
THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 12th November

- 9:00am BCP Communion Service (church)
- 9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (church)
- 10:00am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting (church)
- 10:30am Remembrance Service (church)
- 3:30pm Confirmation Class (Vicarage)

Monday 13th November

- 1:45pm General Synod begins, in London
- 7:30pm Ladies' Book Club (CO3 3RS)

Tuesday 14th November

General Synod continues, in London
no Tuesday Bible Study Group tonight

Wednesday 15th November

General Synod concludes, in London
no Daytime Bible Study Group today

Thursday 16th November

- 10:00am Tiny Tots (Hall)
- 7:30pm Equip Event (online, booking required)
- 7:45pm Thursday Bible Study Group (Vicarage)

Saturday 18th November

- 7:30pm Equip Event (online, booking required)

Sunday 19th November

- 9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (church)
- 10:00am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting (church)
- 10:30am Communion Service (church)
- 2:30pm CDEN Meeting (church)

NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Wallace - Vicar of St Peter's

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Trevor Froude - Churchwarden

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John Hartwell - 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

11th - 12th November 2023

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

During the Great War, previously beautiful landscapes were blasted and bombed into bleak and barren scenes where almost nothing could grow.

The striking exception to the bleakness were the bright red Flanders poppies. These resilient flowers flourished amidst so much chaos and destruction, growing in their thousands upon thousands.

This weekend, millions of poppies will be worn across the UK as symbols both of remembrance and hope. And on Sunday morning in church, we will pause to remember and give thanks together. Do join us, as we reflect together on what it means to be faithful and fruitful in our generation, amidst all the bleakness and barrenness that we see around us.

With best wishes,

Mark



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE RECENT PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) MEETING

The PCC met last Monday evening. The minutes are, as always, available on request from the PCC Secretary (Mick Kavanagh), but here are some of the specifics that were discussed...

- The Spotlight report for this meeting addressed the issues facing the Church of England in light of the *Living in Love and Faith* proposals coming to General Synod. Significant concern was expressed about the implications for St Peter's, and for other orthodox churches, if the proposals from the House of Bishops do push the CofE in a revisionist direction.
- The various repair and redevelopment priorities were also reviewed. These currently include: the repairs to the clock on the church tower, the replacement of the boiler in the Church Hall, the replacement of the roofs on the Church Hall, phase 2 of the Redevelopment Project (the step-free access off the High Street), phase 3 of the Redevelopment Project (the removal of a few pews from the back of church to open that area up), and the long-term need to replace large sections of the nave roof (which is expected to need to be completed by 2024). Progress on these various priorities is likely to be determined by access to the appropriate funding streams.
- The annual budget for 2023 was reviewed, and the annual budget for 2024 was received - with many thanks to the PCC Treasurer (Richard Lawn).
- The PCC formally approved the offer that the Diocese of Chelmsford had made to the Vicar, for him to have a sabbatical next year. It is expected that this is most likely to be from 1st April to 30th June 2024.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch about preparing for Christmas. Here is a quick update...

- The team writing Christmas cards will be meeting to start the card-writing on Monday 20th November, at 6:30pm in the Church Hall. Parking is available at the Vicarage. If you would like to be involved, do please let Bernice know beforehand.
- The rehearsals for the Christmas Choir will begin on Thursday 30th November, and continue on Thursday 7th December and Thursday 14th December, in church, starting at 7:30pm.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Remember: the deadline for bringing packed shoeboxes to church for collection and delivery is this Sunday (12th Nov).
- Confirmation classes continue this Sunday (12th Nov), at the Vicarage, starting at 3:30pm.
- Please be aware that Mark, our Vicar, will be away at General Synod this week (Monday morning till Wednesday evening).
- Oak Hill's next *Equip* event will explore the book of Isaiah to help us understand God's diagnosis of relational breakdown among his people. And God's diagnosis is always more searching than our own. We will see in Isaiah that ultimately it is God himself who heals bad relationships; he does not expect us to fix ourselves. Isaiah will teach us what to expect from God when church is a mess, and what smaller things we can do as we wait for him. The sessions are on either Thursday 16th November (7:30pm) or Saturday 18th November (9:30am); more information and tickets [via the Oak Hill website](#).
- We are planning a Churchyard Working Party to clear leaves and tidy up on Saturday 25th November, starting at 9:30am. Please let Wendy Whitfield know if you might be able to help - and if you have a rake, please bring one!
- *An invitation from Lizzie Wallace:* "Come and hear about Korban's work with young homeless people at the Korban AGM - 3:30pm on Monday 27th November (until 5pm) in the St Peter's Church Hall."
- The next 'Coffee & Chat' at the Mercury Theatre Café will be on Wednesday 13th December, from 10:15am. All welcome!
- Do please pray for Elwin Cockett, the Archdeacon of West Ham, who is undergoing treatment for cancer. The next phase involves a stem cell transplant at Barts Hospital in London, and he will be off work until the spring.
- We have received a report from the archaeological monitoring which was done during the recent redevelopment. If you are interested in what was found and would like a copy of the report, please get in touch with Bernice in the Office.
- A reminder that our Morning Services are livestreamed 'privately' into the Family Room in the Church Hall, for the benefit of parents with very young children. The Facebook livestream is also available to all at St Peter's, subject to application via Facebook to 'The Family Room', and can be watched up to 30 days after the livestreaming.
- 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.