

St. Peter's Church Mountsorrel



Report for the Annual Meeting

Sunday 27th April 2025

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Chairman's Report

This Annual Report contains just a snapshot of the work that has gone on in our Church over the previous year. It can never tell the whole story but only give a glimpse into who we are as a Church Community. As you read the following pages, you will discover some bits that you find informative, others that you consider fascinating, and you will read of some things that you didn't even know were happening. Some reports are simply essential matters of fact; some are lists of numbers (especially the accounts). But everything that you will read in the following pages have one thing in common: This is how we are fulfilling the great commission of Jesus 'to make disciples' here in Mountsorrel, in our generation.

You will read of initiatives begun and projects ended. Services tried, tested and continuing and others tried, tested and finished. Success and not quite all inter-mingled into one report. Underpinning everything, we do is a desire to reach out into our community with the love of Jesus to transform the lives of men, women and children who do not yet know Him and the power of His love.

Our Summer week of activities continues to go from strength to strength and in August we were able to welcome hundreds of individual visitors and families to our Churches to participate in our gift to the community.

Through the Holy Spirit, God is moving the hearts of men, women and children to seek him. This year, we have seen new people join our worshipping community – some simply walking in with no prior connection. Together we have grown numerically, spiritually and in our acts of outreach.

The activities of our Church are led by a great number of volunteers, facilitated by a smaller number of staff who work so hard day by day, week by week to coordinate the many activities on offer. But all their effort would be wasted without the many volunteers who offer up their time and talents – some in upfront ways and others working behind the scenes out of public gaze. Whatever you do for the Church, however great or small, paid or voluntary, you do for Jesus. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you do.

Enjoy reading this report. Be inspired to join in with the work of God in this place. Whatever your gifts, great or small, as you offer them to the Church in an act of service, you also offer them to God as an act of worship.

I commend this report to you humbled by all that God is doing in this place.

Colin Resch

Priest in charge of The United Benefice of Mountsorrel

Electoral Roll Report

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

There are now 42 members on the roll, 11 of which are resident in the parish and 31 are non-resident in the parish.

Paul Rowley

Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer's Report

The PCC fulfilled the 2024 Parish Contribution commitment of £9,680.

This year General Funds showed a small deficit of £97.67, Designated Funds a deficit of £234.67 and Restricted Funds a surplus of £563.26. The total balances in hand for each fund at the end of the year were, General Funds £8,638.44, Designated Funds £2,977.28 and Restricted Funds £6,998.53.

Compared to last year our Free Will and Service offerings increased by £283.61 and sundry donations decreased by £636.32.

The Mountsorrel Church of England Fund provided grants totalling £14,106.55 for Parish Administrator and Cleaner's wages, Boiler repair, Gardener's expenses, Electrical Survey, Card Machine, Quinquennial Inspection and Senior Sunday expenses. We also received a grant of £1,000 from Tarmac towards mesh netting for the Bells.

The full accounts were independently examined by Mrs Helen Harrison FMAAT on 11th March 2025 and presented to and approved by the PCC on Thursday 3rd April 2025.

Mrs Val Doyle

Treasurer

Statement of Financial Activities

St Peter's PCC, Mountsorrel

Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned giving	9989.30			9989.30	10273
Collections at Services	1825.69		2003.10	3828.79	2608
All other giving/voluntary receipts	2534.22			2534.22	3171
Gift Aid recovered	3362.21			3362.21	3486
Grant & Trusts			15727.27	15727.27	10168
	17711.42	0.00	17730.37	35441.79	29706
Activities for generating funds				0.00	0
Investment Income	316.09			316.09	371
Church Activities	262.00			262.00	1117
Misc Income	426.53			426.53	64
Total receipts	18716.04	0.00	17730.37	36446.41	31257
Payments					
Church activities					
Parish Gift	9680.00			9680.00	8800
Staffing costs			8041.92	8041.92	7700
Church running expenses	7214.77	234.67	7122.09	14571.53	12305
Mission giving and donations	1866.13		2003.10	3869.23	2650
	18760.90	234.67	17167.11	36162.68	31455
Cost of generating funds	52.81			52.81	0
Total payments	18813.71	234.67	17167.11	36215.49	31455
Excess/Deficit of receipts over payments	-97.67	-234.67	563.26	230.92	-197
Transfer between funds					
Cash at bank at 1st January	8736.11	3211.95	6435.27	18383.33	18580
Cash at bank at 31st December	8638.44	2977.28	6998.53	18614.25	18383

Balance Sheet

St Peters PCC, Mountsorrel

Statements of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2024

MONETARY ASSETS

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total 2024	2023
General Funds					
CAF Account	5571.01				5964
CBF Account	3067.43				2772
	<u>8638.44</u>				<u>8736</u>
Designated Funds					
Flower Fund (CAF)		152.19			387
Flower Fund (CBF)		500.00			500
Alex Gibson Legacy (CBF)		1913.85			1914
fairhead Fmaily Fund (CBF)		411.24			411
		<u>2977.28</u>			<u>3212</u>
Restricted Funds CAF					
Senior Sunday (CAF)			181.43		120
Choir Fund (CAF)			180.81		181
Bell Ringers/Clock Fund (CBF)			1960.07		1960
Bell Ringers/Clock Fund (CAF)			831.70		330
Youth Work (CAF)			3319.52		3320
Churchyard Alterations (CAF)			525.00		525
			<u>6998.53</u>		<u>6435</u>
	<u>8638.44</u>	<u>2977.28</u>	<u>6998.53</u>	<u>18614.25</u>	<u>18383</u>

INVESTMENT ASSETS

0.00

Debtors

Interest CBF					100
23/368					195
23/376					34

0.00

0.00

329

Liabilities

23/160					109
23/165					436
23/167					244
23/168					233
23/169					1
23/170					220
24/156 HMRC	113.6				
24/161 Falcon Support Services	500				
24/162 Cheque fee (1665)	0.75				
24/163 Exaireo Trust	500				
24/164 Cheque fee (1066)	0.75				
24/169 E.on	176				
24/171 Steps Conductive Education	577.05				
24/172 British Gas	385.31				
24/173 Central Business Services	230.00				
	<u>2483.46</u>				<u>1244</u>
				<u>2483.46</u>	

Churchwarden's Fabric Report

Quinquennial Inspection of the Church – 2024

The PCC has agreed to carry out all of the Architects recommendations for the works contained in the Q.I. Report, with one or two minor exceptions. The Architect is now in the process of preparing a full tender specification.

The Church Log Book and Property Terrier (Register)

The Logbook and Property Register is up to date and will be signed off at the APCM.

Heating

Annual Gas Safety Certificate dated 10th March 2025.

Organ

In good order and tuned – 9th May 2024.

Fire Extinguishers/Fire Blanket

Annual Inspection completed and service – 24th July 2024.

Lightning Conductor

In good order – Tested – 23rd August 2024.

Tower/Bells

See Bells report.

Tower Clock

Serviced by Smiths of Derby – 6th August 2024.

The Lift

Serviced 9th December 2024.

Electrics

5-year test completed 30th January 2024 + PAT test. Pass Certificate issued.

Antill Vestry Extension and Future Plans

The PCC is working on various possibilities regarding additional facilities for the Church involving the Vestry and land.

Churchyard

The PCC has decided the improvements to the Churchyard are long overdue and should commence as soon as possible. The Works Sub-Committee has been tasked with agreeing the way forward.

Illuminated Cross

The DAC (Diocesan Advisory Council) has recently agreed to the type and size of the Cross to be fixed on the front of the Church. The Church Architect has been asked to prepare a planning application.

Gardener

Mr. Dan Maidment has agreed to continue to maintain the garden for another year and the Mountsorrel Church of England Fund has agreed to provide funding.

Altar Cloths and Falls

A review is taking place regarding the condition of the Altar Cloths and Falls which are showing signs of wear and tear.

David Bird and David Owen

Churchwardens

Bell Ringers Report

From the Diary:

In 2024/25 the bells have been rung:

2024.

6th June: 80th Anniversary of D. Day WWII. – National Commemoration ring @ 6-30pm (7 ringers) for ½ hour.

10th August: Visiting ringers from St. Mary's Abbots Guild Kensington London. Rang for almost 2 hours. Donation £22.50.

28th September: Visiting ringers from Lichfield Cathedral. Rang for 40mins'. Donation £20.00.

Weddings: Unfortunately, None.

Funerals: Thankfully, None.

2025.

Nothing so far to report.

NOTE:

1. All the work to the bells reported last year have now been completed by Taylors of Loughborough. A generous donation of £1000. 00. was gratefully received from Tarmac at Mountsorrel Quarry towards the work.
2. We need more people to come forward to ring the bells, if you know of anyone interested in ringing, please speak to me or ask them to telephone me on Mob: 07815 598822.

David Bird.

Tower Captain.

The Team: David & Simon Bird, John Doyle, Margaret & Brian Johnson (Brian is the Steeple Keeper}, Chris Price, Luke Dormer, David Owen (David is the Deputy Steeple Keeper) with occasional ringing support from Revd. Colin Resch.

Deanery Synod Report

The Akeley East Deanery Synod met three times in 2024 in different locations around the Deanery. At each of our meetings, Synod members were updated on the Minster Community process, and we received reports on the Diocesan Synod meetings that have taken place. At each meeting we also had the opportunity to hear from an invited guest speaker about their work.

On 7th February we met in St Mary's Church Nanpantan where we heard from Simon Wilson with a presentation about Diocesan Finances. It was good to hear directly from the Diocese about measures being taken to tackle the budget deficit and to have the opportunity to ask questions that are relevant to the parishes in our area.

On 20th June we met at Oaks in Charnwood Church Hall and heard from Elizabeth York, lead chaplain at Loughborough University. She spoke about the nature of chaplaincy work and the joy of working as part of the multi-faith chaplaincy team that supports a community of 20,000 students including 3,500 international students and 4,000 members of university staff. The chaplaincy team are on hand to support people through tough times hosting bereavement cafes and peace cafes, library drop-ins, creative activities and workshops to support mental and spiritual wellbeing.

The final meeting of the year was hosted here in Mountsorrel, at Christ Church, on 8th October. The opening worship was led by Alison White and me. Our speaker was Matt Long, the Youth Engagement and Inter-Generational Communities Enabler for

Leicester Diocese. He spoke principally about the listening exercises being undertaken within the Diocese on behalf of the Bishop's Children & Youth Council. These termly listening exercises enable young voices from different settings across the diocese (church groups and school settings) to reflect on a topic (e.g. Poverty) and report on their reflections to the Bishop who then responds back to the groups.

The synod meetings are always good natured and informative. The meetings are open to all (only Synod members will be allowed to vote on Synod business) and I hope you might be able to join us for some of the forthcoming meetings. There will be meetings on 19th June and 7th October. Please have a word with me if you would like more information.

Colin Resch

Priest in charge of The United Benefice of Mountsorrel

Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding overview

As you are aware, this has been a difficult year for the world-wide Anglican Communion. The Makin report uncovered the depths of abuse within our church world-wide and these investigations are ongoing. As a church here in Mountsorrel we are encouraging vigilance and transparency to help create a culture that encourages safeguarding concerns or incidents to be raised. We aim to provide support and safeguard victims. Our collective vigilance will help ensure support and help is provided when needed. This requires recognition that safeguarding needs to move away from something that is in some respects external/imposed upon the Church, to something that flows from within the soul of the Church. Safeguarding is at the centre of our faith, in our practice, in our worship, in praying, and in our believing. In other words, safeguarding needs to become integral to the very DNA of the Church rather than an appendage, with good safeguarding behaviours flowing naturally and intuitively.

Requirements

Introduction to Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021

The PCC have adopted and follow the Parish Safeguarding Policy and the Parish Safeguarding Handbook (April 2021) recommended by the Diocese.

Our recruitment processes for staff and volunteers are consistent with Diocesan guidance.

The PCC, Priest -in-charge Revd. Colin Resch, Melanie Rowley (Benefice Safeguarding Officer) and Sarah Resch, deputy Benefice Safeguarding Officer have worked hard to ensure that Christ Church and St. Peter's Churches are safer through regard for policy, safer recruitment and training. The expectation is that all volunteers, PCC members and staff members are safely recruited, have up to date safeguarding training and the correct level of DBS as required.

Your commitment to prioritising and contributing to making St. Peter's a safer church is appreciated.

St Peter's has also worked hard to respond well to any reported concerns, working consistently with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officers. St Peter's has a responsibility to manage and include those who may have been convicted of offences safely and work closely where required, with the Diocese in this. Conversations may include involving the Police and Probation services.

This year, there continues to be a renewed national Church of England commitment to supporting those who have experienced domestic abuse, alongside the recent reports of survivors of abuse within the church and this is an issue that we regard with all seriousness and diligence.

St. Peter's uses the Parish Dashboard, which was comprehensively demonstrated to the PCC members who were present at the last joint PCC meeting.

The dashboard holds the potential to make safeguarding administration easier. It enables people to review the church's commitment to safeguarding online however the reluctance for some members of the PCC to complete any safeguarding training, despite reminders is a cause for concern.

Melanie Rowley

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Children and Families' Work

2024 saw some changes for the children and families work in the churches. In September Linda changed her role to become our Intergenerational worker; whilst she continues to be involved with direct children and families work, the scope of what

she does is now wider in terms of different age groups she works with and ministers to.

During the spring and summer of 2024, the staff team reviewed and reflected on all that we offer to children and families; this resulted in some changes to our regular activities.

- It was decided to finish Fun@4 due to constantly dwindling numbers, however this enabled a weekly after school group to start – The Gap; this is headed up by Linda so please see her report for more information about this.
- The All Age Holy Communion at St. Peter's also ended with the last service being in July, this service slot has reverted to BCP Holy Communion, and we started Teatime Church on a Sunday afternoon to replace this.
- Some of our weekend activities were swapped around in terms of which week of the month they were held to accommodate the changes we were making.
- We have ensured that there is something accessible for both children and youth at each Sunday service at Christ Church.

Ministry with under 5's and their parents

Sunbeams continue to meet every Monday morning during term-time. It remains a popular group with new families joining us throughout the year. Twelve of our children started school in September, which we thought would impact on the numbers attending but we continue to have up to 30 children and their parents attend most weeks.

Sunbeams is a very friendly and supportive group which supports parents forming friendships, resulting in them establishing a network of people at a similar stage of parenting; this network of support is vital to parents in our mobile society where many do not have family living close by. As leaders and volunteers, we continue to provide pastoral care to many of our families.

We have a lively and engaging story and singing time each week which most of the families and children now join us for enabling us to share the gospel and other stories from the bible.

We ran 2 blocks of sessions of both Beyond the Bump and Starting Rite during 2024. This involves 5 weeks of Beyond the Bump followed by 5 weeks of Starting Rite, most of our mums have chosen to continue on to Starting Rite.

Beyond the Bump is loving service; there is no Christian content, rather it is to support new parents akin to post-natal groups that used to be run by health visitors. We now

have involvement from the Peri-natal Mental Health Team who attend the sessions where we talk about mental health. We also have a First Aid for parents training session on each Beyond the Bump course; Garry Scrivens is very kindly doing this for us for only his travel expenses.

Towards the end of Beyond the Bump, we tell the parents about Starting Rite and are very open that there is Christian content at this group, we only had one parent who didn't continue on with Starting Rite in 2024 and this was because she had already signed up to another group on the same day.

The pastoral needs at these groups can be quite substantial and support has regularly continued outside of the group over the year.

Ministry in School

During the first half of 2024, things continued as previously with collective worship led once a week by a team of ministers on a rota basis. After the summer, there were changes made to the school day which affected Collective Worship times and also meant that the whole school had collective worship at the same time 9am, although still split in key stages in two different halls. As the other churches in the village were no longer able to offer ministers for this at the current time, Colin and Alison discussed how we could support this and we now both go into school every Wednesday alternating leading key stage 1 and key stage 2 collective worship between us. This is working really well and it has been a real positive in terms of being in school more often and building relationships with children and staff.

Assembly squad continue to meet on Monday lunchtimes with around 10-12 children attending regularly. They have planned and led several assemblies through the year and also led worship in both our churches. In 2024 some of our assembly squad members led our Palm Sunday joint worship at St. Peter's, our all age worship at Christ Church in September and the Nativity service at St. Peter's. These have all been successful and have brought families into church who wouldn't normally attend.

Prayer Spaces for Year 6 on the theme of Transition took place again in June and was well received by the children who all got involved and enjoyed the various activities and prayers.

The school continue to come into church through the year; the whole school come to Christ Church for Harvest, the Christmas Tree Festival (which includes an act of collective worship for each group), and their Christmas service which was a real joy to hold again in 2024 after a couple of years when this hasn't taken place. The year 6 leavers service also took place at Christ Church where each child was given the Scripture Union 'It's your move' books.

The Remembrance Service was led by year 5 at St. Peter's Church, Kat facilitated this as the 11th was on a Monday.

Year 6 led a beautiful carol service also at St. Peter's, this is always a wonderful service and their singing was outstanding.

It would be great to bring the children into church more often through the year, particularly to support with their RE work and Alison hopes to discuss this with the school for 2025.

Sunday Worship

All Age Worship at Christ Church continues to be held each month with families attending and enjoying these more relaxed services. Linda, Kat and Alison lead these services on different months which gives the advantage of a variety of leadership styles through the year.

Teatime Church started in September at St. Peter's Church; this is a short 30-minute service aimed at families with children followed by a sandwich tea provided by St. Peter's. This has been problematic in terms of very low numbers attending and at the end of the year we had started to review whether it was viable to continue with this service.

Bible Buddies began in April of 2024 at Christ Church; this was in response to families with children regularly attending the morning worship. This took a while to gain momentum but by the end of the year was beginning to take place regularly as children came to this service regularly.

Bible Buddies is on the 1st Sunday of the month, the children are in church until after the activity slot when we move to the Bower Room where we have a story, activities and singing which are more accessible to younger children. We then return to church at or after The Peace.

Importantly this enables parents to focus on and enjoy the reading, sermon and prayers whilst the children learn in a more active and noisy way!

On other Sundays, there are always activities for children at the main service.

Muddy Church

Muddy Church has continued to see variable attendance through the year. Having reviewed the winter season, we decided to not hold Muddy Church in the month of January anymore, mainly due to it being dark so early and very low attendance on the previous January's.

We had some good sessions engaging with different families during the nicer weather and our Summer '24 session brought lots of new families to Muddy Church some of whom have returned to other sessions later in the year!

Unfortunately, we were blighted by fairly extreme weather conditions in the Autumn months; September saw us dash for the safety of the church when it was thundering and lightening overhead, and November and December brought winds of a speed that meant it wasn't safe to be in the orchard, so we again moved into church. Obviously, Muddy Church is not the same inside, but it seemed better to offer something than to simply cancel.

As part of our review of children and families work, Muddy Church was moved to the 4th weekend of the month in its usual Saturday afternoon slot.

Special Services & Events

We had an increase in families attending our Good Friday family worship at St. Peter's this year. We followed the same format as previous years telling the story, making our Easter Garden, singing and joining in a prayer activity. As always, we enjoyed refreshments with hot cross buns afterwards and, it being a fine day, the children enjoyed playing in the garden.

Summer' 24

This was another great week which enabled us to meet children and families who we haven't met before. Mountsorrel by the Sea was particularly successful this year with great weather and a bigger pool for the older children.

For the first time, we held a morning for families with children with special educational needs and disabilities; the Bower room was turned into a quiet sensory room, the party tent was set up outside for sibling activities which staff and volunteers led and supervised, and the main church was used for activities for the children with SEND and their parents.

The families were extremely appreciative of this time, and we met several families with whom we'd had no previous contact. All the families indicated they would love this to become a regular activity.

On reviewing the week, we felt we needed something else aimed specifically at primary school age children, so we aim to include this for 2025.

Christmas

Christmas was, as always, a busy time. Our Nativity at St. Peter's was led by some of the Assembly Squad who did a brilliant job. The service was well attended and as this

was held in the Teatime Church slot, we all enjoyed an extra special tea provided by St Peter's.

Our Christingle Service at Christ Church was also very well attended, led by Linda, we had great fun playing pass the parcel before lighting our Christingles later on.

Thank you to Waitrose for the donation of oranges.

A huge thank you to all of our volunteers and all those who pray for us – we couldn't provide the activities we do without your help.

Please continue to pray for staff, volunteers and the families of Mountsorrel in 2025.

Alison White

Children & Families Worker

Inter-Generational Work

“Intergenerational ministry occurs when a congregation intentionally combines the generations together in mutual serving, sharing, or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community.”

Holly Catterton Allen and Christine Lawton Ross.

Our report for this year's AGM will be full of the ways in which our two Churches offer services, activities, study groups, fellowship, support and interaction with all the different age groups within our community. However Inter-generational work is not just about working with different ages but a commitment to work, serve and worship with all ages at the same time.

The Gap

During the first half of 2024 it became clear that Fun@4 was no longer working, so after much thought and prayer we had our last meeting on June 6th. This was not an easy decision, but it did appear that Sunday afternoons were no longer a good time to meet.

During the Summer Kat and I spent time putting together an afterschool group. The Gap started on Wednesday 30th October with a Light Party. I sat there expecting two or three children. We had over 20 along with their parents that first week and have continued to see 20 or thereabouts right up until Christmas.

The Gap is an opportunity to not just tell stories from the Bible but a chance to see how relevant they are to us today.

At the end of each half term, we have a small celebration followed by a cooked meal for all. They might not be all coming to Church on a Sunday, but they are coming to Church to hear God's word and to receive His love.

Many thanks to Mel, Colin and Liz who have fed us and to Dirne who comes along to sit, talk and help the children with their crafts. Our aim is to have some of those attending The Gap help run an All Age service at some point this year.

[Visiting Residential Homes](#)

My links with Rose Cottage have increased, Mel and I go in at least once a month with our guitars to sing with the residents. I go in two or three more times to play games, do crafts or just sit and talk; something that the staff don't always have time for.

I have heard so many stories from the past, about husbands who have died, children and grandchildren that they perhaps no longer see, and I was thrilled to see some of the residents come to the carols amongst the trees service, and something I would like to continue if at all possible – another inter-generational moment.

[Baptism Visiting](#)

Although we only had three baptisms last year, we already have 4 booked for 2025. Mel and I continue to visit each family and organise a Baptism Preparation morning for parents and Godparents. As well as working through the service we encourage everyone to see this as the start of, not just the child's, but their walk in faith. More of our regular congregation members attending baptisms showing support and welcoming the family is a definite way in which you can help with my Inter-generational goal.

[Forming links with local child and youth groups](#)

Links with both the scouts and guides are slowly building, we have had the Beavers do their Faith Activity badge with our help at Christ Church and a scout and guide service in one of our Churches is a real possibility, probably at Christmas.

[All Age Services/Baby Loss Awareness/Senior Sunday/Muddy Church](#)

Alongside many others in the staff team, I contribute or lead services which appeal to those who are not yet ready for a more formal service.

At some of these services we have noticed that the number of children attending is slowly increasing and that people are now sitting around the tables mixing generations and interacting well with one another.

In 2025

Our winter warmer sessions at St. Peter's did not have many visitors, but I feel quite strongly that those who did really needed a safe space to come to. It also gave the volunteers a chance to get to know each other better. We are hoping to continue, at St. Peter's, with a regular coffee morning.

Jonathan from St. Peter's and I are attending a training by "Care for the Family" in the hope that we can start a Grief Cafe for those who have recently, or in the past, suffered a great loss and I am hoping to visit both the crematorium and a funeral director to get a greater understanding of what happens once someone has died. This will help with my work at Rose Cottage and other residential homes.

Each generation has different things to offer, and my aim is to provide times when everyone from children at Sunbeams to residents at Rose Cottage are able to contribute to and participate in the worship of God together. Our Churches are starting to grow and we are beginning to form strong relationships with families who have little, or no, connection with the Church.... yet.

Linda Vesty

Inter-Generational Worker

Youth Work

This year has seen a review of our youth provision; some groups have come to an end, some have started and others have evolved. The number of young people we have regular contact with has stayed relatively stable and we have seen spiritual and personal growth within this age group.

Youth Hub (LRYFS)

Work with the LRYFS has now come to an end, but we remain in contact with Ant and his team. There were a number of practical issues that resulted in the general youth group closing, and an increased focus on children's and targeted youth work. We were able to support them with the use of the Bower Room which resulted in a family visiting our Muddy Church.

Youth@4

We started the year with a trip to see 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' at Loughborough Town Hall, which was a great experience and time of fellowship together. Easter saw us turning the Bower Room into an Easter Escape room, and we were joined by a family who we met during the Summer24 activities,

the other months saw a mix of drama, games and Lego among its activities. Youth@4 gave our young people a great opportunity to have fun with their faith and learn something about the story of the people of God and how their faith helped them through the difficult times.

During our review, it was decided that, whilst Youth@4 was enjoyed by those that attended, that our resources would be better redirected to encourage younger children in primary school to explore their faith. This would naturally, in time, lead to a greater number of young people within our church community as we 'lay the foundations' before trying to build upon them. The Gap, a weekly after school group for children and their families started in October to facilitate this.

[Rawlins Academy](#)

Our Year 7 lunch club, which runs on a Thursday, is aimed at building bridges between the school and church. Each week there are activities around the Christian calendar, or a Christian value and we make use of the table talk resources and have a prayer activity once a half term. We regularly see between 15 and 30, 11 and 12 year olds each week engaging with the activities. There have been some issues around behaviour, but the staff have been very helpful, and I have built up a good relationship with them over the year.

I have tried to encourage a wider engagement with church, and in the summer many of the students designed logos for our Summer'24 activities. As this year group moved up over the summer, some of these students expressed an interest in having a Year 8 group, which I was able to start at the end of October.

The Year 8 group (Friday lunch time) has more of a spiritual focus to it and aims to provide the opportunity for students to creatively reflect on their faith and spirituality. This is a small group of around 12 and during the half term explored the 'Characters of Christmas'. Thinking about what we can learn about the Christmas message through different stories and how we can apply them to our own life. Whilst this has only run for a few weeks, it is hoped it will provide a space to engage with God in a non-threatening way that is open to all faiths and none.

As with last year, I was invited to help with the transition days, offering a taste of lunch club to the Year 6s and leading a team on their team building day. These 2 days are very staff heavy, and the school is very thankful for the support. It also gives me the opportunity to offer some pastoral care for those who are anxious and be a friendly face to our students from Christ Church and St. Peter's School who have met me through the Year 6 Remembrance service, Christmas tree Festival visit, Prayer spaces and other links with the school.

We did, however, have some enquiries about what we did at Christ Church from a couple of young people who attended when we met in the Bower room, and we were able to invite them to Muddy Church. We also had a group from Youth Hub join us for our Youth Movie night during Summer'24 along with Rosie, one of their staff team.

Rooted

We came to the end of our first Rooted Journal which saw us explore the idea of faith being like a journey, being your true self, being thankful and making good decisions. Both Logan and Sarah found the journal helpful, so as a group, we decided to continue on with the Rooted Grow journal.

We now meet monthly to explore discipleship and our youth are encouraged to take responsibility for their own faith exploration with the help of the exercises in their journals. Through these activities and discussions, Sarah expressed an interest in leading a service, which she did in June with the help of a few of our church family. It was interesting to hear everybody's testimony and how they had met with God.

Through Rooted we are seeing our young people grow in their faith and have the confidence to express that faith in their daily lives. Having the opportunity to have some quite deep discussions about the Bible, prayer and our own relationship with God has given all of us the chance to reflect on our own identity as part of the body of Christ.

Sunday Morning Activities and Dig Deeper

Following our review, 2 weeks each month now have a targeted youth activity. The first Sunday of the month we have a table activity at the back of the church which aims to connect our young people with the sermon message. This might be a prayer activity, a craft, or some questions to reflect on.

The 4th Sunday we head into the Bower Room after the first hymn for Dig Deeper. Here we aim to explore the Bible reading for that week, give them some context to the text and help them to see where it fits into the wider message. As we go into 2025 we hope that this group will teach our youth how to read and navigate their Bibles and how to apply it to their lives.

Summer' 24 Activities

We had 3 events targeted specifically at young people, nerf games at the MMC, a build your own pizza night and a pop-up art gallery at St. Peter's. The nerf games worked well at the MMC, having much more space to run around, and a separate space for family to sit and for refreshments. We had 21 young people attend, many of whom we had had no or little contact with before.

The new kitchen allowed us to offer a build your own pizza night. On the night we had 8 young people and 2 parents making their own pizzas with a variety of toppings. We had some great conversations and were able to catch up with some of those that had been involved in the mid-week chill group last year.

St. Peter's Church was turned into an art gallery for the week with young people contributing pieces which they had made. This was added to over the week with several watercolours from Muddy Church displayed.

Christmas Gallery

Having learnt a lot from the summer, I organised a Christmas Gallery for the first weekend of Advent. We used this space to display the work from Rawlins Year 8 Reflection group as well as others from the community. Our youngest artist, aged only 4, was very proud to have her work on display and brought her entire family to come and see it, with lots of selfies as well!

All of our young artists from school were pleased that their work had been included, with some of them astonished that people would want to see what they had produced and be so positive about it. Quite a few of this group are constantly getting into trouble at school, and struggle with education. Having their work displayed meant a great deal to them and as a result, I have seen them be encouraged and valued as people.

Prayers for 2025

- Relationships with school will continue to grow and that students will take pride in their achievements and be inspired to reach their full potential.
- That our young people will continue to grow in faith and be equipped and inspired by the Spirit.
- That our new groups will draw others into the church as they seek to learn about Jesus.

I want to offer my thanks to Liz Lawson (Youth@4), Sarah Resch (Rooted), Helen Shaw and Caroline McCallum (Dig Deeper) for their help with the different groups for our young.

Kat Jenkins

Youth Worker

Outreach

Fellowship Group at the Vicarage

We are a group of around ten, 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 2024 by finishing off the Romans Course started the previous year and after that we took a break for Lent to allow people to join in with the Churches Together in Mountsorrel Lent Course, Reflections towards the Cross.

Following on from Easter we looked at some characters from the Old Testament; Jonah, Hannah, Samuel, Elijah, Caleb & Joshua.

After a break for the summer holidays we had a social and shared our favourite worship song or hymn before looking at Paul's letter to the Ephesians, which we will be finishing of in the New Year.

Our last meeting in 2024 was at the beginning of November, this was earlier than planned, due to Liz's knee operation.

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

Liz Resch

Just 4 Ladies

Is a group for the ladies of both Christ Church and St. Peters.

In 2024 we meet just three times.

In March we had a bible study using the book by Paula Gooder; Women of Holy Week, which looks at the events of Holy Week through the eyes of nine women.

Then in June a small group of us went to the Waterside Inn and enjoyed a meal and fellowship.

In October we invited Emma Hallam the founder of Alex's Wish to come and tell us about their work to eradicate Dechaume Muscular Dystrophy. This event was open to all the church and we presented Emma with a donation raised from the cream tea and summer concert events during the churches summer activates week.

We finished the year by leading the Carols amongst the Trees service at the end of Christ Church's Christmas Tree Festival. A special thank you to all those who took part.

I am not sure what form Just4ladies will take in 2025.

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 have led our services; Colin & Liz Resch & Mel Rowley. A big thank you also goes to David & Susan Bird, John & Leslie Strange and David & Karen Owen.

Liz Resch

St.Peter's Church
Market Place, Mountsorrel, LE12 7BA
Tel: 07878 029879
email: revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org

web: mountsorrelchurch.org