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## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

### **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*)

### **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

7:30pm PCC (*hall*)

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

7:30pm Discipleship Explored (*vicarage*)  
7:45pm Drury Road Group

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

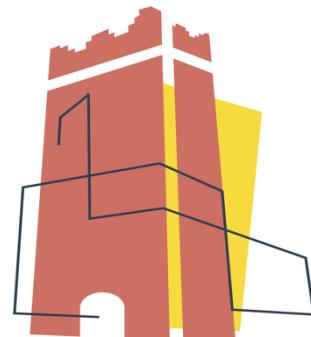
11:00am Communion Service (*freda gunton lodge*)  
1:30pm Cranmere Court Group

### **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

10:00am Tiny Tots (*hall*)  
7:30pm Hope Explored (*vicarage*)

### **Sunday 18<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*)  
7:00pm Ignite (*hall*)



## **St Peter's Update**

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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### **A NOTE FROM THE VICAR**

Dear Friends,

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking together at the letter of James in the New Testament - a wonderfully helpful letter for everyday discipleship.

James meets us in the realities of ordinary life – work, speech, money, temptation, relationships, and suffering – and shows what it looks like for faith in Jesus to take root and bear fruit. It is a letter that joins belief to practice, not to earn God's love, but because we have already received it in Christ. James is wonderfully honest about the pressures we face and equally confident about the wisdom God gives generously to those who ask. He calls us to be hearers and doers of the word, to persevere with patience, to care for the vulnerable, and to live with humility before God.

As we listen together, we can expect the Lord to strengthen our trust, reshape our habits, and renew our witness – so that our church life, our homes, and our communities might see the steady, practical beauty of a living faith. Do join us as we begin on Sunday morning!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark'.

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## **NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS**

**Mark Wallace** – Vicar of St Peter's  
[*day off this week: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January*]  
07772 615378 | [mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org)

**Lizzie Wallace** – Church Administrator  
[*NB: the Office closes for the weekend at 1pm on Friday*]  
07947 136 048 | [office@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:office@stpeterscolchester.org)

**Clare Reid** – Parish Safeguarding Officer  
07946 071 246 | [safeguarding@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:safeguarding@stpeterscolchester.org)

**Amanda Knight** – Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser  
01245 294 457 | [aknight@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:aknight@chelmsford.anglican.org)

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## SMALL GROUPS - STARTING THIS WEEK...

If you are looking to take a next step – whether you are exploring Christianity for the first time or wanting to grow as a follower of Jesus – please consider joining *Hope Explored*, *Discipleship Explored*, or one of our Bible Study Groups.

- **Hope Explored** is a relaxed, three-session series that looks at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through Luke's Gospel, helping us examine his extraordinary claims and the "hope, peace, and purpose" he offers.
- For those who are ready to go deeper, **Discipleship Explored** is an eight-session journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians, designed to help us understand what it means to live as Christians in today's world, with a simple, welcoming format of Bible study, a talk, and discussion.
- And our **Bible Study Groups** (BSGs) are a wonderful way to get to know others, grow in faith, and make our large church feel like family. Our BSGs this term will be exploring the letter of James, in light of our sermon series on Sunday mornings.

If you'd like to find out more or join a Small Group, please get in touch with the Vicar or our Church Administrator (see back page for contact details).

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## SECURING OUR FUTURE MINISTRY: AN URGENT NEED FOR A CHURCH TREASURER

St Peter's is currently seeking a new Church Treasurer - a vital role for the health and future of our church. Without someone in post, it becomes extremely difficult for us to steward our finances responsibly, plan wisely, and move forward with the building and redevelopment work that is so important for our ongoing ministry here at St Peter's.

You do not need to be a professional accountant to serve as Treasurer, though some financial experience and confidence with numbers would be important. There will be a careful handover from Ed, along with support from the Vicar, Churchwardens, Diocese, and others within the church. We are also open to shaping the role around the gifts and availability of the person who takes it on.

Please would you prayerfully consider whether you, or someone you know, might be able to take on this role. We would be especially grateful to hear from anyone before the PCC meeting this Monday (12<sup>th</sup> Jan). To explore this further, please contact the Vicar or either of the Churchwardens.

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## NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- 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.
- Drinking water is now available by the kitchen door, from the machine under the left/north gallery.
- *Tiny Tots* restarts on Thursday at 10:00am in the Church Hall.
- *Ignite*, our youth group for those in School Year 10 and above, restarts on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, at 7pm, in the Hall.
- 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.

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## GIVING TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF OUR CHURCH

At St Peter's, we don't take up a collection during the service. However, there is a card reader at the back of church for those who would like to make a donation on Sunday. More importantly, we warmly encourage everyone who considers themselves part of our church family to think about how they might give regularly to support the ongoing mission and ministry of the church.

If you haven't yet established a pattern of regular giving, there are three simple ways to do so:

- set up a Standing Order online, directed to "St Peters PCC", Santander, sort code 09-01-54, account 36051087;
- complete a paper Standing Order form, available at the back of church, and submit it to your bank;
- give via *MyChurchsuite* by going to the *MyGiving* section, clicking "add a donation", and entering the details.

Wherever possible, we also encourage the use of Gift Aid, which increases the value of your gift at no extra cost to you. Regular giving in any of these ways helps the church plan and steward resources wisely, and allows all of us to join together in the work God is doing through St Peter's.