



StA St Andrew's, Alresford

StAL St Anne and St Laurence, Elmstead Market

StMM St Mary Magdalen, Frating with Thorrington

www.tenpennyvillages.uk

Sunday 19th April ~ Easter 3

Theme: Their eyes were opened

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Luke 24:13-35

9:30	StMM	Morning Worship with Baptism	<i>Pauline Hart</i>
10:00	StAL	Family Communion	<i>Andrew Fordyce</i>
11:00	StA	Morning Worship	<i>Keith West/ Brian Ford</i>
13:00	StAL	Parish Lunch	<i>call 823774 to book</i>

Mid-week Diary

Mon	10:30	StA	Friendship Circle
Tues	9:00	StA	Morning Prayer
	10:30	StA	Tuesday Tots
	14:00	StA	Pilgrim Group
	15:00	StAL	Funeral Weeley Crem ~ Pamela Giles
Wed	10:30	StA	Book Café
Thurs	9:00	StA	Holy Communion
	16:30	StAL	Rainbow Guides
	18:00	StAL	Brownie Guides
	19:30		Ministry for Men <i>at The Red Lion</i>
Fri	10:00		Tenpenny Literary Group <i>1 Thatcher's Drive, Elmstead</i>
Sat	10:00	StMM	Bluebell Wood open

Next Sunday 26th April ~ Easter 4

Theme: Following the Shepherd

Readings: Acts 2:42-end, Psalm 23

10:00	StAL	Family Communion	<i>Andrew Fordyce</i>
10:00	StMM	Bluebell Woods open	
11:00	StA	Holy Communion	<i>Julia & Graham Lewis</i>
11:15	StAL	APCM	
16:30	StMM	Evening Prayer	<i>Andrew Fordyce</i>

The Tenpenny Villages Benefice - the next 50 years!!

At the service to celebrate of the 50th anniversary of the opening of St Andrew's last Sunday we were invited to ponder what the next 50 years would look like.

In the same way that the vision and plans of the congregation St Andrew's 50 years ago impact on us now, then what we do now and our hopes, dreams and plans will have an impact in 50 years' time.

We had a prayer station where a number of questions were posed which everyone was invited to prayerfully consider and post up answers, thoughts, pictures and anything they thought God might be prompting. The board will be left up until Pentecost so please continue to pray and ponder. House groups will also be invited to specifically consider these questions.

Although it was the 50th anniversary for St Andrew's that prompted this pondering the questions are just as relevant for St Anne and St Laurence and for St Mary Magdalen and for us as the Tenpenny Villages Benefice. There will be boards at St Anne and St Laurence and St Mary Magdalen as well.

The question posed are:

- What does God want to say to us today?
- What do you want to pray for today?
- What will the world look like?
- What do you think God's plan for us could be?
- What might this look like?
- What can we be doing now?
- What should we stop doing?
- What might stop us

Of course, if you have any other thoughts, concerns, questions or promptings from God please draw or write add them

None of us can sit back and say 'Well I won't be here in 50 years' time'!!

Travelling Well Together - 100 Days of Prayer – Leading to 100 Days of Listening

w.beg Wed 15th April

Theme: Church buildings and the importance of place

In Chelmsford Diocese we are blessed with nearly six hundred church buildings. Many are an important part of our heritage and have been at the heart of the communities we serve for hundreds of years. Our buildings are associated with precious personal and corporate memories, such as family weddings or funerals, significant community milestones etc. Most importantly they are sacred places of worship, mission and ministry. Caring for church buildings is a great challenge for clergy, churchwardens and PCCs and responsibility for them can sometimes feel more like a burden than a blessing. It can be a challenging and often costly and complex ministry.

²⁴ 'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!' (Matthew 7 v24-27)

This week, we give thanks for:

- Our local church buildings in our context and for all that they mean to us and to our communities
- Those who take care of our church buildings, our churchwardens, our PCC members and our clergy
- Our DAC and Church Buildings Team, for their wisdom, experience and support

We pray that:

- We would be wise stewards of all that God has given us and good custodians of our buildings
- That we would find practical and metaphorical ways to fling wide our doors to welcome all
- That our buildings would tell the story always of our true foundation in Jesus Christ

O heavenly architect,

we pray for your unmeasured blessing
upon our churches and sacred spaces.

As they have given shape to prayer through many generations

may they speak to us and all people

as they seek to follow you afresh

and as we seek to travel well together with Jesus and with each other Amen.

Ministry for Men will meet at **The Red Lion** this Thursday at 7:30pm; Lifts from St Andrew's at about 7:20.

Travelling Well Together - 100 Days of Prayer – Leading to 100 Days of Listening

w.beg Wed 22nd April

Theme: PCCs and Governance

Every member of a PCC is a trustee of the charity of the PCC; this comes with governance responsibilities as well as regulations and requirements. It is a significant calling, and many serve in this way throughout our diocese. The PCC is responsible for the governance of the church and makes decisions that will both impact generations to come and decisions that are about the day to day running of the church. Creative meetings where mission and ministry needs are held in balance with the demands of the maintenance of the building, finance, and safeguarding are sometimes tricky to navigate. PCCs are for the governance of one parish and in multi-parish benefices this creates a lot of meetings. In one part of our diocese this means 15 PCCs in one benefice; and in another 7 churches have joined together and have one PCC with sub-committees for building needs. Part of our challenge is how to effectively and safely govern our churches without over burdening incumbents and church officers and wardens. The passage below reminds us of Paul encouraging the church in Colossae – may his words encourage us to be wise, understanding and to bear fruit for God.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. 11May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully 12giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1: 9-13)

This week, we give thanks...

- for all who serve on our PCCs
- for wardens, treasurers, secretaries safeguarding officers and synod reps
- for wise decisions, good systems and processes
- for church administration and administrators

We pray that...

- we would use our time and talents wisely and carefully, paying attention to decisions and seeking God's insight and God's grace in all that we are called to do
- our PCCs would be spirit filled and courageous in action
- that all who are called to serve do so with purpose and generosity

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all who serve on our PCCs, synods and committees.
Grant them the spirit of wisdom, counsel, and fortitude.

Lord, inspire their decision-making, that everything they do may reflect your holy will,
aiming for the spiritual transformations of our parishes.

Fill them with the grace to love you and their neighbours,

the unity to work as one body, and the courage to face challenges with confidence in you.

Protect them in their service and may their efforts bring glory to your name and growth to your Church.

In Jesus' name. Amen

William and Sarah Babumba thank St Andrew's Church and members of St Mary Magdalen congregation for supporting their work with **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Missionaries.**

Unfortunately William and Sarah have had to **postpone this weekend's visit.**

Later this summer they will be returning to Uganda to work with MAF in the Ssesse Islands in Lake Victoria where William will be a Partnership Development Manager, and Sarah will have a supporting role in the MAF community.

You can find more information about the work MAF is developing in these islands using these links.

<https://youtu.be/KopxqsoBjBw>

St Andrew's APCM will be held in the church on **Sunday 17th May** at 3.00pm. Elections will be held for the following positions:

Church Wardens (2 vacancies; *Nick Berry to stand*)

Deanery Synod (2 vacancies)

PCC Members (8 vacancies; *Catherine Berry; Lyn Bull, Phil Bull; Meg Burdus; Judy Lovell; Marguerite McCann & Rich Tomlin to stand*)

If anyone is interested in standing for the above, a nomination form needs to be completed and returned to me; these can be found at the back of the church. For more information, please talk to any of the current PCC members.

Phil Bull

We will also be updating our **Electoral Rolls** (list of church members) over the next three weeks. (Church members are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and take part in its proceedings) If you would like your name to be added please complete one of the forms at the back of the church and return to Wayne Wilson by Friday 1st May. If you are already on the Electoral Roll you do not need to complete a form this year.



Thorrington Hall Woods Bluebell Weekend

Fun trail
for children



Dogs are welcome,
on leads at all times

Refreshments available
in the Church



10am – 4pm
Last entry 3pm



Thorrington Hall Woods,
Clacton Road,
Thorrington, CO7 8HA



25th and 26th
April 2026



Adults £2
Under 15's £1
Cash only

Telephone 01206 826376

www.tenpennyvillages.uk



Annual Art and Craft Exhibition

at St Anne and St Laurence Church,
Elmstead CO7 7AR

on

Saturday 13th and
Sunday 14th June 2026

If you would like to exhibit your work or
have a stall in our Craft Tent, please
contact us for further information at

stalfriends@tenpennyvillages.uk

07791 673821

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Sunday Services held at both St Andrew's, and St Anne and St Laurence churches are sometimes recorded and are then available on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-EKIUhKbC3syWis3y5dZeg>

Coming Soon!

1pm	Sun 19 th Apr	StAL	Parish Lunch <i>call 823774 to book</i>
10am	Sat 25 th Apr	StMM	Bluebell Woods open
10am	Sun 26 th Apr	StMM	Bluebell Woods open
11:15am		StAL	APCM
3pm	Sun 17 th May	StA	APCM

The Tenpenny Villages Benefice

General enquiries: 01206 826376 admin@tenpennyvillages.uk

Rector: Rev Andrew Fordyce MBE: 920848 rector@tenpennyvillages.uk

Associate Priest: Rev Pauline Hart: 826318 assocpriest@tenpennyvillages.uk