



**CHURCHES VISITED AND REVISITED  
(17/12/16 TO DATE) – BOOK 13**



**THURSDAY 10th AUGUST 2017**



**Church of the Latter Day Saints, Straight Road, Colchester**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** (known as the **LDS Church** or, informally, the **Mormon Church**) is a Christian restorationist church that is considered by its members to be the restoration of the original church founded by Jesus Christ. The church is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, and has established congregations and built temples worldwide. According to the church, it has over 70,000 missionaries and a membership of over 15 million. It is ranked by the National Council of Churches as the fourth-largest Christian denomination in the United States. It is the largest denomination in the Latter Day Saint movement founded by Joseph Smith during the period of religious revival known as the Second Great Awakening.



**St Teresa Lisieux Catholic, Clairmont Road, Colchester**

A special word of welcome back to those who have found that they were unable to practise their Faith during the year for all kinds of reasons and they hope that the Holy Spirit will strengthen them in their resolution to respond to the Lord in the coming year as they are here to bring the joy of the Gospel (as Pope Francis says) in Word and in Sacrament.



The centre of their lives as Catholics is our Sunday Mass where we gather together to celebrate the great gift to each one of us as they receive the Body and Blood of the Lord in Holy Communion and are united to Christ and to each other. In this way they build up community and they do invite you once again to join their parish life at St Teresa's and St John's as they enter a new year together.

May the light of the Child Jesus shine in your minds and hearts - Father Tom Lavin



**Stanway Evangelical, Chapel Road, Colchester**

The church is situated in Chapel Road, opposite the Doctor's Surgery. In 1878 a group of Christians were meeting in a barn that was situated in Warren Lane.

Attendance grew to such an extent that there was a need for a permanent building. This was built in Chapel Road in 1886. In 1955 the denomination became known as the Union of Evangelical Churches (U.E.C.). They are also associated with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (F.I.E.C.). The church premises were completely rebuilt during 1991 and it offers comprehensive facilities for the requirements of church members and the community it serves.



**Bethel Little Hands, Winstree Road, Stanway, Colchester**

Hidden down the side of the school, they are a group of people who believe that they can be transformed through relationship with the risen Jesus. They work in partnership with others to serve the Community of Colchester and beyond in whatever way that they can. They believe the mission of the church is the mission of Jesus to feed the poor, heal the sick, to help the oppressed and proclaim Good News to all.

**FRIDAY 11th AUGUST 2017**



**Central Baptist, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford**

They are a Baptist Church in the centre of Chelmsford. Their congregation is all age and multicultural with people from over 20 countries worshipping together. They are a city centre church which is used by the local community and runs seven days a week. They have two services on a Sunday with a mix of traditional and contemporary worship. You can find us near the Chelmsford railway station and town library.



**Cathedral, New Street, Chelmsford**



**YMCA, Victoria Road North, Chelmsford**

At YMCA Essex we seek to **build lives, hope and futures for children, young people and families** with our childcare and youth services. Our work includes a Nursery for babies and children aged 3 months – 5 years, Out of School Clubs, holiday programmes, youth groups, training, conference and meeting rooms, young carers, support for school pupils and their families, and behavioural and attendance support.

There is also a fantastic YMCA charity shop in Chelmsford which offers a wide variety of good quality previously-loved items at very reasonable prices – do pop in and have a look!

**“Thank you for always going the extra mile for the young people. I’m so pleased we work with the YMCA!”**







**Ebenezer Baptist New London Road, Chelmsford**

As a congregation their primary purpose and desire is always to honour and glorify God, as well as to meet the spiritual needs of those who join with them at their services and activities. If you are in the area they would love to see you at our meetings where you can be assured of a warm welcome. Believing that the Authorised Version is the best translation of the Word of God in the English language, it is the Bible version that will be used in our services.



**Our Lady Immaculate, Catholic, New London Road, Chelmsford**

**Our Lady Immaculate Church** (formerly the **Church of the Immaculate Conception**) is a Roman Catholic Parish church in Chelmsford, Essex, England.

It was founded in 1845, opened in 1847 and designed by Joseph John Scoles. It is situated on New London Road, next to Our Lady Immaculate Primary School, close to the junction with Anchor Street, in the city centre. It is served by the Premonstratensians from their only community in the UK, St. Philip's Priory. In 1840, the site for the church was bought. It was purchased from Charles King, the father of the first mission priest to the area. In 1845, the mission to Catholic population in Chelmsford was founded.

In October 1847, the church was opened by the then Vicar Apostolic of the London District, Nicholas Wiseman. In 1850, he became Archbishop of Westminster and a cardinal. The church was originally dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. The architect was Joseph John Scoles. The main benefactors of the church were Charles King and William Petre, 12th Baron Petre. It was Lord Petre who chose Scoles to design the church. The church was built in the Gothic Revival style by the builders, Messrs Curtis of Stratford. The Lady altar in the church was originally in Thorndon Hall, home of Lord Petre. The east window in the church was made in Newcastle upon Tyne by Thomas Dunn and inspired by a design of Augustus Pugin. In 1973, the church was reordered and extended. A new altar was consecrated by the Bishop of Brentwood, Patrick Casey.

In 1982, the church's dedication was changed the Immaculate Conception to Our Lady Immaculate. In 1985, the present organ was installed. It was brought from a United Reformed Church in Felsted. In 1988, the crucifix hanging over the altar in front of the nave was installed, it was designed by William Gordon. Since 2008, the church has been served by the Premonstratensians from St. Philip's Priory. They also serve another parish, Holy Name Church in Chelmsford.<sup>[1]</sup> Holy Name Church was built in 1965 and is on the corner of Lucas Avenue and Gloucester Avenue in the Moulsham Lodge area of Chelmsford.



**St Michael's, Galleywood Common, Galleywood, Chelmsford**



St Michael's has been the parish church for Galleywood for over 140 years since its establishment as a separate parish from St Mary's, Great Baddow.

**The Village of Galleywood** - originally Gavelwode - as depicted in a musical journey of the same name composed by Eric Withams and presented at St Michael's Church in 2015.

**St Michael's Church** has a history and a narrative is available by following the tab 'St Michael's Church', together with photographs to illustrate many of the items and aspects of the history.

**St Michael's Graveyard** - is a 'live' graveyard (if that is not a contradiction) with a garden of Remembrance. The churchyard is regularly maintained by a devoted group of volunteers, one of whom has meticulously indexed the graves in the churchyard (as at Sept 2014).



**St John the Evangelist, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford**



*"By virtue of the increase of the population, the inhabitants of the hamlet of Moulsham can no longer be accommodated in the mother church; and St. John's chapel being ready for the performance of divine worship, we pray that the Bishop of London be pleased to consecrate this new place of worship."*

That was the substance of the petition presented to the Bishop on Tuesday 11th April 1837 which marked the beginning of Christian service to the Community of Moulsham. The consecration - which took place just two months before Queen Victoria came to the throne - was the culmination of three years' hard work and was received with more general satisfaction than any other event in the Parish of Chelmsford.

Moulsham was then, of course, very different from today. The railway had not yet arrived, the expansion of the housing was only just beginning; and Chelmsford still had its Parish Church which became the Cathedral. The building itself began as a small rectangular chapel - roughly half the size of the main body of the existing building - and yet, incredibly with a seating capacity of 550 and at the service of consecration all seats were full. (Admission was by ticket only and 1,600 applications were received.)

The original planners half-expected the building to be too small and they were proved right. As Moulsham - with its new found independence from Chelmsford on the other side of the river - grew, so the building was extended to meet the demands of the local community. The south and north transepts were added in 1851 and 1874. The nave was extended, and finally in 1884 the Tower was added, the building becoming almost half a century after its consecration the building we recognize, at least externally, today. The Tower is perhaps the most noticeable - and symbolic - feature of the building, standing head and shoulders above the surrounding buildings (a good view of this can be seen from a London Bound train). Through its visibility from most parts of the parish, it signals that the Church is here for all who care to enter. (For those who cannot see the Tower from their home, be assured that from the top one can view the whole parish and much beyond.)

The almost continuous changes to the structure in the early years means that most of the internal features are of more recent origin. The lectern dates from 1901, whilst the organ was erected from voluntary subscriptions in 1909, replacing an earlier smaller one. The internal layout of the church has undergone changes over time and the extremely elaborate painted decorations on the East wall have, sadly, disappeared with the exception of the four angels (whose wings once as if in full flight have now been folded).

We also know that, at the turn of the century, the pews were arranged with two side aisles instead of a central aisle - so how did newly married couples process out? This barrier to pomp was rectified in a subsequent reordering which left the internal layout much as it is currently to the easterly part of the nave.



**Life, Hall Street, Chelmsford**

They are a Bible-believing Pentecostal church and part of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance. There is much more to Life Church than just meeting together on a Sunday! Throughout the week we have a programme of activities for young and old alike. Have a look at the Ministries page to discover more about our regular activities.



**Methodist, Hall Street, Chelmsford**



Hall Street Methodist Church Chelmsford is a Christian congregation serving the Chelmsford community and seeking, engaging, and encouraging others through a life-changing Christian journey. Hall Street Methodist Church at Chelmsford, Essex seeks to be a loving, friendly community that worships God, and serves others. We place a high priority on teaching from the Bible and following the example of Jesus.

Our vision is to impact and renew Chelmsford, Essex and beyond with the transforming message of Jesus Christ through words and actions. Everyone is welcome. Come as you are - we'd love to get to know you.





### **Salvation Army, Baddow Road, Chelmsford**

They are a loving community of people who know what it is to share in each others lives, in the good and the bad times. They are part of God's family and we want you to become a part of that family, so that you too can know the love of God in your life. Come along to our Sunday Worship or perhaps to one of our activities – we'd love to see you!

They are a family Church that welcomes people of all ages and stages. Our Sunday Worship consists of singing a mix of traditional and modern songs, with brass band, piano, guitar, and percussion accompaniment. If you can't sing – don't worry you don't have to! The services are family friendly involving the children through fun activities.

<b>SATURDAY 12th AUGUST 2017</b>
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### **Quay Baptist, Quayside, Woodbridge**

Woodbridge Quay Church Woodbridge is a Christian congregation serving the Woodbridge community and seeking, engaging, and encouraging others through a life-changing Christian journey. Woodbridge Quay Church at Woodbridge, Suffolk seeks to be a loving, friendly community that worships God, and serves others. We place a high priority on teaching from the Bible and following the example of Jesus. Their vision is to impact and renew Woodbridge, Suffolk and beyond with the transforming message of Jesus Christ through words and actions. Everyone is welcome. Come as you are - we'd love to get to know you.





































### **St Mary the Virgin, Market Hill, Woodbridge**

They are a parish church, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, in the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Their worship reflects the broad mainstream tradition of the Church of England, and, whilst emphasising the importance of liturgy within the catholic tradition, they aim to be inclusive in their understanding and approach to spirituality, theology and pastoral care.

Their Church is the heart of our worshipping and working life as Christian people. Here they come to concentrate on deepening their relationship with God, to break bread together, and to try their best to love others.

Here is the springboard for their mission, articulated in the following statement:

*"They are here for the glory of God; to be the body of Christ, broken and restored to reflect the Gospel in their lives."*

The Domesday Book records in 1086 that in "Wodebryge" there was "A church with 19 acres valued at 2 shillings". The indications are that this was a Saxon church, built probably at the close of the tenth century, so that there has been a church on this site for nearly a thousand years. The present building dates from the beginning of the fifteenth century. A leaflet and a full guide are available in the church, and visitors are encouraged to discover the beauties and memories and inspiration for the future contained in its living history.







**St John's, St John's Hill, Woodbridge**

It seems that in the 1830's there was something of a revival in Woodbridge and the population of the country was increasing rapidly and Woodbridge was a significant town with a military barracks and a population of about 5000. St Mary's Church (which dates from the 15th century) was drawing large congregations and in 1839 the church was overflowing with people coming to hear the preaching of the Rev. Henry Hardinge. A project was launched to build a new church in the town and when sufficient money had been raised, the Building Committee advertised for designs for a 'plain and moderately sized' building, to be a daughter church for St Mary's. 42 designs were submitted! One of them, from the chief builder in Woodbridge at that time, Alfred Lockwood, had as its motto the Bible verse "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it".

This design was selected, and tenders for construction obtained, again won by Mr Lockwood. However, it is said he made a serious financial loss on the project. The foundation stone was laid in 1842, unfortunately as part of a grand Masonic ceremony in the town, but we have no such links now. The building then took some years to erect but eventually the white brick building, complete with magnificent spire rising to 138 ft, was complete and ready for its consecration on 27th August 1846. The building was built to seat the surprising number of 800 people, with a gallery extending from the rear along the north and south walls. An organ was situated at the back of the gallery, and the central focus of the apse was a three-decker pulpit. Truly a building for proclaiming the word of God!

The first 100 years (1846 - 1946) At first the parish was not defined as a separate entity and there was no vicarage for the incumbent, but in 1853 the Parsonage House was built (now known to us as the Old Vicarage), and in 1854 the ecclesiastical parish of St John was formed. From the first the ministries have been definitely evangelical, the benefice being in the patronage of the Church Patronage Society. A religious revival in Woodbridge in 1876 is said to have been largely due to the untiring efforts of the then vicar Rev. Thomas Hyne Edwards. During subsequent years many physical alterations were made to the church building. In 1888 the three-decker pulpit was removed and replaced with a stone pulpit on the north side of the apse and other alterations were made in that area.

In 1896 the North and South wings of the gallery were removed, a new organ was installed in the South-East corner of the nave, and the choir moved from the gallery to the chancel facing the new organ. Seating was added in the gallery in the space under the tower formally occupied by the organ. Up until this time the flooring of the nave had been rough and primitive, and the seating comprised ugly benches and seats nailed together. In 1901-2 the flooring was redone, new teak pews were installed and new leaded windows fitted. Gas was laid on to replace the oil lamps and the interior repainted. Electric light was installed in 1925. The next half-century (1946 - 1997). Problems with crumbling of the brick and stonework of the pinnacles of the tower became evident and in 1945 the Diocesan Architect advised that they be lowered to half their original height.

In the 1970s serious problems were evident due to the corrosion and expansion of the iron reinforcement of the stonework supporting the spire and, regrettably, the structure was declared unsafe and the spire had to be removed. For some months we worshipped in the Church Hall!



In the 1970s we had a striking colour scheme inside the church; the east wall of the chancel area was dark brown and the apse featured an orange ceiling. When redecoration became necessary in the early 1980s a lighter look was chosen; the dark brown and orange disappeared but the interior furnishings remained a while longer. Then in 1987-8 major changes were made at the front and the rear of the building. The pulpit and the choir stalls were removed to make way for a raised dais surrounded on three sides by a removable wooden communion rail. A lobby and vestry were added at the main entrance to the building. Then in 1997 the most recent phase of internal change was completed with the objective of increasing the flexibility of the building for use in a growing variety of ways, both in worship and appropriate social events. The pipe organ was removed and replaced with a very convincing electronic church organ. The pews were removed, the floor levelled and carpeted, and stackable upholstered chairs introduced. The dais was extended to gain extra space for leading worship. A small servery was constructed under the balcony at one side, and a small vestry under the other. The previous 'new' vestry, added in 1988, became an additional toilet equipped for wheelchair access. We praise God for the resources that have enabled these changes to be made, and the building which serves us so well. The church is of course the people and not the building, but we pray that the building known as 'St John's Church Woodbridge' will in itself speak to the community of the presence and accessibility of God.

## **Timeline**

1842-1846: Church built- cost £3000. 1853: Vicarage built - cost £850.

1854: Parish formed. Churchyard closed for burials except for those who had purchased ground.

1881: 3 decker pulpit replaced with a stone and marble one. Also stone prayer desk and seat.

1891: Parish room erected in Vicarage garden, entrance St John's Street. Cost £300.

1896: Side galleries removed. Organ installed south-east front of Church.

1897: Bell hung

1901: Present pews fitted. Church decorated. Gas lights replaced oil and new leaded lights.

1913: Clock fitted in tower for the town.

1919: Last burial service in churchyard. First PCC election.

1925: Electric light installed, cost £50 (replacing gas lights).

1929: Choir Vestry built - cost £300. Teak War Memorial tablet erected.

1943: Parish room destroyed by fire.

1944: Iron railings surrounding churchyard removed.

1966-7: Church ceiling replaced and church redecorated.

1975: Spire removed because unsafe

1982: North gallery staircase removed, and toilet and wash basin put in its place. Church redecorated.

1984: New vicarage built, old vicarage bought by the congregation for use as family centre.

1985: New electric blower for the organ.

1988: choir pews, font, pulpit and brass communion rails removed. New matching wooden table, pulpit, font, clergy desks, choir chairs and communion rails bought. Raised dais built and carpeted. Amplification and recording system fitted. New entrance porch and vicar's vestry built at west end of church. Existing entrance doors replaced by glass panelled doors.

1994: Full-time Youth Leader appointed

1996: Church Hall interior extensively renovated

1996: Plans to reorder the interior of St John's  
1997: Pipe organ and pews removed and replaced with digital electronic organ and chairs. Dais and communion rails extended. Dais, nave and gallery recarpeted. New vestry, servery and disabled WC built. New PA system installed.

2002: New spire added to church building.

2010: Major repairs to Old Vicarage roof and chimneys.

2014: Major external repairs to high parts of church building, particularly to the north and west.

2015: Complete internal redecoration of the church building.







**Methodist, Grundisburgh Road, Woodbridge**



**Salvation Army, New Street, Woodbridge**



**TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2017**







### **St Peter's and St Paul's, St Osyth**

A Church has stood on this site for at least 900 years, built by dedicated Christians with modifications over the centuries. It is now a large, Grade 1, listed building - one of the finest in Essex. A Saxon church existed when the present church was started about the same time as the Priory/Abbey, whose fortunes it followed. This Norman church, started in 1118 by Bishop Belmeis, was consecrated in 1170. A pilaster, some moulding and a circular 'window' in the west wall are all that remain. The pilaster tells us that the church, even then, had aisles. Major rebuilding in the C13 included the present Chancel and transepts two bays wide and two bays deep, another indication of the wealth generated by the Abbey. The central columns of the two transepts can still be seen in the Vestry and the Church Room.

The Tower is essentially 14th century, with C18 and later changes and added buttresses. It houses seven bells, three inscribed "Miles Gray made me 1663". The bells were restored and re hung in 2004/5. TV monitors show them ringing.

Another major rebuilding was being carried out in the prosperous 1530s. The old Nave and Aisles were demolished. The northern arcade was replaced by splendid Tudor brick piers and arches, originally plastered. The nave width was increased to the south by about 9 feet and an elegant hammer-beam Roof built. It is thought that the north Aisle was made to fit the finely carved C15/16 ceiling from the old nave. The north transept was cut back to the new line and rood stairs incorporated in the new wall. The south aisle was aligned with the south transept where C13/14 windows survive. There is a fine, but disfigured, font near the south door. The large piers at the east end of the nave are something of a mystery, but were probably the start of a new chancel arch. The position of the squints tells us that it had been intended to rebuild the chancel as well. But the dissolution of St Osyth Abbey in 1539 stopped work on the church and the chancel remains obviously 'off-centre'.

C16 graffiti in northern squint was found in 2004 when archaeologists from the television programme "Time Team" (Channel 4) were carrying out an investigative dig to try to find the original centre of the village. Of special importance in the chancel is a unique 'horseshoe' or 'sheepfold' Communion rail pictured above. This is Victorian replacement of a C17 wooden one of the same shape. The Victorian Reredos and painted ceiling both deserve notice.

Here are two extremely fine monuments with reclining effigies put in by the 3rd Baron Darcy of Chich to the 1st and 2nd Lord Darcys who died in 1558 and 1581 and their wives. Two other D'Arcy memorials are in the Church Room, one in poor condition. Other memorials in the Chancel to other owners of the Priory, the Rochfords and Nassaus, related to the Dutch House of Orange. On the wall of the north aisle there are various other memorials including one to Benjamin Golding who founded Charing Cross Hospital. William Slimon who founded Clacton Hospital is commemorated by the west window of the south aisle. Most of the other glass is Victorian, with picture glass in the Chancel and the Church Room. The two window memorials to St. Osyth and her martyrdom are particularly interesting.

The C20 is represented by the pleasing and practical enclosure, in the 1980s, of the south transept to form the well used Church Room. It had previously been a chapel. The room includes storage and a sinks fitted in 2007 enabling coffee etc to be served after services and on numerous other occasions, (see The Lunch Bunch page). A toilet, washbasin and flower sink were also fitted into the south porch. The Altar and Welcome area were created in 2004/5. Early in 2008 our old boiler was replaced with a more energy efficient model. Also in 2008, the Tower room was glazed in and the building was completely rewired. The old lighting was replaced with new modern energy efficient spot and flood lights throughout the Nave, North and South Aisles and the Chancel. Together, all improvements are giving us a good reduction on our energy bills while also reducing our carbon footprint. In the spring of 2013 new choir stalls were installed and the old Victorian ones moved back to their original position in the Chancel. The new ones can be seen in situ in the above panoramic view and a close up below.



**St James, Victoria Road, Little Clacton**



St James Parish Church is a friendly Parish Church with emphasis on family and Christian teaching within the framework of the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford and the Church of England.

In the year 2000 grants were obtained for the purchase and setting up of the Millennium Green. This has greatly added to the amenities of the village as we now have The Jubilee Oak Green opposite the Church, the main Village Green in the centre together with the Galloway Green and at the north end of the village, a Sports Complex called The Parish Fields with a Youth and Community Centre and all weather playing area. The village is served by two public houses and various shops.

Every effort is being made to keep a green wedge between the village and the suburban development of Clacton-on-Sea. The village of Little Clacton is sign posted from the main A133 Colchester to Clacton Road.



**St Andrew's, Church Lane, Weeley**

Parish Church. West tower C15/C16. Chancel, Nave, North vestry, North Aisle and North Porch circa 1881, E.C. Robins. All of red brick with some black diapering. The lower 10 feet of the tower of large bricks (11 1/4" x 5 1/4") the upper part of normal Tudor bricks.

Stone dressings to Victorian build. Red tiled roof with ridge tiles. Chancel, stone east window of 3 lights, 4 centred arch, moulded label, band under, buttresses to angles, 2 windows to south wall of 2 transomed cinquefoiled lights with tracery over, 2 entred arches, buttress between windows. North vestry, gabled to north with 2 doors to east wall with a depressed ogeelight, under square head between, north transomed 2 light window quatrefoil over, 4 centred head and label. Staggered band under follows through the lean-to north aisle with two 3 light windows under square heads, those to east trefoiled ogees, buttresses. West window of 3 trefoiled lights, segmental head and label. North gabled porch, brick plinth, timber supports with tracery between, crenellated lintel, pierced bargeboards, coloured tile floor, north doorway, chamfered 2 centred head, label, vertically boarded door. Nave, south wall, three 3 light windows, 4 centred heads and labels, buttresses between, band below, plinth with stone coping.

Pierced stone ventilators throughout. Stone parapet verges. West tower. Crenellated of 3 stages, western diagonal buttresses, south east angle stair turret with 2 loop lights. Diapering to plinth. Brick western doorway has splayed jambs, 2 centred arch of 2 moulded orders. West window of 3 cinquefoiled lights, vertical tracery, 4 centred head, label with head stops. North wall second stage chamfered brick single 4 centred light. Each wall of bell chamber has a window of two 4 centred lights with square heads and moulded labels. Interior not inspected at time of re-survey but said to contain in the Chancel, C12 shaft of Barnack stone with scalloped capital used as a Credence table. Font, C15 octagonal bowl with quatrefoiled sides enclosing shields and foliage, carved flowers to moulded soffit, stem with traceried panels. 2 bells, first, circa 1400 by Robert Burford inscribed "Sce Michael" and "Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis". The second, circa 1500 by Thomas Bullisdon, inscribed "Sancta Edwarde Ora Pro Nobis" and "Pray for Vyllam Brooke and Agnes his Wyff". 2 centred tower arch of 3 chamfered orders dying onto plain responds.

**FRIDAY 18th AUGUST 2017**







**St Andrew's, Halstead**

It was the Saxons who gave the town its name: 'Hael' meaning healthy or well, and 'stead' meaning place. The name was undoubtedly due in no small part to the fast stream of refreshing water they found here.

Anglo-Saxon tradition was passed on orally rather than in writing so very little is known about the first millennium. Most of the parish was held by the Anglo-Saxon Godwin, Earl of Kent but, with the Norman invasion we see some changes. Halstead increases in size enough to be recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) and the land comes under the control of Norman lords and knights. There is documentary evidence of a church having been on the site of St. Andrew's in the reign of King John (1199 -1216). In 1251 a Royal Charter was granted for a weekly market near to the church and Halstead's growth was confirmed. In 1311 the Bouchier family became the most influential local lords and began a dynasty that was to have influence locally and nationally into the 16th Century. The Bouchier chapel in St. Andrew's can be seen during the 'virtual walk' around the church.

The greater part of the church - the nave, north and south aisles and the chancel, dates from the early years of the 14th Century. In the 15th Century there were the minor additions of the north vestry, and north and south porches. The physical look of the church then remained largely unaltered until 1850 when the west end was extended and the dominant tower was added. The early history of the life of the church community and of the town are best recorded in Holman's Halstead, Being Historical Notes Arranged by William Holman, "Pastor of the Church of Protestant Dissenters" in Halstead, Essex, 1700-1730 A.D. For more recent details please contact Halstead Town Council. The building is a Grade 1 listed building and the cost of maintaining it in its splendid condition is a major financial consideration. 'The Friends of St. Andrew's' exists to help raise funds and co-ordinate work on the church building, not to support its ministry, any revenue generated by this site goes directly to the Friends. If you would like to help us in this work, for us and for future generations, please contact the Friends.



**St Andrew's, Boley Road, White Colne**



Architectural evidence indicates that there was a church in the late 11th century. The advowson of a curacy or vicarage was granted to the earl of Oxford in 1536 and descended with the manor until 1869 when Henry Hume sold it to G. J. Taylor. In 1872 Taylor gave it to Keble College, Oxford who remained patrons in 1997. The living was held in plurality with Mount Bures 1950-7, with Pebmarsh 1957-66, and with Earls Colne from 1967. In 1995 the benefice was united with those of Earls Colne and Colne Engaine. In 1254 the church, presumably the rectory, was said to be worth 100 marks, apparently an error for 100s. as it was valued at £5 6s. 8d in 1291. In 1362 and 1370 it paid 14½d. to St. Bartholomew's priory, London. The living was not valued in 1535, perhaps because it was unendowed. From the late 16th century incumbents were often called vicars, and by 1650 received tithe worth £22; in 1768 the tithe was of hay and wood. The living was augmented with £200, by lot, from Queen Anne's Bounty in 1796, and in 1835 was worth £83. When the tithe was commuted in 1838 a rent-charge of £135 a year was assigned to the vicar. The living was augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty with £200 to meet private grants in 1881, and in 1887 was worth c. £164. The poverty of the living caused difficulties in finding incumbents in the earlier 20th century.

The parish priest had a house in 1425. In 1738 the glebe house immediately east of the church was a cottage suitable only for the poorest people. By 1838 it was two cottages with 1½ r. of land, and in 1841 was in bad condition. It still belonged to the living in 1930. W. E. Hume (vicar 1833-67) bought Colneford House, then in Earls Colne, apparently intending it for the living, but it was sold at his death. In 1868 his successor, G. J. Taylor, built a vicarage house on 4½ a. to the east of the church, acquired from Henry Hume. The house, then unoccupied, was partially burnt in 1952 and was sold in 1953. A priest of Colne Miblanc witnessed charters in the 1140s or 1150s, but the living was apparently vacant in 1254. Nothing is known of later medieval incumbents, who were not presented to a vicarage, but a curate was recorded in 1533. Parishioners bequeathed cows to the church for obits in 1524, 1531, and 1534, and for a light before the statue of the Virgin Mary in 1531.



**Parish Church, Green Lane, Aldham**

We are a lively, friendly evangelical church at the heart of the village of Aldham which we aim to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

We warmly welcome all to our worship and into our fellowship, whether they are Anglican or another denomination, or none. As a church community, our aim is that we should all grow into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. We aim to do this through worship for people of all ages and stages in life, and through keeping the wider world's needs in our minds and in our giving.

**SUNDAY 20th AUGUST 2017**







**St Nicholas, Church Street, Harwich**

St Nicholas was rebuilt in the 1820s, in the Carpenter's Gothick style of the Commissioners Churches of the time, all in white brick, at a cost of £20,000, a colossal amount of money, about four million in today's values. It is probably the best church of its decade in the county. I came back the following Saturday, to find the church open. A banner outside declared CHURCH OPEN, ALL WELCOME! The west doors were open. I stepped into a church I haven't seen inside for nearly twenty years, and had forgotten everything about.

A vast space, full of white light, seeming longer than it really is thanks to the three sides of gallery. The fact that this church is described as Essex's best building of its decade is as much due to the interior as the exterior, because it is almost entirely a complete Georgian worship space on a huge scale, just on the eve of the Oxford Movement, and virtually untouched since. And yet everything has a lightness of touch, nothing imposes. Twenty years ago, I recalled finding it breathtaking; breathtaking now, but with the added bonus of rather liking it a lot now. The narrow sugar icing arcades tower out of sight towards the vaulting, the eye drawn to the east as much as in any great late medieval church. The furnishings are almost entirely original, including a grand mayoral pew (for a town of less than 5,000 people!), the late 19th Century choir stalls having been removed and replaced with modern chairs.

The only other hint that anything happened after the 1820s is a collection of very fine early 20th Century three-light windows by Henry Holiday, William Morris, Powell and Son and Thomas Willement.

Two elderly custodians were very friendly, and I had to refuse a cup of tea. They were knowledgeable about their church, and why not? They had been worshipping in it since the late 1930s. Remarkable in itself. They were proud of their church, and proud of Harwich, which they boldly declared was much older than Dovercourt, despite the church being newer.

But of course it is a perfect church for such an idiosyncratic little town as Harwich. I was buoyed up (possibly a pun there) and set off south-westwards (actually the only way you can go without a boat) a couple of miles into the suburbs and Dovercourt.

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