Church News

March 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 2 March	9.30am	Matins*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
Wednesday 5 March Ash Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
Sunday 9 March	9.30am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	All Age Worship	Christ Church
	4.00pm	Senior Sunday	St. Peter's
Sunday 16 March	11.00am	Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing	Christ Church
	4.00pm	Tea Time Church	St. Peter's
	6.00pm	Evensong*	St. Peter's
Saturday 22 March	4.00pm	Muddy Church	Vicarage Orchard
Sunday 23 March	9.30am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Sunday Worship	Christ Church
Tuesday 25 March	7.00pm	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
Sunday 30 March	11.00am	Café Church	Christ Church
	6.00pm	Evensong*	St. Peter's
Sunday 6 April	9.30am	Matins*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Christ Church

^{*}Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer

Preparation of New Church Electoral Rolls 2025

Under the Church of England rules, new Church Electoral Rolls will be prepared in every parish this year. Announcements of this will be given in Church services on the 23rd February and 2nd March 2025.

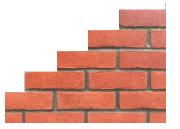
Whether your names is entered on the present Electoral Roll or not; you will need to complete an application form by 6th April 2025, to be entered on the new Church Electoral Roll.

Application forms will be available at the back of Church, or Ask Colin Resch or a Churchwarden.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Another Brick in the Wall

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 5 March and marks the beginning of Lent and our preparations for Easter.



Traditionally, the forty days of Lent have been times of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter. These echo the forty days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. During Lent, Christians often 'give up' something and donate the time doing that thing to prayer, and the money saved to charity. This year, we would like to encourage you to join us in fundraising for a new classroom.

One of the mission partners supported by Christ Church is the Church Mission Society and, in particular, the work of Simon & Sarah Cawdell who used to work alongside me in Bridgnorth but are now working in Gulu, Uganda. When we sent our most recent donation to them, we heard the news that they wanted to build a new classroom and were going to use the money we sent to help dig the foundations. In the meantime, they were going to begin making mud bricks – about five thousand of them. I would like us – Church & School together – to focus our Lent fundraising on supporting their work in building and equipping this classroom.

I would like to encourage you to raise as much money as you can to give to this cause. Maybe bake some cakes and invite your neighbours to a coffee morning where they can donate; maybe craft something to sell to others and donate the income; perhaps do a sponsored walk/cycle/silence/etc. and raise some money that way; or simply give a portion of your own income.

You can donate your money online by going to mountsorrelchurch.org/lent and clicking the donate button or by scanning the QR code below. We will keep track of our fundraising by building a paper-brick wall in each Church and at the school. For every £5 raised, another brick will be placed in the wall.

Can we raise enough for a classroom? I don't know. But, as a large supermarket often says, 'Every little helps'. Good luck and thank you.

With every blessing,



Diary Dates

Monday 3 March

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

Tuesday 4 March

3:00pm: Pancakes at Christ Church & St. Peter's CE School.

Wednesday 5 March - Ash Wednesday

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

10:00am Holy Communion at St. Peter's Church (see page 17).

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

6:00pm Rooted at Christ Church (see page 15).

Friday 7 March

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

2:15pm World Day of Prayer at the Methodist Church (see page 16).

Monday 10 March

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

Tuesday 11 March

10:00am Starting Rite at Christ Church, week 1 of 5.

Wednesday 12 March

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 14 March

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

Monday 17 March

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

Tuesday 18 March

10:00am Starting Rite at Christ Church, week 2 of 5.

Wednesday 19 March

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

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

Friday 21 March

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

Saturday 22 March

4:00pm: Muddy Church in the Vicarage Orchard.

Monday 24 March

9:30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

Dates for March (Continued)

Tuesday 25 March

10:00am Starting Rite at Christ Church, week 3 of 5.

7:00pm Holy Communion at St. Peter's (see page 17).

Wednesday 26 March

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 28 March

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

Monday 31 March

9.30am Sunbeams at Christ Church.

Dates for April 2025

Tuesday 1 April

10:00am Starting Rite at Christ Church, week 4 of 5.

7:00pm Christ Church PCC

Wednesday 2 April

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.

Thursday 3 April

7:00pm St. Peter's Church PCC

Friday 4 April

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: 12th and 26th March 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.

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

Tearfund:

- Pray for an end to the violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- Pray for peace to come to DRC and for people to be able to return safely to their homes and lives.
- Pray for God's protection on Tearfund Staff, partners and families as they work in the DRC
- Pray for the 5.9 million people in Burkina Faso in need of humanitarian aid.
- Pray for them to receive essential support in areas such as food security, nutrition, health, shelter, education, protection, water, hygiene and sanitation.
- Pray for them to also receive income-generating activities.

Church Mission Society:

- Pray for the Church in Nepal, which is facing increasing opposition & persecution.
- Pray for the Christians in Nepal to be encouraged in their faith and for unity among their leaders.
- Pray for the 12 Christians who are detained/imprisoned in a North African country to experience God's presence powerfully while they are detained and for them to be released quickly.

Open Doors:

- Pray for the more than nine million people who have been displaced by the civil war in Sudan. Ask God to provide food and shelter for those in need, and pray for an end to the conflict.
- Pray for Eritrean believers who are forced into military service against their will. Ask God to protect them as they live out their faith, and pray that they will cling to Him as their refuge.

(Continued on next page)

Mountsorrel:

- Pray for our Parish Councillors
- Pray for our Borough and County Councillors
- Pray for our MP's
- Pray for our local Primary school and all its staff.
- Pray for the other churches in the village.
- Pray for local business in the village.
- Pray for the charities working in the village

Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Liz Resch

Mission Co-ordinator at Christ Church.

Passover Fellowship Meal



I would like to organise another Passover Fellowship Meal this coming Maundy Thursday - 17th April - but can only do this if I have sufficient people to help me with the catering, preparation and clear-up. I will need two to help with preparation, two with catering and

two with the clear-up. If you think you could help with one or more of these roles, or would like to find out more, please get in touch with me by 20th March at the latest.

Thank you,

Colin Resch

Morning Prayer

9am in Christ Church and online (via Zoom)

Monday - online only

Tuesday * Wednesday * Thursday* Friday

Meeting ID: 786 8201 8817, Passcode: 032244

No Morning Prayer on Monday 10th March

Children & Family Work News

Sunbeams

In February we've enjoyed the accounts of Jesus calling the fishermen and Jesus and the children.

We've enjoyed playing with water, decorating fish, singing row, row your boat and learning about Jesus' special friends.

For Valentine's week, we made hearts, created hearts and flowers shapes with play dough and enjoyed a sensory valentines tray as well as playing in our romantic restaurant set up!







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.

Baby Groups

We have 10 mums and their babies attending Beyond the Bump each Tuesday morning. We are looking forward to our First Aid for parents session with Garry from Scrivens Safety Solutions, Garry provides this session at no cost for which we are very grateful as are our families. Please pray for our families as we come to the end of Beyond the Bump and hope to continue with Starting Rite in March.



Colin led Teatime Church in February and we thought about our amazing bodies and the body of the church. Colin reminded us that we are all one body, one church made up of many parts and that we all need each

other. We enjoyed finger printing and had fun singing some new action songs before eating tea together.

Ministry in School

The Assembly Squad have planned and led their first assembly of this term based on the parable of the precious pearl. In our planning, the children really grasped a good understanding of the parable; how precious it is to know God and how precious we are to God. They wrote some brilliant prayers, acted out a great drama and explained where pearls come from and why they are so precious before relating how precious it is to know God in our lives.

Below is their prayer – perhaps you would like to pray it too;

Lord, Let us hold you to our hearts as though you are our pearl to keep with us. You are more precious than a perfect pearl. Knowing You is more important than any penny or precious pearl. Thank you that we are precious to you too.

Amen



We explored the story of Simeon and Anna using puppets on Candlemas Sunday. The puppets were a big hit with the little ones who enjoyed using them to reenact the story themselves. We also made tealight holders from clay, sang some songs and prayed together.



We meet again on Sunday 2nd March during our morning worship.

Dates for your diary...

Sunday 2 nd	11am Bible Buddies at Christ Church	
Tuesday 4 th	Pancake giveaway outside school at the end of the school day	
Sunday 9 th	All Age Worship at Christ Church, 11am with Linda	
Sunday 16 th	Teatime Church at St Peter's, 4pm with Alison	
Saturday 22 nd	Muddy Church, 4pm in the orchard at Christ Church	
Sunday 30 th	Café Church for Mothering Sunday, 11am at Christ Church	
Mondays	Sunbeams, 9.30am at Christ Church	
Wednesdays	The Gap, after school at Christ 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

A visit from Mountsorrel Beavers



It was with some trepidation that I tried desperately hard to remember the Beaver Shout, the games they played and then wonder if I could actually hold a Beaver meeting together. But I shouldn't have worried. Despite Alison, their Beaver Leader, being unwell 28 Beavers and a copious amount of adults arrived and Kat and I had a fabulous evening, helping them all to complete most of their Beaver Faith Activity Badge.

As they arrived the Beavers made a chalk cross, they then had to place the right card in front of the right object in Church and then search out something that they hadn't got a clue what it was called or used for. They were really good at working out what was what, apart from the Bell Tower; but I'm not going to embarrass that particular leader.

They then worked in their Lodges writing a prayer, or a letter to God (hopefully there has been room for them to be put in this month's newsletter).

We then had a question and answer session and they told me a little a bit of what they had enjoyed or learnt. One of the comments was... and I paraphrase:

"It was great to see the Beavers interacting with each other in the Church in an informal setting, learning that faith is within everything we do".



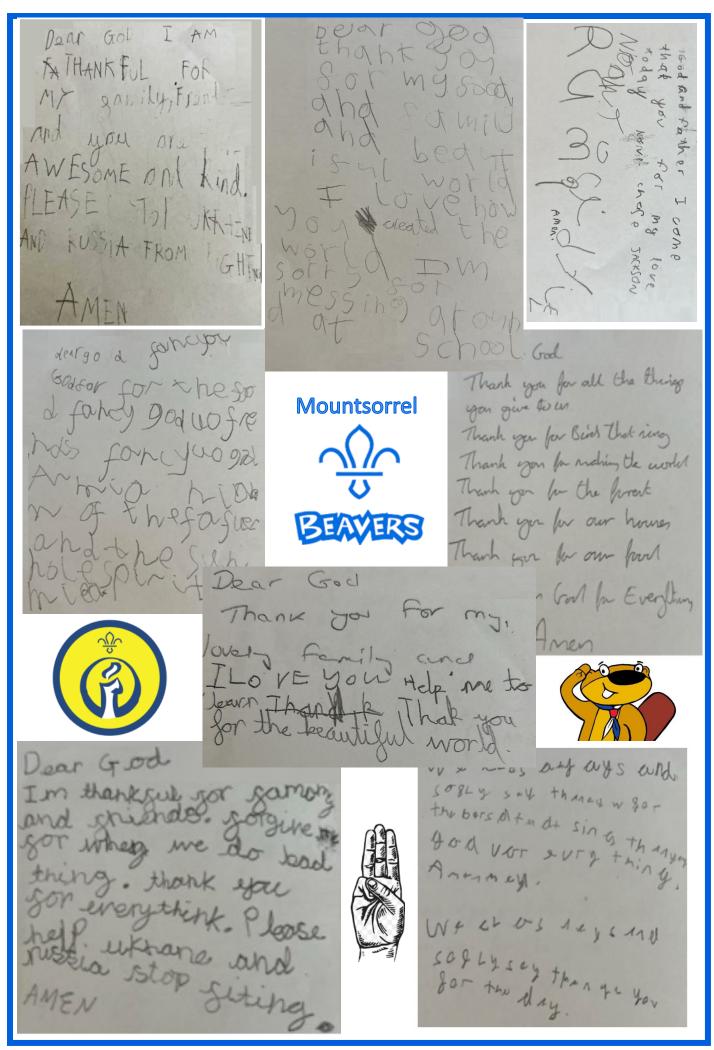














All Age Service Sunday Worship Sunday 9th March 2025 @ 11-00 am

Time out - Desert Style

Time Out A brief suspension of activity; intermission or break



Join us on the First Sunday of Lent to start our journey through 40 days and six Sundays.

Plan your Time Out for each day
Listen to a short play
Avoid eating the sweets

Say a prayer just for you Play a game of 'Would you rather'



This last half term, the year 8 Reflections Club at Rawlins have been exploring Justice and what it means. They were particularly interested in Climate Justice and how our actions affect others all over the world, showing just how closely related we all are. Unfortunately, the countries affected the most by climate change are the ones least able to do anything about it, and have also contributed the least pollution and emissions.

Rueben wrote "I think we should be mindful of how we manage our planet's resources and assets because right now, people all over our planet and all the wildlife are suffering due to climate change and global warming. Many essential species have been wiped out, or are at risk of being wiped out, due to human choices and their actions".



When one suffers, we all suffer

Summer thinks that we should all look at what we can do, however small, to show respect to our planet. She suggests thinking about how we get rid of waste and making choices based on what's best for the environment rather than what might be what's best, or easiest, for us. Ivy, in her artwork reminds us that there is "no planet B" and Joe reminds us that climate change is everybody's responsibility.



This month, we challenge you to not only show your care for our global neighbours by thinking about what you can do to be good stewards of creation but to also pray for real change. Let us join together with this prayer written by

Abraham and Austin.

Dear God, we believe
that Climate change has
been caused by our
actions. So we pray
today to ask for
forgiveness and to help
us to change as people
and as a community.

Amen







Last month our Youth looked at choosing joy and how prayer can play an important part of finding joy, even in the difficult times. We thought about how music can influence us as well as help us express ourselves and our faith. It was difficult to choose just one favourite song, as we found out, it depends on how we are feeling at that time and what we are going through.

What are your go to worship songs and hymns? How could you use them to help others draw closer to God?

Our next Rooted is Wednesday 5th March



THE GAP

After School Club

Every Wednesday during term time

The Gap continues with 15 - 20 children each week turning up and joining in. Slowly these new to Church families are becoming part of our Church family and although our sessions are aimed at the children, I feel the adults too are beginning to relax and most now join in with the games and activities.

This month, starting on March 5th, we shall be working through Lent, looking at Luke 11: 5-10 and finishing with our Easter celebration on 9th April.

Despite the amazing help we get from Dirne and Megan and our brilliant chefs, we still need HELP, so please, please do talk to either Kat or myself to find out more. Thank you **Linda**



World Day of Prayer England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Friday 7th March 2025, 2:15pm at Mountsorrel Methodist Church

The World Day of Prayer this year comes from the Cook Islands.

The theme is 'I Made You Wonderful'.

Come along and celebrate this wonderful Service bringing together everyone from all walks of life to celebrate, sing and pray together.



St. Peter's Church Tuesday 25th March 7.00pm



The Annunciation

(The announcement of the Angel Gabriel to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus)

Holy Communion* All Welcome

(* Book of Common Prayer)



5th March 10:00am St Peter's Church Mountsorrel

Holy Communion with Ashing

All Welcome

Mission Partner Update



One of mission partners is the 'Church Mission Society' and through them we help to sponsor Sarah and Simon Cawdell whom

are in Gulu, Uganda. Here is an extract from their current newsletter, which can be read in Church.

Dear friends,

Thank you for your support and prayers. January is a long month, and we have very much appreciated your prayers to keep us sustained in Christ.

All is well here. None of the college bureaucracy is sorted yet — neither registration, nor land boundaries, so please keep praying. The Diocese Coffee cooperative is now certified, so work can begin towards the coffee mother garden. Also Simon has almost achieved permission to arrange for a borehole to be drilled on the Diocesan Land. He has a letter of no objection from National Water! The final stage is a letter of permission from the Ministry.

I thought that it is high time to introduce you to some of the people among whom we live – about fifty students and twelve staff. I hope in a few sentences to sketch some of the challenges and joys of their lives.

Let me start with Stephen who is a second year student. His business is as a mason (which is how builders are referred to here), so he is always looking for more work which I can give him on the compound to enable him to make a living whilst he also studies. Like many workmen he is enthusiastic for a new project, but not a natural completer finisher. I was amused as I supervised his parish placement last month that his Parish Priest made the same observation. Stephen is now aware, and willing to work with this self-knowledge. Whilst he was in the first year, and his wife was expecting another child, he went on the parish 'poor list' which is the equivalent of using a food bank I suppose — the family received monthly food parcels from the church. It is hard for the family as our students are often also the bread winners.

Then there is Philda, also a second year whose family consists of a mother and an older, married sister. Her mother suffers from significant medical issues. Without a father figure there is no one to bring in any support for the family. Fortunately Philda's fees are paid by her Diocese (Nebbi, west of here). She is asking me for work so that she can earn money for soap and exercise books and other necessities of life. I will find her some weeding and light work around the compound for which I can pay, so that she keeps some self respect whilst benefitting from the generosity of a supporter.

Frederick is a delightful and hard working first year student, with a keen faith. But a neighbour allowed his cows to feed on Fredrick's maize crop – so he has very little to show for the hard work of growing a couple of acres of maize. (People will often test the

patience of Christians, expecting them to freely forgive such wrongs!) He has also come back looking for work, and because he came on time, whilst others were slow to return, he has had some days in the field down by the water source making bricks.

Charonne in the third year has come back with Horeb, her son, who is still breastfeeding and now walking well. The students generally are delighted to have a youngster around, and college is more of family with a shared child. He greets me putting his hand in mine with a lovely smile.

Melki is an enthusiast for life, and has embraced Farming God's Way/ Forward in Farming (you can find it on You Tube – basically no dig gardening). If someone is going to ask a question and probe further in class it will be Melki!

Andrew who is very bright, but having been poisoned sometime back, is often unwell. (Poisoning is a not unusual a problem here. There are plenty of natural poisons available and jealousy and anger are rife in the communities.) He is a natural leader and evangelist. I pray for his healing, but wonder how God uses him more effectively in his weakness.

Ronald makes his living as a carpenter, and makes kitchens. He is always generous with his skills to help in the college. He is making new 'ministers chairs' for the new chapel. These are being paid for out of the Sunday collection.

Samson Lolo lives on the border of the national park so it is hard to grow food crops because the elephants come out and eat the maize. Elephants are as determined as squirrels only bigger, and more destructive. (In some places they are kept at bay by 'bee fencing' as a swarm of bees is one of the few things that does deter them.)

Innocent who is the chapel warden, and loves playing the local harp. He is often to be found in chapel making music and worshipping God.

This is the dry season, so we don't expect any significant rain before March. Term has started and the students are delighted to see progress in college development. At the weekend we worked together to move the bricks which had dried towards the place where they will be burnt and we hope to dig the foundations for the new classrooms before Easter. But not until after some rain as the ground is extremely hard at the moment.

Do continue to pray for the registration of the college. Some students have not come back because we aren't registered yet, which is going to be a problem both for the viability of the college and the on going ministry of the church.

We are also very grateful for a new garage on the college grounds in order to keep the car we have been loaned safe.

Let us know how we can pray for you, and do keep in touch

With love from Sarah and Simon

RNIB

See differently

Royal National Institute for Blind People



Is the UK's leading sight loss charity. We have a collection box in both St Peter's Church and Christ Church for the collection of used postage stamps.

Please save your used stamps and pop them into either of the boxes. They will then be forwarded to the RNIB to help them continue their work supporting those people with sight loss.

Thank you







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

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. 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

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

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

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Reader, Mr Edmund Stacey, 01509 214802

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

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Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

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Assistant Warden, Mr Peter Hodson, 0116 230 3828

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

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

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Assistant Warden, Mr John Doyle, 0116 2375623, johncdoyle@outlook.com

Administration:

Treasurer & Bower Room Bookings' Contact

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Parish Administrator & Newsletter Editor

Mr Paul Rowley (part time) paul.rowley@mountsorrelchurch.org

(Copy date for the next newsletter is Monday 24th March, but if items are ready, please send earlier)