced in Church music. The congregation sing well and enjoy hymns & songs from Common Praise and Mission Praise, with occasional additional hymns. Hymns reflect Lectionary themes, to be spiritually uplifting, worshipful and reflective. The congregation is receptive to new hymns & songs.

GREAT TEY AND LITTLE TEY

Music is an important part of our services. We share an organist and pianist with Chappel and Wakes Colne. Singing is led by a small choir, expanded sometimes, especially for festivals. Many of our traditional services are based on 'Common Worship'. However, we have, in the past, enjoyed services based on the music of Taize or have had informal gatherings inside or outside: for example, to serve the bereaved, families and their pets or the bell ringers. Celebrating Holy Communion rotates between the four churches of Chapel, Wakes Colne, Gt and Little Tey. Because the style of churchmanship is very similar, this has worked very well in recent years. Congregations now visit each others churches. This has helped swell congregations, but has also had the effect of increasing the core congregation in each individual church.



PARISH AND CONGREGATION



GREAT TEY AND LITTLE TEY

The core congregation in both churches is beginning to grow again. Forming one benefice with Chappel and Wakes Colne, has assisted greatly in the planning of services, which we do together. All 4 congregations increasingly attend each other's services, so that numbers attending have held up well. We now have a good deal of support from the wider community who come to special services. We spread these throughout the year. We increasingly seek the involvement of 'non regulars' in those services. As a result, we had a fuller church for our services over Christmas last year, than we have had since pre-Covid days.

WAKES COLNE AND CHAPPEL

We are one rural parish (pop 1040) with two historic churches, resting in the Colne Valley, in the Hinckford Deanery. Our farming landscape is dominated by our historic railway viaduct (1849). We have a railway station (Sudbury branch from Marks Tey), which also houses the popular East Anglian Railway Museum. Our two villages share: Post Office and General Stores; popular Swan pub and restaurant; highly rated CofE Primary School (100+ pupils); excellent local senior schools in Colchester, Halstead and Coggeshall and a business park. Our regular congregation (aged 50+) falls between 20-30, higher for special festivals. Our congregation is representative of a cross section of our community, but we are ambitious to increase the involvement of children and young adult in our congregation. Electoral Roll is 22.

MARKS TEY

On Sundays we have 30-35 adults. The Electoral Roll currently is over 50. The church has excellent facilities to host wider church events. There are 5 members who lead the services and 3 who preach. Others help with the service technology, the newly upgraded sound and visual system and refreshments. We currently have two evening network groups meeting for fellowship, prayer and bible based input. Resources have included the Romans course, New Wine talks and more recently on prayer with material from HTB, Pete Greig and Thy Kingdom Come. and a selection of New Wine talks. We make good use of zoom technology for meetings as appropriate.

ALDHAM

We have 38 people on our Electoral Roll and 15 to 20 members in a typical Sunday morning congregation. Our Messy Church is specifically for families who are from Aldham and the surrounding areas, this is the only family specific 'church' in our group.

We have two home groups meeting monthly and fortnightly, the fortnightly group is currently in hiatus. We meet once a month for prayers in the church at 9.30am. Pastoral visits are made around the village, Home communion is available.

FINANCES

All the Churches in the Benefices pride themselves on being able to pay their Parish share, as well as charitable giving.

MARKS TEY

For several decades St Andrew's has managed to pay the Parish share in full. It has also been a long established practice at St. Andrew's to set aside an amount (10%) each year to support Christian activities both locally and internationally outside of the parish. These activities usually have a personal link with the church or individuals within the church including Christian Youth Outreach who bring a Christian message into schools in the Colchester area, New Life Church Nepal where we helped finance the building of a church and orphanage, a Wycliffe Bible translators project in West Africa and Covenant Players. Further details can be found on our website under Mission. Church members also generously supported the Tower Restoration Project which was completed in late 2025.

ALDHAM

The costs of ministry, worship and routine maintenance are met by regular giving of church members; when required we invite the village community to help with major repairs. We have a semi regular gift day when parishioners are asked to make a one off contribution to the life of the church. We pay the Parish Share in full by monthly standing order.

Beyond the parish we tithe 10% of our income to support various charities by direct giving including Christian Youth Outreach (a Colchester-based interdenominational outreach mission for school age young people) and the New Life Church in Nepal and Tearfund. At harvest we make donations to Open Door drop in centre and at other times Colchester Food Bank, Samaritans's Purse 'Operation Christmas Child' and a Beacon House collection box in church all year round.

GREAT TEY AND LITTLE TEY

In recent years Great and Little Tey PCC has paid its Diocesan obligations and 'balanced its books'. The PCC has made a very conscious effort to fundraise in the community, to help it meet the everyday costs of running the parishes. From a low base we have managed to increase funds from this source fourfold. Although we have regular planned giving from a small number of church members, we know there is more work to do. A few years ago we raised enough money to install a lavatory in St Barnabas and are planning to do the same for St James the Less, in the future. Having the support of the 'Friends' has been very helpful with such projects, as well as meeting major restoration costs.

WAKES COLNE AND CHAPPEL

The PCC General Fund income has improved following the Benefice styled worship services. Increases in offertory collections, which are collected by plate during each service, have been recorded. Personal Gift Aid by standing order continues to be encouraged. Further planned giving needs to be addressed to overcome the current occasional support from Life Event fees and casual giving. Activities for generating funds in our Parish have resulted from Concert Band performances, Open Gardens, Stalls at the School Fete and our 100 Club Lottery. Our Parish Share has been paid in full for the last four years. The creation of a 'Friends Group' to help us maintain the fabric of our two Church buildings is in progress.

OUTREACH AND THE COMMUNITY

WAKES COLNE AND CHAPPEL

The villages have the 'Village Reporter' magazine which is issued quarterly and has a page dedicated to our church. Everything pertinent to both churches and the villages is included and the editor ensures there is a Christian message and outreach within our feature, including service details, offers of collecting medicines from the surgery, explaining who to contact for baptisms, weddings, home communion etc. We have a good relationship with the local URC. Our churches actively support Beacon House Ministries, a Christian centre for the homeless in Colchester, where two members of our congregation are volunteers. We also volunteer at the Halstead Food Bank. The heart of our two churches is dedicated not just to looking after our churches and our community but to embracing the two villages as a whole, to care for and support all residents in whatever way we can. 'Our newly created church website www.wakescolnechappelchurches.org.uk was made available from Easter 2026.'



GREAT TEY AND LITTLE TEY

For us, being as involved as we can in village affairs is vital. We run the village fete. We have a 'Pop Up Tearoom' in the churchyard in the summer. We run a Heritage Day in the church most years. Last autumn we introduced people to hand bell ringing in the church. All these events are not just about raising funds for the church, but about breaking down perceived barriers between church goers and non attenders. Communication is vital. We have a website (www.greatandlittleteychurches.org.uk) that we keep up to date and a page in the village monthly newsletter. We email anyone who requests it, a summary of services and events, each month. We use social media, but probably not enough!





MARKS TEY

A regular newsletter carrying details of church activities and village news is delivered to every house in the village. The church website has recently been upgraded and restyled. (www.marksteychurch.org.uk) A number of church members are involved in community activities ranging from litter picks to organising and supporting the monthly community library and a governor of the local Church of England school. A condition of the grant from the National Lottery's Heritage Fund was a heritage project involving the community and the creation of a website (marksteyheritage.org) with several thousand pictures and documents of the village's history.

ALDHAM

The church is the centre of the village and is the venue for church and village activities organised by church members. We have monthly Afternoon Teas, Book Exchange, a weekly drop in for tea and a chat (Open Church) and a quarterly church newsletter delivered to every parish member with details of church activities. We have a website, www.aldhamchurch.org.uk, and a presence on social media. The church offers free WiFi. The village hall is both supportive of and supported by the church; the church has a representative on the Village Hall Committee. A steering group has recently been created with members of the Village Hall Committee and the Friends to coordinate future fundraising for the church and the village. There is a free quarterly magazine, 'Grapevine', delivered to every home in the village in which the church submits a regular article.



FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

MARKS TEY

We are beginning to see green shoots where we sense God has opened up new doors of opportunity in the last two years. The Scout Group has attended the Remembrance Sunday and Christingle Services. Our desire is to have a monthly family friendly service, supported by congregation members and our Open the Book team. We currently have two regular worshipping young families and our hope is to see these shoots grow. We have a team in training to deliver Bubble Church, as a once a month service for 0-8 year olds and their families, which will begin in December 2026

The Open the Book Team have a very mutually supportive and deepening relationship with the school. Besides taking a weekly assembly, we have assisted in the Christian Youth Outreach organised Soul Space and On the Move for the Year Six students from not only St Andrew's but also from the schools at Great Tey and Chappel. They have also helped to make and explain Christingles, been invited to Coffee mornings and Nativity Plays. We feel we are pushing an open door and see this as a future growth area for the mission of our church. We have also developed this further to include a Bounce course for Year 6 pupils.

WAKES COLNE AND CHAPPEL

We work closely with the recently appointed Chappel CoE School Head, who is keen to develop a deep Christian ethos within the school, linked to Chappel Church. The children participate in 'Open The Book' with enthusiasm. Rev Emma Barr, who is our Church School Governor at Chappel CoE School, leads school services at Chappel Church. She also holds a Year 6 Retreat, an Easter visit to her farm at lambing time, Year 6 Reflections as well as leading seasonal services for Harvest, Remembrance, and Christmas Carol services at church and a Christingle service in school. There is a core of people working hard to ensure our village CoE school is supported by our church. With the strong links we have established, more families are attending the school services. We now need to find a way to bring the families into our regular church life and services. It will be a key aim to achieve this with the help of our new incumbent.





GREAT TEY AND LITTLE TEY

In common with many parishes, family attendance at regular Sunday services has fallen away. However, the primary school in Great Tey has close ties with the church and uses it regularly for services. Recently we have provided a team to take the Bible Society's 'Open the Book' scheme into the school. We continue to encourage the uniformed young peoples' organisations to attend and help with services. Special services/occasions have provided opportunities for seeking the help and participation of young people and their families and that is beginning to pay dividends. More to do!

ALDHAM

Sadly there is no longer a school in Aldham and only 87 people under 18 in the 2021 Census. For those with young children within the village and beyond we have a Messy Church which meets every 6 weeks for creative and fun Bible based teaching for families.

We have activities for children available in church during services and the tower room is available for families where the service can still be heard through the PA system. We can offer Junior Church when required led by 2 members of the congregation.



SAFEGUARDING

For all of the churches in our benefices safeguarding remains an important priority in our church life. There is currently one Parish Safeguarding Officer in the St Barnabas, Great Tey and St James the Less, Little Tey with All Saints, Wakes Colne and St Barnabas, Chappel benefice. The Marks Tey and Aldham benefice aspires to have its own.





THE RECTORY

The post comes with an attractive, modern, energy efficient house built in 2012 in part of the rear garden of the former Rectory. Based in Marks Tey, it is only a few metres from St Andrew's Church. It is accessed via a drive to the rear of the Church and hall entrance. The rectory backs onto a quiet lane and from the rear bedrooms there are lovely rural views.

Ground Floor

- Entrance Lobby
- Cloakroom
- Study 16'9" x 11'2" with bay, wood burning stove and shelving
- Inner Hall
- Dining Room 14'10" x 9'9" plus bay with French doors to garden
- Living Room 16'9" x 11'2" with wood burning stove and double doors to dining room
- Kitchen opening into Utility area - includes fitted dishwasher, washing machine, electric oven, microwave and oil boiler



First Floor

- Spacious landing with airing cupboard
- Bedroom 1 18'4" x 12'4" with two double built in cupboards and en-suite shower room
- Bedroom 2 15'5" x 10'6" with built in cupboards
- Bedroom 3 14'10" x 10'4" with built in cupboards
- Bedroom 4 10'4" x 9'4" with built in cupboards
- Bathroom



Externally

- Generous double length garage
- Parking
- Greenhouse
- Well stocked walled garden - plot 94' deep and width 101'



Services

- Mains electricity and water. Oil fired central heating supplemented by an air source heat pump
- There is a rainwater recovery system
- In the far corner of the plot there is a sewerage treatment plant.



Message from the Bishop of Colchester,

The Right Reverend Roger Morris

Aldham, Marks Tey Great Tey, Little Tey, Wakes Colne and Chappel are quintessential English villages located in the county of Essex. Steeped in history and charm, these idyllic settlements are known for their picturesque landscapes and serene ambience. The local community in Great Tey is vibrant and close-knit, with a variety of events and activities organized throughout the year. The church and church school are key hubs of village life. Many people in Great Tey and the surrounding villages make use of Marks Tey Railway Station.

A key feature of Marks Tey is its strategic location, acting as a pivotal transport hub due to its railway station, which connects directly to London and other major cities. This makes it a popular choice for commuters seeking a tranquil living environment within reach of urban conveniences. Marks Tey offers a range of recreational opportunities, from its well-maintained parks to community sports clubs. The village hosts a variety of events that bring together residents and visitors, fostering a strong sense of community spirit. Additionally, the proximity to Colchester adds to the appeal of living in Marks Tey, offering access to a wealth of historical sites, shopping, and cultural experiences.

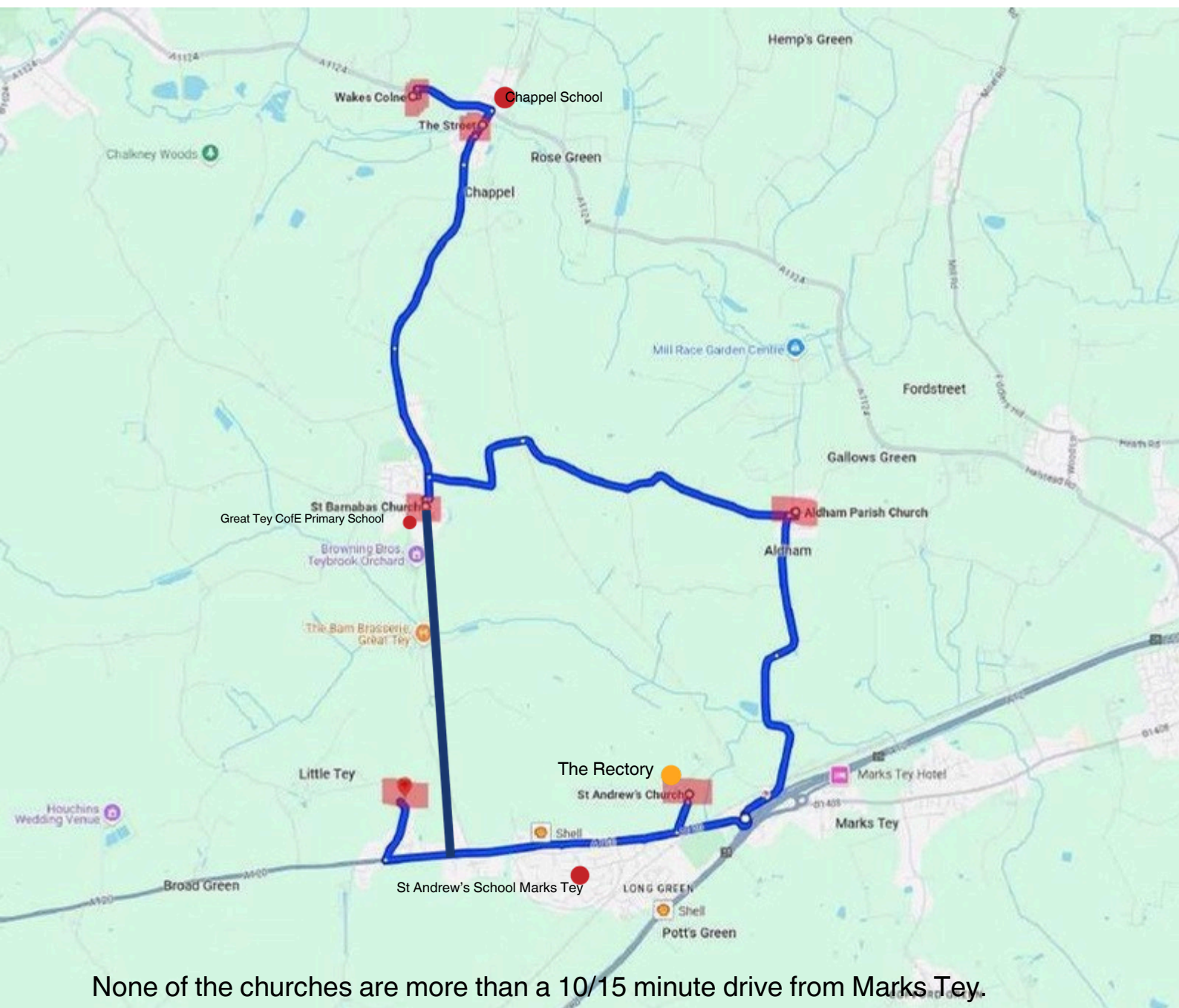
The City Council have recently published their draft Local Plan for the period up to 2043. This has scheduled 2500 new homes centred on Marks Tey, 125 homes in Great Tey, 200 new homes at Wakes Colne, 35 in Chappel and 15 in Aldham. The plan is out for final public consultation, scheduled for approval by the end of the year by the City Council and to be examined by an Inspector in 2027. Some of the delivery timing will be dependent on infrastructure provision.

Our vision is for the church to be at the heart of these communities, fostering social cohesion and nurturing human flourishing. In order to do this effectively, the congregations need to continue to work together, pooling talent and resources and providing training and development for an inspired and effective laity. At present, the two benefices are working well together and, at some point, we may look to firstly create a formal plurality (which would allow some options for joint councils etc under the Church Representation Rules 2022). Eventually, we might want to create a new united benefice (which, as the two benefices straddle deanery and archdeaconry boundaries, would involve decisions as to which deanery/archdeaconry the new benefice should align with). For now, the emphasis is less on the emerging legal structure and more on equipping and renewing the pastoral and missional ministry of the whole church in this beautiful and fascinating part of Essex.



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

MAP OF OUR BENEFICES



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