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## COMING UP THIS WEEK...

### Sunday 24th May – Pentecost Sunday

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)

*[most groups and activities  
are taking a break over this half-term week]*

### Sunday 31st May

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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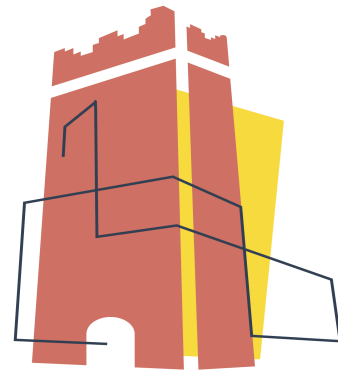
### Clare Reid – Parish Safeguarding Officer

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 24th May 2026

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### A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is Pentecost, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on the first disciples. In Acts 2, the church is not sent out in its own strength, with its own resources, or by its own cleverness. The risen and ascended Lord Jesus gives his Spirit, and ordinary, fearful people are made bold to speak of "the mighty works of God."

That is a wonderful encouragement for us. The Christian life was never meant to be lived by human effort alone, and the church's mission was never meant to depend simply on our energy, organisation, or plans. We do need to plan wisely, serve faithfully, and take responsibility for the work entrusted to us. But beneath and beyond all of that, we need the life-giving presence and power of God himself.

Pentecost reminds us that the Lord does not abandon his people to get on with his work alone. He strengthens, equips, convicts, comforts, unites, and sends. He gives gifts for service, courage for witness, love for one another, and hope for the world.

So as we look ahead as a church – with thankfulness, with real needs before us, and with opportunities to serve – let's pray that God would fill us afresh with his Holy Spirit. May he deepen our faith in Christ, renew our love for one another, and make us bold and joyful witnesses to the good news of Jesus in the heart of Colchester.

With best wishes,



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## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS, AND ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Thank you to everyone who came to our Annual Church Meetings on Monday evening, and to all who have served St Peter's over the past year. The meetings included reports on the life, finances, safeguarding, fabric and governance of the church, with much to give thanks for and some important challenges ahead – particularly around regular giving, long-term finance, buildings, safeguarding, and shared leadership. The minutes will be available soon; the Vicar's report is [on the website](#).

John Hartwell and David Whittington were elected as Churchwardens; Duncan Breckels and Michael Matthew were elected to the Deanery Synod; Mick Kavanagh, Richard Lawn and Trevor Froude were elected to the PCC.

The following appointments were also made: Mick Kavanagh as PCC Secretary; Clare Reid as Parish Safeguarding Officer and Electoral Roll Officer; Julia Howard as Lead Safeguarding Recruiter; and Peter Wigglesworth as Independent Examiner. We did not receive any nominations for PCC Treasurer, but Richard Lawn has kindly offered to serve as Interim Finance Lead while carrying the external responsibilities of Treasurer. Please continue to pray for this important role to be filled.

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## LOOKING AHEAD: ORDAINED MINISTRY AT ST PETER'S

In the next few days, members of the St Peter's church family will receive a letter from the Churchwardens about the future funding of ordained ministry at St Peter's. For the past few years, the cost of our Vicar's ministry has been shared between the Diocese and St Peter's PCC. We are deeply thankful for the generous support that has made this possible, and for the encouragements we have seen in church life during that time. Looking ahead, however, the funds currently set aside for this purpose are due to come to an end during 2027, and the PCC now needs to plan responsibly for the next stage of church life.

At the heart of this is our shared desire to see the church family built up in Christ and equipped for the work God has given us. The forthcoming letter will explain how the PCC hopes to sustain the ministry of Word and prayer, pastoral care, discipleship, evangelism, leadership and oversight, and will invite members of the church family to consider how they might respond.

The Churchwardens will speak briefly about this during the service on Sunday 31st May. For now, please look out for the letter when it arrives, and begin praying for wisdom, generosity and confidence in the Lord's provision.

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## NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- The Office will be closed for annual leave this coming week. Any emails and messages will be picked up on 31st May.
  - Could you help occasionally? The Church Office is gathering names of people willing to offer practical help from time to time – lifts, shopping, or simple chores. Please contact Lizzie with what you may be able to offer.
  - We would like to gather a small team to help Lizzie with fundraising plans and events – from larger events such as the Christmas Concert and Ceilidh to smaller, low-key occasions. No particular skills are required, just enthusiasm. If you would like to be involved, Lizzie would love to hear from you.
  - Our Church Prayer Meetings continue on Monday 1st June: the 'in-person' Prayer Meeting at 12 noon will be in church (not at the Vicarage), and the evening Prayer Meeting will be online via Zoom at 8pm; both meetings last about 30 minutes.
  - Our "First Sunday" Summer Picnics begin on Sunday 7th June, after the Morning Service in the Vicarage Garden. Bring your own lunch, and a chair or picnic rug if you can. Future dates: 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September. Weather permitting!
  - A group from St Peter's are attending the Bishop of Ebbsfleet's Regional Conference in Cambridge on Monday 22nd June. Others are very welcome to join us. Please speak to Lizzie if you would like to come, especially if you would need a lift.
  - We are hosting a full-day First Aid course on Saturday 27th June and there are four spaces remaining. The course costs £65 and the qualification is valid for three years. Please contact Lizzie (contact details overleaf) if you would like to join. Financial help may be available if cost would be a barrier.
  - We are planning a Seniors' Afternoon Tea for Monday 29th June, from 2.30pm until 4.30pm, in the Vicarage Garden, to mark our Patronal Festival. Invitations will follow shortly, but please save the date.
  - The draft PCC minutes from Monday 11th May are available for inspection on the noticeboard by the south door.
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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's going on in SPK this Sunday...

- Spark (in the Vestry) are continuing their 'Bible Overview' series, looking this week at 'The Judges';
- Diggers and Seekers (in the Hall) continue their series entitled 'Jesus on Mission' looking today at speaking about Jesus;
- Bible Tots (in the Church Lounge) will be learning about Jesus being the friend of Zacchaeus!

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