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## THE CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sunday 19th June

- 9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (*church*)  
10:00am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting (*church*)  
10:30am Morning Service (*church*)  
7:30pm 16-30s Group (*CO3 3RS*)

### Wednesday 22nd June

- 7:00pm 'CONNECT' (*hall*)

### Thursday 23rd June

- 10:00am 'Tiny Tots' (*hall*)  
4:00pm 'Spark' (*hall*)  
8:00pm Archdeacon's Service (*Berechurch*)

### Friday 24th June

- 7:30pm 421 (*Fordham*)

### Sunday 26th June

- 9:30am Musicians' Rehearsal (*church*)  
10:00am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting (*church*)  
10:30am Morning Service (*church*)  
7:30pm 16-30s Group (*CO3 3RS*)

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## NAMES & CONTACT DETAILS

Administrator: **Mrs Bernice Watts**

- 01206 572529, [towncentrepishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:towncentrepishoffice@gmail.com)

Children's & Youth Worker: **Mrs Lizzie Wallace**

- 07540 261948, [lizziewallace.private@gmail.com](mailto:lizziewallace.private@gmail.com)

Churchwarden: **Dr Matt Cox**

- 07826 361316, [matjcox@msn.com](mailto:matjcox@msn.com)

Churchwarden: **Mrs Anne Kavanagh**

- 07544 391882, [gannanne@gmail.com](mailto:gannanne@gmail.com)

Pastoral Co-ordinator: **Mrs Lizzie Wallace**

- 07540 261948, [lizziewallace.private@gmail.com](mailto:lizziewallace.private@gmail.com)

PCC Treasurer: **Mr Richard Lawn**

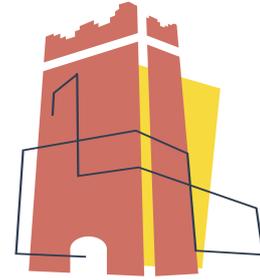
- please contact via the Church Office

Safeguarding Officer: **Miss Sue Almond**

- 07985 401690, [suea2005@gmail.com](mailto:suea2005@gmail.com)

Vicar: **Revd Mark Wallace**

- 01206 572641, [towncentrevicar@gmail.com](mailto:towncentrevicar@gmail.com)



## St Peter's Update

18th-19th June 2022

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### A NOTE FROM THE VICAR...

Dear Friends,

In my role as Bishop's Chaplain, I have met with around 300 church leaders across the country in the last month or so. As I reflect on all these meetings, two key themes keep coming to my mind...

The first is how tired everybody is. It has been an exhausting couple of years for everyone in church leadership (both lay and ordained), and the cumulative effects of the pandemic and the financial crisis are taking their toll. For all in leadership here at St Peter's, can I encourage you to take the time you need to rest and recover over this summer period.

The second theme is how blessed we are here at St Peter's. Of course, no church is perfect! But we can be so thankful for all that God is doing amongst us, and for all that he has given us. At the same time, let us also be reminded that "to whom much is given, much will be expected". With our Gift Day coming soon, and with many challenges lying ahead, let us take Luke 12.48 to heart once again.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the 'M' and extends to the right, ending under the 'k'.

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## ST PETER'S GIFT DAY – Sunday 3rd July

Each year, we invite everyone at St Peter's to review their financial giving as part of our Church Gift Day. This is partly to give everyone the opportunity to prayerfully consider how they steward their money, and partly to share something of the financial situation of the church for the year ahead. This year, our Gift Day will be on Sunday 3rd July, and we will be encouraging everyone to consider completing a *Gift Day Pledge Form*.

The church's financial situation remains very tight. **Our average monthly expenditure is in the region of £8150** (around £100k for the whole year), which is largely made up of contributions to the diocese by way of supporting our vicar, salaries to the staff employed directly by the PCC, the regular costs of gospel ministry, and work on the buildings. According to our provisional budget for the year ahead, **we expect a shortfall of around £900 per month in the year ahead**. The Lord has graciously met our financial needs in the past, and we continue to pray now that he will do so this year.

Please, therefore, could we ask you (1) to pray for this very specific need in the life of the church, (2) to spend some time in the coming days prayerfully considering your own financial support of the church's work, and (3) to look out for the Gift Day Letter and Pledge Form that will be coming out in the next few days.

Questions and comments about the church's finances are always welcome, either via informal conversation with the Vicar or Treasurer, or by formal email to the PCC Secretary.

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## CHURCHWARDENS AT ST PETER'S

Churchwardens are vital to the spiritual health and efficient organisation of churches in the Church of England. It is an important (and sometimes demanding) role, and we are grateful to those willing to shoulder this burden of leadership each year. Churchwardens are elected annually at the Annual Church Meeting as the senior laypeople of the parish and congregation. They are the Bishop's officers, and admitted to office each year by the Archdeacon, on behalf of the Bishop. Their first responsibility is to the Bishop, usually via the Archdeacon. They, with the vicar, are generally responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the parish.

Matt Cox and Trevor Froude were elected at this year's Annual Meeting of Parishioners on 7th May. They will be admitted to office as Churchwardens for 2022-2023, by the Archdeacon of Colchester, at a service this Thursday (23rd June) at St Margaret's in Berechurch. Do please pray for both Matt and Trevor, and for the responsibilities they will shoulder on our behalf over the coming year.

Meanwhile, we are very grateful to Anne Kavanagh, whose term as Churchwarden comes to an end this week, for all her hard work over the last couple of years. The pandemic restrictions, and the necessary work of rebuilding in the last few months, have made for a particularly difficult time for all in church leadership – and Anne has served with great diligence and kindness throughout. Anne will continue to serve on the PCC, but we all hope she enjoys a well-earned rest from her responsibilities as Churchwarden!

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## 'GETTING READY' AND 'CLEARING UP'

Each week at St Peter's, we rely on a few volunteers to help get the church ready on a Sunday morning, and to clear up after the service has finished. These tasks are usually unseen, often unappreciated, but vital for things to go smoothly. We are very grateful to those volunteers – about a dozen or so – who are on our 'Get Ready' and/or 'Clear Up' Teams.

Next Sunday (26th June), after the Morning Service, there will be a short introduction to these roles. If anyone would be willing to help out and join either (or both) of the 'Get Ready' and 'Clear Up' Teams, please join us in church next Sunday. It will be an opportunity to see what the role involves, to ask any questions, and to talk through potential availability.

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## OTHER NEWS, NOTICES & REMINDERS...

- The most recent prayer- and news-letter from the McCanns is available on request from Bernice in the Church Office.
- Please be aware that Mark, our Vicar, will be away at the next sessions of the General Synod in York between Friday 8th July and Tuesday 12th July.
- Please note that we do not take up a collection during the service. There is, however, a wooden collection box at the back of church for anyone who would like to give to support the work of the church in this way.