
THE CHURCH CALENDAR

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*)

Monday 8th December

7:30pm Standing Committee (*online*)

Tuesday 9th December

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

Wednesday 10th December

1:45pm Cranmere Court Group
7:30pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal (*church*)

Thursday 11th December

11:00am Funeral: Robin Wilson (*woodbridge*)
7:30pm Christianity Explored (*vicarage*)

Sunday 14th December

9:00am BCP Communion (*church*)
10:30am Messy Church (*hall*)
6:30pm Carol Service (*church*)

*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

Trevor Froude – Churchwarden

07496 413 993 | t.froude@gmail.com

John Hartwell – Churchwarden

07740 634 227 | hartwell491@icloud.com

Ed Bradley – PCC Treasurer

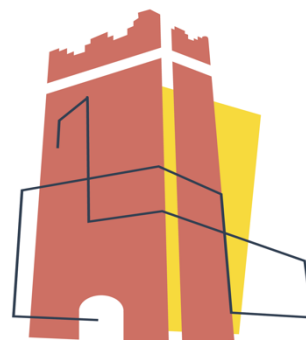
07828 414 450 | stpeterscol.treasurer@yahoo.co.uk

Clare Reid – Parish Safeguarding Officer

07946 071 246 | safeguarding@stpeterscolchester.org

Amanda Knight – Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

01245 294 457 | aknight@chelmsford.anglican.org



St Peter's Update

Sunday 7th December 2025

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

As we approach Christmas, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been involved in getting St Peter's ready. So many people have been quietly serving behind the scenes – cleaning, decorating, practising music, preparing services – and we are all deeply grateful. I want to give a particular mention to our Christmas Choir and to all involved in Saturday's Christmas Concert; thank you for all your hard work!

But now is the moment for all of us to be bold in inviting! There are so many easy ways for friends, neighbours and family to come and see what Christmas is really all about: maybe it's Messy Church next Sunday morning? or perhaps it's the Traditional Carol Service next Sunday evening? or maybe Christmas Eve is best – with our two Christingle Services (one at 3pm, another at 5pm)?

Please continue to pray about who you might be inviting, please pick up some more of the Christmas publicity in church this weekend – and then be bold in inviting people to join us!

With best wishes,

PS. Don't forget: everything is different from usual **next** Sunday (14th Dec), and there will be **no** 10:30am service in church – full details of what will be happening are on the back page!

HOPE EXPLORED - starting in January...

A new year is often a time when we take stock and ask big questions about life: *Is there hope? Can people really change? Does my life have meaning?* This January we'll be running *Hope Explored*, a short and welcoming course that gives space to explore the hope found in Jesus Christ. Over three relaxed sessions, *Hope Explored* looks at the themes of hope, peace and purpose through a few short video presentations and open discussion. There is no pressure to say anything, and no question is off limits. You can simply come, listen and think things through for yourself.

Hope Explored is ideal if you are:

- wanting to explore or refresh the basics of the Christian faith,
- new to church and wondering what Christians actually believe, or
- thinking of bringing a friend, neighbour or family member who has questions.

If you're interested in coming along, or if you have someone in mind you'd like to invite, please register your interest by texting or calling the Office on 07947 136 048. Let's make the most of this opportunity to explore real hope together at the start of 2026...

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Please give generously towards our Christmas Appeal this year in aid of Beacon House, supporting their work with those facing homelessness in Colchester. Gifts can be made online or via the card reader at the back of church.
 - Do join us for the final Christmas Prep Session at 3pm this Sunday (7th Dec) at the Vicarage – there'll be cutting, sticking, and plenty of festive cheer!
 - The funeral of the late Revd Robin Wilson, who was the Vicar of St Peter's from 1970 until his retirement in 2001, will be at St John's Church in Woodbridge (IP12 1HS), at 11:00am on Thursday 11th December.
 - 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.
 - At St Peter's, we don't take a collection during the service, but a card reader is available at the back of church for those who wish to give. More importantly, we encourage everyone who considers themselves part of our church family to consider regular giving to support the ongoing mission and ministry of the church. This can be done by Standing Order, or through *MyChurchsuite's MyGiving* section. Wherever possible, please use Gift Aid to increase the value of your gift at no extra cost. Regular giving helps the church plan wisely, and helps us join together in the work God is doing.
 - The PCC are still actively seeking someone to take over the role of PCC Treasurer from next year. If you might be able to help, please contact either John or Trevor (details overleaf). The Churchwardens would also be pleased to hear from anyone who might be able to assist with project managing the work of repairing and restoring our church building.
 - 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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OF CATHEDRALS AND BISHOPS...

Prayers of Love and Faith at the Cathedral. The first service using the *Prayers of Love and Faith* in Chelmsford Cathedral took place last month. This will be a cause of sadness and concern for many at St Peter's, but be reassured that the Vicar (along with many others across the diocese) has written to the Dean of the Cathedral and to the Bishop of Chelmsford to express our concerns. Please continue to pray for our Cathedral, our Bishops and the whole Diocese of Chelmsford, while we await a response.

Bishop Guli's Presidential Address. At the recent Diocesan Synod, the Bishop of Chelmsford reaffirmed her support for further development of the *Prayers of Love and Faith*, including greater freedom for clergy to bless same-sex couples and to enter same-sex marriages without fear of sanctions. She also repeated her view that extra structural provision for those who cannot in conscience agree with this direction would risk fracturing diocesan life, while maintaining that churches holding the traditional view have a respected place. Please pray for the leadership of St Peter's, and for evangelicals across the diocese, as we consider how best to respond and to navigate these deeply saddening and worrying developments in our diocese.

Newsletter from the Bishop of Ebbfleet. The latest newsletter from Bishop Rob is now available at the back of church, including encouraging reflections on holding out the gospel with hope and realism in a very challenging season for the Church of England.