COMING UP THIS WEEK...

Sunday 25th October
9:00am BCP Communion (church)
9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (church)
10:00am Team Prayer Meeting (church)
10:15am SPK Registration (hall)
10:30am Morning Service (church)

most groups and events are taking a short break over this half-term week

Sunday 1st November
9:00am BCP Communion (church)
9:45am Morning Prayer (hall)
10:45am Coffee (hall)
11:15am 'Rock Solid' with SPK (hall)

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

St Peter's
COLCHESTER

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).

St Peter's Update

Sunday 25th October 2026

A NOTE FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

Over the past few weeks we have been working through the implications of the problems with the church heating. As you will know, the system is old, parts of the pipework are badly corroded, and although we continue to explore both repairs and longer-term alternatives, we cannot at present rely on being able to heat the church adequately through the winter.

That means that, from next Sunday (1st Nov), we are going to make some temporary changes to our Sunday pattern. Most of our morning worship will move into the Hall, where we can keep people warm and continue to meet together properly, while our 9.00am BCP Communion will remain in church.

None of this is quite how we would have planned the autumn. Buildings matter, and we will miss some of what comes with gathering together in the church. But the church is, of course, much more than the building in which we meet. Indeed, over the next few weeks we are going to spend some time in Ephesians 2–3 thinking again about what God has made us in Christ: people brought to life by grace, brought together through the cross, and called to share in his purposes.

This is a temporary arrangement, and we will keep it under review. In the meantime, thank you for your patience, flexibility and encouragement as we work through this together.

With best wishes,

Mark

SUNDAY SERVICES FROM 1ST NOVEMBER

From next Sunday, 1st November, we will begin a temporary new pattern of Sunday morning services while we deal with the problems with the church heating. Thank you very much to everyone who responded to our recent survey. The responses have been extremely helpful in working out a pattern which should allow us to accommodate everyone comfortably, while making the best use of the church and Hall.

For the time being, our Sunday mornings will look like this:

- **9.00am – 9:25am: BCP Holy Communion, in church**
  A short, quiet service of Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer, normally lasting around 20 minutes.
- **9.45am – 10:45am: Morning Prayer, in the Hall**
  A more traditional morning service with Bible teaching, prayers and sung worship.
- **10.45am – 11.15am: Coffee and time together in the Hall**
  We particularly hope that those attending either Hall service will make use of this time, giving us an opportunity to see one another across the two congregations.
- **11.15am –12:15pm: 'Rock Solid', in the Hall**
  A more informal service with Bible teaching and worship. St Peter's Kids provision will take place as part of this service, and we would particularly encourage families with children to make Rock Solid their main Sunday service. The crèche will also be open in the Church Lounge throughout Rock Solid, but will not be available during the earlier service.

You are, of course, welcome to attend whichever service best suits you. It may take a week or two for everyone to work out which pattern works best, and that is absolutely fine.

Thank you for bearing with the changes. This is a temporary arrangement rather than a permanent restructuring of our Sunday services. We will keep it under review as we continue to investigate the heating situation and learn how the new pattern works in practice. Please do speak to Mark, the Churchwardens or the Church Office if you have any questions.

NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- Thank you to all those who have responded to our recent Stewardship Survey. The responses are already proving very helpful as the PCC plans for 2027. If you have not yet replied, please do take the opportunity to do so – complete it online here, or pick up a paper copy in church on Sunday.
- Completed shoeboxes are due back at St Peter's next Sunday, 1st November. Please do not seal your box, as it needs to be checked before being sent. Financial contributions towards the appeal can also be made through the church card reader.
- The results of the elections to the new General Synod (2026–31) have now been announced. Mark was not re-elected this time, bringing to an end his five years serving on Synod, but he is very grateful for the opportunity he has had to contribute during that period. Chelmsford has elected six clergy and six lay representatives for the new quinquennium. There are good and faithful people among them, including some whom we know well, and we are particularly grateful that there will continue to be strong voices committed to the gospel and to the flourishing of the local church. Please pray for all those elected as they take up this responsibility: for wisdom, courage and faithfulness, and that General Synod will serve the mission and witness of the Church of England well.

ARE YOU ON THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL?

If you consider St Peter's your church home, we'd love to encourage you to consider joining our Church Electoral Roll, if you're not already on it. The Electoral Roll is the Church of England's official record of those who belong to a local church and wish to participate in its life and governance. Being on the Roll enables you to vote at our Annual Church Meetings and play a part in decisions about the church's future. Our next Annual Church Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 27 April 2027**. For some elected roles, including membership of the PCC, you normally need to have been on the Electoral Roll for at least six months beforehand. So it's worth considering this now rather than waiting until next spring.

If you're baptised, aged 16 or over, and meet the relevant membership or attendance requirements, you may be eligible to join. Apply to join the Electoral Roll online. If you're unsure whether you're already on the Roll, whether you're eligible, or have any other questions, please speak to Mark.