
THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 14th December

9:00am BCP Communion (*church*)
10:30am Messy Church (*hall*)
5:50pm Choir Rehearsal (*hall*)
6:30pm Carol Service (*church*)

Sunday 21st December

9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (*church*)
10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (*church*)
10:15am SPK Registration (*hall*)
10:30am Communion Service (*church*)

Christmas Eve

11:00am Christmas Communion (*freda gunton lodge*)
3:00pm Family Christingle Service (*church*)
5:00pm Christingle Carol Service (*church*)

Christmas Day

10:00am Family Communion Service (*church*)

Sunday 28th December

9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (*church*)
10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (*church*)
10:15am SPK Registration (*hall*)
10:30am Communion 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

[unavailable Monday to Wednesday this week]

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 14th December 2025

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas Appeal this year is supporting Beacon House, a local Christian charity serving people who are homeless in Colchester. They offer healthcare, clothing, showers, food and, just as importantly, a place of dignity, welcome and hope.

Christmas is a time when we celebrate God's generous love in Christ. Supporting Beacon House is a very practical way to share that love – helping our neighbours know they are seen, valued and not forgotten.

You can give throughout December:

- using the card reader at the back of church;
- by placing cash in an envelope marked "Christmas Appeal" and putting it in the collection box;
- online to St Peter's PCC (sort code 09-01-54, account number 36051087), using "Christmas Appeal" as the reference.

Thank you for your generosity in helping bring warmth and hope to those most in need this Christmas.

With best wishes,

HOPE | EXPLORED

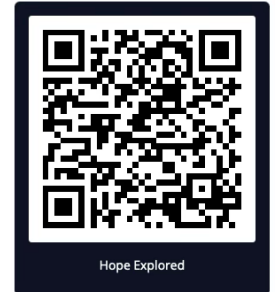
starting in January...

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...



FREDA GUNTON LODGE CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

A group from St Peter's visits Freda Gunton Lodge (part of the Balcerne Gardens Trust) regularly to share a short service of Holy Communion with the residents. Our next visit will be on Christmas Eve, when we will sing carols, hear a short reflection on the good news of Christmas, and share communion together. If you would like to join us on Christmas Eve at 11:00am for about 45 minutes, please speak to Mark for further details.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- 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.
- Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Concert last weekend. As well as being a wonderfully joyful occasion, the total raised towards the redevelopment and restoration of the church totalled £1350!
- The latest Ebbsfleet Newsletter from Bishop Rob is 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.
- The church building will be closed on Thursday 18th December, as we are hosting the North School Carol Service.
- The next PCC meeting will be on Monday 12th January, at 7:30pm in the Church Hall.
- 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 Church Library is open at the back of church (north side). Do please take a look, and see if you would like to borrow something - all free of charge...
- 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.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

- Tiny Tots has now finished for Christmas, and is due to re-start on Thursday 15th January.
- Most Small Groups have now finished for Christmas. Details of the New Year re-start are available on ChurchSuite.
- The Church Office will close for Christmas on Friday 19th December, reopening in the New Year on Monday 5th January. In case of pastoral emergency, the Vicar can be reached via 07772 615378.