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## COMING UP THIS WEEK...

### Sunday 26th April

- 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 27th April

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

### Tuesday 28th April

- 7:00pm Life Explored (vicarage)
- 7:45pm Drury Road Group
- 8:00pm Jericho Road Group

### Wednesday 29th April

- 1:30pm Cranmere Court Group
- 7:30pm Standing Committee (online)

### Thursday 30th April

- 10:00am Tiny Tots (hall)
- 7:30pm Crosslands Group (online)

### Sunday 3rd May

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



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## NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

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

07772 615 378 | [mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org)

### Lizzie Wallace – Church Administrator

07947 136 048 | [office@stpeterscolchester.org](mailto:office@stpeterscolchester.org)

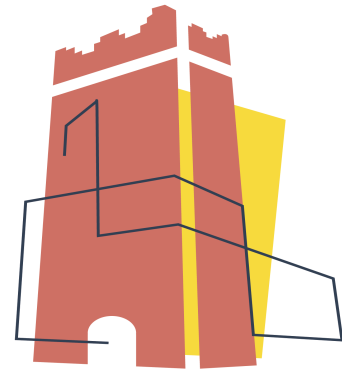
### Clare Reid – Parish Safeguarding Officer

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

### Amanda Knight – Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

01245294457 | [safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org)

*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 26th April 2026

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### A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

One of the striking things in Acts is the way the gospel creates a new family. As the risen Lord Jesus gathers people to himself, he also gathers them to one another – a shared life marked by teaching, fellowship, prayer, generosity, care, and service. That is a helpful picture as we think this week about supporting our church family through regular giving, serving on ministry teams, sharing responsibility in church life, and playing our part in the ordinary, week-by-week life of St Peter's.

This is not about guilt, pressure, or trying to earn God's favour. Everything we have in Christ is a gift. We are saved by grace and sustained by grace. But that grace does change us. It turns us outward. It teaches us to see church not as something we attend, but as a family to which we belong – and a body in which each part matters.

So, as you read the notices this week, please do so prayerfully. Is there a way you could help support the life of our church family at this point – through planned regular giving, joining a ministry team, standing for a role at the Annual Church Meetings, or encouraging someone else to do so?

None of us can do everything. But all of us can ask: "Lord, how would you have me serve?" And as each of us offers what we can, in dependence on Christ, the whole church family is strengthened.

With best wishes,

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## SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH FAMILY THROUGH SHARED LEADERSHIP

As we look ahead to our Annual Church Meetings on Monday 18th May at 7:30pm, this is a good opportunity to think about how you might play a part in the life of St Peter's. We will be electing two Churchwardens, two Deanery Synod representatives, and expect to have three vacancies on the PCC. These are important roles that help support the worship, mission, and everyday life of our church community.

Please do consider whether one of these roles might be right for you, or whether you could encourage someone else to explore it. Nominations are warmly invited, and forms are available at the back of church or from the Church Office. If you'd like to know more, please speak to Mick Kavanagh (PCC Secretary) or the Vicar (contact details overleaf).

And if you consider St Peter's to be your home church, this is also a helpful time to make sure you are on the Electoral Roll. Application forms are available at the back of church and from the Office, and should be returned by Thursday 30th April.

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## SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH FAMILY THROUGH REGULAR GIVING

The Bible encourages planned, regular, generous giving, and wise financial stewardship reinforces the importance of ordinary ministry being funded in an ordinary, sustainable way. Ideally, we would want 100% of our ordinary ministry costs to be met by the regular planned giving of the church family. That is the long-term goal we would love to grow towards together.

At the moment, that figure is closer to 60%. A few years ago it was around 75%, before falling back, and only more recently beginning to recover again. So the picture is better than it was, but we still have some way to go. A very good next step for us as a church would be to get back to around 75% – that is, to a place where much more of our ordinary ministry is funded by ordinary, regular giving, rather than by one-off gifts or other exceptional income.

So this is an invitation to all of us. If St Peter's is your church family, please would you consider whether your giving is planned, regular, prayerful, and proportionate? For some, that may mean starting to give regularly for the first time. For others, it may mean reviewing and increasing a standing order that has not changed for some time. Our prayer is that, by God's grace, more and more of the work of St Peter's would be sustained by the joyful and sacrificial generosity of the church family.

**Can you help?** If you are able to support the ministry of St Peter's financially, please consider doing so on a planned, regular basis – for example by setting up a standing order. You can do this through your online banking using the following details: Account name: St Peters PCC; Bank: Santander; Sort code: 09-01-54; Account number: 36051087.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please also complete a Gift Aid declaration, as this increases the value of your gift by 25% at no extra cost to you. If you would like any further information, or would value a general conversation about PCC finances, please contact the PCC Treasurer, Ed Bradley, on 07828 414 450.

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## SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH FAMILY THROUGH SERVING ON A MINISTRY TEAM

As we look ahead to the next set of Ministry Rotas, from May onwards, we would love to encourage more of the church family to consider serving as part of a team. Whether welcoming, reading, serving refreshments, help with the music or the tech, or being part of the housekeeping team, these shared acts of service help build up the life of St Peter's week by week.

The next rotas will be put together very soon, so if you would like to join a team, please speak to Mark or Lizzie (contact details overleaf). And if you are already on a rota, please enter your unavailability on ChurchSuite as soon as possible.

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## NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Our Church Prayer Meetings continue this Monday (27th April). Join us in-person at noon, or [online via Zoom](#) at 8:00pm.
- It's not too late to sign up for *Life Explored*, which continues this Tuesday evening! You can register via 07947 136 048.
- This is the final week to give towards our Contagious bursary fund, with the deadline at the end of this month. A number of our young people are already booked to go to Contagious this summer, and we would love to support them through our church bursary fund as they head off for a week of friendship, fun, Bible teaching, and encouragement in faith. If you are able to help, donations can be made online (reference: Contagious) or via the card reader. Please also pray for the young people and leaders who will be going. For more information, speak to Lizzie Wallace (07947 136 048).
- A free *Faith in Kids* webinar on supporting children's mental wellbeing is planned for Wednesday 6th May, 8pm. This should be a helpful evening for parents, grandparents, and all involved in SPK, offering practical encouragement as we seek to care wisely for the children God has entrusted to us. More information and registration are available online or from the Office.
- St Peter's is looking for a new Church Treasurer. You do not need to be a professional accountant, but some confidence with numbers is important, and there will be a full handover and support. Please prayerfully consider whether you (or someone you know) could help, and contact the Vicar or Churchwardens as soon as possible.