
COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Sunday 9th August

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

Monday 10th August

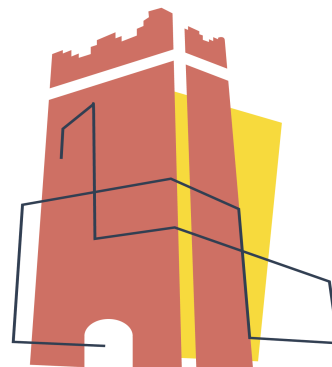
12 noon Church Prayer Meeting (church)
6:00pm Standing Committee (vicarage)

Wednesday 12th August

10:15am Coffee & Chat (mercury cafe)
7:30pm Crosslands Groups (vicarage)

Sunday 16th August

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



St Peter's Update

Sunday 9th August 2026

The full church calendar, with further details of locations etc, may be viewed online [via the website](#) or via ChurchSuite.



NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Wallace – Vicar of St Peter's

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Lizzie Wallace – Church Administrator

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Clare Reid – Parish Safeguarding Officer

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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).

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

One of the privileges of belonging to the wider church is being reminded that gospel ministry is taking place in many different communities, often in places that are easily misunderstood or overlooked.

This week, some of you may be interested to read a *Church Times* article featuring Matt Simpkins, who was previously part of St Peter's and is now serving as Vicar of St James' with St Christopher's, Clacton-on-Sea. The [article](#) reflects on Clacton and Jaywick during the current by-election, but its most helpful emphasis is on the dignity, complexity, and humanity of local communities that can too easily be reduced to headlines or caricatures.

That is a good reminder for us too. Wherever the Lord has placed us, Christians are called to see people not as problems, statistics, or political symbols, but as those made in the image of God and in need of the grace of Christ. Faithful ministry begins with prayer, love, presence, truth, and patient service.

Please do pray for Matt and for gospel ministry in Clacton and Jaywick – and pray also that St Peter's would be faithful in loving and serving the people among whom God has placed us here in Colchester.

With best wishes,

CONTAGIOUS EAST – PRAYING FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Later this month, some of our young people will be going to Contagious East, part of Contagious Bible Ministries. Contagious runs Bible-centred residential conferences for children and young people, with a mixture of friendship, fun, activities, worship, and clear Bible teaching. Contagious East runs from Saturday 22nd August to Friday 28th August, at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook, near Ipswich.

A week like this can be hugely significant. Young people have the chance to hear the Bible taught clearly, study God's word in small groups, ask questions, spend time with Christian leaders, make friendships with other young Christians, and discover that they are not alone in wanting to trust and follow Jesus. For many, that combination of time away, good teaching, prayer, fun, and Christian friendship can be an important moment in their discipleship.

This summer, Contagious will be teaching from Proverbs, helping young people seek "the Way of Wisdom" and see how true wisdom is found in union with Christ. Please pray that the Lord would use the week to deepen faith, encourage our young people, and help them grow in joyful confidence in Christ.

ROTA UNAVAILABILITY

We are expecting the next set of rotas to run through to the end of December. To help Lizzie put these together well, please could everyone who serves on a rota add any known unavailability to My ChurchSuite by Sunday 17th August.

If you are not able to do this on ChurchSuite, please message Lizzie in the Office on 07947 136 048. Changes can always be made later if necessary, but it is much easier to plan well if we know about dates in advance. Thank you for your help with this.

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

Claire Brooks, Di King's daughter, has recently completed Trek26 in Norfolk to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society, a cause very close to her heart and to many families. If anyone from the church family would like to encourage Claire and support the charity, donations can be made through her JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/claire-brooks-4>

BLUE COAT SCHOOL FOUNDATION ESSAY PRIZE

The Colchester Blue Coat School Foundation is offering ten £100 essay prizes for young adults who have been educated in Colchester and are practising Christians. Entrants are invited to write a short essay of no more than 250 words on the title "My future life in education as a Christian". This could be a good opportunity for students, recent school-leavers, or young adults connected with St Peter's to reflect on faith, education, and future plans.

Entries need to be submitted by 31st August, together with the required proforma. Please speak to Mark or contact the Church Office if you would like the form or further details.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- The Prayer Pointers for August are now available at the back of church.
- Our summer arrangements for SPK are now in place. Younger children should continue to head to the Hall for registration as usual, where there will be a simpler summer programme. Spark-age young people will remain in church for the whole service, giving them a good opportunity to share more fully in the worship and life of the wider church family.
- Heritage Open Days: In September, we hope to open St Peter's as part of the national Heritage Open Days event, over two weekends: Saturday 12th-Sunday 13th September and Saturday 19th-Sunday 20th September. This is a great opportunity to welcome visitors, share something of St Peter's, and make our church more visible to the wider community. We will need help with welcoming, refreshments, cakes, cleaning, decorating, plants, crafts, and simply being present to chat with visitors. Please speak to Lizzie in the Church Office on 07947 136 048 if you could help.
- Ride and Stride: Saturday 12th September is also Ride and Stride, raising money for the Friends of Essex Churches Trust and for St Peter's. After last year's success, we would love as many people as possible to take part again this year – whether by walking, cycling, sponsoring, welcoming visitors, or encouraging others. More details will follow, but please put the date in your diary.
- Please note that the Church Office will be closed from Monday 24th August to Friday 28th August. Urgent pastoral matters can be referred directly to the Vicar, but everything else will be dealt with after the Office reopens.