

DIARY DETAILS

Sunday 3rd December *(The 1st Sunday of Advent)*

9:45am Advent Carol Service at *St Botolph's*
11:00am Family Service at *St Peter's*
followed by the Church Lunch in the Hall
6:30pm Joint Evening Service at *Castle*

Tuesday 5th December

7:30pm GHP Volunteer Training Session in the Hall

Wednesday 6th December

10:30am Communion Service at *St Peter's*
7:45pm Discipleship Explored at the Vicarage

Thursday 7th December

8:00pm NGM* Community Group at 4 By. Mews

Saturday 9th December

7:30pm CSBMS Concert at *St Botolph's*

Sunday 10th December *(the 2nd Sunday of Advent)*

9:45am Communion Service at *St Botolph's*
11:00am Morning Service at *St Peter's*
6:30pm Joint Evening Service at *Castle*

The focus of each Community Group is as follows:

- * *FFM: Faithful Friends Ministries (Tuesday lunchtimes)*
- * *JRM: Jericho Road Ministries (Tuesday evenings)*
- * *NGM: Next Generation Ministries (Thursday evenings)*

❖ *GHP: Guest House Project, our winter homeless shelter*

CONTACT DETAILS

The Town Centre Parish Office

01206 572529 & towncentreparishoffice@gmail.com

Associate Minister: **Aella Gage** *(on sick leave)*

Churchwarden: **Dan Watts** (01206 866630)

Churchwarden: **Wendy Whitfield** (01206 790431)

PCC Secretary: **Julie Gallacher** (07894 064095)

PCC Treasurer: **Richard Lawn** (01206 540510)

Safeguarding Rep: **Morvern Cox** (07501 341000)

Vicar: **Mark Wallace** (01206 572641 or 07772 615378)

Vicar's PA: **Bernice Watts** (01206 572529)

CHURCH NOTICES

Publicity for "Christmas at St Peter's". The Christmas publicity should be available this morning (famous last words!). Please take a handful of fliers for neighbours, colleagues, or friends. If you might be able to help deliver to the parish, please let Mark know.

Singing Group for the Carol Service. If you would like to help form a small singing group to sing a few carols at the Carol Service on 17th December, please speak to Richard Lawn (540510) as soon as possible.

The Guest House Project starts in eleven days! Leaflets about the project are available in church and via www.stpeterscolchester.org Please pick up a Volunteer Application Form today if you would like to help. There are also rotas for Volunteers and Evening Meal Providers at the back of the church.

Advent Prayer Guide. Throughout Advent there is the opportunity to pray for the different aspects of Christian ministry in the Colchester borough. A copy of the Advent Prayer Guide can be viewed and downloaded from the church website or Twitter feed (@StPeters_CO11DZ).

Sunday 17th December - no Morning Service. Please note that with the Parish Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday 17th December, there will be no morning service at St Peter's that day. Everyone would, of course, be very welcome at the Civic Carol Service at St Botolph's at 10:30am as well!

Home insurance offer. To celebrate their 130th anniversary, Ecclesiastical Insurance will donate £130 to St Peter's for every new home insurance policy taken out by any church member before the end of next year. Why not ask them for a quote? For more details, speak to Richard Lawn.

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A very warm welcome to St Peter's Church!

Our service this morning is led by Mark Wallace. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Welcoming Team or contact any of the people in the "Contact details" section at the back of this leaflet. Please note that we do not take a collection during the service: if you would like to give, please use the box towards the back of church.

Thank you for joining us today.

Family Service

Sunday 3rd December 2017

The First Sunday of Advent

Yet you left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry,
with a word you stilled the sea;
yet how silently you suffered
that the guilty may go free.

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man;
and your cry of love rings out
across the lands.*

With a shout you rose victorious,
wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven
leading captives in your wake.
Now you stand before the Father
interceding for your own;
from each tribe and tongue and nation
you are leading sinners home.

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man;
and your cry of love rings out
across the lands.*

Stuart Townend, © 2002, Thankyou Music

LIFE EXPLORED - part 2

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us come to the Lord,
who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions
in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

LIFE EXPLORED - part 1

You're the Word of God the Father

from before the world began;
every star and every planet
has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of your voice:
let the skies declare your glory,
let the land and seas rejoice!

*You're the Author of creation,
You're the Lord of every man;
and your cry of love rings out
across the lands.*

PSALM 34 - "Taste and see that the Lord is good"

page 463-464 of the pew Bibles

At the end of the reading...

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

3 2 1 - THE STORY OF GOD, THE WORLD, AND YOU

THE CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
by the spirit and a virgin's faith;
to the anguish and the shame of scandal
came the Saviour of the human race.
But the skies were filled, with the praise of heav'n,
shepherds listen as the angels tell
of the Gift of God, come down to man —
at the dawning of Immanuel

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
humble servant in the Father's hands,
filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, he walked my road, and He felt my pain,
joys and sorrows that I know so well;
yet His righteous steps, give me hope again —
I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
and with a shout, our souls are free —
Death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
crowned with glory on the highest throne,
interceding for His own beloved
till His Father calls us to bring them home!
Then the skies will part, as the trumpet sounds:
hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
but the Bride will run, to her Lover's arms —
Giving glory to Immanuel!

Stuart Townsend © 1999 Thankyou Music

THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

THE BIBLE READING: 2 Peter 3 v 8-10

page 1019 of the pew Bibles
read by Joshua Wallace

At the end of the reading...

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

"WAITING"

By faith we see the hand of God,
in the light of creation's grand design;
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth,
with the power of His promise in their hearts;
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise,
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward,
till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear;
with the power to break the chains of sin and death,
and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
in the power of the Spirit to the lost;
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in every corner of the earth

*We will stand as children of the promise,
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward,
till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith this mountain shall be moved,
and the power of the gospel shall prevail;
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon His name.

*We will stand as children of the promise,
we will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward,
till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

Keith & Kristyn Getty, © 2009, Thankyou Music

THE PRAYERS

* *The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent*

Almighty God, give us grace
to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us
in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

* The Intercessions

led by Peter Holden

* *The Lord's Prayer*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE & NOTICES

Jesus is Lord! creation's voice proclaims it,

for by his power

each tree and flower was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! the universe declares it -

sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: 'Jesus is Lord!'

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord!

Praise him with 'Hallelujahs', for Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! yet from his throne eternal

in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.

Jesus is Lord! from him all life proceeding -

yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord!

Praise him with 'Hallelujahs', for Jesus is Lord!

Jesus is Lord! o'er sin the mighty conqueror;

from death he rose

and all his foes shall own his name.

Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit

to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord!

Praise him with 'Hallelujahs', for Jesus is Lord!

David J Mansell, © 1982, Spirit of Praise Music

THE CONCLUSION

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**
