
THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 17th March

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

Tuesday 19th March

7:45pm Bible Study Group (*vicarage*)

Wednesday 20th March

2:00pm Bible Study Group (*vicarage*)
7:00pm Annual Church Meetings (*church*)

Thursday 21st March

10:00am final Tiny Tots of term (*hall*)

Sunday 24th March (*Palm Sunday*)

9:00am BCP Communion Service (*church*)
9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (*church*)
10:00am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting (*church*)
10:30am Morning Service (*church*)
7:00pm Ignite (*hall*)

coming up soon...

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Fri 29 Mar | Good Friday services |
| Sun 31 Mar | Easter Day services * |
| Sat 27 Apr | Vicar's sabbatical begins |

* NB. The clocks go forward one hour on Easter morning!

NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Wallace – Vicar of St Peter's

01206 572641 / mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org

Trevor Froude – Churchwarden

07496 413993 / t.froude@gmail.com

John Hartwell – Churchwarden

07740 634227 / hartwell491@icloud.com

Bernice Watts – Church Manager

01206 572529 / bernice.watts@stpeterscolchester.org

Richard Lawn – PCC Treasurer

01206 540510 / stpeterscol.treasurer@yahoo.co.uk

Sue Almond – Parish Safeguarding Officer

07985 401690 / suea2005@gmail.com



St Peter's Update

16th - 17th March 2024

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

This Wednesday evening, we have our Annual Church Meetings. Do please join us in church at 7pm as we review the past year, and give thanks together.

The PCC's Annual Report and Annual Accounts are now available – and if you haven't received a copy by email, please feel free to pick up a printed version in church. Questions about the Report or Accounts, or indeed any area of church life, will be welcomed.

We will also be electing two Churchwardens to serve for the year ahead, and electing three members of the PCC (to replace those whose 3-year term has now expired). Nomination forms are still available online or in-church; please feel free to ask for assistance if you would like to nominate someone, or indeed be nominated yourself.

Meanwhile, whether you can join us or not, may I urge you to keep praying for the ministry of our church? There is so much to be encouraged by over the last year, and we rely entirely on the Lord for the year ahead.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

EASTER CARDS FOR SALE

If you will be sending Easter cards this year, or need some other Christian greetings cards, then Andy Lawn has some of his own designs for sale at the back of the church. They are £1 each, or 3 for £2. Alternatively, you can shop online via ajlcreativedesigns.etsy.com



DETAILS OF EASTER SERVICES...

As we look forwards to Holy Week and Easter together, do please join us for the following services:

- **Maundy Thursday** (28th March) at 7:00pm: **Reflective Communion Service** in church
- **Good Friday** (29th March) at 10:30am: **Messy Church**, in the hall
- **Good Friday** (29th March) at 2:00pm: **Songs of Calvary**, in church
- **Easter Day** (31st March) at 10:30am: **Easter Communion**, with SPK Holiday Club

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Please note that the Colchester Half Marathon will involve some rolling road closures on Sunday morning. You may wish to allow a little extra time for access and parking, in case the roads have not been cleared when you arrive for church.
- Ignite, our youth group, for school years 9-13, continues next Sunday evening (24th Mar) at 7pm in the Church Hall, with more 'Questions, Puddings & Games'. The Question Box is at the back of church if you want to submit a question...
- The next 'Coffee & Chat' will be on Wednesday 24th April, at the Mercury Theatre Cafe from 10:15am; all are welcome.
- 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.
- 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.

VICAR'S SABBATICAL - some frequently asked questions...

Our Vicar, Mark, will be on sabbatical from 27th April until 27th July. Here are some answers to questions people have been asking...

Who will be 'in charge'? Ultimately, the answer remains the same: Jesus. In practical terms, the Churchwardens are the Bishop's Officers, and are granted the authority to make the necessary decisions in the Vicar's absence. Of course, they will be supported by Bernice Watts in the Church Office, by the members of the Safeguarding Team, and by the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). At Diocesan level, the Area Dean and the Archdeacon will also be available to assist and advise as required.

Who should I turn to, if I need practical help or pastoral support? While Mark is away, Bernice Watts in the Church Office will be acting as the main point of contact. Please feel free to email or ring Bernice confidentially, and she will make the necessary arrangements. However, please understand that we will be slightly under-resourced during the sabbatical period, so we may not be able to offer the same degree of practical help or pastoral support as normal.

What will happen on Sundays? In many ways, nothing will change. SPK will continue as usual, the 10:30am service will continue as usual, and our wonderful Ministry Teams will continue to make sure everything runs smoothly! One significant change will be that the 9:00am Communion Service will be suspended over the summer (to restart in September); another noticeable change will be that a number of different people, from inside and outside St Peter's, will be leading the services and preaching.

Who will be leading and preaching? Much of this will be done by Duncan Breckels (our Licensed Lay Minister) and Trevor Froude (one of our Churchwardens). We are very grateful, however, that several clergy have offered to help out, including Revd Aella Gage (Associate Minister at St Peter's, 2014-2020), Revd Canon David Banting (previously Vicar of St Peter's, Harold Wood), Revd Dick Farr (one of the Bishop of Ebbsfleet's Pastoral Advisers), and Revd John Dunnett (the Chair of CEEC).

What about baptisms, weddings and funerals? These will continue to be co-ordinated by Bernice Watts in the Church Office. In most cases, the arrangements for baptisms and weddings will await the end of the sabbatical period, although emergency pastoral provision will be possible if required. If funerals need to be planned, local clergy will be available to assist.

If you have specific questions or concerns about the Vicar's Sabbatical, please speak to Mark, Bernice, or the Churchwardens.