THE PARISH OF ST. ANDREW, ST. ANNE & ST. MATTHEW
(REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1206571)

PARISH NEWS

15th November 2026 (2nd Sunday before Advent)

St Anne's Church, 10:00am – Church@10
St Andrew's Church, 11:00am – Weekly Sunday Holy Communion

Readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-end
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

22nd November 2026 (Christ the King)

St Anne's Church, 10:00am – Church@10
St Andrew's Church, 11:00am – Weekly Sunday Holy Communion

Readings: Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 – 24
Ephesians 1: 15 – end
Matthew 25: 31 – end

29th November 2026 (Advent 1)

St Anne's Church, 10:00am – Church@10
St Andrew's Church, 11:00am – Weekly Sunday Holy Communion
5.00PM – Evensong for the start of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 64: 1 – 9
1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9
Mark 13: 24 – end

You can also join us for:

Morning Prayer – Thursday 9:00am on FaceBook
Early Night Prayer – Friday 6:00pm on FaceBook
Monthly Prayer Group – First Monday of each month. Please note that our next prayer group meeting will be on **Monday 7th December**, at **St Andrew's Church**, **10:00am-11:00am**. If you would like the group to pray for any reason please speak to Carolyn Ball, Sue Boughtwood, or Martin Roscoe.

The Prayer (Collect) for this week:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Mission Prayer:

God of mission,
Who alone brings growth to Your Church,
Send Your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to You,
And in service to our local community.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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Please note that Monday is the Ministry team's day off - please respect this as they need time to recharge!

"Christ, Community, Church: serving our communities and bringing people closer to God."

Parish Website:
www.andyanneandmatt.org.uk

Proud to be a member of Inclusive Church
(www.inclusive-church.org)

What's On…

Open Church:

St Andrew's Church will be open on Wednesday 2:00pm-4:00pm for refreshments and fellowship, ending with Celtic Evening Prayer at 4:15pm.

The Well at St Anne's – It's OK not to be OK:

The Well at St Anne's, our Renew Wellbeing space, takes place on **Fridays,**
10:00 am – 12:00 midday, at St. Anne's Church, Compton Road, CO4 0BH

The Well at St. Anne's is open to all adults and especially anyone who is struggling with anything, do please come along and spread the word about this safe place **where It is OK not to be OK.**

(Sorry but because this is a wellbeing space for adults, we are unable to cater for children at this event).

Community Chat & Chill:

Our **Community Chat & Chill** will NOT take place during November due to several people who will be away/not available.

In Need of Prayer?

Each week after our Sunday Services at both St. Andrew's and St. Anne's our prayer team will be available for those who feel in need of prayer. Whether that be Prayers for yourself, someone else or something laying on your heart. All Prayers will be held in that moment, and between you and God, anything spoken of will be held in the strictest of confidence. So, grab your cuppa and sit with us.

Greenstead Community Christmas Fair:

This will be on Saturday 21st November (10.30am-2.00pm) at the Greenstead Community Centre. As usual we will have a stall at the fair, and any offers of help – even for just 30 minutes – would be really appreciated. Also – calling all singers – we will be joining with St John Payne (RC) Church to sing Christmas Carols at the Community Centre fair (time to be confirmed). If you can help, then please speak to the ministry team.

Advent Services:

During Advent, we have some special events which everyone is invited to:
Sunday 29th November (5.00pm) at St Andrew's Church – Evensong for the start of Advent.
Each Tuesday (6.00pm) in Advent at St Andrew's Church – a Service of Reflection for Advent, during which we will be exploring 'Walking with Angels', with reflections on the words of angels found in Scripture, and prayers for our communities. These will be on the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December.

Foodbank:

We continue to have a box for donations to the Foodbank in our churches. We know that times are difficult, but perhaps you could buy an item (or more) and leave it in the boxes when you attend church? On the Colchester Foodbank FaceBook page, there is usually a long list of items that they are desperately short of. Any donations of these items would be particularly welcome.
As always, if you need help from the FoodBank, Revd Sue is happy to give you a voucher. **The Greenstead Foodbank is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10:00am-12:00 midday.**

Flourishing Together:

On Monday 23 November 7:00pm for 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, St. Andrew's Close, Alresford, CO7 8BL, Bishop Roger and Archdeacon Ruth are inviting you to 'Flourishing Together' - an evening about church engagement at the Tendring and Colchester Borders Garden Community. The new garden community will impact on us as we're one of the nearest parishes to the project, so it would be fantastic if people from our churches go along.

INEQE Safeguarding Group:

As you may be aware INEQE Safeguarding Group have been commissioned to conduct Independent Safeguarding Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses and cathedrals are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. Please do fill this in, we need your thoughts!
The survey is now live and will close at 11.30 pm on Tuesday 1st of December 2026.
To access the survey relevant to you please visit: https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/chelmsford/

A Christmas Carol by Candlelight:

In Support of CYO Join Christian Youth Outreach on Tuesday, 22nd December 2026 at St Anne's Church Hall for a wonderful rendition of Charles Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol. Delivered by Colchester Arts Centre Director Anthony Roberts with musical accompaniment by Jamie Cunliffe.
Doors open at 7:00 PM (starts 7:30 PM). Tickets are £6 and can be booked online at cyochristmascarol.eventbrite.co.uk.
Tea and coffee served, or feel free to bring your own refreshments. All proceeds support CYO's ministry across local schools and churches.

Course in Christian Studies:

Registration for January 2027 start, is now OPEN!
If you are interested visit the Chelmsford Diocese website and search for CCS there you will find the enrolment form, for you to fill in.