
COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Sunday 19th July

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

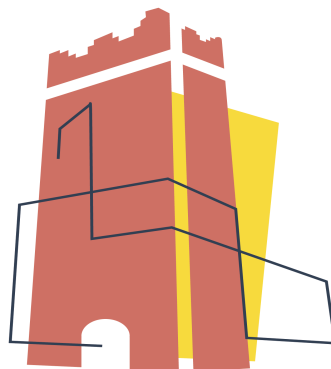
Wednesday 22nd July

10:15am Coffee & Chat (mercury cafe)

Sunday 26th July

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 Update

Sunday 19th July 2026



NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Wallace – Vicar of St Peter's

07772 615378 | mark.wallace@stpeterscolchester.org

Lizzie Wallace – Church Administrator

07947 136 048 | office@stpeterscolchester.org

Clare Reid – Parish Safeguarding Officer

07946 071 246 | safeguarding@stpeterscolchester.org

Amanda Knight – Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

01245294457 | safeguarding@chelmsford.anglican.org

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

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

As I am away on annual leave this week, and as others begin to head away over the summer, it is a good moment to think not only about rest, but about what might refresh us spiritually.

One simple encouragement is this: read something good. A helpful Christian book can steady us, deepen us, challenge us, comfort us, and help us keep going in the Lord Jesus. It does not need to be long or difficult. Sometimes a short, clear book read slowly and prayerfully can do us more good than we expect.

There are books available to borrow from the church library, and there are also free books on the book table which you are very welcome to take and read. Perhaps this week would be a good time to choose one and make a start.

May the Lord use our reading, resting, praying, and gathering over these weeks to strengthen us in Christ.

With best wishes,

SERMONS OVER THE SUMMER

Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue working through Acts 13, following the spread of the gospel as the risen Lord Jesus sends his word to the nations. This has been a wonderfully encouraging part of Acts, reminding us that the mission of the church belongs to Christ, and that his word continues to go out in the power of the Holy Spirit.

During August, we will then begin a short new series looking at '*Women of Faith*' from Genesis. These passages will help us reflect on the faithfulness of God, the complexity of real human lives, and the way the Lord works through his people in every generation. Details of our current, recent, and forthcoming sermon series are available on the Sermons page of the church website, which can be found via: www.stpeterscolchester.org/sermons-st-peters/

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Following the PCC's adoption of the revised [Safeguarding Policy](#), we are continuing to work through some of the practical implications for church life. As noted last week, one immediate change is that we need to be more careful about food and drink in St Peter's Kids, taking proper account of allergies, intolerances, dietary restrictions, and parental consent. Thank you for your understanding as we tighten up these arrangements.

The revised policy also strengthens several wider areas of safeguarding practice. It clarifies the role of Ministry Area Leaders, not only in children's and youth work, but also where ministries may involve vulnerable adults or adults with particular vulnerabilities. It also reflects developing requirements around the mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse, including the important principle that internal reporting must not delay any required report to the police or local authority.

We are also improving our processes around safer recruitment and people management. This means being clearer about role descriptions, DBS checks where required, safeguarding training, and how different ministry roles are assessed. Some of this work will be fairly detailed and behind the scenes, but it is an important part of caring well for one another and making sure that St Peter's is a safe church for children, young people, vulnerable adults, volunteers, and the whole church family.

PCC GOVERNANCE AND HANDBOOK

At its meeting earlier this month, the PCC continued to make progress on some of the governance work needed to support the life and ministry of St Peter's. This includes the adoption of a new [PCC Handbook](#), now available on the church website, and the formation of new Governance Groups to help different areas of church life be overseen more carefully.

This kind of work is often quiet and behind the scenes, but it matters. Good governance helps the PCC serve the church family responsibly, make wise decisions, and support the ministry and mission of St Peter's. The new handbook is intended to help current PCC members, and may also be useful for anyone who might consider standing for PCC in the future. Please do pray for the PCC as they continue this work, and for wisdom, clarity, and faithfulness in the way we order our life together.

ANNUAL LEAVE / CHURCH OFFICE

Mark and Lizzie are currently on annual leave. During this time, please continue to send any enquiries to the Church Office mobile: **07947 136048**. The phone is being monitored by a member of the church leadership team. Anything urgent will be picked up and dealt with as appropriate. Non-urgent matters will need to wait until Mark and Lizzie return. The Church Office will reopen on Monday 27th July.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- St Peter's Kids over the summer: Our summer arrangements for SPK are now in place. Younger children should still head to the Hall for registration as usual, where there will be a simpler summer programme.
- Spark over the summer: Over the summer weeks, Spark-age young people will remain in church for the service. We hope this will be a good opportunity for them to take their place in the worshipping life of the wider church family, and we are grateful for their patience and encouragement as our SPK leaders and helpers take a well-earned summer breather.
- While Mark is away, Duncan Breckels will be leading and preaching at the 10.30am services. We will be continuing our sermon series in Acts 13, following the spread of the gospel as the risen Lord Jesus sends his word to the nations.
- Our Small Groups will pause for the rest of July and throughout August. For exact arrangements, please speak to your Small Group leader. If you would be interested in joining a Small Group when they restart in September, please contact the Church Office on 07947 136048, or use the Connect form.