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## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Communion Service (freda gunton lodge)
- 3:00pm Family Christingle Service (church)
- 5:00pm Christingles & Carols (church)

### Christmas Day

- 10:00am Family Communion Service (church)

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December

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

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

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

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

- 9:00am the Church Office reopens

### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January

- 9:30am Tiny Tots Cleaning & Prep Meeting (hall)

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

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

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

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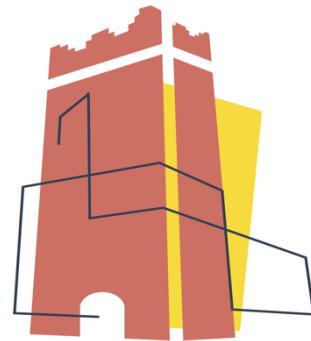
## NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

### Mark Wallace - Vicar of St Peter's

[annual leave after Christmas: Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Dec until Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Jan, inc.]  
07772 615378 | [mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org)

### Lizzie Wallace - Church Administrator

[office closes: 1pm, Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec; reopens: 9am, Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan]  
07947 136 048 | [office@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:office@stpeterscolchester.org)



## St Peter's Update

### Christmas & New Year 2025-2026

### A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of 2025, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for all you have given to the life of our church this year. Your faithful worship, generous service, quiet encouragement, and practical help have sustained our church's life and strengthened our witness in the parish. I am especially grateful to those who lead and those who serve unseen: in prayer, pastoral care, music, hospitality, administration, safeguarding, and the many acts of kindness that never make the notices.

Thank you for your commitment, your patience, and your willingness to play your part – however large or small – in the work God has entrusted to us.

As we look to 2026, may the Lord bless you and keep you, and may you know afresh the joy and peace of Christ in your homes and in your daily calling.

With my gratitude and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a diagonal line underneath it.

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## THE ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

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 the Christmas period (closing date: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January):

- 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.

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## HOPE | EXPLORED

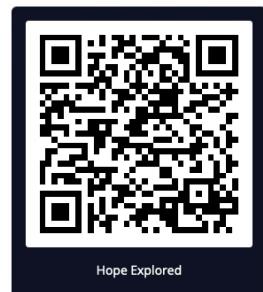
starting in January...

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...



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## ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

- The Church Office will close for Christmas on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December, reopening in the New Year on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.
- The Vicar will be on annual leave from Boxing Day until Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January (inc.), although he will be presiding at the Communion Services on 28<sup>th</sup> December and 4<sup>th</sup> January. In case of pastoral emergency, the Vicar can usually still be reached via 07772 615378.
- Our Small Groups have now finished for Christmas. Details of the New Year re-start are available on ChurchSuite. If you would like to join a Small Group at St Peter's, please contact the Vicar or the Administrator (details overleaf).
- Tiny Tots is due to re-start on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a Team Meeting the week beforehand (8<sup>th</sup> Jan).

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## NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Concert run so smoothly—from playing, ticketing and stewarding to refreshments, set-up, and clear-up—and for the generosity shown on the night. Thanks to your support, the event raised a profit of £1,350 – which will make a real contribution to the costs of restoring and redeveloping our building.
- The next meeting of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, in the Hall, at 7:30pm.
- Please do come along and lend a hand at our Church & Churchyard working parties; they are a practical way to care for our church space and to serve together. Our first working party is planned for the morning of Saturday 31st January, and we would be delighted to see you there—whether you can stay for the whole time or only for a little while.
- Our Church Prayer Meetings continue on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January: the 'in-person' meeting at 12 noon will be at the Vicarage, 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 2 Feb, Mon 16 Feb, Mon 2 Mar, Mon 16 Mar and Mon 30 Mar.