
COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Sunday 20th September

9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (church)
10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (church)
10:15am SPK Registration (church)
10:30am Communion Service (church)
12:15pm church open: Heritage Open Days (till 4pm)
8:00pm SPK Team Meeting (online)

Monday 21st September

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

Tuesday 22nd September

7:30pm Christianity Explored (vicarage)

Wednesday 23rd September

10:15am Coffee & Chat (mercury cafe)
1:30pm Cranmere Court Group

Thursday 24th September

10:00am Tiny Tots (hall)
11:30am Thursday Working Lunch (hall)
4:30pm EQUIP session (online)
7:30pm EQUIP session (online)

Saturday 26th September

9:30am EQUIP session (online)

Sunday 27th September

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

NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Wallace – Vicar of St Peter's

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Lizzie Wallace – Church Administrator

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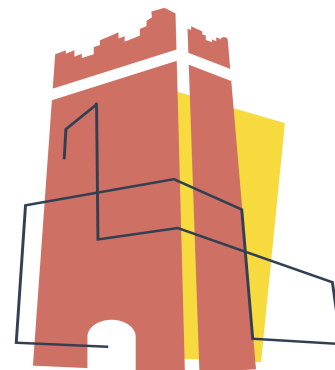
Clare Reid – Parish Safeguarding Officer

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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).



St Peter's Update

Sunday 20th September 2026

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

On Sunday 4th October we will celebrate our Harvest Festival together.

As in previous years, our Harvest gifts will support Beacon House here in Colchester. Beacon House works with people who are homeless, vulnerably housed, or at risk of homelessness, offering practical help, support, and a place of welcome.

Harvest is a good moment to stop and remember that everything we have comes from God. It is also a chance to turn gratitude into generosity – giving thanks for his provision and sharing with those in particular need.

That Sunday will also be the main date for returning our Stewardship Surveys, as we think together about how the time, gifts, resources, and money God has given us can be shared for the good of others and the ministry of St Peter's.

Please do put Sunday 4th October in your diary, and come ready to give thanks, to give generously, and to share in the life of the church family.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark".

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AT ST PETER'S

From this Sunday we are making a few changes to the way we distribute Holy Communion, which we hope will make things clearer and allow Communion to be shared more smoothly. There will now be two teams administering Communion, one on the pulpit side and one on the lectern side. When the steward invites you forward, please go to either side to receive the bread and then move to whichever cup is free.

Gluten-free wafers are available. If you require one, please speak to the person leading the service before the service begins, if possible, so that we can have this ready for you and keep it separate to minimise the risk of cross-contamination. When you come forward for Communion, please come to the centre to receive.

We are also introducing an **alcohol-free** Communion wine. This will always be available on the lectern side, in the cup marked with a coloured ribbon.

If you are **unable to come forward**, Communion can be brought to you where you are sitting – just let the steward know.

Who is Holy Communion for? Holy Communion is for those who trust in Jesus Christ and are receiving as Christian believers. If you are a communicant member of the Church of England, or of another Christian church, you are warmly invited to receive. If you are not yet at that point, or would prefer not to receive Communion, you are very welcome to come forward for a prayer of blessing instead. Please come to the centre, where the person presiding will pray with you.

Children and Families. Families are very welcome to come forward together. We will pray for the family together in the centre, after which those receiving Communion can move to either side for the bread and wine. Children who are not yet receiving Communion are warmly invited to receive a prayer of blessing. As children and young people grow older and are ready to profess the Christian faith for themselves, we encourage them to explore Confirmation and preparation for receiving Holy Communion. If your child is reaching that stage, please speak to Mark.

We hope these arrangements will help us to receive Communion reverently and joyfully – and without unnecessary uncertainty. Please bear with us as we settle into the new pattern over the next few Sundays.

A QUICK FINANCE UPDATE

Following Monday's PCC meeting, a brief update on our finances may be helpful. We remain deeply grateful for the generosity which sustains the ministry of St Peter's week by week.

We currently expect regular planned giving in 2026 to be about £62,800 – around £5,235 a month. That is approximately £2,600 a year (£217 a month) below budget. Other income has helped the overall position this year, but regular, dependable giving remains particularly important if we are to plan responsibly and sustain our ministry into 2027.

As part of the Stewardship Survey, we are therefore asking everyone who considers St Peter's their church to review their giving prayerfully. There is no single right response for everyone, but our overall aim is to increase regular giving by around £500 a month, providing a stronger and more sustainable foundation for the year ahead.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – Sunday 4th October

Our Harvest gifts this year will again be donated to Beacon House. Their current requested items include drinking squash, cooking sauces, sugar, crisps, mayonnaise, coffee, Marmite, cooking oil, kitchen towel, tinned vegetables, tinned soup, ketchup, jam, brown sauce, marmalade, sweetcorn and tinned potatoes.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- The Prayer Pointers for September are now available at the back of church.
- Bible Study Group notes are available at the back of church and on the website.
- Our Thursday Working Lunches continue, meeting from 11.30am till 1.30pm to help with practical jobs around the church and hall. Do join us if you can: bring some lunch; help with whatever suits you; tea and coffee will be provided.
- We were very grateful to learn this week that St Peter's has been left a legacy of £5,000 from the estate of the late Revd Canon Robin Wilson. Robin was Vicar of St Peter's for more than thirty years, from 1970 until his retirement in 2001. We are enormously grateful for this generous final gift to the church in which he served for so many years. Please give thanks to God for Robin, for his long ministry among us, and for this generous provision for the continuing work of St Peter's.
- Congratulations to Revd Dr Israel Oluwole Olofinjana on his appointment as Lead Minister of Colchester Baptist Church. As neighbours in the city centre, please pray for Israel, his family, and all at CBC as this new season of ministry begins.