



The Parish of
Dengie with Asheldham
Parish Profile Local Information



Appendix 4 Dengie with Asheldham



[St James Church Dengie Profile](#)



St. James has been described by visitors as; beautiful, tranquil, peaceful, thought provoking and that it promotes lovely and nostalgic memories. We hope that you can picture yourself joining us here ...

Information on the parishes of Dengie with Asheldham:

Location and local geography

St. James is in the village of Dengie, set within the rural outreaches of the county of Essex and is situated to the south of Tillingham.

The church itself stands on the west side of the parish surrounded by fields leading to the marshes and the North Sea, which can be observed as a strong silver line at high tide. The River Crouch can also be seen from the Church porch. The site therefore boasts extensive views, on a clear day it is possible to see as far as Kent.

Both villages are quite large in area with the land with a rolling expanse of fields, predominantly used for farming both as pasture and for a variety of crops. Therefore, the parish remains quite thinly populated, with approximately 300 inhabitants (for both Dengie and Asheldham). Situated within Asheldham is a working gravel extraction pit, as well as 'Dengie Crops Ltd.' which mainly dries, processes and dispatches crops grown within the region as feed, which is then sent around the country and is also widely exported. Dengie and Asheldham have a shared village hall, which is used by many for a variety of events and associations.



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Church History

St. James dates back to the Saxon times, but was thoroughly refurbished by one of its incumbents in the Victorian era. In 1955 the parishes of Dengie and Asheldham joined with Tillingham. The parish church of St. Lawrence, Asheldham closed a few years later, in 1975 it became a Diocesan Youth Church and in 1989 was extensively refurbished and modernised as a residential centre. St. James is a small Grade II listed building. The walls are septoria flint and pebble rubble with yellow 14th century and red Roman brick. In the 19th century rebuild, the bellcote was restored and the vestry and porch were added. The church and its furniture span the centuries giving it a unique and interesting charm. The graveyard surrounding the church ceased being used before the Second World War, the cemetery situated 200 yards from the church was established in 1942 and is still in use today, with a recently created cremation 'Garden of Remembrance'.

Schools

The children of both parishes attend the Church of England Primary School in Tillingham and the Secondary school Ormiston Rivers in Burnham-on-Crouch.

Village Hall

Dengie and Asheldham have a joint Parish Council that meets regularly in the Village hall to discuss the legal and environmental issues within the villages. Both villages are kept well informed on local events and church activities through the Parish magazine, produced in Tillingham, which is delivered free to every household within the three parishes.

The joint Village hall is used for; Polling Station, Training Days and Art Shows – it is also used for village and private shows, dances, quizzes, light entertainment, and weddings. The Hall is used by the church and regular joint fundraising events from suppers to quizzes unite the villages. Local clubs include; Tai Chi and two music and drama groups.

www.facebook.com/DengieVillageHall

St James Church, Dengie

As a PCC we are diverse in skills both practical and creative, the age ranges are mixed and we work well together to achieve church and village goals. The PCC members are also on a variety of church related committees, local and diocesan led.

Having a strong belief and commitment towards the local community the Friends of St James Church was set up over 10 years ago and numbers over a hundred, which is a great achievement for a small parish church. These friends range from regular worshippers to visitors who make trips to special events. Our Church Electoral Roll has also steadily risen and is currently at 16.



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As a PCC we have continued to strive to pay our Parish Share in full and have done so for over 10 years. At present we also have some monies in reserve for general running costs and future maintenance work.

Through change and vacancies we try to maintain weekly services, alternating weekly between an early morning Holy Communion, which is popular with worshippers, and a 3pm Evensong. Being a small church, worshippers enjoy the intimacy and atmosphere St. James creates.

Throughout the church's yearly calendar a number of special events and services have also been created, where the church is usually full. From the traditional times of Christmas, Easter and Harvest to events on St. James Day celebrated with flower shows, art and costume exhibitions, with past church records on display and refreshments served in the churchyard. We also hold Animal Services and concerts.

The PCC are very committed to maintaining what has been achieved at St. James over the past years and would like to continue with keeping the church fabric in good order for future generations.

We are therefore hoping you will share our interest in uniting the whole community and that with your sound theological foundation you can lead and support us in enabling the continuous growth of our Christian ethos. That you will foster our vision and awareness of involving the younger generations, as they are our future and we hope you will also recognise the potential in us and our parishes for further development.

2015 Statistics

Electoral Roll members	16
Average fortnightly communicants	9
Average attendance at special services	30
Christmas Attendance (2014)	26
Easter Day Attendance	9
Easter Songs of Praise Attendance	15
Baptisms	0
Weddings (<i>Currently 2 Weddings have been booked for 2016</i>)	1
Funerals	1
Confirmations	0
Average Service Attendees at Church in 2015	12



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The Asheldham Centre



The Centre, formerly known as 'Asheldham Youth Church' is part of The Diocese of Chelmsford's provision for youth under the auspices of the Registered Charity 'Adventure Unlimited'. Clients are of all ages from across the country not just Essex and east London....and not just youth.

The current centre manager's mission is to primarily provide a base for the development through leisure time activities of physical, mental, and spiritual growth so that those who experience the uniqueness of Asheldham may grow to full maturity as 'well rounded' members of society.

Asheldham offers the opportunity for groups to come and organise their own programme, or they can be assisted, on request, by trained professionals.

<http://www.theasheldhamcentre.com/>

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