

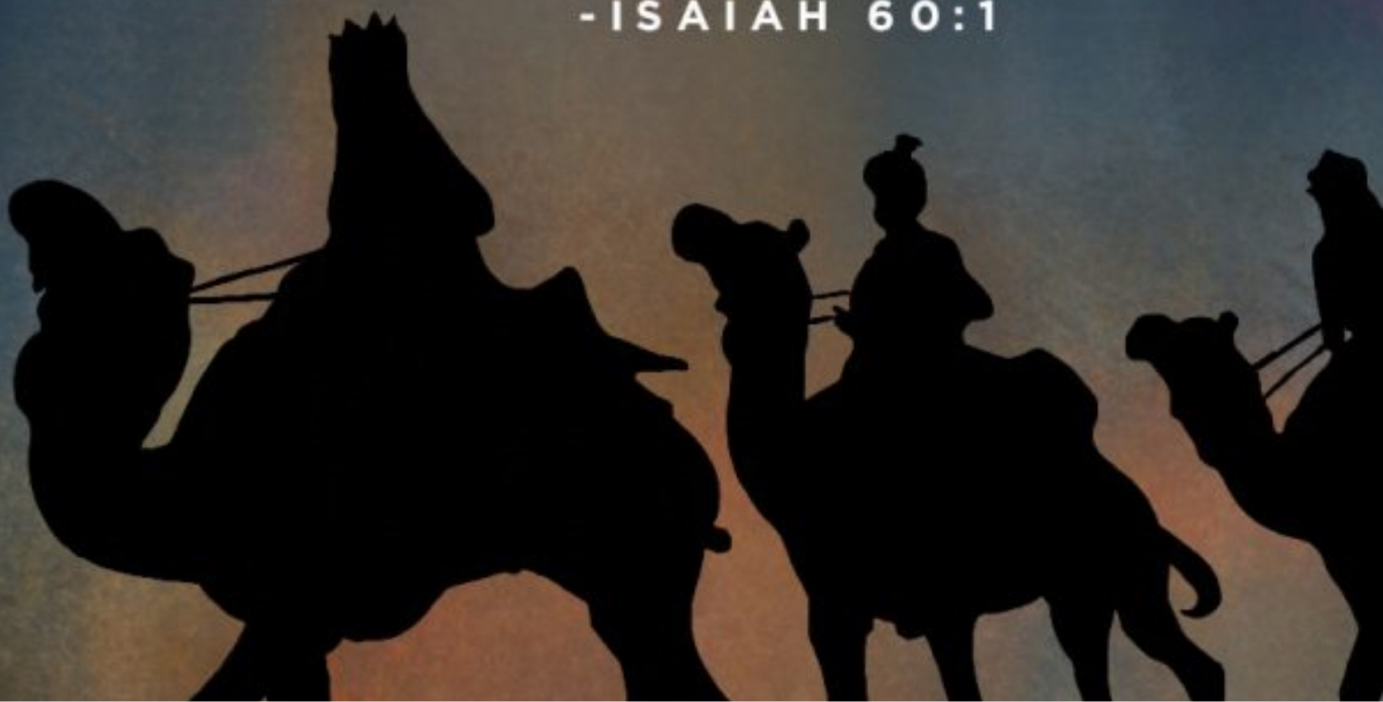
Church News

January 2021

Epiphany

"ARISE! SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT
HAS COME, THE GLORY OF THE
LORD HAS DAWNED UPON YOU."

- ISAIAH 60:1



Christ Church

Rothley Road
Mountsorrel
LE12 7JU

St Peter's Church

Market Place
Mountsorrel
LE12 7BA

I always find this time of year quite surreal. The Christmas season will soon be nothing but a memory, the lights and decorations packed away and placed in the loft. The winter still seems to stretch before us and the long nights still envelope us, spring seems a long way away. Perhaps this is why the New Year can feel a little sad to us, especially as we reflect back on the year just gone.

2020 will be remembered as the year that we found ourselves placed into isolation, the plans that we had for the year mostly left undone. As I reflect on the past year it can be so easy to remember it as one of lost opportunity, we were locked out of our churches and separated from our loved ones, some lost jobs and faced financial hardship and some lost loved ones. Some became angry with the situation and some even angry with God, where was he during this pandemic?

It is easy to reflect on the negative, but as a Christian I am reminded that God has a plan for each and every one of us. Jeremiah 29:11, 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' God also says that there is a time and season for everything Ecclesiastes 3. Therefore, on a personal level when I look back on 2020, I find that there are things that I am grateful to God for.

During the first six months of lockdown, I was given time to spend with my family, never again will there be the chance for all four of us to spend such a long time together, and just being there for each other. I brought my guitar down from the loft and started to learn to play again. It is true that our church buildings were closed but we met together online and new friendships were born, as three churches came together in worship.

Friends as we start this new year I hope and pray that as we move forward, we will see an end to the pandemic. I can not promise that this year will be better than last, but I do know that God will be with us and even in our darkest hour, we can find things to be grateful for, even if it's just a shoulder to cry on from a friend or a word of encouragement. May the new year bring you peace and joy.

Romans 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

(Romans 15:13)

Blessings,

Darren Walker

Curate

Services at Christ Church & St Peter's Church

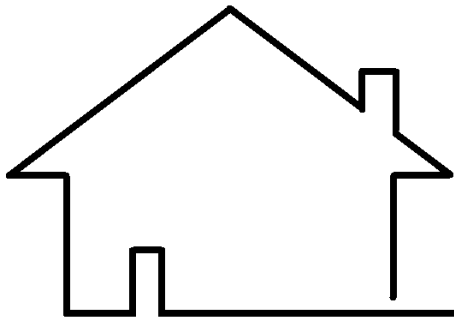
We are delighted to be able to continue our gathered worship at Christ Church and at St Peter's Church. These are the services on offer during January. We hope you will be able to join us for one or more of them.

Sunday Jan 3rd	9.30am	Christ Church	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Wednesday Jan 6th	7.00pm	St Peter's	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday Jan 10th	9.30am	Christ Church	Holy Communion
	9.30am	St Peter's	Morning Prayer (BCP)
Sunday Jan 17th	9.30am	Christ Church	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Sunday Jan 24th	9.30am	Christ Church	Morning Worship
	9.30am	St Peter's	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday Jan 31st	9.30am	Christ Church	Morning Worship
	6.00pm	St Peter's	Evening Prayer (BCP)

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 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

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



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

Everyone Welcome






























Sunday 17th January 2021 at 4pm on Facebook



New Year, New Beginnings.....

As we enter the New Year, most will be aware that Colin has started his long overdue sabbatical and will be away from church for the first three months of the year. Although, it will not be the sabbatical that he first planned due to Covid 19 restrictions we pray for a time of learning and spiritual reflection as he feeds his own spiritual needs, but most of all for a time of restfulness so that when he returns in the Spring, he would find himself refreshed and ready once more to lead the churches into God's mission.

Dear Lord, we pray for Colin as he starts his sabbatical. We pray for a time of rest and peace, a time for him to spend with you and to grow his own spiritual needs. We pray also for Liz and the rest of his family that they find time to be together without the pressures of parish life getting in the way. Therefore, Lord would you Bless Colin, as he starts his sabbatical and give him wisdom to use this time in a way that feeds him and bring him much needed rest. We ask in the name of Jesus Christ Amen.
































Watching and Waiting

May the Lord, when he comes
Find us watching and waiting
Not chaff windblown into a dark corner
Not brushwood scorched and burnt
Not a faded skeleton leaf parched on the forest floor

May the Lord, when he comes
Find us watching and waiting
Watching the stars of heaven fall
Waiting as the sun and moon darken
Worshipping the Son of Man descending in power and glory.

May the Lord, when he comes
Find us watching and waiting
Ready to leave the field; the mill; the house
Ready; for redemption draws near.
Rejoice —we all are Your people



(Poem by: Melanie Rowley)



Children's Page

What can I give him?

Christ Church and St. Peter's
Mountsorrel

After all the excitement of Christmas and New Year everything goes very quiet. New Year resolutions are made and quickly broken, school and work start back and Easter seems a long, long way away. Christmas is soon forgotten! But! Christmas isn't over quite yet. On Wednesday 6th January we celebrate Epiphany, The Bible's account of the wise men following a star to visit Jesus.

Although the Nativity story tells us that the wise men arrived at the stable just after Jesus was born, Matthew 2: 1-12 tells us that they actually arrived quite a while later. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were still in Bethlehem, but living in a house and Matthew refers to Jesus as a child, not a baby.

The wise men still brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh; but what, if you were going to visit Jesus, would you take as a gift?

One of my favourite carols is a poem written by Christina Rossetti. In the Bleak Midwinter. Look it up to find all the words, but here are just three verses.

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.**

So perhaps our slightly belated New Year's resolution this year should simply be: Give Jesus our heart.



Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will See God.

[Matthew 5: 8]

Linda
(Children & families worker)

Building a Prayer

Sometimes it can be hard to pray, especially with children, so here's an idea for families to use, although anyone can enjoy this activity.

Find something you can build with – Lego, duplo, building blocks, or if you don't have those things, books or even cushions could work.

Place a block down and say a prayer for someone or something – you don't need special language or fancy words and it doesn't need to be a long prayer; you might just say; 'God I'm praying about school because I'm finding it hard, please help me'

Add another block and say another prayer, how about a thank you prayer; 'Thank you God for....'

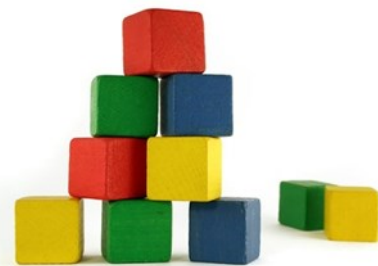
Each time you add a block say a short prayer, you might talk about things you want to pray for before you start. You can pray for other people and situations, you might ask God to bless people you know with the things they need or pray for people you don't know such as those who don't have a home, you could say thank you for different things, you could ask God for help for yourself – anything you want to or feel you need to.

When you've finished, look at your prayers all built together, say thank you to God for listening. You might like to take a photo of the prayer building you have created (you can share this with us if you'd like to), or knowing all your prayers have now been heard by God and are safe with Him, you might like to shout a big 'Amen' as you knock your creation down!

Have a go and remember to look out for answered prayers, I'll be back next month with another prayer activity idea.

Alison

(Children & families worker)





Service of Holy Communion

**Wednesday 6th
January
St Peter's Church
7.00pm**

Everyone has questions.

Exploring is good. We're built for it. Explore more about life, faith and meaning with Alpha.

Alpha



If anyone interested in doing the Online Alpha course, please get in touch with Darren Walker and register your interest by the 11th January.

PCC Annual Meetings

The Church annual meetings will take place as follows:

- Tuesday 20th April - Christ Church APCM
- Tuesday 27th April - St. Peter's APCM

The time and venue of these meetings will be announced nearer the date and are subject to the current Covid19 Regulations.

As in previous years, we will be producing written reports covering the activities of our two parishes over the last year. More reports makes for a more interesting read so if you are involved in leading a group or an activity please can you send me, by email if possible, a brief report (maximum 300 words). Please let Darren have any reports by the end of February.

Thank you,

Colin Resch



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**

Soar Valley Food Project

**Please remember to contribute
food and toiletries to help those in
need in our community.**



**There is a collecting
Box in each church or
outside the Vicarage.**

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



Church at Home on zoom.us

Sunday Worship

**Every Sunday
throughout January**



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

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 Darren Walker on 07568 173 184 or send an email to revdarrenwalker@gmail.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 07568 173 184 or via email at revdarrenwalker@gmail.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

Ministry Team:

Priest in Charge, Revd Colin Resch

**Please direct all correspondence to:
Revd Darren Walker, details below**

Curate, Revd Darren Walker

6, Peartree Close Anstey, Leicester. LE7 7TD

0116 236 4121 07568 173184 revdarrenwalker@gmail.com

Reader, Mrs Helen Hodson, 0116 2303828

Reader, Mr Edmund Stacey, 01509 214802

Children and Families' Workers:

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Linda Vesty, lindacfw.christchurchstpeters@gmail.com

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Melanie Rowley, 0116 412 5870, melanierowleypso@gmail.com

Christ Church Contacts:

Warden & PCC Secretary, Mr Peter Hodson, 0116 230 3828

Warden, Mrs Veronica Liquorish, vpl1947@virginmedia.com

St. Peter's Church Contacts:

Warden & PCC Secretary, Mr David Bird, 0116 2303095

Warden, Mr Ian Evans, 01509 890889, ian.evans1549@gmail.com

Administration:

Treasurer & Bower Room Bookings' Contact

Mrs Val Doyle, 0116 237 5623, valjdoyle@hotmail.com

Parish Administrator & Newsletter Editor

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

*(Copy date for the next newsletter is Monday 25th January, but
if items are ready, please send earlier)*