
THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 30th November

- 9:00am BCP Communion (*church*)
- 9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (*church*)
- 10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (*church*)
- 10:15am SPK Registration (*hall*)
- 10:30am Advent Carol Service (*church*)
- 7:00pm Ignite & Friends go Christmassy (*hall*)

Monday 1st December

- 12 noon Church Prayer Meeting (*hall*)
- 8:00pm Church Prayer Meeting (*online*)

Tuesday 2nd December

- 7:45pm Drury Road Group
- 8:00pm Jericho Road Group

Wednesday 3rd December

- 10:15am Coffee & Chat (*mercury theatre*)
- 11:00am Communion Service (*freda gunton lodge*)
- 1:45pm Cranmere Court Group
- 7:30pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal (*church*)

Thursday 4th December

- 10:00am Tiny Tots (*hall*)
- 2:00pm Christmas Prep Session (*hall*)
- 7:30pm Christianity Explored (*vicarage*)

Saturday 6th December

- 5:00pm Christmas Concert (*church, ticketed event*)

Sunday 7th December

- 9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (*church*)
- 10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (*church*)
- 10:15am SPK Registration (*hall*)
- 10:30am Communion Service (*church*)
- 3:00pm Christmas Prep Session (*vicarage*)

The full church calendar is available on the website via
<https://stpeterscolchester.org/whats-on/>

NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Wallace - Vicar of St Peter's

[day off this week: Saturday]

07772 615378 | mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org

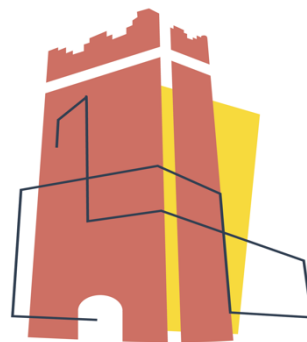
Lizzie Wallace - Church Administrator

[Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm; Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm]

07947 136 048 | office@stpeterscolchester.org

Clare Reid - Parish Safeguarding Officer

07946 071 246 | safeguarding@stpeterscolchester.org



St Peter's Update

Sunday 30th November 2025

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

As we begin the season of Advent this Sunday, we are invited to look in two directions at once: *back* to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, and *forward* to His promise that He will one day return and make all things new. Advent helps us slow down, pay attention, and hold on to hope in the middle of busy lives and a complicated world.

This year, we're delighted to share something new: our choir will premiere an Advent Carol written by our own Richard Lawn. Inspired by Jeremiah 23.5-6, it points to God's promise of a coming king from David's line—one who brings justice, peace, and salvation. Richard's new carol helps us hold together the heart of Advent: Jesus has already come as the righteous King, and He will one day come again to complete the work He began.

Meanwhile, this year's Advent Devotional Book ('*With heart and soul and voice*') will be available in church: designed to make our hearts sing, it reflects on the songs surrounding Christ's birth in Luke's Gospel. Together, let's pause and marvel at the wonder of Jesus' coming, and respond with heartfelt praise.

With best wishes,



THE ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

This year our Christmas Appeal will focus on supporting the vital work of Beacon House, a local Christian ministry responding to homelessness in Colchester. Beacon House offers healthcare, clothing, showers, food, and – just as importantly – a place of dignity, welcome and hope. By giving to this appeal we share in a ministry that brings Christ-like compassion to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. *[We had originally planned to support Exploring Educational Opportunities CIC alongside Beacon House. EEO has recently received a significant grant that fully meets their current funding needs, and with gratitude they have stepped back from the Appeal. We rejoice in this provision for them.]*

The Christmas Appeal opens this weekend, and you can give via the card reader at the back of church or online—please mark your gift “Christmas Appeal”. Your generosity this Christmas will help bring warmth, stability and hope to those in greatest need. Thank you for giving prayerfully and generously.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE REVD ROBIN WILSON (1935-2025)

The Revd Robin Wilson was the Vicar of St Peter's from 1970 until his retirement in 2001. He died recently, after a long illness, and his funeral will be at St John's Church in Woodbridge (IP12 1HS), at 11:00am on Thursday 11th December. Richard Lawn will be amongst those attending from St Peter's, and is happy to offer a lift.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Our Church Prayer Meetings continue on Monday (1st Dec): the 'in-person' meeting at 12 noon will be in the Church Hall, while the evening 'online' meeting is via Zoom at 8pm (the log-in will be advertised on the Church WhatsApp group). Future Church Prayer Meetings will be on Mon 19 Jan, Mon 2 Feb, Mon 16 Feb, Mon 2 Mar, Mon 16 Mar & Mon 30 Mar.
 - Our Christmas Concert is this Saturday, 6th December. 5pm start with doors opening at 4:30pm. Tickets are [available online](#), also via the church office, and on the door. Do join us for this festive event of traditional, non-traditional, and modern Christmas classics, performed by professional violin and cello duo: Melinda and James Greenfield!
 - Eld Lane Baptist Church are hosting an evening of music, interviews and a Christmas message with Patrick Regan OBE and Graham Kendrick, hosted by Bekah Legg, on Saturday 13th December (7pm). Tickets are available via Eventbrite.
 - We have recently received a letter from one of our sponsored children through *Compassion UK*: Mary, in the Philippines. Copies of the letter are available on request from the Church Office.
 - If English is not your first language, the free Microsoft Translator app can provide live translation of the sermon and the spoken parts of the service. It is simple, uses little data, and works best if you sit near the front to hear the speaker clearly.
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CHRISTMAS AT ST PETER'S - a guide to getting involved...

As we look forward to Advent and Christmas, there are lots of ways to join in and help share the joy of the season. Why not get involved in one (or more!) of the following ways:

- **Join a Christmas Prep Session!** Come along and help us get ready for our Christmas services – there'll be cutting, sticking, and plenty of festive cheer! Choose from: this Sunday (30th Nov), at 7pm in the Hall and/or Thursday 4th December, at 2pm (Church Hall), and/or Sunday 7th December, at 3pm (at the Vicarage). All welcome!
- **Donate some mince pies!** We'll be offering refreshments at many of our services in Advent and over Christmas. Can you bring along some shop-bought mince pies? They must be in unopened boxes, and in date until at least 25th December! Sadly, no homemade ones this year. You can drop them off in the kitchen in church any Sunday. Thank you!
- **Support the Christmas Concert Stalls & Raffle!** At our Christmas Concert on Saturday 6th December, we'd love to add some extra festive sparkle with a few stalls selling Christmassy crafts, gifts, and cards, as well as a raffle. If you're able to donate any suitable items – handmade crafts, seasonal treats, small gifts, or prizes for the raffle – please bring them along to church on Sunday 30th November, or liaise with Lizzie in the office.
- **Share the invitation!** Grab a handful of invitation fliers and pass them on to friends, neighbours, and family. A simple invitation can make all the difference – let's help others discover the hope and light of Christmas!