

# Church News



January 2025

## **Christ Church**

Rothley Road  
Mountsorrel  
LE12 7JU

## **St Peter's Church**

Market Place  
Mountsorrel  
LE12 7BA

## Services at Christ Church & St. Peter's Church

Date	Time	Service	Venue
Sunday 5 January EPIPHANY	11.00am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	6.00pm	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
Sunday 12 January	9.30am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	All Age Worship	Christ Church
	4.00pm	Senior Sunday	St. Peter's
Sunday 19 January	<b>No Service at Christ Church Today</b>		
	10.30am	CTiM United Service <sup>Δ</sup>	Baptist Church
	4.00pm	Tea Time Church	St. Peter's
	6.00pm	Evensong*	St. Peter's
Sunday 26 January	9.30am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Word and Worship and Baptism Service	Christ Church
Sunday 2 February CANDLEMAS	9.30am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Christ Church

*\*Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer  
<sup>Δ</sup> Churches Together in Mountsorrel*

# Morning Prayer

9am in Christ Church and online (via Zoom)

**Monday - online only**

**Tuesday \* Wednesday \* Thursday\* Friday**

**Meeting ID: 786 8201 8817, Passcode: 032244**

**Morning Prayer re-commences on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**Please Note: NO Morning Prayer on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

## Joy to the world

Several times during December, I sang the carol Joy To The World. It is a wonderful carol written by Isaac Watts and yet, perhaps surprisingly, was not written for Christmas. Rather, Isaac Watts wrote the hymn as a paraphrase of the last five verses in Psalm 98 for his 1719 publication, *The Psalms of David Imitated*. In this hymnal, Watts rewrites many of the psalms using a Christological lens. His versification of Psalm 98 is no different. Verse nine of the psalm reads, “...let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.” Watts unapologetically interprets this as a reference to Christ. The theme of “Christ coming” made it an apt hymn to be sung at Christmastime, and it has since become one of the most beloved Christmas carols.

Where do you find your joy? On the final Sunday of Advent, I was preaching in both of our Churches and reflecting on the praise and rejoicing shared by the expectant Mary & pregnant Elizabeth in their encounter recorded in Luke 1.39-55. Such a joyous encounter leading to the words of Mary’s song the Magnificat which begins, ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour’. I suggested that our calling from God should be one that brings us joy. Don’t get me wrong, hard work and challenge is always part of discipleship, but it should go hand-in-hand with joy. So, do you find joy in what you do for God? If not, then do you need to ask God for a new calling?

A new year is the perfect opportunity to take time to review.

- In many What over the last twelve months has brought you joy? Where have you seen God most at work in your life and in the lives of those you see around you?
- Is your work for God still give you joy? Do you find your service in God’s Kingdom energising? Or has it all started to become a burden?
- What would you like to achieve for God over the next twelve months? How might you like to go about it?

It maybe that nothing needs to change for you right now; but equally it maybe time to lay down your current responsibilities so that you can do something else that God is laying on your heart. I would be delighted to chat with any of you who are feeling that now might be a good time to explore your calling further.

Whatever God has in store for you during 2025, may you find it to be a very joyous new year.

With every blessing,

*Colin Resch*

# Diary Dates

## **Friday 3 January**

10:00am till 12 Noon: Coffee Morning at Christ Church.

## **Monday 6 January**

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

10.00am A Winter Warm Space at St. Peter's Church (see page 16).

## **Tuesday 7 January**

7:00pm: Christ Church PCC Meeting.

## **Wednesday 8 January**

8:00am School Prayers at Christ Church & St. Peter's CE School.

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

6:00pm Rooted at Christ Church.

7:00pm Fellowship Group at The Vicarage (see page 5).

## **Thursday 9 January**

7:00pm: St. Peter's Church PCC Meeting.

## **Friday 10 January**

10:00am till 12 Noon: Coffee Morning at Christ Church.

## **Monday 13 January**

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

10.00am A Winter Warm Space at St. Peter's Church (see page 16).

## **Wednesday 15 January**

8:00am School Prayers at Christ Church & St. Peter's CE School.

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

## **Friday 17 January**

10:00am till 12 Noon: Coffee Morning at Christ Church.

## **Monday 20 January**

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

10.00am A Winter Warm Space at St. Peter's Church (see page 16).

## **Wednesday 22 January**

8:00am School Prayers at Christ Church & St. Peter's CE School.

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

7:00pm Fellowship Group at The Vicarage (see page 5).

## **Friday 24 January**

10:00am till 12 Noon: Coffee Morning at Christ Church.

## **Monday 27 January**

9:30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

10:00am A Winter Warm Space at St. Peter's Church (see page 16).

## Dates for January (Continued)

### Tuesday 28 January

10:00am Beyond the Bump at Christ Church, week 1 of 5 (see page 11).

7:00pm: Churches Together in Mountsorrel Meeting at the Baptist Church.

### Wednesday 29 January

8:00am School Prayers at Christ Church & St. Peter's CE School.

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

### Friday 31 January

10:00am till 12 Noon: Coffee Morning at Christ Church.

## Dates for February 2025

### Monday 3 February

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

10.00am A Winter Warm Space at St. Peter's Church (see page 16).

### Tuesday 4 February

10:00am Beyond the Bump at Christ Church, week 2 of 5 (see page 11).

7:00pm: Joint PCC Meeting at St. Peter's Church.

### Wednesday 5 February

8:00am School Prayers at Christ Church & St. Peter's CE School.

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

6:00pm Rooted at Christ Church.

7:00pm Fellowship Group at The Vicarage (see page 5).

### Friday 7 February

10:00am till 12 Noon: Coffee Morning at Christ Church.

## FELLOWSHIP GROUP AT THE VICARAGE

*Day by day, as they spent much time together at the temple,  
they broke bread at home. (Acts 2:46)*

Meeting in a small group to worship, study and pray together allows for more interaction and deeper study than is possible during a Sunday morning service.

The Fellowship Group will be meeting at The Vicarage on Wednesday's: 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February in the evening at 7:00pm.

We would love you to join us.

If you would like more information, please speak to Liz or Colin Resch.

## Bible in a year challenge.

Maybe you were able to join in with our Bible in a year challenge during 2024. Whether you joined in or not, whether you managed to keep up or not, I hope that however much you were able to read of the Bible that it had a positive influence on you. The whole point of the challenge was to encourage the reading of scripture and not about making you feel guilty. So, if you didn't do as well as you had hoped, it doesn't matter. If you read even just one more verse of scripture than usual, that was a bonus because God's word never fails to bring life and hope.

So many people have commented on how much they enjoyed the challenge; so I thought for 2025 I would repeat the challenge, but this year on a straight front to back, Genesis to Revelation plan. If you like using a Bible App on your phone, computer or tablet, you can download this year's plan from:

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/4>.

When reading the Bible in a year from Genesis to Revelation, I prefer to use my own Bible with a bookmark in. To help with this, paper copies of the entire year's plan are available in our Churches for you to take home so that you can tick off the readings as you go. This is also very helpful if you are not a fan of reading from screens and devices.

Any way, there's not much left to say except let's get going. We begin at the beginning and work our way to the end. Here's your first set of readings:

### January

1.	Genesis 1-3	12.	Genesis 35-37	23.	Exodus 16-18
2.	Genesis 4-7	13.	Genesis 38-40	24.	Exodus 19-21
3.	Genesis 8-11	14.	Genesis 41-42	25.	Exodus 20-24
4.	Genesis 12-15	15.	Genesis 43-45	26.	Exodus 25-27
5.	Genesis 16-18	16.	Genesis 46-47	27.	Exodus 28-29
6.	Genesis 19-21	17.	Genesis 48-50	28.	Exodus 30-32
7.	Genesis 22-24	18.	Exodus 1-3	29.	Exodus 33-35
8.	Genesis 25-26	19.	Exodus 4-6	30.	Exodus 36-38
9.	Genesis 27-29	20.	Exodus 7-9	31.	Exodus 39-40
10.	Genesis 30-31	21.	Exodus 10-12		
11.	Genesis 32-34	22.	Exodus 13-15		

## **Prayer Ideas**

At St Peter's and Christ Church we support and pray for a number of different Christian Charities that work in this country and abroad to improve the lives of others and show them God's love and compassion.

Please find some prayer pointers to help us to pray for global issues and the Charities we support and their work throughout the world:

### **Open Doors :**

- Pray for Christians around the world who will be celebrating Christmas in secret.
- Pray for Christians who will be in prison this Christmas because of their faith.
- Pray against attacks on Christians this Christmas.
- Pray for Open Doors partners who are supporting persecuted children.
- Pray for Muslim converts to Christianity whose families have disowned them.

### **Conflict:**

- Pray for those areas of the world where there is conflict.
- Pray for refugees living in makeshift homes with very little resources.
- Pray for the Charities and Aid Agencies trying to help them.
- Pray for those who are separated from family and loved ones.
- Pray for children and young people displaced by conflict who are unable to continue their education.
- Pray for those working to bring peace.

### **Childrens Society:**

- Pray for the work of the Children's Society.
- Pray for the Christingle at Christ Church that supports their work.

### **Mountsorrel:**

- Pray for those in our community who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason.

*(Continued on next page)*

- Pray for those who will be working over Christmas.
- Pray for the Sorrel Food Project and all its volunteers.
- Pray that those who visit our churches this month will experience the love of Christ.
- Pray for the Pop Up Art Gallery at St Peter's Church.
- Pray for the Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church.
- Pray for all the extra services that will be taking place at Christ Church & St Peter's Church.
- Take time to thank God for all the good things in your life.

*Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

**Liz Resch**

*Mission Co-ordinator at Christ Church.*

## **Household Support Fund**



**Funded by  
UK Government**

Are you experiencing financial hardship, struggling to feed your family/household, to heat your home or in need of help with other household/utility costs etc?

Leicestershire County Council recognises that all households may potentially be suffering hardship and seeks to provide support from the Household Support Fund to any household that meets its criteria.

The support available consists of:

### **Food voucher**

- Households with children - £20 per adult per week, £15 per child per week (for maximum of 2 weeks).
- Single households - £25 per week (for maximum of 2 weeks).
- Multiple adult households - £20 per adult per week (for maximum of 2 weeks).

### **Fuel vouchers**

Family household - £98

Single household - £56

As a Church, we are now able to make referrals to the Household Support Fund. In the first instance, please contact Colin Resch (07878 029879) for a chat in complete confidence.



# Children & Family Work News

Christmas will have been and gone when you're reading this but, at the time of writing, we are in the midst of many wonderful Christmas services and events!

## Sunbeams

Sunbeams have worked their way through the Christmas Story during December with angels, donkeys, sheep and camels all featuring heavily in our story props!

We made angels, shepherds and wise men for our tree at The Christmas Tree Festival after which the children took them home to hang on their own trees.

Our final session of 2024 was a Christmas special, we enjoyed play dough with Christmas cutters, our nativity stable and figures with our farm, our felt Christmas tree and decorations amongst other activities.

We sang our way through the Nativity and then enjoyed some Christmas songs. The children all received a nativity sticker book, tree decoration and chocolate coins.



All parents/carers with babies to pre-school children are welcome to come along to Sunbeams; 9.30-11.30am on Mondays (during term time) at Christ Church. We return from the Christmas break on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Ministry in our School

Christ Church & St Peter's Primary School visited the Christmas Tree Festival in year groups on the Monday, they enjoyed looking at all the trees before having a short time of Collective Worship in church. Key Stage 1 enjoyed a Happyland Nativity video and sang Away in a manger and Key Stage 2 had fun singing the Nativity story along to the 12 days of Christmas with props! By the end of the song, we had all the characters of the nativity at the front.

We have thoroughly enjoyed visiting school for various Christmas productions and it was wonderful to be able to see the EYFS nativity with many of our former Sunbeams involved in this.

Collective Worship has continued each week with a focus on Christmas and the Assembly Squad spent Monday lunchtimes practising for our nativity at St Peter's.

Christ Church hosted the whole school for their Carol Service the week before Christmas, this was a lovely occasion where the children clearly enjoyed singing carols that they have been practising. We thought about the true meaning of Christmas and how all of the other 'Christmas stuff' can distract us and end up hiding the true meaning – Jesus.

## Nativity

St Peter's church was very busy for our Nativity which was held when we would normally have Teatime Church.

A huge thank you to David and Karen who provided an excellent buffet for everyone after the service. Thanks also to St Peter's congregation who supported the service and to Colin for playing the piano for us.

Eight children from the assembly squad led our service and they were absolutely brilliant! A really big well done to Oscar, Imogen, Rowan, Freya, Milo, Piper, Tegan and Lilah!

Children and adults joined in with dressing up and acting a part and everyone helped with sound effects this year!

We had 2 Mary's (one decided to be Mary from their pew), 2 Joseph's, a cat, lots of angels, a few shepherds and just enough wise men along with, for the first time, a real life baby playing Jesus! Special thanks to Hannah and Luke for allowing baby Maisey to be part of our nativity this year.

It was a lovely afternoon and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



Our next Teatime Church is Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 4pm at St. Peter's Church

If you'd like to know more about any of our activities, please get in touch, contact details are on the back page of the newsletter.

*Alison White*  
*Children & Family Worker*

# Beyond the Bump



A post-natal support café for parents of babies up to 1 year



Come and meet other parents at a similar stage of parenting.

Drinks and refreshments provided with the opportunity to find more information and discuss topics such as

- Sleeping
- Bonding, Play & development
- Weaning
- Birth stories
- Baby First Aid
- Anything you want to talk about



Baby mats and toys provided so little ones can play whilst you chat and enjoy a drink.

## Dates of next sessions

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February



Each session starts at 10am until around 11.30am  
At Christ Church, Rothley Road, Mountsorrel, LE12 7JU

Contact Alison White to register your place for these free sessions;  
07305 664009 or [alison.white@mountsorrelchurch.org](mailto:alison.white@mountsorrelchurch.org)

# CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

## YEAR 8 RAWLINS

Over the last half term, our new Year 8 lunch club have been reflecting on the 'Characters of Christmas'. We explored what those from Scripture, folk tales, film and literature could teach us about the Christmas Spirit. There were some great discussions about the choices we make, and their consequences, and how not everybody enjoys this time of the year for various different reasons. We also thought about how we should be more generous, hospitable and open to learning and discovering new things.

This half term we will be starting a new project around justice and exploring what it means for us today.

Please do pray for all of the students and staff at Rawlins, especially for the year 7 and 8 students attending our 2 lunch clubs on Thursdays and Fridays.





# THE GAP

After School Club

Every Wednesday during term time



Our last session before the Christmas break was a relaxed, mini service followed by amazing Christmas dinner rolls created by Mel. Numbers have been really good, many more than we were used to at Fun@4 and amongst families that have moved up from Sunbeams we have at least a dozen families who have attended regularly and have had little or no previous connection with our Church at all.

Although Kat and Linda have been the main force behind The Gap, both Colin and Dirne have been a tremendous help and we thank them both. Once again it is Mel and Liz who are sorting out the food and cooking for our meal at the end of each month—we really, really could do with some help.

Last month was Noah, this month the Nativity. In January we shall be looking at the Ten Commandments, especially the 1st, 3rd, 4th 5th and 8th seeing how important and relevant they are for all of us to follow.

We start back on Wednesday 8th January. Everyone with school aged children are welcome.



## Musical Fellowship



**Please note that there will be NO musical fellowship until the spring.**



## INTER-GENERATIONAL WORK

If we are honest, not many people have come along to our Winter Warm Space down at St. Peter's, we are not giving up though and Monday mornings will continue until the end of February. We will then regroup and see if there is anything we can do to increase numbers, perhaps by just calling it St. Peter's Coffee Morning. We have had a few passers by, who saw the notice and came in which has made it all worth while. Leslie and Jonathan are the driving force behind the group, so if you have an ideas or offer of help it would be much appreciated.

Visits to Rose Cottage have started, Mel and Linda went, armed with guitars and songs from the past, all of them loved and known by the residents so no song sheets were needed. Linda also went in a week before Christmas to play Christmas Bingo. There are some real characters living there and it is an absolute delight and a lot of fun to spend time with them. It was lovely to see some of the residents joining us for our Carols amongst the trees and I have great hopes that over the next few months we can have more visits from the residents in Church and by us at Rose Cottage.

*Linda*



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

**11:00am, Christ Church  
Holy Communion**

**6:00pm, St Peter's Church  
Holy Communion**

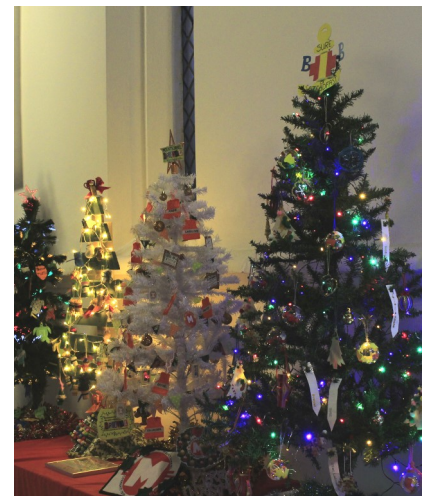


# Thank you

A huge thank you to those who helped over the weekend of our Christmas Tree Festival and those that braved the awful weather to come and have a look at the many Christmas trees we had on display. The weather was truly awful but a total of 312 people visited, not including all the school children who came in on the Monday.

Special thanks must go to Colin and Sarah Resch who, due to illness of both our usual kitchen elves, stepped in at the last minute and provided a fabulous selection of filled rolls, cakes and warm drinks as well as delicious homemade soup. Also to Paul and Linda's Colin who sorted out the cables for lighting.

The winning school tree (Year 3) was chosen by Denni's sister, Jackie, who lives in London so could not be accused of picking a tree decorated by a child she knew.



***Do we want another Christmas Tree Festival next year or do we want to try something different. Please do let Linda and/or Kat know your thoughts.***

# St. Peter's Church

## A Winter Warm Space

### Every Monday 10am to 12pm

Five ladies joined us for our first Winter Warm Space and had soon settled down to a plate of biscuits, a warm drink and a good old natter. We are open to all of those who find Monday mornings difficult, or who just want some company.

If that is you, or you just fancy a change do come along and join us, at no cost to yourself.

Unfortunately we can not cater for toddlers, but there is Sunbeams at Christ Church at roughly the same time where you will be made more than welcome.



# Sunbeams



A group for babies & pre-school children accompanied by their parent/carer.



**Mondays 9.30-11.30am**  
**Christ Church, Mountsorrel**

Play, Refreshments, Bible story, Craft,  
Singing & Prayer.



Contact [alison.white@mountsorrelchurch.org](mailto:alison.white@mountsorrelchurch.org)  
or search for 'Sunbeams Mountsorrel' group on Facebook



# All welcome





# *Senior Sunday*

*Welcomes*

*Friends, Old and New*

*At St. Peter's Church, Mountsorrel*

*Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January*



*4.00pm - 5.30pm*



## **Coffee Morning**

**Every Friday 10am—12noon**

*Pop in and meet new friends*

*Everyone Welcome*



**Thank you for supporting the Mountsorrel Community Food Project, we are very grateful for your donations.**

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

**Currently, we are very short of Tinned Fish, Tinned Fruit & Vegetables, biscuits & snacks.**



**There is a collecting box near our main Church doors.**

To request a food parcel,

Please call or text **07395 956777** before Sunday 9pm.

**Open Tuesdays 10.00 to 11.15 am**

**Mountsorrel Baptist Church, Leicester Road. LE12 7AJ**

<https://www.mountsorrelbaptistchurch.org/index.php?contact>

## **Prayer Chain**

At Christ Church & St Peter's Church we believe that prayer is one of the foundations of the Christian Faith. In prayer, Christian believers speak directly to and with God. We believe that God delights to hear our prayers; and that prayer can make a difference.

We have a small group of Church members who have committed to pray for others. Currently if you would like this group to pray for you or a friend, contact the Prayer Chain direct by completing the form on our website at:

[mountsorrelchurch.org/prayer](https://www.mountsorrelchurch.org/prayer)

The information on the form will be circulated to the members of the prayer chain for prayer. All requests received this way will be treated with complete confidentiality.



I am still recycling genuine branded and unbranded printer ink cartridges (not toner cartridges) for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Please leave any that you have in the boxes available in both Churches, thank you.



*Janet Wright*

## **Need Prayer or a Home Visit?**

If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, then please contact our confidential Prayer Chain by completing the form on our website at [mountsorrelchurch.org/prayer](http://mountsorrelchurch.org/prayer). You can also telephone your prayer request to Colin Resch on 07878 029879.

If you would like a home/hospital visit for prayer and/or communion, please leave a message for Revd Colin Resch on 07878 029879 or send an email to [revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org](mailto:revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org)

## **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 07878 029879 or via email at:

[revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org](mailto:revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org)

**Get the latest information via our web pages:**

<https://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

4 Rothley Road, Mountsorrel, Loughborough, LE12 7JU

Mobile: 07878 029879      revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org

## Day off: Monday

Reader, Mrs Helen Hodson, 0116 230 3828

Reader, Mr Edmund Stacey, 01509 214802

Associate Minister, Mrs Melanie Rowley, mel.rowley@mountsorrelchurch.org

## Children and Families' Worker:

Alison White,      alison.white@mountsorrelchurch.org

Mobile: 07305 664 009

## Inter-Generational Worker:

Linda Vesty,      linda.vesty@mountsorrelchurch.org

Mobile: 07368 248 503

## Benefice Youth Worker:

Kat Jenkins,      kat.jenkins@mountsorrelchurch.org

Mobile: 07857 964 330

## Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Melanie Rowley, melanierowleypso@gmail.com      Mobile: 07501 889 868

## Christ Church Contacts:

Warden, Mrs Angie Price, angie.price@mountsorrelchurch.org

Warden, Mrs Helen Shaw, helen.shaw@mountsorrelchurch.org

Assistant Warden, Mr Peter Hodson, 0116 230 3828

Assistant Warden, Mrs Veronica Liguorish, vpl1947@virginmedia.com

PCC Secretary, Miss Sarah Resch, ChristChurchPCC@mountsorrelchurch.org

## St. Peter's Church Contacts:

Warden & PCC Secretary, Mr David Bird, 0116 2303095

Warden, Mr David Owen, 07854 623 916, davidwowen@hotmail.co.uk

Assistant Warden, Mr John Doyle, 0116 2375623, johncdoyle@outlook.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)      paul.rowley@mountsorrelchurch.org

*(Copy date for the next newsletter is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, but  
if items are ready, please send earlier)*