

Church News

October 2020

Christ Church

**Rothley Road
Mountsorrel
LE12 7JU**

St Peter's Church

**Market Place
Mountsorrel
LE12 7BA**

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Over the last couple of days, as I have been thinking about what I should write for this month's newsletter, the weather has taken on a definite autumnal feel. The temperature has dropped by several degrees and the wind has picked up helping the early fall of leaves to blow around the garden. It won't be long before all of the trees take on the vibrant colours of autumn and ready themselves to drop their leaves before entering their dormant stage.

I don't know about you, but I am ready for a dormant stage. The last few months have been strangely exhausting and, for me at least, it is now time for rest. Having been confined to your homes, some of you will have had enough resting and are raring to get going—you can't wait for things to be back to normal—and that's ok.

We read in Genesis that, when God created the world, he established a work/rest balance. He created the world in six days and rested from his labours on the seventh. The fourth commandment (from the ten commandments) states, *"Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all that thou hast to do; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it."* (from the Book of Common Prayer)

I would encourage all of you to consider how you might start to embrace the practice of Sabbath in your own life. A day to rest and relax; a day of sitting and reading; a day with the family; a day by yourself. Whatever will give you joy and pleasure, rest and relaxation, that is what you need to practice. Why work just to gain more? After all, as Jesus said, *"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"* (Mark 8.36) and *"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life."* (John 6.27)

That is why after fourteen years of ordained ministry, I am delighted to have been granted permission by the Bishop of Leicester to take a three-month sabbatical from 1 Jan—31 Mar 2021 (postponed from earlier this year). It will be a time of rest, a time of study, a time to reflect on my past ministry and a time to listen to God's call on my future ministry. I hope it will be a time when I can hear how God would have me lead his Church in this place so that, together, we can be the people he wants us to be and reach out with his love to the communities in which we minister.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Eli Resch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Re-opening Christ Church & St Peter's Church

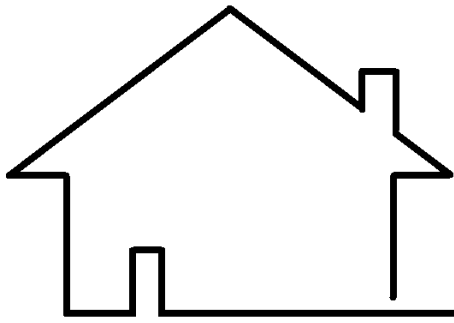
We are delighted to be resuming public worship at both St Peter's Church and Christ Church and hope that many of you will want to join us. Initially, this will be a limited return to gathered worship but we hope that in time we will be able to expand the offering. Only time will tell.

Sunday Oct 4th	9.30am	Christ Church	Morning Worship
	9.30am	St Peter's	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday Oct 11th	9.30am	Christ Church	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday Oct 18th	9.30am	Christ Church	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Peter's	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Sunday Oct 25th	9.30am	Christ Church	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evening Prayer (BCP)

The numbers attending Church will be limited because of social distancing measures so it would be helpful if you could email Revd Colin Resch on revcolinresch@icloud.com to let him know which services you would like to attend. In the case of too many people wanting to attend a particular service we may have to introduce a ticketing system to avoid people being turned away at the door.

For your safety and the safety of others, face coverings must be worn by all who are not exempt from doing so. Please be prepared to queue outside the Church until you are shown to a seat (which may not be your usual one). Strict social distancing between households/support bubbles will be in place. And as much as we would want to greet one another with a handshake, warm hug or a kiss, that won't be possible either. Please follow any one way system that is in place in Church and make use of the hand sanitiser at the entrance and exit of the Church. Currently we are not permitted to sing in Church so our services will not include hymns at this time. We are also required to keep the church doors open throughout the services so you might want to dress appropriately. We are not allowed to serve refreshments after the service and that is probably just as well as access to the toilet will not be possible either.

Finally, we would ask you to choose which church you will attend and not switch between different congregations as this will help to reduce the risk of virus transmission. You may think that these measures will spoil your worshipping experience, but we are so looking forward to gathering in a building that has been a place of prayer and spiritual support in the village for so many people over many years. We would thank you for your cooperation. Please see the website www.mountsorrelchurch.org for more details.



CHURCH *at home*

Online Worship

While we are delighted to be resuming some of our worship in our Church building, we are aware that there are a good many people who, for one reason or another, do not yet feel comfortable about returning to gathered worship. For this reason we will be continuing with our online worship via Zoom. Please feel free to join us for any or all of the following events:

Service/Event	Time	Meeting ID	Passcode
Church at Home Sunday Worship	Sunday 11am	732-3618-5391	002546
Church at Home Morning Prayer	Mon-Sat 9am	786-8201-8817	032244
Church at Home All Souls Service	Sunday 1 November 3pm	819-1509-2227	979814

Zoom Instructions

If you would like to access any of the services/events set up on Zoom, you can do this using any computer, laptop or phone with a webcam by visiting:

www.zoom.us If you have not used Zoom before, you will be asked to download some software or an app (it doesn't take long to set up). Please allow your computer/phone to do this. You will then be able to access the Church services by entering the Meeting ID Number along with the Meeting Passcode.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A P C M



Celebrating the life of our Church

We had planned to hold the annual meetings for both Christ Church and St Peter's Church in person in the respective church buildings, but due to the rise in Covid-19 cases locally and nationally, this will now have to take place via Zoom on the following dates using the codes shown.

- The Christ Church annual meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 October at 7pm.
Meeting ID: 818-9188-8219 Passcode: 264161
- The St Peter's Church annual meeting will take place on Thursday 15 October at 7pm.
Meeting ID: 856-1274-6227 Passcode: 500023

You can also phone into these meetings by calling 0203 481 5237 and entering the relevant Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted.

At each of these meetings, parishioners will appoint two Churchwardens, elect two members of the Church to sit on the Deanery Synod and two members to serve on the respective Parochial Church Council (PCC).

We will also receive the annual reports and answer any questions you may have about the life of our Church here in Mountsorrel.

In preparation for these meetings, we will be revising the Church Electoral Roll (list of church members/parishioners) and, if you are not already on the roll, forms for membership will be available in the respective Church.

Nomination forms for Churchwarden and PCC membership will also be available in the Church and completed forms can be left in the Church or delivered to Revd Colin Resch at the Vicarage before the start of the meeting.



[Secret] Church Part 3

Depending on the Word

How many Bibles do you have in your home?

Bible study is essential to a Secret Church gathering. Sharing and learning from God's Word is vital – even if no Bible is available!

Gideon, a secret Christian from Eritrea, was imprisoned because of his faith. His guards asked him to sign a document agreeing to not read his Bible, not to pray and meet with only one other person at a time. Gideon refused to sign.

He says: "They beat me...until I almost died. I said to myself inside, 'Lord, please forgive them. They don't know what they are doing, but I give you my soul to rest in your hand.' After three months in prison we had a Bible smuggled in. We tore out pages of different books to share among Christians in different cells. I was responsible for co-ordinating distribution. I wrote out more verses on toilet paper - We had no other paper – to share more of God's Word. When government agents searched my cell, they found the verses. They put me under severe torture for months. There was no part of my body without pain. A persecutor asked. 'Why don't you renounce your faith and live a peaceful life?' I replied, 'To me, the Word of God is life.'"

Many secret Christians know God's Word is life. They memorise many passages of scripture because they cannot always have a Bible to read. In the late 1960's in Vietnam (a country still ruled by a strict communist regime) Bibles were very scarce, but demand was high. Before people were given a Bible, they had to learn psalm 119 – all 176 verses!

Across Central Asia Secret Christians are monitored by the state. Converts from Muslim backgrounds, if their faith is discovered, face intense pressure to renounce Jesus.

A Secret Christian from Central Asia Writes: "My life was miserable. I tried to commit suicide. I got to know God through the lives of a Christian family and accepted Jesus. Within one month the emptiness in my life disappeared. I quit all my bad habits: drinking, drug use and violence. I was filled by God's love. I was happy when people started to persecute me because I noticed the same pattern in the Bible. I learned psalm 150. When I was imprisoned and beaten severely, I meditated on this psalm. Despite tremendous pressure I never renounced Christ. God's Word and prison made me stronger."

Choose verses from Psalm 119 or Psalm 150. Write them on toilet paper and memorise them. When you know them by heart, Flush away the paper. When You see toilet paper in shops or in the bathroom, **Pray** For our persecuted brothers and sisters, that they may know strength in the Holy Spirit to withstand their circumstances.

Psalm 119: v11: Your Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psalm 150: v2: Praise Him for His acts of power. Praise Him for His surpassing greatness.

Psalm 150: v6: Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord. Praise Him.

To be continued...

Tearfund Big Quiz Night

Saturday 14th November, 7.30pm

We have signed up to take on a quiz like no other on Saturday 14th November to fundraise for Tearfund's work in some of the world's poorest countries. Tearfund's Big Quiz team has put a large amount of work into it in advance—all we need to worry about is the answers.

Tearfund's Big Quiz Night is a great opportunity to bring people together and put your knowledge to the test,' said Tearfund's Global Fundraising Director Jane Pleace. 'We are thankful that so many supporters continue to walk with us as we help some of the world's most disadvantaged people.'

There is no charge to join the quiz, but we will be asking you to contribute to the work of Tearfund. Any money



raised will go to help change the lives of people living in poverty - like Alaya, her husband Bazwell and their three young children in Malawi. They rely on growing maize to survive, but the weather patterns that have guided their farming for generations have changed. And it's putting everyone at risk of sickness and starvation. Frequent flooding brings diseases like cholera and damages their home, washing away what little food they have. With Tearfund's partner, AG Care, Alaya and Bazwell are learning new ways of working the land under these tough conditions.

To take part in Tearfund's Big Quiz Night email lizresch64@gmail.com to register your interest and receive instructions on how to connect.

Give to the work of tearfund at <https://justgiving.com/campaign/bqn20>



Children's Page

Hallowe'en All Hallows Eve

Christ Church and St. Peter's
Mountsorrel

All Hallows (Hallow = honour as holy = a Saint) day is on November 1st. Somewhere in time All Hallows Eve– the evening before All Hallows Day (hereafter called All Saints Day) was hijacked and changed to Hallowe'en. The definition of All Saints Day is - *a day to celebrate all saints known and unknown* - which had me thinking, what or who is actually a saint?

A person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and regarded in Christian faith as being in heaven after death. Or: A very virtuous, kind, or patient person.

Which had me thinking again. Google says that there are over 10,000 saints, all of them long gone, but what about that second definition? That person could be someone we know. In Luke 6 27-29 it reads:

²⁷ *"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.*

How difficult it is to love those who are horrid to you or who have hurt you; how difficult it is to give away your coat to someone who hits you and not only that but give them the shirt off your back too, but if we think about it I guess we all have someone who has done just that. Think now of a person who has listened to you shout at them and then given you a hug, someone you have been rude to who has come round the next day to see how you are. Someone who has offered you their last sweet, or something equally as important to them, to give you some comfort.

Then on November 1st, as well as remembering the famous Saints like St. Michael, St. Patrick, St. Christopher and St. Luke let's also remember our 'personal' saints; those who have passed away or those that are still with us. Perhaps light a candle and thank God for that special person too.

But, because I know some of you are going to go out trick or treating, and that some of you are going to decorate your houses with cobwebs and spiders. Why not, when carving your pumpkin, read these bible passages too and see how

Being A Christian Is Like Being a Pumpkin!

And remember; on the 31st October, if you are just a little bit scared - God is bigger than anything that is scary in this world. This doesn't mean that life will be perfect, but it does mean that we can trust God. We do not need to walk around in fear because we have a God who loves us and cares very deeply for us.

Don't forget Fun@4 is on Sunday 4th October on Zoom. I do hope you will join us then.



Fun@4

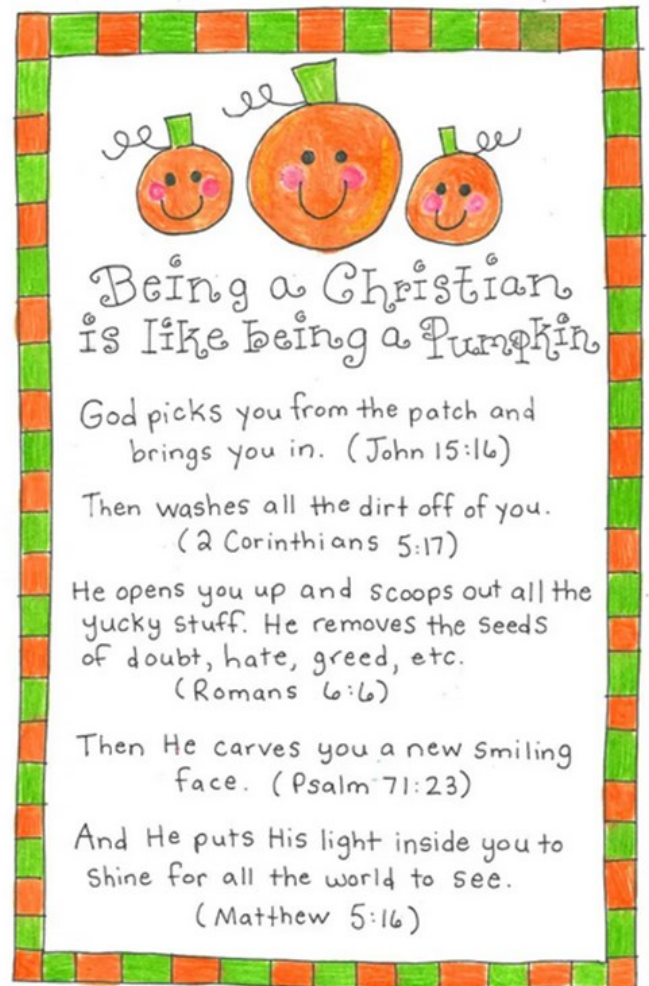
Being Thankful!

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:5

lindacfw.christchurchstpeters@gmail.com

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Our new all inclusive, all age Service held at St. Peter's Church on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 4pm.

Everyone Welcome

Sunday 18th October 2020 at 4pm on Facebook



Just 4 Ladies

come along and take part in

A Bible Study on the Mothers of Moses

Date: Tuesday 27th October

Time: 7:30pm

Zoom: Meeting ID: 811 3482 6645

Pass code: 697014



Christ Church with St Peters **Sunbeams**

Something for our Sunbeams families every Monday

Join us on Facebook, every Monday at 10am for
Stories * Activities * Songs * Prayers

All welcome



Supported by:  **Charnwood**

[Secret] Church Part 4

Sharing Communion and Lighting a candle for prayer

Many Secret Christians face severe Punishment if they are caught. In many countries in Central Asia Christians and Church buildings are monitored by the state. It is extremely dangerous to be a Christian. You cannot practice your faith openly. In Muslim countries, wine is unavailable because alcohol is forbidden. Secret Christians find other ways to remember Jesus and share communion together.

Sometimes they go to a very public place and share a 'picnic' of crackers and juice. Sometimes they use a grape as wine.

Take a grape and hold it in your hand. Think and pray for those secret Christians facing execution for their faith. Ask God to help you be bolder in sharing your faith with others.

Bite into the grape. As you taste the juice Remember Jesus shedding His blood and dying for us. Thank Him for taking our sin on Himself.

Chew your grape slowly. Remember the body of Jesus broken for you. Pray for secret Christians living in fear, that they may know Jesus with them and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Candles

In 2016 a group of secret Christians in a country in the Gulf Region were warned that an Islamic extremist group was planning attacks on churches. Despite the risks they met together. Usually they held candles and lit them when they prayed, but no one lit their candle and they sat in darkness. After a while, a six-year-old girl lit her candle and went round the room lighting the candles of others. The adults were afraid the light would be seen, and they would be found out, so they scolded the child, asking fearfully, *"What are you doing?"* She replied, *"Candles remind us that even in the darkness of the tomb there is the hope of Jesus' promise. When Jesus makes a promise, it is like a candle given to us when the lights go out. It is a promise that the lights will come back on again."*

It is a promise for all Christians. *Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."* (John 8: v12) Light a candle to remember that, in our darkest times, Jesus is always with us and also with secret Christians whatever their circumstances.

Light a candle and pray for isolated Secret Christians wherever they are.

- ◆ For isolated believers struggling to connect with other believers for support and encouragement.
- ◆ For those in prison: that they may know Jesus with them and find strength and courage.
- ◆ For those dealing with trauma or experiences of violence or loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and peace.
- ◆ For those suffering during the coronavirus pandemic from both physical and mental stress.
- ◆ For 'Open Doors': For the safety of people working in many ways to support and encourage persecuted Christians.
- ◆ For God's church to keep shining His love and light even in the darkest situations.
- ◆ For ourselves: that we may be inspired by the example of courageous, persecuted secret Christians to focus on Jesus and live out our faith with greater boldness.

Prepared by Helen Hodson, using material supplied by Open Doors

All Souls Service

Please join us online for this inspirational service honouring the memory of those we miss.

Sunday 1st November 2020

3.00pm

- Readings
- Hymns
- Prayers
- Silence
- Have a candle ready to light

Connect via zoom.us (*see page 4*)

Meeting ID: 819-1509-2227

Passcode: 979814

For more information call

0116 429 9946

Email: revcolinresch@icloud.com

Our services and activities
on-line brought to you using:



Church at Home on zoom.us

Sunday Worship

**Every Sunday
throughout September**



Meeting ID: 732-3618-5391
Password: 002546



Church at Home on zoom.us

Morning Prayer

Monday – Saturday, 9am

Meeting ID: 786 8201 8817
Passcode: 032244

A photograph of a forest path covered in fallen autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. Tall trees with similar foliage line the path, creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Faith

Increase our faith so we may see
What you're doing in our lives
And all that we'll accomplish in you
So our faith begins to rise

We need to be reminded, Lord,
Of the small mustard seed
And how the same amount of faith
Moves mountains if we believe

As we walk in pure obedience
With confidence in you,
Our faith begins to grow and flourish,
Bearing more abundant fruit

We must go beyond the limits
Of our comfort zones,
Our faith is activated at those times
When we walk into the unknown

For it's when the safety net is gone,
We realize we need our Lord,
When there's nothing left to fall back on,
We must lean on God much more

And faith is released in our hearts
As we bend our knee to pray;
We shall be strengthened as we walk
And commit to Him each day.

© By M.S.Lowndes
heavensinspirations.com

Coffee Morning

*Every Friday on zoom.us
Meeting ID: 589-059-831*

Pop in and make some new friends



*Bring Tea & Coffee
& Conversation 10am – 12noon*

Need Prayer or a Home Visit?

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, then please contact our confidential Prayer Chain via Liz Resch on 0116 429 9946 or via email at lizresch64@gmail.com

If you would like a home/hospital visit for prayer and/or communion, please leave a message for Revd Colin Resch on 0116 429 9946 or send an email to revcolinresch@icloud.com

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

For enquiries about Christenings (baptisms), weddings or funerals at either Christ Church or St Peter's Church, please contact Revd Colin Resch on 0116 429 9946 or via email at revcolinresch@icloud.com

Get the latest information via our web pages -



<http://www.mountsorrelchurch.org/>

Christ Church/St. Peter's Church, Mountsorrel

Christ Church and St Peter's – Contact Information

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Treasurer & Bower Room Bookings' Contact

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Parish Administrator & Newsletter Editor

Mr Paul Rowley (part time) admin@mountsorrelstpeters.org

*(Copy date for the next newsletter is Wednesday 21st October, but
if items are ready, please send earlier)*