

**Annual Report for St James The Less, Little Tey
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

Robbie and I would like to thank all those people in the Church and Parish who have supported and helped in so many ways to make our roles as Church Wardens a happy and rewarding one, especially Ian and Celia and John Carr for the encouragement and help they give us each week.

The services throughout the year have been well supported and it has been a joy to see how the 4 Churches support each other. The plough and rogation services were looked forward to and blessed with good weather.

During Lent we held our usual Lent Services on Wednesday evenings led by Ian and Jane and we all enjoyed the peace of the last office of the day. The subject was “The uniqueness of our Faith”.

The ongoing subject of the toilet has not moved very far. We have had visits by the DAC and a wall painting conservator. It appears the lime trees to the north of the Church should be removed as the roots are damaging the north wall. Gerald and Jane have treated the Vestry woodworm and Philip Battell has replaced the loft hatch which also was riddled with woodworm.

We were delighted to join Revd. John Richardson in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of his ordination. Coggeshall Church was full, it was a happy occasion.

We enjoyed a lovely Quiet Day at Clare Priory. It was a pity it was so wet.

In June we lit the beacon for the 80th Anniversary of D Day.

A small group attended a conference in Coggeshall Church on “Leading our Church into Growth” and are using what we learned in our weekly services. The Open the Book teams in Great Tey and Chappel Church Schools are enjoyed by all. The presenters are growing in confidence as they act out Bible stories and the children all want to take some of the parts.

We held a music for a Summer Afternoon in September where we were entertained by Sue Hanscome with a selection of her recorders, followed by an afternoon tea in the Churchyard.

The harvest goods and Christmas gifts were gratefully received by the Colchester Food Bank. In October we bade farewell to Revd. Ian and Jane as they held their last service in the Benefice at Little Tey. Over a glass of wine they were presented with gifts from the congregation and best wishes in retirement.

November saw the beginning of the interregnum with a visit from Bishop Roger explaining the process of finding a new Priest in Charge.

The 9 Lessons & Carol Service and the Crib Service were a joy, we made up a choir of 14 people and the singing was wonderful.

Lastly a big thank you to Richard who works so hard to keep our finances in such good order and for doing all the work applying for faculties and supervising all ongoing work in Church and Churchyard.

A big thank you to Gerald who mows the churchyard grass every week from May to October. Thanks go to Celia and Ian whose knowledge is such a help when organizing our services. Thanks to everyone who plays any part in the life of our Church, whether it be cleaning, flower arranging, reading lessons, intercessions or grass cutting.

Carolyn and Robbie, Church Wardens.
February 2025