## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sunday 14th May

9:30am Musicians’ Rehearsal (church)

10:00am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting (church)

10:30am Morning Service (church)

7:30pm Men’s Bible Study Group (CO3 3RS)

### Monday 15th May

7:45pm Hope Explored (Vicarage)

### Tuesday 16th May

7:30pm ‘Micah’ Bible Study Group (Vicarage)

### Wednesday 17th May

10:15am Coffee & Chat (Mercury Theatre café)

### Thursday 18th May

10:00am Tiny Tots (hall)

7:00pm Ascension Day Communion Service (church)

7:45pm ‘Revelation’ Bible Study Group (Vicarage)

### Saturday 20th May

10:00am Annual Church Meetings (church)

9:30am Equip Event (online, ticket required)

### Sunday 21st May

9:30am Musicians’ Rehearsal (church)

10:00am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting (church)

10:30am Communion Service (church)

7:30pm Men’s Bible Study Group (CO3 3RS)

## NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Wallace – Vicar of St Peter’s

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Trevor Froude – Churchwarden

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Bernice Watts – Church Manager

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Richard Lawn – PCC Treasurer

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Sue Almond – Parish Safeguarding Officer

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# St Peter’s Update

# 13th – 14th May 2023

## A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

This week I would like to pay tribute to two wonderful servants of the gospel. Peter and Margaret Sawyer have been serving St Peter’s for ‘half a century’ in a variety of different ways, including as PCC Secretary (Margaret), cleaning gutters (Peter, when he was a little younger!), assisting with communion, serving coffee, and reading the lesson…

As Peter is now increasingly focused on caring for Margaret, he is understandably needing to pull back from the last of these responsibilities – so now seems a good time to thank them both for all their service, and to honour them for the way they have served both the church and our Lord Jesus over all these years.

With best wishes,

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## Retro Art Print featuring the digital art Chocolate Cupcake Pink by RetroplanetMonthly Mission Focus May - Compassion UkCAKE SALE – Sunday 14th May

On Sunday (14th May), the Ignite group will be selling cakes to raise money for the two children we sponsor through *Compassion UK* – Mary and Richard. The cakes will have been made by our young people and their leaders, and will be available to buy in church after the service. Please bring cash or a card on Sunday morning!

## HOPE EXPLORED – starts Monday 15th May at 7:30pm

What's the best future you could imagine? There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope often feels hard to come by. Where can we find a hope that won’t disappoint us?

***Hope Explored*** looks at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel. This three-session series shows that Christianity is about real hope: a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present. ***Hope Explored*** is one of the easiest ways to introduce someone to Christianity. The next ***Hope Explored*** course at St Peter’s will begin on Monday 15th May at 7:45pm, at the Vicarage in Balkerne Close. Anyone is welcome, but especially those wishing to bring a friend along. Please register via ChurchSuite (see the QR code here) or through the Office.

## ASCENSION DAY – Thursday 18th May

On Ascension Day, we recall how the Lord Jesus left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. This took place 40 days after the resurrection, which means that Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday. On Ascension Day this year (ie 18th May), there will be a short service of Holy Communion at 7:00pm. All are welcome.

## THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS – Saturday 20th May

* The Annual Church Meetings (ie the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be on Saturday 20th May, starting at 10:00am, in church. Everyone on the Electoral Roll is encouraged to attend.
* Nominations for Churchwardens, for PCC Members and for Deanery Synod Representatives are still open. Nomination forms are available in church, or on request from the Church Office, or by download from the church website.

## NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS…

* Please note that we do not take up a collection during the service. There is, however, a wooden collection box at the back of church for anyone who would like to give to support the work of the church in this way.
* The next ‘Coffee & Chat’ will be on Wednesday (17th May) at the Mercury Theatre café, hosted by Derek and Di.
* The most recent prayer- and news-letter from the McCanns is available on request from Bernice in the Church Office. Alex, Marguerite and family are based in Cambodia, working through OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship).
* A black and white logo

  Description automatically generated with low confidenceWe have received new letters from our sponsored children. There are copies available in church and also on request from Bernice. Please read these delightful letters addressed to the whole church family. Perhaps you may wish to write a letter or card back?
* The Archdeacon’s Visitation Service this year, at which the new Churchwardens will be sworn in, will be at 7:45pm on Wednesday 7th June, at St Botolph’s Church.
* The next meeting of the Diocesan Synod will be on Saturday 10th June, in Chelmsford Cathedral.