
COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Sunday 26th July

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

Monday 27th July

12 noon Church Prayer Meeting (church)

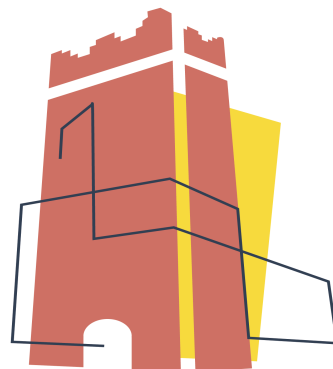
Wednesday 29th July

10:15am Coffee & Chat (mercury cafe)

Sunday 2nd August

9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (church)
10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (church)
10:15am SPK Registration (hall)
10:30am Communion Service (church)
12:30pm First Sunday Picnic (vicarage garden)

*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 26th July 2026



A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

As I return from annual leave, I want to say thank you to those who have helped keep things going at St Peter's over these summer weeks – especially those leading, preaching, welcoming, serving, caring, and quietly doing the practical things that make church life possible.

The summer can be a different rhythm for many of us. Some are away, some are tired, some are enjoying more space, and others find these weeks less easy. But the Lord remains faithful, and the ordinary means of grace remain precious: gathering with God's people, hearing his word, praying, encouraging one another, and keeping our eyes fixed on Christ.

As we move into August, please do keep making Sundays a priority when you are here, keep looking out for one another, and keep praying that the Lord would strengthen St Peter's in faith, hope, love, and gospel witness.

With best wishes,

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).*

CHURCH PRAYER MEETINGS – Monday at 12 noon, in church

During July and August, we are focusing our Church Prayer Meetings on the 12 noon in-person meetings in church. The next one is this Monday (27th July), so please do come if you are able. Prayer remains central to the life and ministry of St Peter's, and these gatherings are an important way for us to seek the Lord together.

The evening online Prayer Meeting at 8pm is pausing for July and August, in line with our aim of keeping evenings clearer over the summer and giving people a proper break. After today, the remaining summer lunchtime Prayer Meetings will be on Monday 10th August and Monday 24th August, both at 12 noon.

FIRST SUNDAY PICNIC – Sunday 2nd August

Our next First Sunday Picnic will be after the Morning Service next Sunday (2nd August), in the Vicarage Garden, weather permitting. Please bring your own lunch, and a chair or picnic rug if you can. All are very welcome to stay, chat, and enjoy time together as a church family.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS AND RIDE AND STRIDE – coming up in September

Looking ahead to September, St Peter's will be taking part in the Heritage Open Days over two weekends: Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th September and Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th September. We do not yet have detailed plans in place, but a small fundraising group is beginning to look at options. This is a good opportunity for us to welcome visitors, share something of the story and heritage of St Peter's, and help people engage with the life of the church today. It may also be an important fundraising moment as we continue to think about the future care of our buildings.

The first Saturday, 12th September, is also Ride and Stride, when people visit churches by walking, cycling, or another suitable method, raising money for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust and for St Peter's. Following the success of Ride and Stride in 2025, we would like to encourage as many people as possible to take part again this year!

More details will follow, but please do put these September dates in your diary. We are very likely to need volunteers to help welcome visitors, keep the church open, and support whatever plans take shape.

MISSION PARTNERSHIPS AND CHARITABLE GIVING

At this year's APCM, a question was raised about whether St Peter's might support a particular charity. Rather than treating that as an isolated question, the PCC would like to use it as an opportunity to think more carefully later this year about the wider area of mission partnerships and charitable giving. This will include asking how we can best support gospel ministry, mission, and works of mercy beyond our own immediate church life, and how any future partnerships or giving might reflect our convictions, responsibilities, and opportunities as a church.

This is still at an early stage, but we would be glad to hear from anyone who has thoughts, questions, or suggestions. Please speak to Mark (our Vicar), or to either of the Churchwardens (John or David) if you would like to contribute to the conversation.

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.
- Small Groups: Our Small Groups are taking a break over July and August. 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.
- Tiny Tots: Tiny Tots has finished for the summer and, God willing, will return in September. Please do pray for this important ministry to local families. We also need more team members for the autumn, so please speak to Lizzie Wallace if you might be interested in helping.
- Please note that the 9am BCP Communion services will pause during July and August, and resume in September.
- Don't forget that [the Sermons page](#) of the church website includes details of our current and forthcoming sermon series, as well as short sermon summaries and Bible Study Group notes. We are continuing in Acts 13 during July, before beginning a new August series looking at 'Women of Faith' from Genesis.