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## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November

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

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November

- 6:30pm Christmas Card Writing (hall)

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

- 7:30pm Tuesday Bible Study Group (Vicarage)

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

- 2:00pm Daytime Bible Study Group (Vicarage)

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

- 10:00am Tiny Tots (Hall)
- 7:45pm Thursday Bible Study Group (Vicarage)

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November

- 9:00am Diocesan Synod (Chelmsford Cathedral)
- 9:30am Churchyard Working Party

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

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

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## 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

18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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### A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

Thank you to those who were praying for General Synod this last week. Although it was a pretty gruelling time, and although the main vote of *Living in Love and Faith* has put evangelical churches in a very difficult situation, we believe that the Lord is still sovereign and is working his purposes out in the best possible way.

As we consider our next steps in light of all this, I want to reassure everyone that the PCC has already begun the process of discussing various options for the future. Please continue to pray for the PCC, with some difficult decisions now needing to be made quite soon.

Meanwhile, and since several people have asked, I want to reassure everyone that I am not planning on leaving the Church of England any time soon! I believe we are called to stay and contend for biblical truth - and for as long as that remains possible, there is much work to do.

More to follow on all this in the coming weeks...

With best wishes,



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## MINISTRY TEAMS - PLEASE HELP!

Thank you to everyone who serves on one of our Ministry Teams. The next set of rotas (covering 1<sup>st</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> February) will be finalised in the next few days, but before then we would be really grateful if you could:

- (if you are already in a Ministry Team) please let us know your 'unavailability' for these next three months. This information can be entered directly into ChurchSuite, or can be emailed to Bernice in the Church Office. Please let us know any particular dates for which you are unavailable by 4pm on Monday (20<sup>th</sup> Nov).
- (if you are not currently in a Ministry Team) please consider whether you might be able and willing to serve in this way. The teams with the most vacancies currently are our *Sunday Housekeeping* and *St Peter's Kids Teams*, although there is almost always room for more volunteers on any of the teams! Further details are available at the back of church, or please feel free to contact Mark or Bernice directly (contact details overleaf).

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## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> November, and continue on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, in church, starting at 7:30pm.

Meanwhile, the publicity for the Christmas services will be available very soon, but you might like to make a note of the following - especially as these are such great opportunities to invites friends, neighbours, colleagues etc to hear the good news of Jesus...

- **Messy Church goes Christmassy** on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, at 10:30am (in the Hall)
- **Traditional Christmas Carol Service** on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, at 6:30pm (in church)
- **Family Christingle Service** on Christmas Eve (Sun 24<sup>th</sup>), at 3:00pm (in church)
- **Christmas Day Family Communion** at 10:00am (in church)

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## SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

Next Sunday (26<sup>th</sup> Nov) is Safeguarding Sunday. Please always remember that the contact details for our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Sue Almond, are available at the back of church, and in the hall, and also overleaf.

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## NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- We are planning a Churchyard Working Party to clear leaves and tidy up on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 9:30am. Any questions, please contact Wendy. We value your help if you can - 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 27<sup>th</sup> November (until 5pm) in the St Peter's Church Hall."*
- The next 'Coffee & Chat' at the Mercury Theatre Café will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.
- The most recent prayer- and news-letter from the McCanns is available on request from Bernice in the Church Office. Alex, Marguerite and family have been based in Cambodia, working through OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) and are now back home in Alresford. Alex will be taking a role with Friends International.
- 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.