

CHURCHES AND PLACES  
OF WORSHIP  
IN BASILDON BOROUGH

James Nason  
2021





BASILDON





## Fryerns Baptist Church

Built in 1954 the Baptist Church was built on a site previously occupied by Fryerns Farm, and was the first new church built in the New Town.





## Holy Cross Church

Holy Cross' Chapel was first mentioned in 1230 though the church records start around 400 years after.

The land was owned by the Botelers whose manor now only remains in the moat that still exists today, behind Fryerns library, and is a scheduled site. The Botelers are remembered in a nearby road name.

The nave was built in the 1300's with the tower being built around 1500. The timber porch was built in the 15th Century, covering a door that was built during the previous Century.

The last rectory was built in 1869 and survived for nearly 100 years before it was demolished to make way for Ford's Tractor Plant. It replaced an earlier building on Honeypot Lane.



A church hall was opened in 1932 on Rectory Road, Basildon. This was also lost when the Tractor Plant was built.





## Kingswood Baptist Church

The Baptist Church was built on former farm land and opened in October 1958.

Today it stands next to Codenham Straight, but when it was built this was part of Clay Hill Road.





## Salvation Army

A Salvation Army Hall opened in Laidon, near the Winston Social Club, in 1932. It stayed in used until around 1970.





## St. Andrew's

Opened in 1956, St. Andrews was the first Church of England church to be opened in the New Town.

The church is on Fremnells, next to Broadmayne.





## St. Martin of Tours

St. Martins was opened in November 1962. A statue of St Martin has stood in the Memorial Gardens since they were opened in 1973.

The stained glass was added in 1989 and the War Memorial was added in the 1990's.

At the New Town celebrated its 50th birthday in 1999, the official opening of the glass belltower attended by The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.





## United Reformed Church

Built in 1960 as the Pitsea and Basildon Congregational Church it became the United Reformed Church after a merger with the Presbyterian Church.







BILLERICAY



## Billericay Baptist Church

A former United Reformed Church.





## Billericay Evangelical Free Church

This small church stands on Chapel Street, which opened as The Gospel Hall in 1906.

It later became a Undenominational Church before changing back to The Gospel Hall and then, finally, the Evangelical Church.





## Billericay Methodist Church

The current church, on Western Road, was opened in 1964 but the first part of the construction began in 1926.





## Billericay Spiritualist Centre

The centre is on West Park Crescent near the train station.





## Christ Church

The church started life as a Mission Hut in 1933. The current building was opened in December 1965.

The Mission Hut was demolished for a new hall to be built, which began in 1981.





## Emmanuel Church

Emmanuel Church was built on the former site of Archer Hall. The Hall was demolished in 1991.





## Mary Magdalen

The Church of Mary Magdalen stands on the High Street by the entrance to Chapel Street.

A chapel was built on the site, probably during the 14th Century with the tower being constructed in the 15th century. The chapel was rebuilt in the 1700's, with an extension added in the 1840's.

The clock on the tower was installed in 1897 to commemorate the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign.

Renovations were carried out in the 1950's, which also linked it to the Church House next door. It was during 1955 that the church was Grade II listed. Further renovations were carried out during the 1970's.





## The Most Holy Redeemer

The Catholic church of The Most Holy Redeemer was first opened in March 1914. Prior to this a house had been bought in Billericay High Street for mass to be held in 1909.

Work was carried out in 1981 to add and extension, an organ and more seating to the church.





## Quakers Meeting House

The Red House was opened as a Meeting House in 1958. The building itself is thought to date from the 1920's and was built on the lands occupied by South Lodge.

Quaker's have been meeting in Billericay since the late 1600's when they purchased a house.





## Queens Park Community Church

The church building was opened in 2003 to serve the growing community in the Queens Park area.





## St. John The Devine

The church serves the Outwood Common area of Billerica.





## United Reformed Church

The former burial ground of a previous reformed church still exists today. It can be found along Chapel Street, behind Waitrose.

The Congregational Church, now the United Reformed Church, was built in 1838. Services and functions were also held in Rose Cottage, opposite the church.

Further along Chapel Street is Mayflower Hall, built in 1926 and named after the ship that several dissenters travelled on to the New World. It was this religious movement that eventually became the United Reformed Church.

For a short time, the 'non-conformists' held meetings in the building that is now the Ask Italian restaurant.







BOWERS  
GIFFORD



## Elim Pentecostal Church

The Elim Pentecostal Church was created in Ireland during 1915.

The Church on Gun Hill was built as a Congregational Chapel in 1884 and was bought by the Elim Pentecostal Church in 1941.





## Pound Lane Mission Church

'Basildon: A Pictorial History' by Jessie K. Payne tells us that the church was built using the brickwork from Pitsea Mill, which had burnt down at the end of the 19th Century.



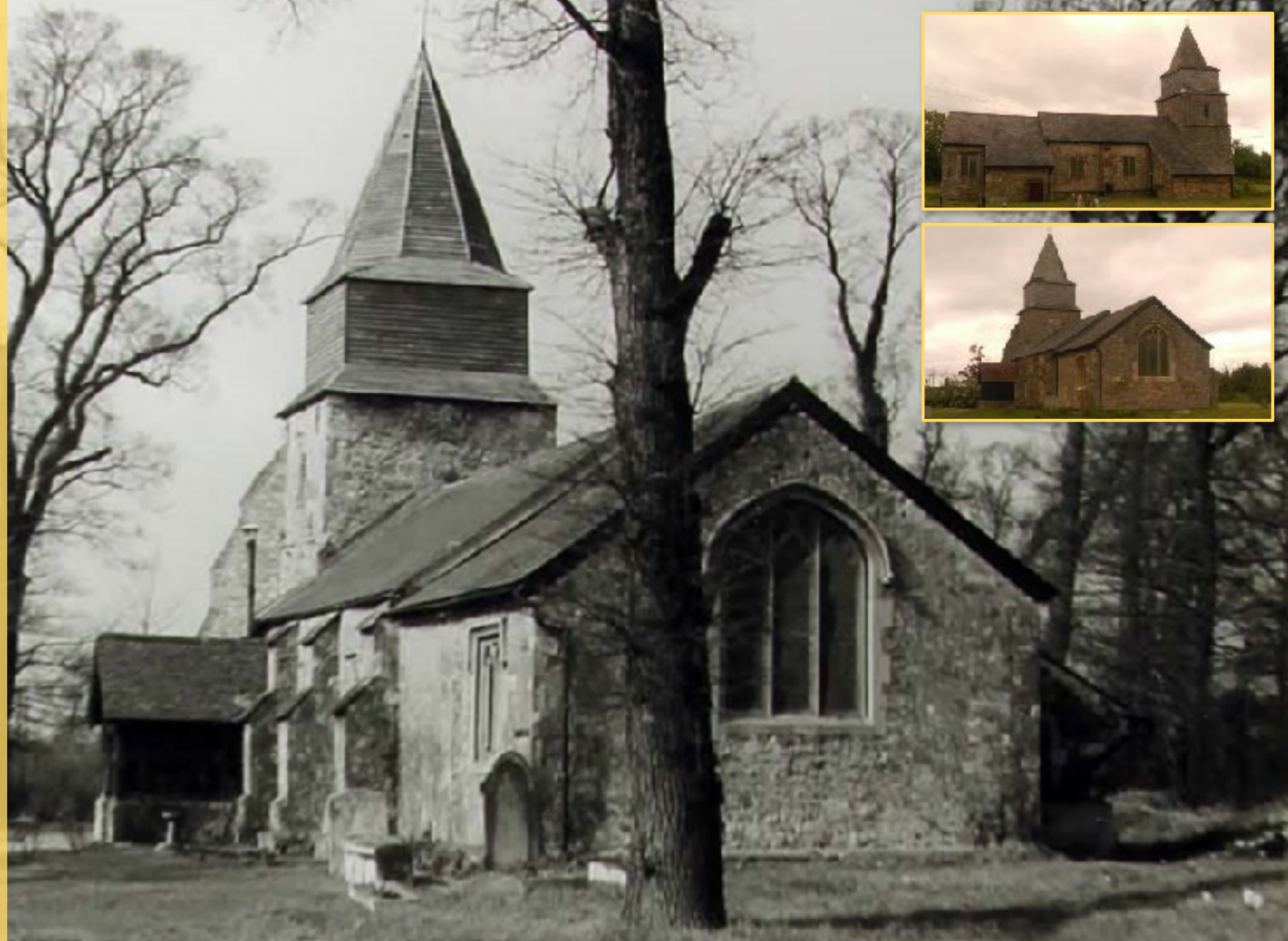


## St. Margaret's of Antioch

At the bottom of the hill, at the end of Church Road, having gone past The Old Rectory and Bowers Hall, is the Church of St. Margaret's.

The church is Grade II listed and was first built in the 1300's by Sir John Giffard, with additions being added 300 years later and incorporated in to the renovations in 1910.

In the churchyard is the large family grave of Harold George Howard, the man responsible for the mock-Tudor look in Pitsea's town centre, and the War Memorial in Howard's Park.







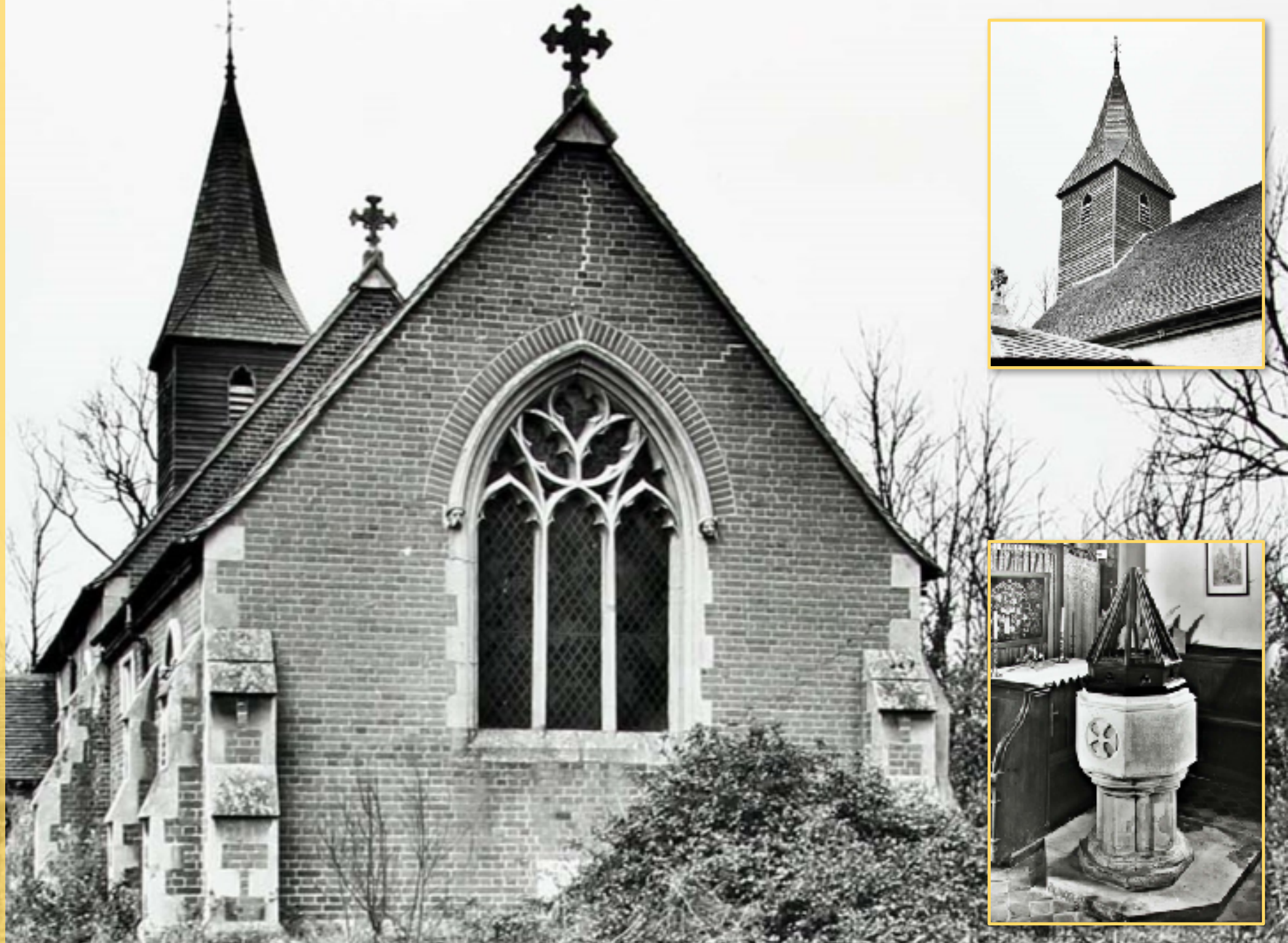
DUNTON



## St. Mary The Virgin

Once serving the parish of Dunton and Bulphan, the church closed in 1979 and has been a private residence since 1985.

The church was rebuilt in 1873 but stands on a site occupied by a medieval church. The church contained several items dating from the 13th century, including the font.







GREAT  
BURSTEAD



## St. Mary Magdalene's

At the centre of life in the village of Great Burstead for around 800 is the Grade I listed St. Mary Magdalene's Church.

Mary Magdalene's is of Norman origin but most of the current church was built in the 1300 and 1400's. The porches were built during the 16th Century though one is almost hidden behind a large tree.

Beneath this tree are several graves that have been well preserved by the cover provided by the branches and its evergreen leaves. One of these graves appears to be of 'John Reve' a 'Citizen and draper of London' who died in 1665.

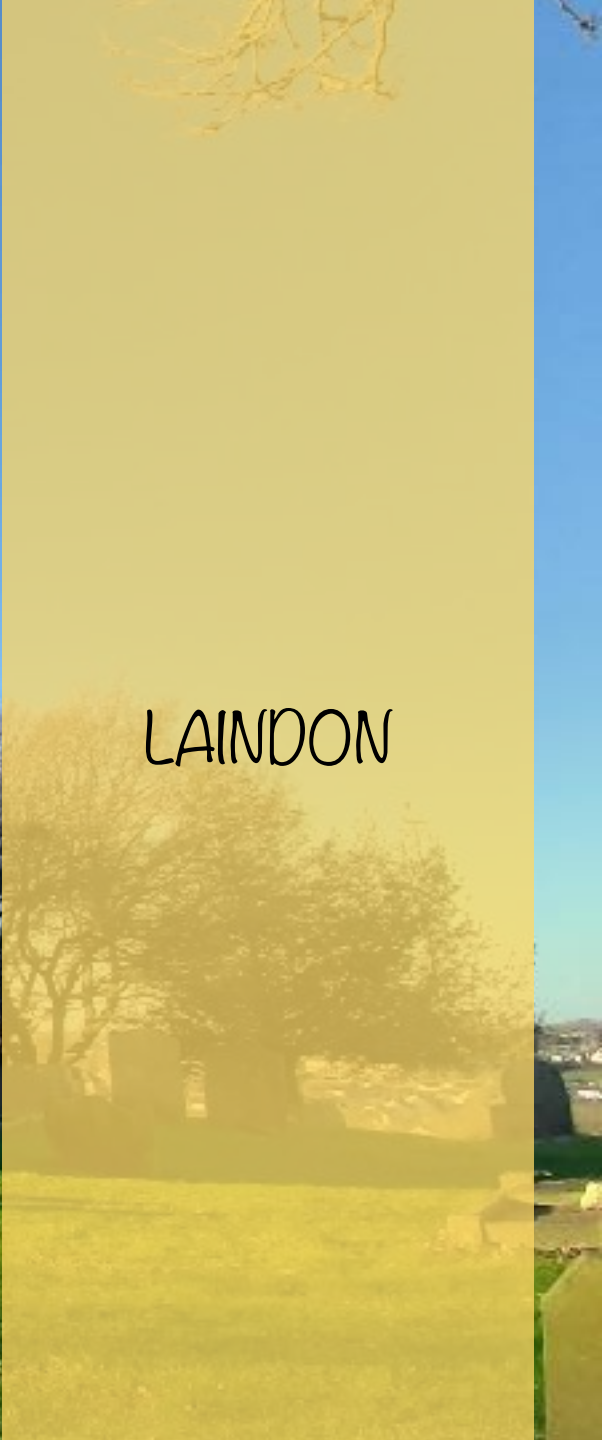
Christopher Martin was one of a small number of locals that travelled to America on the Mayflower in 1620. Martin was born in the area and was the churchwarden for a time.







LAINDON





**The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-Day Saints**

The church, on Laindon Link, held its first service in 1972.









## Laindon Christadelphians

The Christadelphian Hall was opened in 1958 on Basildon Drive, Laindon.

It closed in 2019 having been used as an Open Bible Learning Centre before relocating to the Reading Rooms in Billericay High Street.



CHRISTADELPHIANS



## Manor Mission

The Manor Mission non-denominational church was founded in 1919 and was based in the Manor Hall on High Road, Laindon.

The church moved in to its current home in 1926.





## Noak Bridge Christian Centre

Built on Wash Road as Central Hall in 1905 the Christian Centre was built to serve the nearby plotland homes that had appeared at the start of the 20th century.

It has since been renovated.



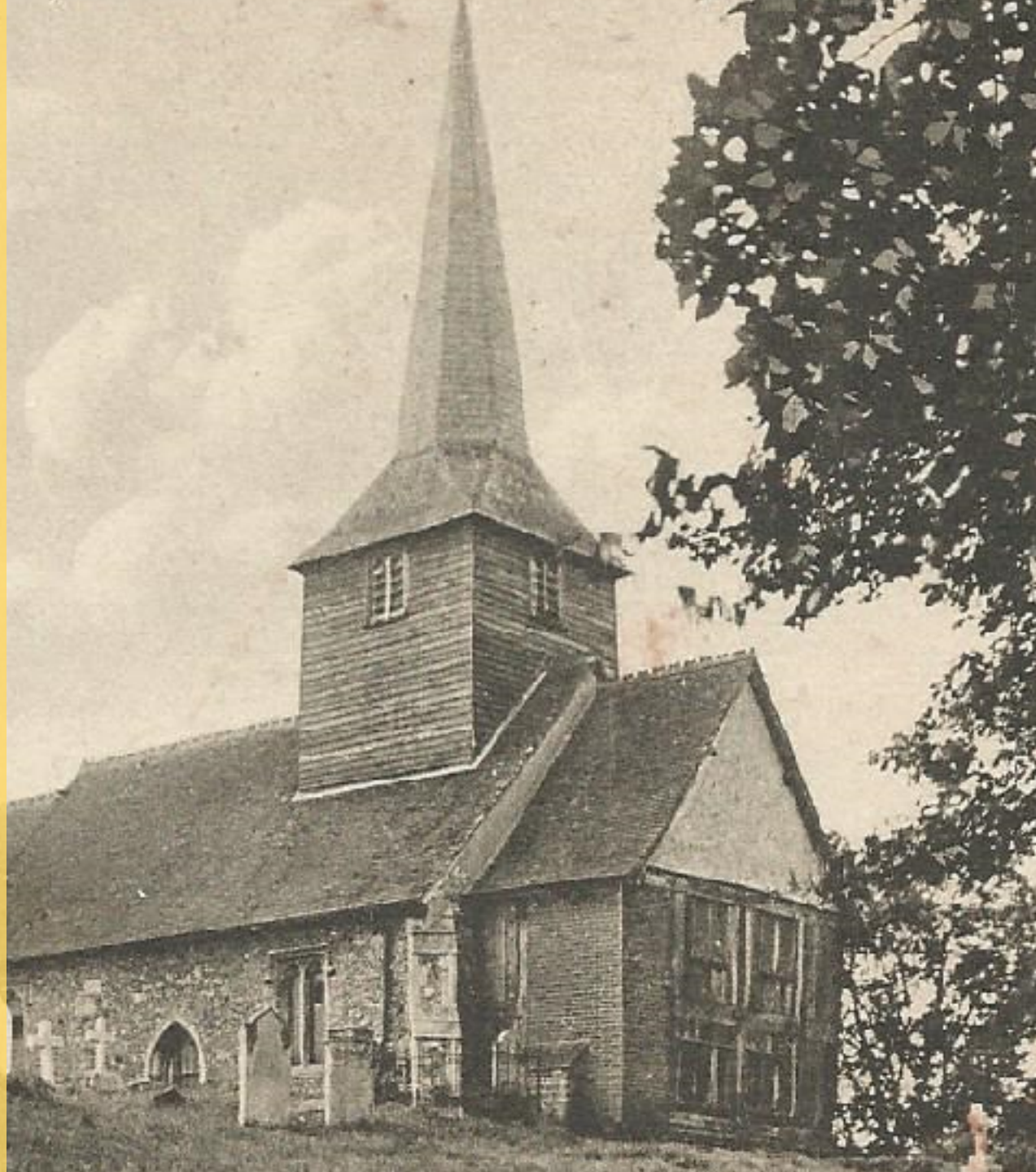


## St. Nicholas

A church has sat on top of Church Hill since the Norman era. The current church is Grade 1 listed and still contains parts of this original building but most of it was built during the 1300's and the wooden tower dates from the early part of the same century.

A priest house was added in the 1500's and was used as a school for over 250 years. One of the longest serving teachers at the school was James Hornsby. When Nicholas Comprehensive and Laindon School merged in 1998 the new school was named after him.

The church hall, a wooden building, stood where the churches car park now is. It burned down in 1930 and was replaced with a more permanent structure off of Pound Lane. It was demolished around 60 years later.





## St. Theresa's Catholic Church

The church was established in 1925 and the chapel was moved there from the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

St Theresa's was closed in 1991 and replaced by St. Therese of Lisieux in Laindon.



St. Peter's Church

A Church of England church stood just off of Laindon High Road, where it meets St. Nicholas Lane.





**Temple of Light  
Christian Spiritualist Church**

After 7 years of construction work the Temple of Light opened in 1973. Services had been held at the British Legion on Laindon for nearly 30 years.







LANGDON HILLS



## Laindon Baptist Church

The Church School opened in 1934 and this was linked to the church in the 1970's.





## Dry Street Memorial Church

A small wooden Mission Hut had provided a space for services in the Dry Street area since the 1880's but as the population began to grow it was decided that a larger building was required.

Dry Street Memorial Church was opened in October 1931. The church was funded by Mr T.W. Cook as a Memorial to himself.

The hall was added in the 1950's.

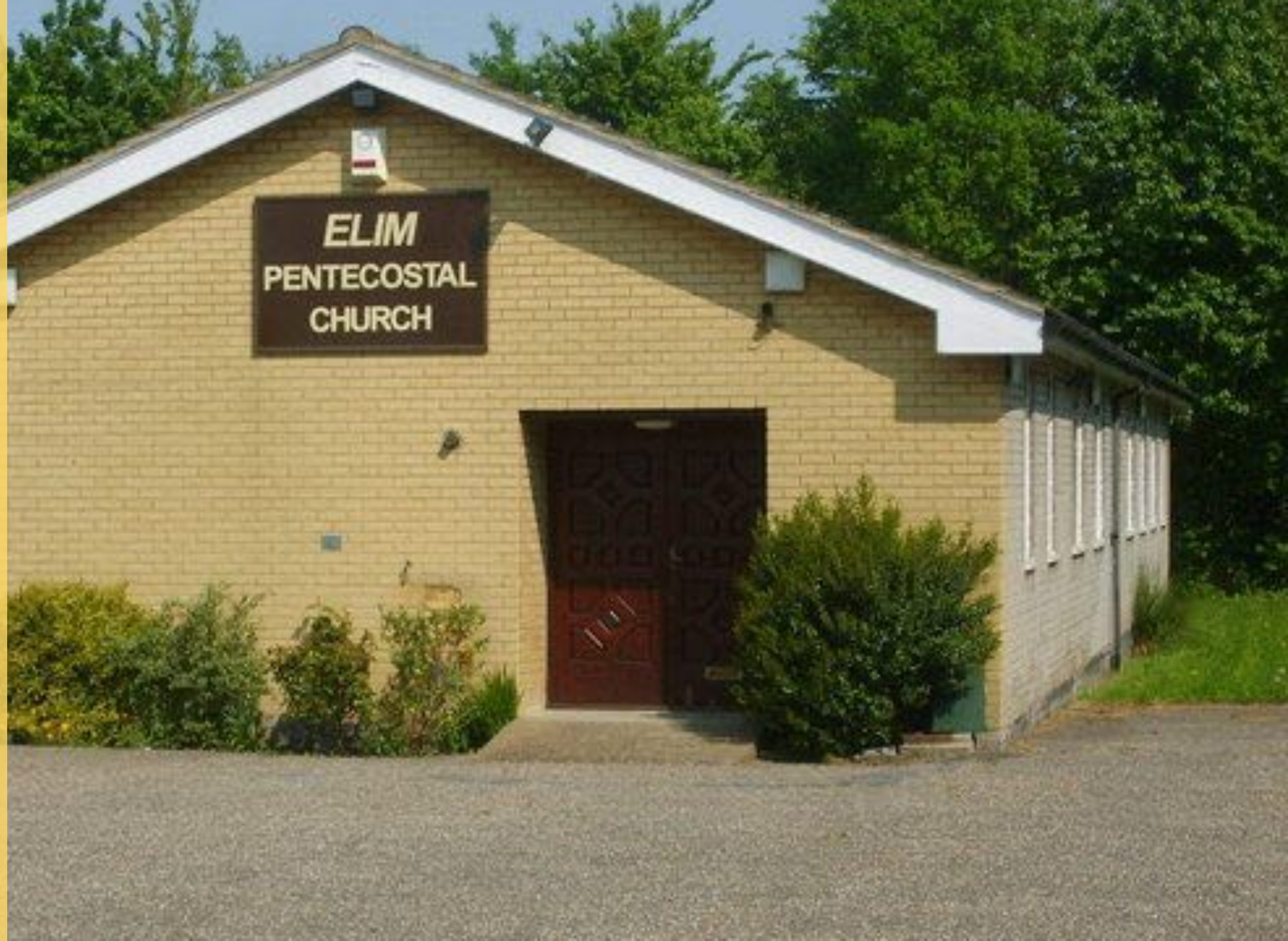




## Elim Pentecostal Church

The first Pentecostal Church opened in 1932 on High Road, Langdon Hills and stayed in use until 1977.

The existing church was opened in 1978.





## Langdon Hills Methodist Church

The first part of the church, which is now a church hall, was built in 1907 as the Nightingale Mission Hall.

During the 1930's the hall was enlarged and became part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain, having been a Wesleyan Church.

A new church was built behind the hall in the early 1950s.





## St. John The Evangelist

Built on the former Berry Park plotland site, the church opened in 1991.

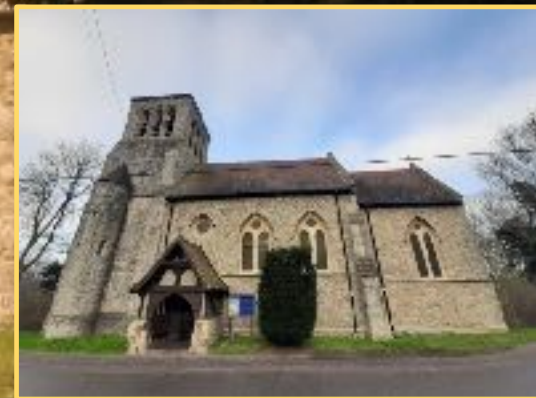




## St. Mary and All Saints

St. Mary's and All Saints' Church has stood on High Road, Langdon Hills since 1876. It is a short walk from The Crown Hotel and the old School House, which is now a private residence.

It replaced St. Mary's and All Saints Church on Old Church Road, and now stands in Thurrock.





## St. Therese of Lisieux

Built in 1991 on Florence Way the church replaced St. Theresa's church in Langdon Hills.







LEE CHAPEL



## Ingaway Evangelical Church

Opened in 1962 as the Ingaway Chapel, it replaced the Ebenezer Gospel Hall which had been compulsory purchased by the Basildon Development Corporation.

In the early years of the 21st century it became the Ingaway Evangelical Church.





## The Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church

The current church was opened in 1980 and was enlarged in 2012.

Prior to this, services were held in the Roundacre church hall from 1963 until 1972 when they moved to a large hall in Wickhay.





## St. Paul's Methodist Church

Methodist's had been meeting in Lee Chapel North since the early 1960's.

The church was opened in June 1968.







LITTLE  
BURSTEAD



## St. Mary The Virgin

Heading away from Little Burstead, along Rectory Road, towards Dunton is the Grade II listed St Mary the Virgin Church.

Originally built in the 1100's the south doorway was added in the 1300's and most of the fabric of the church dates from the 15th and 16th Century.







NEVENDON



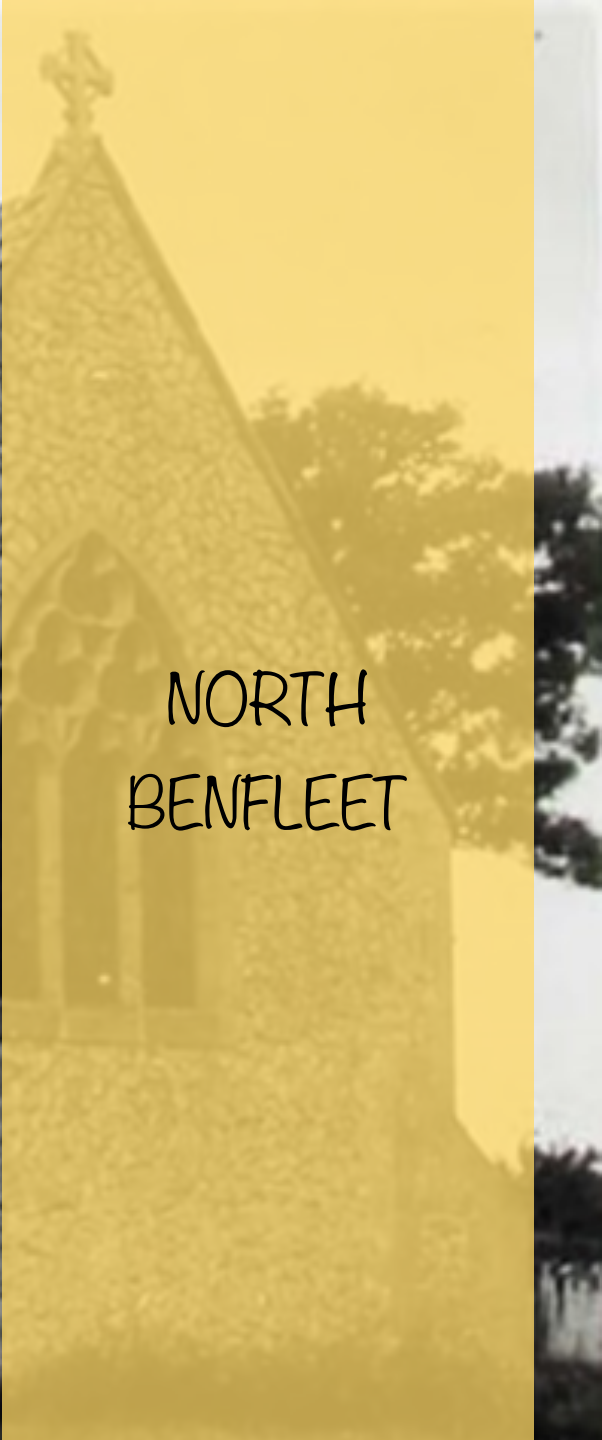
## St. Peter's

The British Listed Buildings website shows the St Peters to be of 13th Century origin with restoration work being carried out in the 1850's.

The wooden bell 'cote' is thought to have been built in the 17th Century whilst the chancel windows are considered to be 13th Century and have medieval stonework.







NORTH  
BENFLEET



## All Saints

Sitting on the hill at the top of North Benfleet Hill Road is the 14th Century All Saint's Church, though parts of the building may be Norman. The church was rebuilt in the 1600's and restored 200 years later.

The tower was built in 1903 and contains wood from the structure of the previous tower.

The church fell in to disuse in 1996 but has recently become an orthodox church and has been used weekly since 2013.







PITSEA



## Bread of Life International Ministries

The first services were held in a classroom of Bardfield Primary School in Vange during 2005.

They are now based on Rushley, Felmores.





## St. Gabriel's

St. Gabriel's was opened in September 1964 on land once managed from Shophouse Farm. There has been a St. Gabriel's Chapel on Rectory Road many years before.

The church was built as a replacement for St. Michael's which stood on Pitsea Mount.





## St. Michael's

The Church of Saint Michael's sits atop Pitsea Mount and overlooks the town of Pitsea as well as Pitsea marshes.

The view from the top of the mount is obscured by the trees and bushes that have grown now the churchyard is no longer tended as it once was. This isn't to say that the area isn't looked after. The church fell in to disuse during the early 1980's and was confirmed as redundant in 1983.

In 1998 the main body of the church was removed, the site tidied and the tower used to house a mobile phone mast. The tower is thought to date from the 1600's but the main body of the church was rebuilt in the 1870's.

Next to the remaining tower lies the grave of Ann Freeman who died on 20 March 1879. Below her name it reads 'Here lies a weak and sinful worm, the vilest of her race. Saved through Gods electing love, his free and sovereign grace.' This appears to be a 'prayer' rather than a character reference.

St. Michael's Church Hall was opened on Rectory Lane, Pitsea in 1924. It was replaced by housing in the 1980's.









## Wesleyan Methodist Church

The Pitsea Wesleyan Methodist Church opened on Brackendale Avenue in 1929. It later moved to Felmores End where it became Felmores Methodist Church.

The building is now known as Pitsea Mount Community Centre.







RAMSDEN  
BELLHOUSE





## St. Mary The Virgin

Records of the church date back to 1281 and the wooden tower dates from the 15th century, as do the main timbers in the roof.

The main timbers in the porch date from the 1300's, though this has been restored in the 20th century.

The church of St Mary the Virgin is Grade II listed. It was 'remodelled' in the 1800's.







RAMSDEN CRAYS





## St. Mary's

The Church of St. Mary in Ramsden Crays is now a privately owned residence. It became Grade II listed in 1955, the majority of the church was rebuilt in the 1870s.

The tower and spire appear to date from the 1600's.





**Mahamevnawa Meditation Centre  
Crays Hill**

The Mahamevnawa Buddhist monasteries were founded in Sri Lanka during 1999.

The Crays Hill centre was opened in 2007.







VANGE





## All Saints

The Grade II\* listed All Saints Church can trace its origins back to the Normans. The font is thought to date from the 1100's with many other features built during the 1400's. The list of rectors goes back to 1328. All Saints Church is considered to be the oldest building in Basildon Borough.

The last service at All Saint's church was held in 1994 and has since been managed and maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. Visitors can now spend time in the church between 10am and 3pm.

All Saints Church Hall was opened in February 1932.





## Gordon Mission Hall

The hall was opened in November 1901 as a Free Church. In 1954 they merged with the New Town Methodist Church, which was built close by.

The land was given for the building of the Mission Hall on the understanding that it was named after General Gordon.

Major-General Charles George Gordon (1833-1885) had served in the British Army for over 30 years when he was killed in Khartoum, Sudan. He was a veteran of the Crimean War.

There are a number of foundation stones on the building with the name of those that laid it, some of them showing the year 1901.

One of these stones was laid by Mrs T. Dalrymple who was living in 'Bassildon' at the time.

A stone on the front wall bears the name of H. Bridger Builders of Vange.





## St. Basil the Great

The Catholic church of Our Lady & All Saints, better known as St Basil the Great, was built in 1956.

It was fourth church built in the New Town.





## St. Chad's

St. Chad's opened in 1958

Vange War Memorial was moved to its current location outside the church from Paynters Mead, where it was erected in 1923.



## St. Paul's Chapel

In 1939 part of All Saint's Church Hall was converted for worship. This was replaced when St. Chad's opened in 1958.





## Swan Mead Christian Fellowship

The Church at Swan Mead stands on Church Road.





## Trinity Methodist Church

Opened in 1960 local worshippers used a number of venues from 1953, including Gordon Mission Hall.







WICKFORD





## Christ Church

Tucked away just off of the High Street, by the Ladygate Centre, is Christ Church United Reformed Church and Methodist Church.

The building dates from 1974 with the previous Congregational Church, in the High Street, being demolished in 1972, having stood for nearly 100 years. During World War 2 the church was used as a British Restaurant.



The previous church stood in Runwell Road from 1811 but it was prone to flooding. The site in the High Street was purchased in 1875.

The graveyard from this first church can still be visited on Runwell Road.





## Jersey Gardens Gospel Hall

The former Jersey Gardens Gospel Hall, once known as the Assembly Rooms, is now used by the Seventh-Day Adventists.









## New Life Church

New Life Church was founded in Wickford in 1983. For some time, they occupied a gospel hall in Jersey Garden before moving to a larger building in South Woodham Ferrers.

Their current home, Miracle House, was started in 2013 and the church opened in 2014.





## Our Lady of Good Counsel

The current church building, on London Road, was opened in 1972 and is at least the third different Catholic Church in Wickford.





## Salvation Army

The Salvation Army have been based in Jersey Gardens since 1925 but at the turn of the 20th' century they used the clubroom at the Quart Pot on Runwell Road.

The group were based in a 'citadel' on Runwell Road for some time, on a site behind that now occupied by the Royal British Legion.





## Shotgate Baptist Church

The church originally opened as a Baptist Church in 1926, based on Runwell Road. In 1927 a group was founded in Shotgate and all services moved to the village in 1929 when the Runwell Road site was sold.

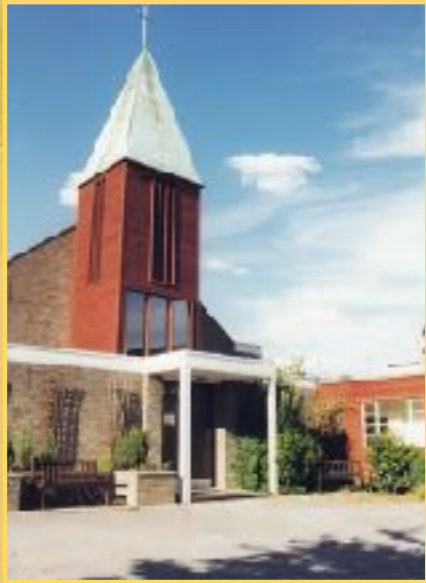
The current site has been in use since 1930 but the current church dates from 1961. The hall was added 10 years later.





## St. Andrew The Apostle

The current St. Andrew's Church is the result of redevelopment in 1964, but was originally opened in 1934 to replace the Parish Hall that had been built in 1901.





## St. Catherine's

St. Catherine's church in Wickford is within the parish of Wickford and Runwell. The current church was rebuilt in the 1870's and is based on its original 15th Century design.

The chancel roof and decorative screen behind the alter were moved from other churches and incorporated in to the rebuilding of St. Catherine's. With these and St. Catherine's being an 'example of mid-Victorian church building' this church was Grade II listed in 1955.

Outside the church is the lychgate, which was built in the 1949. In the last few years, the gate has required repair. The repairs were finally completed in July 2015.

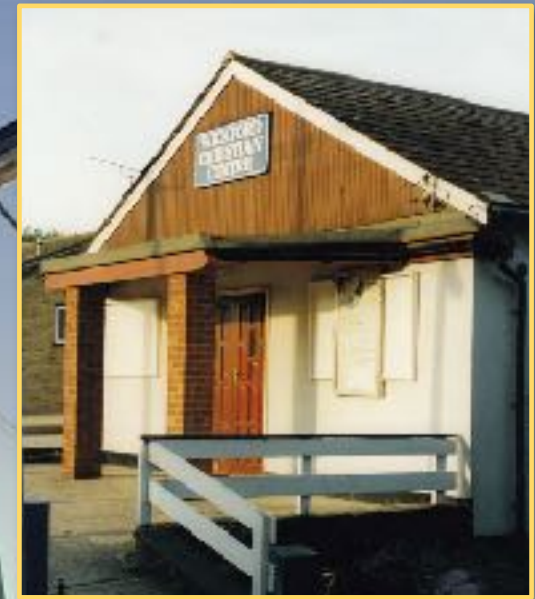




## Wickford Christian Centre

The current church on Crouch Drive dates from 2000 but the organisation can trace its roots in the town back to the 1920's.

The previous church, which suffered some damage during World War Two, was demolished in 1998.





## Wickford Evangelical Church

A structure made out of corrugated iron was erected on the churches current site in 1912. The Church of the Peculiar People changed its name as the meaning of the word changed from 'unique' or 'special' to something that is 'strange' or 'weird'.

The church, an offshoot of Wesleyans, was founded in Rochford in 1838.

The iron was eventually removed and a more substantial building now stands on the same spot.





## Wickford Reformed Baptist Church

The church was founded in 1978, and currently meet in the home of one of the members.

The house was once a shop owned by the Cutmore family, who may have been members of the Peculiar People's Church in Nevendon Road.

