



**MALDON
(12/10/18)**





St Andrew's, Heybridge Street, Heybridge

In Heybridge Street stands on an ancient site of worship. The church building was completed in the 12th century. Somewhere around 1450 flooding caused the tower to collapse and the 'ruins' were restored to more or less the present form later in the 15th century. Within the building there is seating for 200 people, including the choir. The organ is at the back of the church in the gallery and the musical style is largely traditional, supplemented by modern hymns and choruses where appropriate. The services are mainstream Church of England. We are glad to see families in church - there are books and toys available, and toilets in the Waring room. There is level access for wheel chairs and a loop system for hearing aid users.



Evangelical, Fullbridge, Maldon

Fullbridge Church has its origins in the Brethren movement which started around 1830. The movement exploded during the second half of the 19th century, and independent churches sprang up all over Britain. One of the characteristics of the movement was its passion for mission abroad and evangelism at home. Although the individual congregations were independent, by the beginning of the 20th century they recognized the need to co-operate to promote outreach, and one organisation which supported evangelistic efforts in England was "Counties Evangelistic Work". This was very fruitful in reaching more towns and villages with the gospel, and in 1922 a 'Counties' evangelist, Samuel Glen, brought a tent mission to Heybridge, pitching it next to the canal. As a result of his preaching (and singing!) twenty-six people were converted and baptised and started to meet together as Christians. At first they met in rented rooms, but in due course they felt the need to have a building of their own, to meet the needs of the congregation and to serve as a venue for gospel activities. A plot of land was obtained in a central location and in 1937 the new building was completed and given the name Fullbridge Gospel Hall. In 1991 the name was changed from Fullbridge Gospel Hall to Fullbridge Evangelical Church. During

the first fifty years the building received several alterations to modernize its facilities, but by the beginning of the 21st century it was clear that the Fullbridge building needed serious improvement and enlargement. Major building work was commenced in summer 2002 and completed by the following spring, adding a second storey with two rooms and a minor hall at the rear along with new kitchen and toilets; the main hall and the roof were also renovated at the same time. In 2012 Fullbridge Church celebrated its 75th anniversary, with a special weekend of meetings. We meet every Sunday at 10.30am for worship, communion and Bible teaching, with separate activities for children and teenagers during the second part of the service, except on the first Sunday of each month when we have a Family Service followed by a fellowship lunch.



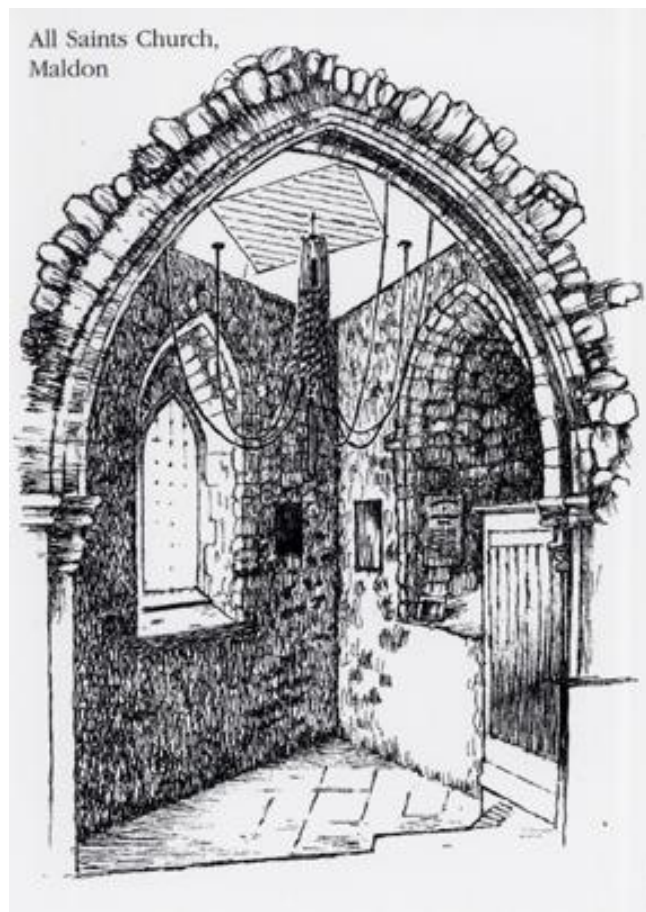
URC, Maldon Hill, Maldon

The first record of a building on this site was in 1696 when a piece of land at the top of Market Hill was acquired by the Revd Joseph Billio, the first minister, and a "Meeting House" accommodating 400 was built for the Protestant Dissenters of the town. Such was the enthusiasm and fervour of Billio's preaching that the phrase "like Billio" passed into the English language. A portrait of him hangs in the church vestry. By 1800 the original building was found to be unsafe and was demolished, to be replaced by the present church. This building was enlarged throughout the century as the church continued to flourish, acquiring its present appearance in 1878 with the addition of the pillared portico. By this time it was known as the Congregational Church. The building on the left, forward of the church, is the old British School building erected in 1843. The deep grooves in the brickwork either side of the entrance door were caused by the pupils sharpening their slate pencils. The Lecture Hall, also part of the British Schools until their closure in 1911, occupied the adjacent car park and was used by the church and local organisations until its demolition in 1987. The monuments in the graveyard to the north and east of the church indicate the close links between business and non-conformity in Maldon during the 18th and 19th centuries. The congregation which meets for worship in the church today is known as the United Reformed Church, a result of the uniting in 1972 of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in England and Wales. In 1999 the decision was taken by church members to refurbish the interior of the building by removing the Victorian pulpit and downstairs pews, and adding a kitchen, toilet and enlarged entrance area. The work was completed in 2000 and includes new heating, a carpeted floor and sophisticated sound and video systems. These now provide a comfortable and welcoming building, much in demand for concerts as well as regular worship.



All Saints, High Street, Maldon

For many people the church in any town is an important place even if they never actually use it for its intended purpose, for it speaks of community and continuity. Historically it is a special place, but it will also have personal associations as generations have marked the significant events in their family lives here. There is seldom a time in any week, winter or summer, when someone is not seen wandering around. This church very much belongs to Maldon - her citizens in home-spun leather doublet, crinolines and tweeds, top hats and feather boas, double breasted suits and donkey jackets have knelt before its altars, slept through sermons, moaned at the choice of hymns and hymn tunes as well as beautified its fabric. Happiness, thanksgiving, sadness and tragedy have been shared here and you may wish to think about that as you wander around and consider some of the events behind the memorials. You will see here some fine art and architecture, but above all we welcome you to a place of worship and the gathering place of God's people. It is a place of witness to the Christian Faith and all that it stands for. You will find this presented in many different ways as many generations have added to, taken away from, repositioned or redeployed parts of its structure as the needs or tastes of the day demanded. It was their place in their time and the church has always been more about people than buildings; it is a place of refurbishment, where spiritual batteries may be recharged.



It is a place of peace in the midst of many conflicts. It is the home of the people of God - as well as God's house. So welcome to this place, let it speak to you and the particular needs you have at this time. Come again - for it may be that your needs then will be different from what they are now.

THE EARLY YEARS

In 1215 the Lateran Council decreed that Monastic Foundations which had "appropriated" benefices, should provide resident, perpetual Vicars and assign adequate provision for their maintenance. It was soon evident that the endowments of the two parishes (All Saints and St. Peter's) were insufficient to make this provision and in 1244 the parishes were united and have remained so ever since despite all the dramatic changes in ecclesiastical structure that the following centuries were to bring. And we think that the uniting of parishes under one Vicar is a modern thing! Under the terms of the union, All Saints was decreed to be the "mother church".

Until the 17th century services were held in both churches, when the nave and chancel of St. Peter's fell down and All Saints then provided for the needs of both parishes. St. Peter's Tower survived and remained the responsibility of All Saints Church Council until quite recently; what seems to be the church attached to it is in fact a building commissioned by **Archdeacon Plume of Rochester in 1704** to provide accommodation for his library, which he had bequeathed to the town of his birth, on the upper floor and Maldon Grammar School below. **The collection of books is one of the finest of its period** and the Vicar of All Saints along with the Rector St. Mary's and the Head Teacher of the Grammar School (now the Plume School) continue to serve on the Library's Board of Trustees. The Registers of both Parishes, St. Peter's dating from 1556 and All Saints from 1558 are in the custody of the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford.

The Parishes were part of the Diocese of London until 1846, then Rochester until 1877, then St. Albans until 1914 and currently in the Diocese of Chelmsford. Having been in the gift of the Bishop of London, the Abbot of Beeleigh and a host of private individuals, the living has been in the gift of the Diocesan Bishop since 1903.



My next challenge was to find the five new churches on my list and the first two were in Wantz Road which I realised was to the right as you were on the High Street as you headed towards the Promenade Park.



Here I was to find the Salvation Army and Elim Pentecostal. These were almost opposite one another.



Again using the map on my phone, the two religious buildings in Butt Lane, were just to the left of Wantz Road and the other side of the High Street. These were the Baptist and the Quaker House





Luckily my next, the Catholic of the Assumption of Our Lady, in Victoria Road, was in the adjoining road.





All the new churches on my list were seen, I now headed for the waterfront and maybe a sit down to rest my legs.



Next was St Mary's but as I approached the open door, something was going on in there so I did not go in.













Having done a lot of walking and with the time nearly 12 noon, I decided to get back to the High Street to get the bus back, but as it turned out, I did not need to rush as the 1209 bus had not even gone down to the park as I saw it go that way late and it was slow to come back. Seeing the Methodist church in the High Street as we left, then it was a learner driver under tuition on the bus, so he was very slow too and by the time we got back, we were 30 minutes late.