
COMING UP THIS WEEK...

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)

Monday 28th September

all day ReNew Conference (nottingham)

Tuesday 29th September

all day ReNew Conference (nottingham)
no Christianity Explored this week

Wednesday 30th September

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

Thursday 1st October

10:00am Tiny Tots (hall)
11:30am Thursday Working Lunch (hall)
6:15pm EQUIP Meal & Gathering (vicarage)

Sunday 4th October

9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (church)
10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (church)
10:15am SPK Registration (church)
10:30am Harvest Festival 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

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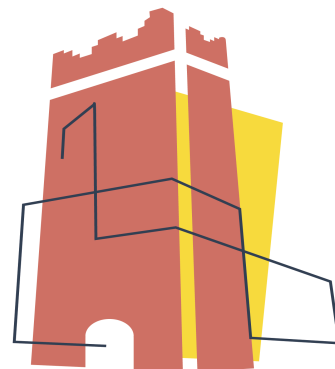
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*Churchwardens and other office-holders at St Peter's may be
contacted via the Office (office@stpeterscolchester.org).*



St Peter's Update

Sunday 27th September 2026

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

Around Colchester we hear many different voices speaking about Christianity – from street preachers and visiting speakers to different churches, groups and events. Some may proclaim Christ faithfully in ways we would not choose ourselves; others may use familiar Christian language while teaching something seriously different from the gospel. That matters, because false teaching can mislead people about who Jesus is, what salvation means, and where our hope is to be found.

The Bible's call is neither suspicion nor naivety, but discernment: *"Test everything; hold fast what is good."* We should rejoice where Christ is faithfully proclaimed, test what we hear by God's Word, reject what is false, and hold fast above all to the Lord Jesus.

I have written a fuller letter exploring these questions, including street preaching, prosperity teaching, other religious groups, and discernment within the wider Church. Please [do read it online](#), or pick up a printed copy from the back of church on Sunday.

With best wishes,

STEWARDSHIP SURVEY – please respond by Sunday 4th October

Our series in 1 Corinthians 12-14 has reminded us that God gives different gifts to different people, and that he gives them “for the common good”. That is an important part of how the church is meant to work: each of us receiving from God, and each of us having some part to play in the life of the body.

The Annual Stewardship Survey is one practical way of helping us think about that together. It is not simply about asking people to do more. For some, the right response may be to continue as they are; for others, to change something, offer something new, or step back from something. What matters is that we take a little time to think and pray about how we use what God has entrusted to us.

Your response also genuinely helps the PCC as we plan for the year ahead. It gives us a clearer picture of the gifts, experience, capacity and needs within the church family, and helps us make wiser decisions about what is realistic and where we should focus. **Please do respond by Harvest Sunday next week (4th October).** You can complete the survey online, or pick up a paper pack from the back of church on Sunday.

THANK YOU – HERITAGE OPEN DAYS & RIDE AND STRIDE

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our *Heritage Open Days* and *Ride & Stride* over the past two weekends.

Across the *Heritage Open Days*, we were able to welcome more than 300 visitors to St Peter's. The plants, cakes, treasure trails, crafts, history booklets, balloons, goody bags and gifts were all much enjoyed, and almost £400 was raised. Thank you to everyone who prepared, welcomed, served, baked, chatted, tidied, and helped us open the church so warmly to the wider community.

Ride & Stride was also a great success, with participants ranging in age from 6 to 93. Thank you to everyone who took part, sponsored, or helped make it possible. If you still have sponsor money to hand in, please pass it to Richard Lawn (our Interim Finance Lead) by the end of the month.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Congratulations to the Revd Stuart Hull, who has now been granted Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Chelmsford. This means he is authorised to exercise ministry within the Diocese, and we are very glad that this will make it possible for him to serve more fully here at St Peter's. Stuart serves as an Army chaplain with the Parachute Regiment, and we look forward to him leading and preaching with us next month.
 - 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.
 - Information about the children we support through Compassion is available in church. Please do take a look and find out a little more about them and how we can pray for them.
 - Mark and Lizzie will be away on Monday and Tuesday for the annual ReNew Conference, so the Church Office will be closed on both days. ReNew brings together Anglican evangelical churches and leaders from across the country for Bible teaching, prayer, encouragement and thinking together about the mission and ministry of the local church. This year's theme is “Lord, teach us to pray”, with a particular focus on how prayer shapes and sustains the life and ministry of our churches.
 - 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.
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LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

It may still feel a little early, but our plans for Advent and Christmas are beginning to take shape. Please do put the main dates in your diary now, and begin thinking about friends, neighbours or family you might invite...

- Sunday 29th November, 10:30am – **Advent Carol Service**
- Sunday 6th December, 10:30am – **SPK Christmas Party** (regular service in church)
- Sunday 13th December, 10:30am – **Family Christingle Service**
- Sunday 20th December, 5:00pm – **Christmas Carol Service** (morning service at 10:30am as usual)
- Christmas Eve, 4:00pm – **Family Carols**
- Christmas Day, 10:00am – **All-Age Family Communion**