



St Peter's Church, Alresford

extracts from **History of Alresford: A parish, village and Manor in Essex and its people** (2021)



St Peter's CofE. Church

St Peters Church (**EHCR 2384**) stands 1 Km north of the Creek on a valley formed by the Sixpenny Creek. It burnt down at 1:30am on 2nd October 1971; so is now a roofless ruin and a scheduled monument under the care of Essex County Council.¹ It is still used for occasional outdoor services.² A full survey of the standing structure was made in 1997 by Essex County Council;³ with the fall of plaster and rendering over the previous quarter of a century greatly aiding the surveyors' efforts to locate the different types of stones and joints used.⁴ To date no invasive archaeological survey involving digging trenches has occurred. Loose stonework was repaired in 2008/9.⁵ On the signboards are three different dates for the date of its construction – the tenth century, twelfth century and 1320. Previously, during the time of Rev Eric Britt in the 1980s this had said 1220.⁶



Figure 1 - Inside the west wall
(10th/11th Century)



Green ECC Notice Board (12th Century)
current Blue Church board (1320)



previous church board (1220) ⁷

St Peter's has indications of Saxon features ⁸ including a wall that is 0.84m thick,⁹ a high narrow nave, high windows (2.20m above the ground) and corner quoins. Other common features missing from the remains of St Peter's are pilaster strips (distinctive strip-work on exterior wall faces), triangular headed doorways and small twin narrow windows constructed from Ashlar blocks.¹⁰ At least, three Saxon churches still exist in Essex – but none are mentioned in the Domesday Book in Tendring. Dr. H. Laver reported that the church stood in a 'camp', the south ditch of which was filled for churchyard extension.¹¹ Ælfflæd, widow of Byrhtnoth who fell at the Battle of Maldon in 991, willed *Ælesforda with two hides and 50 acres* to King Æthelred in 1000x1002. She resided at the Minster, West Mersea which she helped extend. Did this Christian woman leave a Church on her estate in *Ælesforda*?¹²

1. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1019881>

2. ERO D/P 336/1/14

3. Garwood A (1998) *Alresford, St Peter. A survey of the surviving remains* Transactions of the Essex Archaeology and History Society third series xxix p245ff

4. The Colchester Archaeologist (1997) p.22

5. Essex County Standard Nov 24th 2008

6. Essex County Standard 10th March 2019

7. Ibid

Prior to the First World War the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments in England examined all the buildings in England built before 1700. St Peter's was surveyed and after the War RCHME released this plan and an architectural description.¹³ But features under plaster and white-wash were not observed. In black are the historical features (Saxon – 14th century) and white are the modern (Victorian).

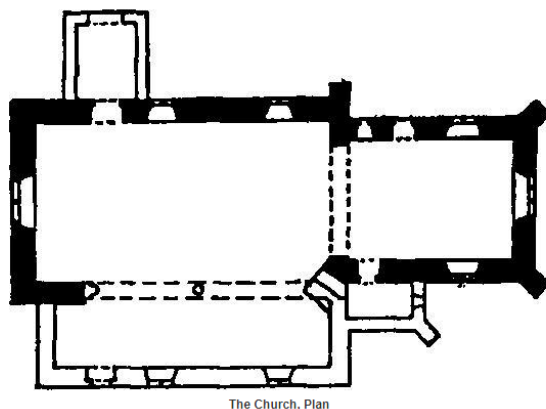


Figure 2 - Plan of St Peter's (1922) ¹³

The first phase of construction that can be accurately dated is from the twelfth century when a simple nave and chancel were built. It was constructed from coursed Kentish ragstone and flint rubble with Roman bricks and tiles used for decoration in the western corners (termed as quoins in Essex) and around the north doorway. It measured 6.6m by 10.6m in length, with walls 0.84m thick, and was 5.1m high to the eaves and 8.8m to the apex of the west gable end.¹⁴

In the following century, the church was enlarged increasing the length of the nave to 13.8m by demolishing the original east wall and a new chancel, measuring an estimated 4.7m by at least 4.8m was constructed. ¹⁵ Fulk Bassett, the Bishop of London (1244-1259), registered the churches in his diocese to pay Pope Innocent III a tax of 1/3 of beneficed clergy who were resident and ½ for non-resident. (Henry III wanted a tenth on the pretext of a Crusade.) Sir Robert Boteler was Patron; the estimated value of *Allesford* was five marks and there was no Vicar resident. 2 ½ marks were payable in 1254 as the Norwich Taxation. *Allesford* was assessed at 7 ½ marks in 1291.¹⁶

8. Radford D Gascoyne A (2013) Colchester, Fortress of the War God: an Archaeological Assessment

9. Rodwell W, Rodwell K (1977) Historic Churches a wasting asset, The Council for British Archaeology Research Report 19 p23

10. <http://www.anglo-saxon-churches.co.uk/intro.html>

11. Hull MR (1963) Victoria County History of Essex iii p.38

12. S 1486 Will of Ælfflæd oldest written mention of Allesford (c.1000) Bury St Edmunds Archives

13. RCHME (1922) An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex iii North-east p5

14. Garwood A (1998) *Allesford, St Peter. A survey of the surviving remains* p.246-7

15. *ibid* p.247

16. Fowler RC (1926) *Fulk Bassett's Register and the Norwich taxation (cont'd)* Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society, new series xviii p.15-6, 124
Tax of Pope Nicholas IV in 1291-2 T.Astle, S.Ayscough and J.Caley.(ed) (1802) *Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliae et Walliae Auctoritate P. Nicolai IV* A mark was 2/3 of a pound; 13/8



The Church, dedicated to St. Peter, is of one pace with the Chancel, tiled. In a Spire shingled are 2 Bells.
This Church was built by Anfrid, or Anfrey, de Staunton, above-mentioned, as appears by his Epitaph in old French in the Chancel.

In the fourteenth century, the nave was widened by 1.7m, as seen in this photograph, **Figure 3**, the darker grey stone used in the extension is visible on the left of the apex. An existing circular window was blocked with Roman bricks and a new gothic arched window constructed. The chancel was extended 2.8m in length to the east and 1.9m in width to the south and a shingle-covered, wooden bell-tower added over the western end of the nave. New windows were also fitted in to the nave and chancel using Reigate stone. An inscription in the chancel on the gravestone of Anfrid de Staunton acknowledged he was Lord of the Manor of Alresford and carried out this renovation.¹⁷ This inscription was briefly mentioned by Morant, (**Figure 4**)¹⁸ but not

recorded elsewhere earlier, and unseen since. It was undated, underneath repairs in the chancel and subsequently destroyed in the fire. Anfrid inherited the Manor and other lands from his aunt in 1312 and lived until 1337.¹⁹ The advowson of the Parish then passed on with the Lordship of the Manor until Victorian times.

The first named Rector at Alresford was Thomas Parker, who was succeeded in 1332 by Stephen de Berle on the presentation of Sir Humphrey de Staunton. There has been an unbroken line of over fifty Rectors since.²⁰

17. *ibid* p.248

18. Morant P (1768) *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex* I p.453 Morant relied on books and manuscripts from other authors and rarely left Colchester to visit any of the other villages he described. There is no record of him coming to Alresford. The book only sold 200 copies in his life-time.

19. C 143/91/1 6 Edward II (c1312)

20. *The parish and manor of Alresford* p2

In 1337, de Berle and Walter le Gros, the Parson of Little Bentley, transferred to Anfrid and his successor John de Coggeshale “..1 messuage, 150 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 52 acres of pasture, 240 acres of wood and 16s. 8d. rent in Alesford..”²¹ The de Coggeshale family also inherited the advowson of the church.²²

In 1511, Rev Walter Wolwyn became Rector of Ailesford and in 1521 was “admitted by exchange” with John Rothley of Warham, Sussex.²³ In 1525, Rev Rothley died leaving an inventory of twenty-three folios.²⁴

In 1548, the Church Wardens Stephen Gardener and Robart Anderton were accused of selling some of the church’s fixtures to pay for repairs without permission. They admitted selling one of the two bells (weighing five hundredweight) for £4 14/-; two standard and two small candlesticks for 11/-; and one chalice for £3. So, totalling £8 5/4d. They had paid out for glazing, a chest and a pulpit costing 20/8, leaving a remainder of £7 4/8.²⁵

In 1527, John Steven left money to establish a memorial Mass for himself on the Friday after Midlent Sunday, and his two brothers. Bells tolled, lights (candles), food and drink provided with a donation to the poor.²⁶ Other bequests paid for Lights to be lit for *Our Lady*²⁷ and a ‘*bachelers light*’ before Our Lady.²⁸

In the 1580s, the churchwardens reported that “.. the steeple is ruinous and our church not so well tiled as it ought to be, but our parish is very poor and we can not invoke them to make a rate for reparation..”²⁹

In 1637, a *rope-ornament* Rail was added to Archbishop Laud’s specifications.³⁰ (During the fourth phase of the building, the Communion Rail was moved in front of the west gallery where the organ and choir were also positioned.)³¹ On August 8th 1683, St Peter’s was visited by the Archdeacon. The Rector was Samuel Bridge; the Churchwardens were Gul’us Peare and Joh’es ffurton. There was “..noe booke of Homilies nor Cannons, nor table of degrees of Marriage, noe liline Cloth for ye Comunion table nor Napkin. There wants some Glaseing in the Chancel. There are two small Bells. There is a small Boule and Patten of silver. There is Catechiseing every Sunday al this Summer. There is noe Terrier-of ye Gleb and Tithes. The P’sonage house in good repaire. The ffiaggon for ye Comunion to be changed for a new one. The Churchyard fence wants repaire. There wants a new Register booke..”³² Half of the flagons from the Colchester Archdeaconry (69 of 138) were not of silver, made of unsuitable designs from pewter and required to be replaced. It is probable that the Alresford one was an uncovered tankard.³³

21. 11 EDWARD III.1337 408

22. 11 EDWARD III.1337 413

23. Dunkin EHW (1848) *Sussex Archaeological Collections Relating to the History and Antiquities of the County* xxvi p25

24. Sears Reynolds J (1956) *Library Catalogues of the English Renaissance* p.96

25. Dickin EP (1913) *Embezzled Church Goods of Essex (7)* Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series, Volume 13

26. ERO D/AEW 1/290

27. ERO D/ACR 2 fo. II3v

28. ERO D/ACR 2 fo.H4r

In 1682, the sexton's salary was £1, the bells cost 1/- to mend, Francis Ward was paid 2/6 for catching a fox and John Ward's widow received 2/2. Annual expenses were £4 12/6 (including the expenses of the Constables and Surveyors of the Roads) and the collection totalled £4 11/11.³⁴ In 1684, St Peter's paid 2/6 for the manufacture of a cushion for the pulpit. In 1689, three yards of cloth was purchased for the Communion Table at a cost of £1 1/- and an hour-glass for 2/6.³⁵ In 1724 it was recorded that *".. Our church & chancel are both in very good repair, and were last year ceiled, the One at the charge of the Rector, the other by the Parish, Our pews and Reading desk are going to rebuild.."*³⁶ In 1726-7, David Commarque was Master at Colchester Free Grammar School before becoming Vicar of Alresford (1727-30).³⁷

By 1738, Captain Matthew Martin moved to Alresford Hall and built a family vault, in front of the chancel. His wife was laid to rest here after she died on January 6th. The engraved lid can still be seen at the foot of the Chancel. On the walls were placed seven hatchments, including four commemorating his actions in 1712 on board the "Marlborough" and bearing the arms of the East India Company.³⁸

Figure 5 – inside St Peter's Church

*Near this place lieth the body of Sarah
Martin,
wife of Matthew Martin of Wivenhoe,
Esq,
Lord of the Manor,
a Member in Parliament,
High Steward and Alderman for ye
Borough of Coichester,
a Governor of St. Thomas's Hospital,.
and an Elder Brother of Ye Trinity
House etc.,
who died much lamented,
as.
she lived much beloved and esteemed
for her Conjugal, Maternal, and Social
Virtues.
She departed this life the VI. of Jan.
Anno Domini MDXXX VIII.
Ætat LVI.*



From 1742, the surviving continuous Registers of baptisms, marriages and funerals were kept.



Figure 5 – Chapman and Andre's map of 1777

One of the earliest maps to show St Peter's Church (not included on the 1576, 1590 or 1610 maps of Essex)

By 1824, St Peter's was too small, so a large, wooden gallery was added from the west wall. This cost £40, with the Society for the Enlargement of Churches paying £30 and Rev Newman £10.³⁹ In 1843 Rev Swanson wrote "*The Churchman's Book of family prayer*" which was advertised for 1/6 in several educational books.⁴⁰

The fourth period of major church construction was during the 1840s and 1850s, when the building was felt to be cramped and in ill-repair. The Reigate stone window frames had been replaced with wood. The pulpit was central, oversized and had a sounding board. There was only a small arched opening to the chancel. The pews were square in shape with very high partitions. The 1824 gallery was felt to be too deep as it extended over the entrance and was poorly constructed. The north porch and bell-tower were wooden. The font had been replaced during the reign of James I with an inferior copy. The chancel and nave were on the same level.⁴¹

29. Emmison FW (1973) *Elizabethan Life: Morals and the Church Courts* p243
30. The parish and manor of Alresford p.3; McCallum JR (1968) *The Ancient Church at Alresford* in *Essex Magazine* 17 p.35
31. The parish and manor of Alresford p.4
32. Pressey WJ (1942) *Visitations held in the Archdeaconry of Colchester in 1683* *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series* xxiii p.148
33. Pressey WJ (1925) *The Pewter Communion Vessels of Essex churches* *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series* xviii p.202
34. McCallum RJ (1948) *An English Village: rural scenes of English life and history* referenced to the records of Alresford near Colchester p22; McCallum JR (1968) *The Ancient Church at Alresford* in *Essex Magazine* 17 p.35
35. *ibid* p30
36. Clarke BFL (1963) *The Building of the Eighteenth-century church* p.17
37. Tomlinson D (2013) 'Young Gentlemen are at a reasonable Rate to be Boarded' *An account of the Free Grammar School, Colchester c.1690–c.1820* *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History*, 4th series iv p.171
38. McCallum JR (1948) p15; McCallum JR (1968) p.35
39. McCallum RJ (1948) p30
40. Hoare L (1846) *Hints for the Improvement of Early Education and Nursery Discipline* p.23
41. McCallum RJ (1948) p.30; McCallum JR (1968) p.35; ERO 336/12/3 account of restoration 1844-6

There were services every Sunday morning and afternoon, with evening services between April and September. Otherwise, the Congregation had to walk to the Chapel at Elmstead for an evening service. There were four Holy Communions annually and collections were only taken at these services.⁴²

In 1843 when timber and railway entrepreneur William Warwick Hawkins was living at Alresford Hall and was the Rector's Church Warden, he paid for a new stained glass east window. The west end under the gallery was cleared with the Vestry moved to a newly built one south of the Chancel. The font was also restored.⁴³

Due to the expanding population of London and Essex on January 1st 1846, Alresford moved from the Diocese of London to the Diocese of Rochester. On March 23rd 1847, the marriage took place between the Baron de Linde, Attaché to the Legation of the Court of Wurtemberg, to Fanny the daughter of the late Colonel Affleck.⁴⁴ On December 3rd James Bale, aged 56, died at Alresford Hall.⁴⁵

In 1848, the wooden frames to the two windows to the south and north of the Nave were removed. A new pulpit, reading desk and stone window frames were installed. This was paid by a 3d rate for a year and 6d rate for two years.⁴⁶

For Christmas 1854, William and Harriette Hawkins MP donated a new Communion plate consisting of flagon, chalice, paten and alms dish in silver gilt in a wooden presentation box with an engraved dedication.⁴⁷ A stained glass window was also installed in the north wall of the Chancel in memory of Rev Swanson's mother, Mrs Willis.⁴⁸

The main rebuilding work took place in 1856 with the addition of a south aisle (8m x 2.5m) funded by Hawkins. The final service was held on Sunday 19th May, then they were held in Mr Wade's barn. On May 29th a foundation stone was laid by Mrs Hawkins. There was no architect, so Rev Swanson acted as supervisor and Mr Saunders of Dedham was builder. The south wall of the nave was dismantled and a new one built to the south. Three stone windows with stained glass, including the trefoil window in the west wall, were installed by Messer's Ward and Nixon of London.⁴⁹ Both two-light windows used blue, green and yellow glass and had a circular window above- the south-western being a blue spot-light. The trefoil window was a mosaic of blue, green, red and yellow glass

42. *ibid* p33

43. McCallum (1948) *An English Village*: p31

44. *Gentleman's Magazine* (1847) Volume 181 p.340

45. *ibid* p217

46. McCallum RJ (1948) p31

47. "An appropriate Christmas offering" in *Essex Standard*, Wednesday December 27th 1854

48. McCallum RJ (1948) p31

49. *Ibid* p38 The barn was probably at Heath Farm – held by Frederick Wade (Post Office Directory 1874)

with two straight yellow sides.⁵⁰

The south aisle was joined to the nave by an arcade of two arches⁵¹ using harder pink limestone.⁵² There was a new stone doorway with an oak door. The floor was tiled in the south aisle, nave and chancel. New open benches and seats were installed. A staircase and door from the 1843 vestry was added.⁵³

Other areas of the church were also modernized. The fourteenth chancel arch was replaced with a larger one allowing additional light to enter and better visibility for the congregation. The old nave roof was cleaned and varnished with new ribs, cornices and bosses added.⁵⁴ The walls were coloured, the Commandments were painted, the reading desk was altered and a new one purchased for the clerk.⁵⁵

The Parishioners also contributed to the restoration of St Peter's. A new stone porch was built from surplus material from the south wall and chancel arch. The existing porch was moved and became the Sexton's shed. The 1820s gallery was curtailed, and the seventeenth century Communion rails placed in front. The pews in the nave were varnished.⁵⁶ St Peter's was reopened four months later on Sunday 14th September.⁵⁷ Mrs Hawkins donated "*..a sweet-toned organ..*" to be played for the opening service.⁵⁸

In 1859, the church bell was found to be cracked and the turret to be in a dangerous condition that threatened the walls of the nave that supported it. In 1860, the walls were repaired, and the turret replaced except for the west tie-bar. The Rector paid for a new West window In the Nave. Messer's Warner of London cast a new bell. This work cost £120 paid from the rates and £45 from Rev Swanson.⁵⁹

The Hawkins Family also had a vault built⁶⁰ outside the west wall of St Peter's surrounded by a horizontal iron railing; and an engraved stone stands against the west wall of the south aisle, under the Trefoil window. The old elm fence around the churchyard was replaced with iron hurdles on the south and east paid for from the rates.⁶¹

In 1865, the Harvest collection was £3 11/-.⁶² In 1871, a stained glass window was installed in memory of Mrs Swanson with a brass plaque commemorating her husband in 1880.⁶³ In November 1877, Mrs Hawkins gave a

50. McCallum JR (1948) *An English Village* p38; *Alresford Advertiser* June/July 2021 p.6 Order of Service from May 29th 1856

51. *ibid* p31

52. Garwood A (1998) *Alresford, St Peter. A survey of the surviving remains* Transactions of the Essex Archaeology and History Society third series xxix p251

53. McCallum (1948) *The English Village*: p31

54. *ibid* p31

55. *ibid* p32

56. *ibid* p32; McCallum (1968) The Sexton's Shed was still in the Churchyard in 1968

57. *ibid* p.32

58. *Morning Chronicle* Wednesday April 22nd 1857

59. McCallum JR (1948) p32

60. *Essex Standard* Wednesday February 12th 1868

61. McCallum RJ (1948) *An English Village* p32

62. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 27 October 1865

63. McCallum RJ (1948) p.38

*"..handsome- harmonium,.being the third instrument donated.. "in 1877.*⁶⁴ In May 1877, Alresford was moved to the Diocese of St. Albans. In 1887, a fire was spotted in the chancel roof by a local labourer and extinguished.⁶⁵

In 1909, an extension to the Church yard was donated by the tenant of Church Farm.⁶⁶ In 1914, Alresford was moved to the Diocese of Chelmsford. In 1918, the five acres of glebe were sold.⁶⁷ The final building work undertaken was the insertion of a new east window after the First World War. This was designed by Morris & Company⁶⁸ in memory of the men of the village who had died, especially the Rev. Pritchard's two sons Lieutenants Rowland Prichard and Giles Prichard. This three-light window featured St Martin, St Peter and St George. Many more tones of each primary colours were used, than in previous windows installed at St Peter's; and St Martin's shoes were brown.⁶⁹ The remaining aperture measures 1.5m x 3.56m. A new organ was installed in the west gallery in memory of the Pritchard's', the gift of the Rev. FW Bussell DD, formerly Vice-Principal of Brasenose College.⁷⁰ A commemorative tablet to the late FW Hutchinson was placed in St Peter's after his death in 1935 by his parents, owners of Alresford Hall until 1924.⁷¹

Oil lamps were replaced with electric lighting during the 1930s.⁷² The churchyard was enlarged in 1948 and a repairs fund established.⁷³ In 1960, a Credence table was installed.⁷⁴ During the 1960s, choirboys were paid 2/-6 per week for attending all services, singing in the choir and solos.⁷⁵ In 1983, the bell was sold to St Mary's Mistley, and part of the font used in the new one at St Andrew's.⁷⁶

On the evening of Saturday 2nd October 1971, St Peter's caught fire and could not be saved.

64. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 23rd November 1877 p6

65. Essex Newsman Saturday January 15th 1887 p.4

66. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 19 March 1909

67. ERO SALE A/83 1918

68. The parish and manor of Alresford p.4

69. McCallum RJ (1948) p38

70. The parish and manor of Alresford p.4

71. McCallum (1948) p15

72. ibid p45

73. ERO D/P 336/26/4

74. ERO D/CF 99/3

75. Dolby C (2013) Operation Dolby The Ex-Copper Who Was Framed and Thrown in Jail for Playing it Straight p.276

76. Hedges J (2000) Alresford a century of village life in postcards and photographs p.35;

<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/CHR/ChurchDetails.aspx?id=2678#Interior> for St Mary's shows bell #2 was made in 1747 (the others in 1897) with a diameter of 29.5 made by Thomas

The War Memorial

Outside St Peter's Church a War Memorial was unveiled by the Bishop of Colchester on 2 June 1920¹ for the twelve members of the local community, who lost their lives in the First World War. Men from Alresford had fought throughout the Western Front, in Italy and on the battle-cruiser HMS Indefatigable (eight 12" guns), sunk at the

Battle of Jutland on May 31st 1916 by SMS Von der Tann. Only three of 1019 sailors survived.² In total 24 ships were sunk and c.9,000 men died.³

The Alresford memorial takes the form of a wheel cross on a tapering shaft atop a plinth with a single-step base. The whole is surrounded by a low, single-strand chain link fence and stands near to Church Road. The inscription is on the front face of the shaft, with the World War 1 and 2 inscriptions on the plinth.

Figure 6 -

TO THE GLORY OF
GOD
AND IN HONOURED
MEMORY OF
THE ALRESFORD MEN
WHO FELL IN THE
GREAT WAR
1914-1919



World War One

Herbert Arnold

Roger Bacon

Leslie Button

John Franklin

William Garrad

John Grimwood

Percy McKinley

Percy Mitchell

Giles Prichard

Rowland Prichard

Charles Rice

Frederick Rice

World War Two

Harry Cox

Jack Ellis

Kenneth Hart

Harry Pyke

Robert Wernham

Following the Second World War, a dedication was added to commemorate five local servicemen who died in that conflict in Tunisia, Singapore and north-west Europe. In 2004, the lettering was recut, and the memorial cleaned with the help of grant of £250 from the War Memorials Trust,⁴ and in 2018 the Memorial was Listed.⁵

Inside the graveyard, are the graves of Private Franklin, Lieutenant Giles Prichard and Lieutenant Rowland Prichard. There was also a commemorative window and organ in St Peter's Church. A legacy of £100 left by Lieutenants' Giles and Rowland Prichard for church purposes, had been invested in the War Loan, and the interest was paid half yearly to the churchwardens.⁶ On the February 3rd 1920, another brother, Captain Francis Pritchard RGA died from Typhus whilst serving with the British Military Mission, South Russia.⁷

1. Chelmsford Chronicle, 11 June 1920, p8

2. London C (2000) Jutland 1916 p45-6

3. ibid p88

4. War Memorials Trust (Spring 2006) Number 29 p.9
5. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1455457>
6. Kelly's Directory of Essex (1933)
7. The Times Tuesday February 24th 1920

St Andrew's Church

After St. Peter's Church burnt down on Saturday 2nd October 1971, the Congregation worshiped in the Village Hall¹ with the first service being a Harvest Festival the next day.² After four years of fund-raising, the 1975 Essex-barn style church of St. Andrew's and St Peter's was designed by Bryan Thomas and Partners.³ This is closer to the modern village centre, opened in March 1976 and was dedicated by the Bishop of Chelmsford on Palm Sunday 11th April 1976. St Andrew's is a flexible space that can sit 200 people.⁴

In 2013, St Andrew's opened an annexe, called The Hub⁵ again designed by Bryan Thomas. This provided much needed extra space for children's groups, mid-week groups and events including a fortnightly Internet/Book Cafe, Memories Cafe, Knit and Natter, Friendship Circle.⁶ A new entrance as well as a new Vestry and storage space were also added. The build cost around £440,000, mostly financed by church members, and was officially opened by the Bishop of Chelmsford on Sunday 17th November 2013⁷ and won a Merit Award for individual design at a celebration on 6 July 2015.⁸ There is a thriving congregation of 70 adults with a children's and youth ministry. This is also used by local groups, including bumps and babies, scramblers (for toddlers), Razmatazz (for 5 -11), Messy Church and Hang-out @ the Hub (Y6 upwards).⁹

The Rector is Rev Andrew Fordych (since October 2019) and is part of the Tenpenny Benefice with Elmstead and Frating with Thorrington Parishes.

1. ERO D/P 336/1/14
2. Hedges J (2000) Alresford p35
3. Bettley J, Pevsner N (2007) The Buildings of England: Essex p.87 They had earlier been commissioned for the house at Beth Chatto's garden, c.1960
4. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/history.html>
5. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/hub.html>
6. Ibid
7. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/history.html>
8. <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/news/article/excellence-in-design-and-craftsmanship-recognised>
9. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/hub.html>