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## COMING UP THIS WEEK...

### Sunday 15th February

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

### Monday 16th February

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

### Tuesday 17th February

- 7:30pm Discipleship Explored (hall)
- 7:45pm Drury Road Group
- 8:00pm Jericho Road Group

### Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

- 10:15am Coffee & Chat (Mercury Theatre cafe)
- 11:00am Communion Service (Freda Gunton Lodge)
- 1:30pm Cranmere Court Group
- 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Communion (church)

### Thursday 19th February

- no Tiny Tots this week*
- 7:30pm Standing Committee (online)

### Sunday 22nd February

- 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, with further details of locations etc, may be viewed online [via the website](#) or via ChurchSuite.*



# St Peter's

COLCHESTER

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## NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

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

07772 615378 | [mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org)

### Lizzie Wallace – Church Administrator

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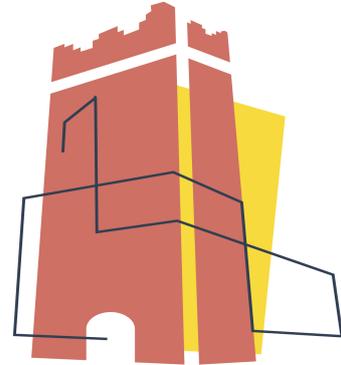
### Clare Reid – Parish Safeguarding Officer

07946 071 246 | [safeguarding@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:safeguarding@stpeterscolchester.org)

### Amanda Knight – Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

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*Churchwardens and other office-holders at St Peter's may be contacted via the Office ([office@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:office@stpeterscolchester.org)).*



## St Peter's Update

Sunday 15th February 2026

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### A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

This Wednesday we begin the season of Lent – forty days in which the Church is invited to return to the Lord with renewed hearts, to repent, to pray, and to seek afresh the grace of Christ. Lent is not about proving ourselves, but about making space for God to do his work in us: *"Return to me with all your heart"* (Joel 2.12), and *"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you"* (James 4.8).

As we begin Lent, do join us on Ash Wednesday for our Communion Service at 7pm. We will come honestly before God, confess our sin, and hear again the good news of forgiveness in Christ.

This is also a great time to take up a book for Lent, and inside this week's *Update* you will see suggestions of books on offer in church this week. Perhaps consider reading one alongside a friend, or in a small group for encouragement.

As we begin Lent together, may God deepen in us a hunger for his word, a seriousness about sin, and a fresh joy in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

With best wishes,

*Mark*

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## CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR BEACON HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to our Christmas appeal in support of Beacon House. Over the Christmas period, we raised a total of £485 – a wonderful expression of kindness and practical compassion. Beacon House provides vital support for people in Colchester who are facing homelessness, insecurity, or acute hardship. Through a welcoming drop-in service, they offer a safe place, a listening ear, and access to essentials, alongside practical help and signposting to longer-term support. Many who come through their doors are dealing with complex challenges, and Beacon House helps people take steps towards greater stability and hope. Please continue to hold their work in your prayers, and thank you again for helping us to make a real difference locally.

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## LENT BOOKS

One of the simplest (and most sustaining) ways to benefit from Lent is pick up a Lent book – something that can carry you day by day in prayer, Scripture, and reflection. At the back of church we have copies of three excellent resources available:

- Robin Ham on Lamentations: *Finding Mercy on the Way of Sorrow* – a wise, accessible guide to a book that teaches us how to lament: to bring sorrow, confusion, and repentance honestly before the Lord, and to find fresh hope in his steadfast love.
- A series on *The Blessed Life* – practical, Bible-shaped reflections on what it means to live the life God blesses: a life formed by Christ, marked by gratitude, generosity, and freedom. [It includes a chapter on *gluttony* written by our Vicar, offering a pastorally grounded look at our appetites and how God reshapes our desires.]
- *Love Your Church* by Tony Merida – a warm, biblical encouragement to commit ourselves joyfully to the local church: not as consumers, but as disciples who belong, serve, and build one another up in love (Ephesians 4.15-16).

These books are free, but if you are able, a £5 contribution would be gratefully received to help cover costs. And if you've already read all three (or would like something different), there is a wide range of excellent Lent devotionals available online from The Good Book Company: clear, Bible-centred, and in a variety of formats and lengths, so you can choose something that suits you! Do have a look, pick something up, and let's encourage one another to keep going with it through Lent.

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## CHURCH FUNDRAISER CEILIDH – Saturday 7th March

Please join us for a Church Fundraiser Ceilidh on Saturday 7th March 2026, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, at St Peter's Church Hall, North Hill, Colchester. This evening of music and dancing – or simply watching and foot-tapping if you prefer! – promises to be great fun for everyone aged 10-110... So, do join us for this community fundraising event. No experience is needed, as our caller will lead us through the dance steps and make it easy for everyone to join in. Tickets cost £10 per adult and £5 for those aged 10-18, and there will be refreshment sales and a raffle during the interval. All proceeds will go towards the costs involved in repairing our church roof and improving our disabled access. Please use the QR code here to purchase your tickets, or contact Lizzie in the Church Office if you would like assistance.



**Can you help with raffle prizes?** If so, please liaise with Elizabeth Ballard or Bernice Watts this Sunday or next. Thank you!

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## "MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY!" – Sunday 15th March

Each year at St Peter's, on Mothering Sunday, we are glad to continue our church's sponsorship of two young people – Mary in the Philippines and Richard in Brazil – through Compassion UK's "Make a Mother's Day" appeal. This year, Mothering Sunday is on 15th March, and we would love as many people as possible to be involved. Fliers are available in church this Sunday, with more information about how to give. Donations can also be made via the Payaz machine. We have also received a new letter from Mary, and there will be an opportunity to read it (please speak to Lizzie if you would like access to it). Finally, if you would like to write to Mary and/or Richard, please contact Lizzie, who can help with the best way to do that.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST PETER'S KIDS THIS SUNDAY?

Thank you to all our wonderful *St Peter's Kids* leaders and helpers! Here's what will be going on in *SPK* this coming Sunday...

- Spark (in the Vestry) are beginning a new '*Bible Overview*' series, starting this week with '*God's Big Picture*' in Genesis!
- Diggers and Seekers (in the Hall) will be looking at '*Gideon – the Great*', as part of their series in the book of Judges.
- Bible Tots (in the Church Lounge) will be learning about '*getting ready for God*' from the story of the return from exile.

Do please pray for all our children and young people, and for all those leading, teaching and caring for them.