



The Parish of
Tillingham

Parish Profile Local Information



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[Location](#)

The village of Tillingham in the Parish of St Nicholas is situated in the south-east corner of England, on the eastern edge of the Dengie Peninsula. It is 25 miles east of Chelmsford and a short distance from the North Sea coast with the River Blackwater to the north and River Crouch to the south.

London Liverpool Street Station can be reached within 1.5 hours from Southminster Station, 6 miles from Tillingham, and the village is fortunate to have still a rural bus service which operates from early morning and connects to the railway stations in Southminster (all day) and Burnham on Crouch (between 9am and 4pm).

[The Village](#)

Tillingham has a population of around 900 with approx. 14% under 18 and 22% 65 and over. Most of the working population work outside the village.

It has a privately run Village Store and Post Office, a small gift shop and hairdressers, two very popular public houses and a doctors' surgery.



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Robert MacFarlane, Fellow of Emmanuel College Cambridge, when asked on Radio 4 for his opinion of the most beautiful remote area in England answered, "The Dengie Peninsula." This can also be seen from the tranquillity map provided by the Campaign to Protect Rural England which shows the Peninsula as the last large area of quiet surrounded by far less tranquil areas.

The Church

There has been a religious presence in the area since 604AD. St Nicholas Church is a Grade II* listed building dating from Norman times and has the Dean and Chapter of St Pauls as its Patron. Over the years it has had many additions and alterations as might be expected, especially during the Victorian era when the church was extended with the addition of the South Aisle and porch.

During 2001, and again in 2008, major refurbishment works were carried out to both the main part of the church but also to the tower, including restoration work on the bells.

A few years ago a faculty was granted to carry out major changes to the church. It has recently been refurbished by installing a new oak floor, seating, lighting and heating. It is now planned to raise funding for a toilet and better catering facilities. By doing this we hope to make the church a more pleasant place to worship and gather. It is also hoped to attract more people to use the building than at present. Possibilities include providing some form of parent and toddler group, Messy Church, perhaps a weekly coffee morning and concerts.

We have been particularly gratified at the responses of many people attending weddings and baptisms since this refurbishment, all of which have been very positive.

St Nicholas has recently had its Quinquennial Report and we are pleased that there is nothing particularly major to carry out. The majority is remedial work to the stonework of the building.

There is a Friends of St Nicholas Church. They raise funds to finance the fabric repairs of the church.

There is a Parish Paper, sponsored and produced by the PCC, which is delivered free to all houses in Tillingham, Dengie and Asheldham parishes, as well as being sent out to others out of the area, such as previous parishioners who wish to remain in touch. It contains details of the church, spiritual support, articles and local information, as well as advertisements many of whom are local trades people.

There is a weekly Fellowship Group of 10-12 people which meets for bible study each Tuesday. Since the retirement of our priest, they have been running short courses of 3-4 weeks written by one of their number on a variety of subjects.

The Fellowship Group often hold a Lent Course, but all of us are encouraged to attend Diocesan-led courses too at Lent and Easter, as well as other events.

We are thus enabling ourselves through this encouragement of growth and learning.



Church Organisation

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and committees

The parish has its own PCC decision-making body which meet bimonthly'

Church Social Activities

Harvest Supper

Parish Barbeque

Strawberry Teas

St Pauls Cathedral

The Parish Church has very strong links with St. Paul's Cathedral, in London. The Corporation of the Cathedral Church of St Paul in London owns three arable farms and domestic properties in Tillingham. Links go back to 604 in the 7th Century and the Cathedral remains the patron of the Church

2015 Statistics

Electoral Roll members	33
Average weekly communicants	18
Average attendance at special services	40
Christmas Attendance	73
Easter Day Attendance	45
Baptisms	1
Weddings	3
Funerals (with burial of Ashes)	9
Confirmations	1
Average Service Attendees at Church in 2015	22



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St Nicolas Church Vision

We have been working towards the goals in Bishop Stephen's "Transforming Presence" document. Towards this end, several of the congregation have attended various workshops and conferences, including some discussing the planned Mission and Ministry Units.

The church community is strong and united and is keen to encourage people to come into the church to take part in events that we feel there is a great need for.

The Parish Hopes:

We hope for a person with the necessary qualities to maintain the strong pastoral work in the parish. They should be a person of principle with sound theological underpinning, a teacher and leader, but also a team player who will enable the laity to find, and use, their gifts. They should be able to relate easily to all their parishioners by listening and supporting appropriately.

The previous incumbent was vicar for the joint benefice of St Nicholas and St James parishes and was here for over eleven years. Experience of a multi-parish benefice would be an advantage but this is obviously not essential.

We would like to see someone that can lead and direct us to action and who has experience in relationship building in parishes.

We feel we are a learning church, keen to engage in the community and are committed to the benefice and its welfare.

Our Strengths and Weaknesses

Weaknesses

- Whilst there have been problems in the past between the church and the village, relationships are now improving and we hope that the new priest will be able to continue to help us with this healing process.
- We acknowledge that there is a need to reach out more to the local community.

Strengths

- We are extremely fortunate to have two churchwardens, a licensed lay minister, two authorised local preachers, a pastoral assistant and an evangelism enabler. There are currently 33 on the electoral roll.
- We are hugely supported by a number of volunteers who help with maintenance of the churchyard (still in use), flowers, cleaning, and bell ringing.
- We have a peal of six bells which are rung regularly on Sundays as well as practice night. Many villagers comment on how good it is to hear them. They are also used when required at funerals and weddings and by visiting bell ringing teams by prior arrangement.



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- Whilst we do not have a choir, we do have a regular pipe organist for the Holy Communion services, and a group providing the music for the Sunday Worship, including an electronic piano and guitars. We do have several people that can be called upon to play the keyboard/organ if required.

Services

Since entering into the vacancy period we have kept to the already established pattern of services. To enable this we have been able to arrange to hold Holy Communion twice a month on the second and fourth Sundays with the assistance of a visiting priest; the first and third Sundays are laity led Sunday Family Worship services. Sunday congregations are between 20 and 25 people although this obviously increases at times such as Easter and Christmas. A said Morning Worship service is held every Wednesday with an average attendance of nine. All services are followed by coffee which enables the congregation to have social interaction. On those occasions when there is an additional fifth Sunday in the month, we have in the past held a joint service with St James Dengie or Tillingham Congregational Church, but more recently have remained at St Nicholas. The congregation varies in age but the majority of people are over 50.

A plan has been designed which shows that, despite having five centres of worship in the four parishes, services can be arranged to suit all. We are happy to support this should it be taken up by the new priest.

Finance and Statistics

We have always endeavoured to pay as much of our Parish Share as possible, to varying degrees. In 2014 we have been fortunate to be able to do so. This seems unlikely this year due to the re-ordering work being carried out.

During 2014 we held one baptism, one thanksgiving for the birth of a child, one wedding and two funerals. Our average weekly attendance was 21. Easter Day had 45 in the congregation (36 took Communion), Advent Sunday had 73 present, Christmas Eve Midnight Service 37 (30 taking Communion) and our Nine Lessons and Carol Service had 73.

Schools

There is a local Pre-School held in the Village Hall for children from two years of age. It is a Registered Charity. It is very popular and has close links with the Primary School where the majority of the children progress when old enough. The children are encouraged in many areas in preparation for this. The Pre-School recently achieved "Good" in their OFSTED inspection.

Tillingham has a primary school, St Nicholas' Church of England (VC) Primary School. They also achieved "Good" in their latest OFSTED inspection. Each week a member of the laity holds an assembly at the school and at times such as Christmas, Easter and harvest they hold services in the church itself. The Board of Governors should include a member of the PCC on it. Unfortunately this position is currently vacant.

The School Council were approached for their thoughts and ideas about where we live and



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what they would see as requirements for a new priest. Their answers are very interesting:-

What is good about Tillingham village? It's not crowded, most people know each other, the surrounding countryside makes it colourful to live here.

What is good about Tillingham church? It has colourful windows, the new seating is nice and comfy.

What do you think the new priest should be like? Kind and respectful, funny - cheering people up, neighbourly. They should come into school more, get pupils involved - interactive assemblies, share more information and stories.

What could they do for your school? Come into school more often, wear a badge, so we know who they are, help younger learn their prayers, use pictures and display the prayers, tell stories.

What could they do for the village? Say hello to people they see around the village, be jolly.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a south facing, modern detached house in a quiet cul de sac within Tillingham village. It has a self-contained hallway leading off from which is a room that was used by the previous incumbent as their study. This keeps the private living area and work area separate. The living area comprises a large through-lounge suitable for use as both a family room or for meetings if required and has a patio door leading into the rear garden. There is an open plan dining room/kitchen. Upstairs there are five bedrooms, one ensuite, and a family bathroom. There is no mains gas in Tillingham but the Vicarage has LPG piped in through bottles. Central heating is oil fired and the tank is at the side of the house in the rear garden.

Outside there is a double garage to the left with a lift up and over door to the front and pedestrian access from the rear garden. It has lights and power sockets. The gardens are mostly laid out to lawn with shrub borders. The rear one is fairly large and has frequently been the venue for a Parish BBQ. It has a greenhouse to the side.

Village Hall

There is a cricket pavilion and a village hall that are used for a range of social events and clubs.

Village Clubs

WI, Hobbies club, Wednesday Club, Football, Cricket and Green Bowls



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Other Christian establishments, organizations and activities in the parishes

Tillingham Congregational Chapel - Pastor P Grove

Services

11.00 am

6.00 pm (4.00 pm in winter)

Sunday School 11.00 am. Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 7.00 pm.



END