

St. Peter's Church Mountsorrel



Report for the Annual Meeting

16th April 2023

St. Peter's Church, Mountsorrel

PCC Annual Report 2022

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the St. Peter's Church PCC Annual Report for 2022.

It has certainly been a year to remember and a read through this report will remind you of many of the highlights and challenges we have faced as a local Church, as a Diocese, as a nation and indeed even globally.



Early in the year we were shocked with the Russian invasion of Ukraine and our hopes of a short war were not to be as the conflict is still raging. In our churches, we set up a 'Pray for Ukraine' board which remains to this day and here at the Vicarage, we welcomed our Ukrainian guests after they fled from their war-damaged home. The psalmist writes, *'Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?' Ps 2.1*

2022 also saw the end of Covid regulations and we felt it was time to reintroduce the common cup at our Communion services which we did just before Easter. At the last supper, '[Jesus] took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to [his disciples], and they all drank from it.' Mk 14.23

In June, we extended our staff team as we welcomed our Youth Worker Kat Jenkins. I am delighted that you will be able to read a report of her first few months with us.

Also in the Summer, as you will see later in this report, we introduced our Summer Activities week. During the week we welcomed so many visitors to our Churches and, as a direct result of these activities, witnessed an increase in the number of people attending our churches. The simple act of serving our community has borne much fruit in our midst. Jesus said, *'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'* Mt 5.16. By letting ourselves be seen in our community, others have been attracted to Christ and have come to know his love.

On 8 September 2022, we learned of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Coming so soon after her platinum jubilee, the nation united in grief and we marked her death in our Churches with prayers and services and books of condolence. Our earthly, temporal monarchy has passed from Queen to King in much the same way as it always has; but we have an eternal King, a servant King who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Let us Continue to give him thanks for all he has done for us this last year and for all that he will continue to do as he blesses us for all that is to come.

Do enjoy reading through the various reports that follow. I commend them to you.

God bless you all,

Colin Resch

Electoral Roll Report

The Church Electoral Roll has been revised this year in keeping with the requirements of the Church Representation Rules.

- 2 members were removed from the roll.

There are now 56 members on the roll.

Ian Evans
Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer's Financial Report

The PCC has fulfilled the 2022 Parish Contribution commitment of £8,800.

This year General Funds showed a surplus of £30.30. Designated Funds a deficit of £259.03 and Restricted Funds had a surplus of £1590.22. The total balances in hand for each fund at the end of the year were as follows, General Funds £7,241.33, Designated Funds £3,477.81 and Restricted Funds £7,861.25.

Overall, our general giving and donations increased by £391 compared to 2021.

The Church of England Fund provided grants totalling £10,909.37 for Parish Administrator and Cleaner's wages, Boiler repair, Pushbar Door Openers, Churchyard re-ordering and Senior Sunday. We also received a grant through the Diocese from the National Church of £1,087 to set against heating expenses and thanks to this grant the PCC has been able to show a small surplus instead of a deficit in general funds.

The PCC has a Reserves Policy to hold between three and six months worth of expenditure in reserve, our general funds show that we are within those amounts.

Mrs Val. Doyle
Treasurer

Copies of the full accounts' breakdown are available on request from the treasurer.

The full accounts were independently examined by Mrs Helen Harrison FMAAT on 22nd March 2023 and presented to and approved by the PCC on Thursday 30th March 2023.

St Peter's PCC, Mountsorrel

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned giving	10112.00			10112.00	9338
Collections at Services	1073.12		1361.08	2434.20	963
All other giving/voluntary receipts	2755.03			2755.03	4203
Gift Aid recovered	3049.14			3049.14	2687
Grant & Trusts			12091.37	12091.37	9338
	16989.29	0.00	13452.45	30441.74	26529
Activities for generating funds	1885.55			1885.55	0
Investment Income	114.51			114.51	4
Church Activities	966.00			966.00	2114
Misc Income	812.38			812.38	0
Total receipts	20767.73	0.00	13452.45	34220.18	28647
Payments					
Church activities					
Parish Gift	8800.00			8800.00	8800
Staffing costs			6990.69	6990.69	6907
Church running expenses	9619.68	259.03	3510.46	13389.17	12144
Mission giving and donations	1891.73		1361.08	3252.81	1276
	20311.41	259.03	11862.23	32432.67	29128
Cost of generating funds	426.02			426.02	31
Total payments	20737.43	259.03	11862.23	32858.69	29158
Excess/Deficit of receipts over payments	30.30	-259.03	1590.22	1361.49	-511
Transfer between funds					
Cash at bank at 1st January	7211.03	3736.84	6271.03	17218.90	17730
Cash at bank at 31st December	7241.33	3477.81	7861.25	18580.39	17219

St Peters PCC, Mountsorrel
Statements of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2022
MONETARY ASSETS
General Funds

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total 2022	2021
CAF Account	4815.96				4888
CBF Account	2425.37				2323
	<u>7241.33</u>				<u>7211</u>

Designated Funds

Flower Fund (CAF)		152.72			162
Flower Fund (CBF)		1000.00			1250
Alex Gibson Legacy (CBF)		1913.85			1914
fairhead Fmaily Fund (CBF)		<u>411.24</u>			<u>411</u>
		3477.81			3737

Restricted Funds CAF

Senior Sunday (CAF)			95.24		9
Choir Fund (CAF)			180.81		181
Bell Ringers/Clock Fund (CBF)			210.00		1960
Bell Ringers/Clock Fund (CAF)			1960.07		115
Youth Work (CAF)			3319.52		4006
Energy Grant (CAF)			720.61		0
Churchyard Alterations (CAF)			<u>1375.00</u>		
			7861.25		6271
	<u>7241.33</u>	<u>3477.81</u>	<u>7861.25</u>	<u>18580.39</u>	<u>17219</u>

INVESTMENT ASSETS
0.00
Debtors

22/388	128.45				
22/395	29.93				
	<u>158.38</u>			<u>158.38</u>	<u>0</u>

Liabilities

21/128 Loros					233
21/129 Cheque fee					1
21/148 HMRC					100
21/150 Loros					90
21/151 Cheque fee					1
21/152 World Vision					160
21/153 Cheque fee					1
21/154 E-on					169
21/155 British Gas					338
21/156 Accountancy Fees					195
22/163	100.2				
22/169	566.45				
22/170	373.12				
22/171	253.55				
22/173	366.39				
22/174	0.75				
22/175	204				
	<u>1864.46</u>			<u>1864.46</u>	<u>1287</u>

Churchwardens' Fabric Report

Some repairs on the Church as set out in the Quinquennial Report of 2019 remain to be completed and the PCC has recently addressed this issue to ensure that most of the repairs should be completed shortly. The faulty plastic guttering around the Antill Vestry will now be repaired as a complete replacement is considered by the PCC to be too expensive.

The Church Log Book and Property Terrier (Register).

The updating of this is taking longer than expected this year and when completed will be "signed off" in due course.

Heating

The service/annual safety check has not been finalised as problems with the boilers have been found during the annual service. Although the boilers are working, we are assured that the problems are not a safety issue. Some parts have been replaced but the heat exchange unit may now be showing signs of failing. This is a matter of concern and needs to be closely monitored. The engineer has confirmed that he can now issue the safety certificate and this is expected shortly. The Churchwardens express thanks to David Winsor, the Chair of the Mtsl. Church of England Fund, for enabling emergency finance from the Fund for the repairs to keep us warm through the winter months.

Organ

In good order and tuned - 20th May 2022.

Fire Extinguishers/Fire Blanket

Annual Inspection completed and service – 27th July 2022.

Lightning Conductor

In good order – Tested – 5th July 2022

Tower

All drainage points on the tower are now cleared of debris.

Tower Clock

Serviced by Smiths of Derby – 28th September 2022.

The Lift

Serviced 29th November 2022.

Electrics

5-year test completed January 2020 + PAT test. The next 5-year test of the electrics is to be carried out towards the end of this year, in advance of the Quinquennial Inspection due in the Spring of 2024.

Churchyard improvements

The project is ongoing and it is hoped that work will commence this year!

The upkeep of the fabric of the Church is a constant work in progress, the Churchwardens are grateful for the help of the people of the Church and the Trustees of the Church of England Fund for the enabling finance. Thanks also go to those who have contributed in any way to the essential jobs required to enhance the worship and witness of the Church throughout the year.

David Bird and David Owen
Churchwardens

Deanery Synod Report

The synod met on three occasions in 2022.

February 9th 2022 - Meeting held on Zoom.

Synod heard a talk from Rev'd Andrew Hall of St Catherine's Church Burbage on gaining their Gold Eco Church Award.

Deanery Synod received a report of the Diocesan Synod.

Synod welcomed two new members of clergy: Revd Liz Piki and Revd Ali Walton

June 21st 2022 - Meeting held at All Saints with Holy Trinity Loughborough.

Synod heard a talk from Vicki Offin from Upbeat Communities on their work with refugees across derby, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire with a particular emphasis on how they are extending this work in the light of the Ukrainian Refugee Response.

Deanery Synod received a report of the Diocesan Synod meeting including an update on the two Minster Community pilot schemes following on from Shaped by God Together. Clergy changes included a welcome to Revd Tim Day who had been appointed to All Saints Thorpe Acre and saying farewell to Revd Sue Willets who is to become Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and Revd Lydia Humphreys (retiring).

October 13th 2022 - Meeting held at St Bartholomew's Church Quorn.

Synod heard a talk from Adrian Trotter, Lay Director of Leicester Anglican Cursillo. Cursillo is a Spanish term meaning short course. In Leicester, these short courses take place over a weekend at Launde Abbey and include 15 talks and 5 meditations with periods of discussion and quiet reflection. Adrian shared how his own approach to faith changed after his first Cursillo weekend and he became more involved in the church and wider Christian environs.

Deanery Synod received a report of the Diocesan Synod meeting which had focussed on Living in Love and Faith, and the Diocesan budget.

Bell Ringers

From the Diary:

In 2022 the bells have been rung for the following:

11th January. Funeral of Tony James Reeve – Tenor bell tolled.

Platinum Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II – June.

2nd June. (Thursday) 8pm. Bells rung in advance of the lighting of the beacon on Castle Hill @ 9.45pm.

3rd June. Bells rung @10.30am for ½ hour before the National Jubilee Celebration Service in London.

5th June. Bells rung at 9.30 am. Sunday Holy Communion Service with Commemoration for the Queen at the end of the Service.

3rd August. Wedding of Laura Stowman and Paul.

Death of H. M. Queen Elizabeth II – 8th September.

9th September. A full muffled Peel (tenor bell ½ muffled) on 6 bells @ 12 noon.

19th September. Funeral of the Queen in London @ 11.00am. A full muffled peel (tenor bell ½ muffled) on 6 Bells 10.00am – 10.30am. The tenor was then rung for a further ½ hour before the London Service.

9th December. Funeral of baby Lexi Diana Stevens – 7th Bell tolled.

Regular Ringing:

When sufficient ringers are present at Matins/Evensongs throughout the year, Feast Day Services, and the School Carol Concert. Either a hand bell or the Sanctus bell is chimed at the Consecration of the Bread and Wine at Holy Communion Services.

The Team: David & Simon Bird, John Doyle, Margaret & Brian Johnson, Chris Price, Luke Dormer, Chris Lyon, David Owen with the occasional support of Colin Resch.

*David Bird
(Tower Captain)*

Safeguarding

1. We, the PCC, have adopted and reviewed up to date policies for Child Safeguarding and Safeguarding Adults. We have adopted the model diocesan Child Safeguarding Policy issued in March 2018. We have adopted the model diocesan Safeguarding Adults Policy issued in January 2018. Safeguarding is regularly on the agenda at PCC meetings as a standing item.
2. We have a Coordinators in place for Safeguarding Children and Adults. Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer is Melanie Rowley.
3. Melanie gives a verbal and/or written safeguarding report to every meeting of the Christ Church PCC.
4. We are clear about what activities are taking place with children, who is responsible and where and when they take place.
5. We have no activities specifically with adults with additional needs.
6. We make clear our commitment to safeguarding by displaying the policies and helpful information. The Child Safeguarding and Safeguarding Adults policy statements are posted on a church noticeboard. The safeguarding poster with the Childline phone number is displayed in places where children can see it. Relevant information about help for adults (e.g. in relation to domestic abuse) is available. Contact details are displayed for the Safeguarding Coordinators, Churchwardens, any other local leaders as appropriate, and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. A hard copy of the Diocesan Safeguarding Handbook is available.
7. We know who is working with children and/or vulnerable adults. The number of people authorized to work with children and young people is ten; The number of people authorized to work with vulnerable adults is four.
8. We ensure that everybody who is eligible has a DBS check. We are registered with CCPAS for online DBS checks. The lead recruiter is Melanie Rowley. We have a record of DBS checks. DBS checks are renewed every 5 years in line with Church of England policy.
9. In addition to DBS checks we use safer recruitment for everybody we recruit to work with children/young people and/or vulnerable adults, both paid staff and volunteers. It is clear who is responsible for making the appointment decision. All new appointments are subject to a recruitment process which includes a role description, application form, references, interview/conversation, and confidential self-declaration.
10. We ensure that all people who work with children/young people and/or vulnerable adults attend safeguarding training.
11. We ensure safe working practice in work with children/young people and vulnerable adults. The number of current authorised leaders and helpers is sufficient and the OFSTED staffing ratios are maintained. Adequate insurance

and a risk assessment is in place for all activities. All volunteers and paid staff have received the relevant safeguarding policies and the Pocket Guide to Safeguarding Children. The number of leaders and helpers who are qualified First Aiders is one. Volunteers and paid staff are advised on appropriate use of social media, mobile phones and texting.

12. We ensure that any information/disclosures/concerns about possible abuse are passed on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. All volunteers and paid staff have received instruction and/or training in what to do if they receive information or have concerns about possible abuse. All information known to the leadership has been passed on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser.
13. We ensure that any blemished disclosures are passed to Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. There have been no blemished disclosures in 2021.
14. We ensure that information about convictions and about people who may pose a safeguarding risk is passed to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser. There have been no such instances.
15. We keep information safely and maintain appropriate confidentiality. All personal records (consent forms, recruitment information, safeguarding records) are kept locked away. Where necessary, computer files are password protected. Shared email addresses are not used for correspondence on confidential matters.
16. We ensure that external bodies who use church premises have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place. There are currently no external bodies using Church premises. A new hire agreement for using the Bower Room is being drawn up.
17. We act to improve safeguarding arrangements and to respond to new and revised policies and guidance.

Incidents

Since the last APCM there have been no concerns brought to my attention.

Training

The Safeguarding Training Officer delivers various levels of safeguarding training and promotes the training required by the Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework, 2021, which is dependent upon your role, you may be required to undertake one or more of the Safeguarding Training pathways. Below are explanations of each course and details of how to complete training either online or by booking a training session with the team.

Safeguarding training is a requirement for anyone with any sort of role within the Church or Parish and training should be undertaken every **three** years. This includes people who do not directly work with children or adults at risk of harm. Training is provided online by The National Safeguarding Team and can be accessed at <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/training-and-events>

The safeguarding training requirements for the various roles within Church is outlined in the table on page 13.

If you are unsure or in doubt as to what training you are required to complete, please speak to me.

The Basic Awareness and Foundation courses can be completed by any member of the congregation to raise safeguarding awareness and support a culture of vigilance in our church.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer holds a current list of the certificates that have been forwarded on the completion of training.

Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)

Applications for DBS checks for all those working/volunteering with children, young people and vulnerable adults as part of the Safer Recruitment process. These are undertaken online and are usually completed within a few days. From January 2022 renewals are required every three years, rather than every five years. DBS renewals can be started three months prior to their expiry. A Safer Recruitment process is undertaken for all those new to posts, both paid and unpaid.

*Mel Rowley
Benefice Safeguarding Officer*

Safeguarding Requirements

Roles	Basic Awareness 1	Foundation 2	Safeguarding Leadership Pathway (VSLT)	PTO Pathway	Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse	Safer Recruitment and People Management	PSO Induction
Administrator	✓						
Associate Ministers	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Authorised Ministers	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Bell Ringers	✓				✓		
Bell Tower Captains ¹	✓	✓	✓		✓ (if providing pastoral support)		
Children/Family Worker Employed	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Children/Family Worker Volunteer	✓	✓			✓ (if providing pastoral support)		
Choir Master/Leader	✓	✓			✓ (if providing pastoral support)		
Choir Member	✓				✓ (if providing pastoral support)		
Church Wardens	✓	✓			✓ (if providing pastoral support)		
Clergy	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Messy Church Leaders	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Messy Church Volunteers	✓	✓			✓ (if providing pastoral support)		
Organist	✓						
PCC Members	✓	✓			✓		
People involved in recruiting volunteers or paid roles, including DBS	✓	✓				✓	
Readers PTO/ Emeritus	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Safeguarding Coordinators/ Leads	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Vergers	✓	✓					
Youth Worker, Employed	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Youth Worker, Volunteer	✓	✓			✓ (if providing pastoral support)		

¹ Required by Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. We plan to offer some specific leadership training courses with relevant case studies, please register your interest through the safeguarding bookings email: SGBBookings@LeicesterCofE.org

Work with Children & Families

2022 has been a wonderful year filled with God's blessings! Our Summer '22 activity week was a particular highlight of the year which helped us to reach out to many new families and build deeper relationships with those we already knew. New ventures like Muddy Church have also been well received and following the pandemic we have now been able to become much more involved with the local primary school again.



Fun@4

We have a regular number of families come to Fun@4, most of whom turn up month after month. Our team of Alison, Colin, Helen and Peter continue to be ever present, but we are delighted to have Angie and Chris Price come along and give valuable and much welcome support, especially as they are regulars at St. Peter's too which gives us a real benefice feel. We continue to have a monthly theme with a bible story, song and prayers at the centre of our celebration as well as activities suitable for all ages and abilities. We have a separate table or quiet corner with activities for those who need a time out and a worksheet is available to take home with activities relating to the theme of the month. With the help of the funding committee we hope to move into the digital world by providing one or two tablets for children to explore bible stories in a way far more familiar to them than books.

Starting in 2022 is Youth@4 which runs alongside Fun@4 with Kat leading and Liz Lawton helping. This means we now have somewhere for the older children to move on to, in their own time, a real answer to a prayer.

The plan for 2023 is to offer our families a proper meal, (we have actually started this now) but to do this we need more help. Please pray for the families who come along to Fun@4, for the team who give tirelessly and for individuals to feel able to come along and offer much needed support.

Sunbeams

We began 2022 having two sessions a week on Monday and Wednesday mornings with families required to book in so that we could keep numbers deliberately lower at each session due to high covid-19 rates at the time. After the summer holidays, we returned to Monday only sessions with no booking in required.

Sunbeams continues to be an essential part of our ministry enabling young

families to come together, build friendships and support one another at the same time as intentionally, but gently introducing them to the Gospel through crafts, interactive stories and singing time.

A great deal of pastoral work occurs naturally through the relationships we have built with Sunbeams families and this might be at the session itself or outside of it as we follow up and offer support following conversations we have had with families.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Big toddle for Barnardo's which we took part in during June, this was a great opportunity for Sunbeams to support a charity and everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed it.

We continue to have 20-30 children attend each week with their parent/carer; new families regularly arrive as other families move on either through starting school or mum's finishing maternity leave and returning to work.

We celebrated our children who were leaving us to start school with a Teddy Bears Picnic in July at which we prayed for them and presented each of them with the Jesus Storybook Bible. We have continued to see some of our school leavers at Muddy Church or Fun@4.

As always, thank you so much to all our volunteers without whom Sunbeams could not continue to run and thank you to everyone who prays for this ministry and our families.

Starting Rite

Unfortunately, we only managed to run one Starting Rite course during 2022. This was due to staff health issues which meant care had to be taken with how much staff were doing at any one time. However, during May & June, 5 mums and babies attended a course enabling them to have special time together, wonder with us about some of life's big questions and gently explore a little of the Christian faith.

All Age Sunday Worship

All Age Worship at Christ Church and All Age Holy Communion at St Peter's have both developed and grown during 2022.

We have families with children who regularly attend both of these services each month, some of whom are now looking towards baptism and/or confirmation.

These services are intended to be shorter than a usual Sunday service with more interaction and activities than we would normally have.

At Christ Church we continue to sit around tables and serve tea & coffee throughout the service; we have enjoyed providing different opportunities for people to explore and encounter Jesus in a different way and had fun exploring scriptures and themes in more active ways.

At St Peter's, we mix the tradition of BCP Holy Communion with an all age talk and prayer activity which seems to work. Although there are times when families don't attend, we do have a core group of 3-4 families who do regularly attend these services which is hugely encouraging and something to be celebrated!

Muddy Church

Started in April and has continued to take place on the third weekend each month on Saturday afternoons. We meet in the orchard and enjoy nature activities, singing around the fire and cooking over the fire! Muddy Church is attended by a variety of people; children enjoy the activities and running around outdoors often playing hide & seek and exploring the area. Adults seem to enjoy the fellowship around the fire, chatting with each other and often join in the activities too. We have a theme each month and sometimes include a story or bible passage. Muddy Carols at Christmas was a popular session and though cold was a lovely time exploring the Christmas story and singing carols together.

Baptism

Last year we had 4 baptisms at Christ Church and 1 at St. Peter's. One was postponed until April this year another was postponed indefinitely. However we have already had a number of baptism requests for this year which is going to keep us quite busy. We continue to visit and meet the families in their home rather than over Zoom and Mel is a great addition to the one man team of Linda, she is a great source of information and support, not to mention laughter, to those we visit. We held 3 Baptism preparation mornings, giving the parents and Godparents a mixture of practical information and a chance to explore both as a family and as a Church of what Baptism means to us all.

All our baptism families see Christ Church or St. Peter's as their Church and a few of them are regular attenders at both Churches and not just for All Age Services. We continue to see the link between baptism and Sunbeams and it has been a real delight to see some of our baptism families from previous years come to Fun@4.

Please pray for our baptism families, that they all continue their journey in faith; and for Linda to find the time needed to allow a 'follow up' visit a few months after the baptism, this will continue the link with new families that we do so well with Sunbeams and Fun@4. We are planning an All Age Godparent Sunday Service next May.

Christ Church & St Peter's Primary School

During 2022, our work with the school has increased again following the pandemic and developed to include a Prayer Spaces session for Year 6 and a lunchtime club.

We continue to support weekly Collective Worship along with the other churches of Mountsorrel on a rota basis.

In October we started a weekly Lunchtime Club at the school for children who wished to become involved with leading Collective Worship. This has initially been open to children in years 5 & 6 and has been attended by around 7 children who have since planned and led their first Collective Worship with support, at the end of November. Using the theme of Advent, they confidently led both Key Stage 1 & 2 in a game, bible reading, challenges, prayers and singing!

During 2022 the children have been back into our churches for the Year 6 leavers service, whole school end of year service, Harvest, Remembrance, and Year 6 Carol Service. They also visited the Christmas Tree & Crib Festival at Christ Church where each group enjoyed a short act of worship.

During June, Year 6 came into Christ Church for a Prayer Spaces in Schools event on the theme of Transition to support them as they came to the end of their Primary school journey. The children all had the opportunity to reflect and pray as they thought back over the primary school experience and looked forward towards starting secondary school through the prayer activities. This event went very well, and we hope to do it again in 2023.

Special Services & Events

Good Friday

We held our first Good Friday Family service at St Peter's; 5 families who are known to us attended along with some members of St Peter's congregation. This was a wonderful time together including making our Easter Garden which remained outside St Peter's as a witness to anyone passing by for 2-3 weeks. The

service was followed by refreshments and hot cross buns and families stayed and enjoyed the sunshine and chatting in St Peter's church garden. We plan to make this an annual service at St Peter's.

Summer '22

This was a great success and showed a generous church in touch with our community. We have engaged with many more families because of Summer '22 some of whom are now attending regular activities at Church and Sunday Worship at both Christ Church and St Peter's Church. During the week; our children & family activities included; a story and singing session for under 5's, picnic and fun sports, cinema morning, Mountsorrel by the Sea day, and Soft Play. Our reflections on the Summer '22 week include the clear need to provide (amongst the other things we do) activities which help families – for example with the boredom of school holidays/cost of outings etc.

Baby Loss awareness week

St Peter's Church was opened for the Friday of baby loss awareness week, for people who have experienced the loss of a baby to come in, light a candle and write their baby's name on a heart if they wished to. Around 15 candles were lit over the day/evening. We plan to repeat this in 2023 and hope to provide a short service open to anyone who has lost a baby.

Light Party

At the request of some of our families, we held a light party after school on 31st October. Over 20 children and their families attended including families we had not met before who expressed an interest in the churches activities and took information away with them.

A mixture of crafts and fun games along with toast and drinks being served worked well and all the families said how much they had enjoyed the afternoon.

Christmas

All A film morning was held during the Christmas holidays showing a shorter Christmas animated film for our little ones and then a second longer film for primary aged children. Popcorn, sweets, and drinks were provided, and some families came and stayed for the whole morning!

We held our Nativity at St Peter's Church, and this was well attended with children and grown-ups dressing up and getting involved. This was a wonderful service retelling the Christmas story through rhyme whilst acting it out to the best of our abilities! Traditional and more modern Christmas songs were enjoyed including some of our Sunbeams coming along and singing Twinkle, twinkle little star as the wise men (and women) followed the star to Jesus.

Our Christingle Service took place at Christ Church on Christmas Eve and was better attended in 2022 compared to the previous year. Thank you to Waitrose who once again donated oranges for the Christingles.

To all of our volunteers who help regularly at Sunbeams, Fun@4, Starting Rite and Muddy Church. Thank you also to everyone who helped make Summer '22 the success it was and to all who help out when they can at special events. Volunteers are a vital part of our ministry, and we really couldn't do everything we do without you.

Thank you for everyone's prayers during 2022, please continue to pray regularly for us, our regular groups, our special events and most importantly for the families of Mountsorrel.

Thank you also to all who pray for us and the ministry we carry out, prayer is also vital to our work and something everyone can help with.

*Alison White & Linda Vesty
Children & Families Workers*

Youth Work

The first few months in post were spent getting to know the community, talking with young people and their families and taking in all that was currently happening within Christ Church, St Peter's Church as well as within the local area. The school summer fair, revival and activities week gave me the opportunity to speak with young people and their parents about what they might like from our churches. These discussions fed into the decision to open 2 separate groups; a mid-week chill space and Youth@4. These would serve different purposes; with the mid week group serving to build relationships and break down barriers, and the Youth@4 group acting as a continuation of Fun@4 for those who feel they need more age appropriate activities and a space to explore faith.

Mid-Week Chill

This group is for those in school year 7 and above and meets each Wednesday at Christ Church during term time. Its aim is to build relationships with those that attend and to break down perceptions of church and those that attend church. Each week have a mix of board games, snooker, curling, creative activities and space to talk as well as space to just 'be' with bean bags and cushions available to sit on. We also have a half-term challenge and a guided discussion. Linda very kindly supports me with this.

We have 3 young people at the moment that attend, but all 3 are valuing the 1:1 time they get to talk about their week. Since September, they have started to open up to us about difficulties in their lives, their hopes and their successes. They have also started asking some tentative questions about God and the purpose of life, although mostly these are out of curiosity, you never know what seed you are planting.

Youth@4

This runs alongside the Fun@4 group on the 1st Sunday of the month and is designed as a space to explore scripture, Christian values and faith. The young people themselves set the structure, wanting one more in-depth activity which allows for discussion to run alongside it, with some age appropriate worship music playing in the background.

They wanted to explore the same theme as the younger children and all join together for the 'family meal'. We have met with 7 different young people since we started in September, but never all at once. Some of our younger youth flip between the 2 different groups depending on how they feel on the day. The older youth also have the opportunity to serve and are very keen to help with the meal and refreshments.

Themes for this year were:

September – welcome and BBQ

October – the beauty of God's creation

November - Made in the image of God

December - Nativity

Rawlins Academy

I have been in contact with Rawlins Academy to see how we as a church might support them. These discussions are on-going with a meeting planned with the head of year 7 next term. I was invited to the year 7 Christmas service which saw several very talented students leading the different aspects of worship.

Seasonal Craft Sessions

At Christmas I organised a Christmas Craft evening for adults and teens. Several Sunbeams Mums attended as well as those from church and the community. There were a couple of young people in attendance and the relaxed atmosphere encouraged conversation, creativity and friendship.

Given the success of this I am planning another session for Easter with a few minor changes from the feedback we received.

Areas for development

As with the Children & Families Team, volunteers have been a limiting factor in what we can offer. Linda has been helping on a Wednesday and we have been using the Fun@4 volunteers to support the Youth@4 programme. Please pray that God will send the right people to allow the youth ministry to grow and develop, and they will share their faith in relevant and meaningful ways that our young people can engage with.

I am also exploring how we can use St Peter's Church and hope to set something up in the coming year that will further help our young people explore their faith.

Kat Jenkins
Youth Worker

Craft Group

We continued meeting on Monday afternoons from 1.30pm - 3.30pm in the Bower room at Christ Church.

During the year our numbers started to diminish, we opted to continue and review our options in the new year, with the main option to close the group and look at starting new.

We would welcome suggestions from our congregations in what they would like.

Mel Rowley

Fellowship Group at The Vicarage

We are a group of around eleven, from both Christ Church & St Peters Church, who meet fortnightly on a Wednesday at 7:00pm at the Vicarage or online via zoom to study the Bible together.

We started the year by looking at the book of Psalms before joining with the Churches Together in Mountsorrel Lent Course.

After Easter we started the Storylines course which looked at six overarching themes; Jesus, Covenant, Presence, Kingdom, Salvation and Worship in the Bible.

In the lead up to Christmas we studied the Nativity looking at the Genealogy of Jesus, Joseph, Mary, Angels and Shepherds and the Wise Men.

There have also been two socials, one in the summer and one in December.

We are always happy for others to join us in person or online.

Liz Resch

Musical Fellowship



We continue to meet monthly at Christ Church and have a regular number of people (7) come along. We were also delighted to welcome our first Baptism/Sunbeams/Fun@4 and now Musical Fellowship mum showing how continuity within our Church is so important.

There is a mixture of guitars, flute, ukuleles and piano all played and lots of songs, both well know Church Songs and secular songs sung with a wide range of ability; songs by Kevin Mayhew, Stuart Townend and Chris Tomlin are mixed in with Abba, Flanders and Swann, Foster and Allen and Bill Haley!



But Musical Fellowship is not just about music it's also about fellowship and as well as singing we talk, we support, we listen and always, always laugh at something.

We meet for about 2 hours on a Wednesday evening, dates are in the Church newsletter and everyone, singer, musician, or neither, are welcome.

Linda Vesty

Just 4 Ladies

Is a group for the ladies of both Christ Church and St Peters; which meets every six to eight weeks.

During 2022 we met six times starting in February with a talk on the Book of Esther and finished the year in November looking at the question is God Sexiest? In between we watched the film Wonder, had a games night, enjoyed our annual pudding night and looked at Dorcas, Lydia & Priscilla in the New Testament.

A lot of our meetings have been held in The Vicarage this year as this enabled those who do not want to come out in the evening and those who were still worried about mixing to join us via zoom.

A special thank you to all those who took part in the Carols amongst the Trees carol service in December.

Liz Resch

Senior Sunday

Senior Sunday is primarily for those who are over 60 and live on their own in our community and takes place at 4pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month at St Peter's. It starts with a short service of about 20 minutes in the church followed by afternoon tea where sandwiches, cakes and copious amounts of tea are served.

This year we marked the Wimbledon Tennis Competition in July with cream scones and strawberries and had a Christmas party tea in December.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who make Senior Sunday happen: David & Suzan Bird, John & Leslie Strange, Colin & Liz Resch and David & Karen Owen.

Liz Resch

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Mornings take place at Christ Church every Friday morning between 10:00am and 12 noon. Those who attend enjoy a hot drink, homemade cakes and a chat.

The number who come along varies each week with an average attendance of seventeen over the year.

As well as having those who come regularly from both St Peter's and Christ Church and the other local churches, we also have those who have no church affiliation coming along.

A big thank you to Denni and Angie who help out each week; to Linda and Mel who have helped out when I have been away and to Paul Rowley who has donated cakes.

If you have not been along to a coffee morning why not pop in and join us during 2023.

Liz Resch

United Benefice of Mountsorrel Christ Church and St. Peter's Church



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