C.A.M.E.

[Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Evangelical]

St George's parish is very committed to working for Christian Unity. There are excellent relationships that have been developed in each part of the parish; Shoeburyness, Thorpe Bay and
Wakering (which covers Little Wakering, Great Wakering and Barling (and, in theory, Foulness). Because the parish straddles two different Anglican deaneries, there has always been a divide between ecumenical relationships and structures in Wakering and the rest of the parish.

Four years ago Father Graham took responsibility for the Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay area and Tony Castle for the Wakering area. (This made sense as Tony had developed relationships with the churches of that area over 35 years.) Father Graham attends clergy fraternals and, among other events, supports the annual united Advent Service.

The Council of Churches in Wakering, to accommodate the Evangelical church, changed its name five years ago, to C.A.M.E. (This stands for Catholic:Anglican:Methodist and Evangelical).

In addition to the four ministers (Tony Castle is included in this) membership consists of two reps from each church. The Catholic representatives are Maria Stocker and Paddy Corcoran. The group meets every two months and the ministers meet for a fraternal meal together once every 6 weeks or so. There is a warm friendship existing between all concerned.

CAME plans united services; one in each church over the course of the year. (The Catholics having no church are given the use of the Methodist church). It plans and provides services in the local care homes. The Mallards, Bell House have four a year and Barling Lodge has one service a month. (The latter is provide by Pat Golding (Cof E) and Tony Castle). The group also plans the annual united Carol singing around the streets; Christian Aid fund-raising activities including a fish and chip supper and a coffee morning). The Catholics organise the annual united Walk of Witness on Good Friday down Wakering High St. There are other activities like the annual Round Robin Meal (different courses in different church halls - Catholics share with the Methodists.) which are organised as the need is recognised.

There is an excellent spirit of co-operation and friendship that is encouraged by CAME.

Any enquiries about CAME should be addressed to Tony Castle on: ant_castle@hotmail.com