

Church News

A detailed illustration of a nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is kneeling in prayer on the left, looking at the infant Jesus who lies in a manger of straw, glowing with a divine light. Joseph stands on the right, holding a long staff. A donkey and a sheep are visible on the left and right respectively. The scene is set under a thatched roof with a bright star shining from above, casting a beam of light onto the baby. The background is a dark, starry night sky.

December 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 7 December	9.30am	Matins*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
Monday 8 December	7.00pm	Carols amongst the Trees	Christ Church
Sunday 14 December	9.30am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	All Age Service (Crib Service)	Christ Church
	4.00pm	Senior Sunday	St. Peter's
Saturday 20 December	10.00am	Muddy Christmas Trail	Christ Church
Sunday 21 December	11.00am	Holy Communion with Healing Prayers	Christ Church
	4.00pm	Nativity Service	St. Peter's
	6.00pm	Carol Service*	St. Peter's
Wednesday 24 December	4.00pm	Christingle	Christ Church
	11.30pm	Holy Communion	Christ Church
Thursday 25 December	9.30am	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Family Holy Communion	Christ Church
Sunday 28 December	11.00am	CTiM Christmas Praise	Christ Church
Sunday 4 January	9.30am	Matins*	St. Peter's
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Christ Church
Tuesday 6 January	7.00pm	Holy Communion*	St. Peter's

**Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer*

Morning Prayer

9am in Christ Church and online (via Zoom)

Monday - online only

Tuesday * Wednesday * Thursday* Friday

Meeting ID: 786 8201 8817, Passcode: 032244

**There will be NO Morning Prayer after 19th
December until the Monday 5th January 2026.**

Too Good To Be True

The word 'traditional' carries with it all sorts of connotations. For some people 'traditional' means dependable, solid, reliable; for other people 'traditional' means old fashioned, dull and boring. A wise man once told me that if you do something once, it is innovation; if you do it a second time, it's an emerging tradition; do it a third time and it's the way you've always done it.

You may or may not consider yourself to be a traditional sort of Christian but it is my guess that you still have your own Christmas traditions. My own Christmas traditions are deep-rooted having been established through my childhood. We tend to carry the most significant of these into adulthood and allow them to adapt and change and then pass them on to the next generation.

It has been a while now, but one Christmas tradition I remember was going Carol Singing as a small group from Church. We'd visit the streets of the parish singing carols and, rather than asking for money, we gave out mince pies. This always threw people – they wanted to pay for them. They could not believe there wasn't some sort of catch. I'm sure if we were to do it again today, it would be even worse. People are so wary of scam calls, texts, emails and anything that seems 'too good to be true'.

But 'too good to be true' is surely the message of Christmas as these scriptures remind us:

'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.' *Ephesians 2.8*

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' *John 3.16*

And 'God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' *Romans 5.8*

So, this Christmas, be generous in the gifts you give, rejoice in the gifts you are given and know that the best gift of all is the love of God revealed in the gift of Jesus Christ.

With every blessing for a joyous Christmas,

Colin Resch



From your Churchwardens and Assistant Wardens



May the wondrous joy of this season remind you of Him who is truly worthy of all our praise! We're wishing the precious gift of faith, the true blessings of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas time and every day.



**We wish you all A Merry Christmas
and
A Peaceful, Blessed filled and Happy New Year.**



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, 10th December 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.

We take our duty and obligation to protect all people extremely seriously.

Our Safeguarding co-ordinator is Mel Rowley.
Her contact details are on the back of the newsletter.



Should you have any cause for concern, please speak with her or Colin. If you do not wish to speak to either of them, forms are available as well as an online form.

<https://mountsorrelchurch.org/raising-safeguarding-concern/>

If there is immediate danger, please call 999

Diary Dates

Monday 1 December

9:30am Sunbeams.

Tuesday 2 December

2:00pm Grief Café at Christ Church (see page 12).

Wednesday 3 December

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.

Friday 5 December

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

12 Noon till 5pm Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church.

Saturday 6 December

10:00am till 5pm Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church.

Sunday 7 December

1:00pm till 5pm Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church.

Monday 8 December

NOTE: No Sunbeams Today

7:00pm Carols amongst the Trees at Christ Church (see page 13).

Wednesday 10 December

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 4).

Friday 12 December

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

6:00pm Christmas Bingo at Christ Church (see page 8).

Saturday 13 December

11:00am CTiM Carols on the Green.

Monday 15 December

9:30am Sunbeams.

Tuesday 16 December

2:00pm Grief Café at Christ Church (see page 12).

Wednesday 17 December

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

3:00pm The Gap at Christ Church.

Friday 19 December

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

Saturday 20 December

10:00am Muddy Church Christmas Trail (see page 10).

Wednesday 24 December

4:00pm Christingle at Christ Church (see page 15).

(Continued on next page)

Diary Dates for December (Cont'd)

Thursday 25 December

9:30am Holy Communion (BCP) at St. Peter's Church.

11:00am Family Holy Communion at Christ Church.

Tuesday 30 December

2:00pm Grief Café at Christ Church (see page 12).

Diary Dates for January 2026

Friday 2 January

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

Monday 5 January

9:30am Sunbeams.

Wednesday 7 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.

Friday 9 January

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



All-Age Service and Act of Remembrance

Remembrance Sunday

It was lovely to see so many people at Christ Church for our all age service, some who served in the armed forces, others who have family currently serving and those whose parents, grandparents and even great grandparents were too young to remember the Second World War. During the service we heard extracts from letters sent from France during WW1 and we made some poppies to place on the cross at the back of the Church, to thank the fallen and to remind ourselves of the sacrifice Jesus made for us all.



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 local and global issues and the Charities we support.

Tearfund:

- Pray for the men and women participating in Tearfund's Transforming Masculinities programme, that their families and communities will become free from gender-based violence and pursue gender equality.
- Pray that the voices of marginalised communities would be heard as they advocate for their needs and for structural changes.
- Pray for Tearfund partners as they deliver training to equip community members with reconciliation skills.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance for Tearfund's staff as they support church movements across Africa and Latin America and grow our movement-building work in Asia.
- Pray that Tearfund's work with the Joint Initiative for Strategic Religious Action builds bridges, fosters interfaith understanding, and encourages governments to prioritise freedom of religion or belief.

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.

Children's Society:

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

(Continued on next page)

Mountsorrel:

- Pray for those in our community who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason.
- 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 Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church.
- Pray for all the extra services that will be taking place at Christ Church & St Peters 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.



Join us at Christ Church on Friday 12 December for an evening of fun and laughter for all the family at our Christmas Bingo with plenty of prizes on offer.

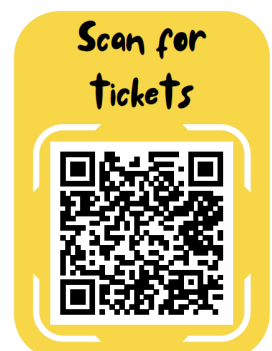
Tickets are available for just £2 and include a jacket potato meal which will be served part way through the evening. Tea and Coffee will be available during the evening, but you can bring your own drinks (alcohol permitted).

Doors open at 5.30pm

First Bingo game starts at 6pm.

Tickets are non-refundable.

Book at <https://mountsorrelchurch.org/events/event/christmas-prize-bingo/>



Children & Family Work News

Christmas is coming! I know some of us prefer to experience the time of waiting through advent before getting too excited but this is difficult to do as a children and family worker. I am already in the midst of practising the Nativity service, planning the Crib service, school Christmas talks, Christmas Trails and more. And by the time you read this, I will no doubt, have lots of excited children at various groups already counting down the days on their Advent calendars, singing Christmas songs, and telling me about their Christmas trees. Thankfully, I do find some personal time to mark advent properly – this year I'll be reading 'Women of the Nativity' by Paula Gooder; as a busy mum, I find these kind of books most helpful as they are split into several short stories. J. John also has some books with a short reading for each day through Advent. If you're also a busy parent and you'd like to have a go at making some time for yourself with God through Advent, have a chat with me and I can show/loan you a book Bethlehem.

Sunbeams

Sunbeams marked bonfire night with the story of Moses and the burning bush, and Remembrance with the story of Jacob's dream and the stone pillow/pillar. They enjoyed crafting fireworks pictures and poppies.

We are now hearing about and experiencing the Christmas Story and making decorations for our tree at the Christmas tree festival. They've had fun so far hearing about Mary and the angel, and the journey to Bethlehem.



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.

Assembly Squad

The Assembly Squad planned and led a brilliant assembly all about bullying for anti-bullying week in November. They looked at how Elijah felt when Queen Jezebel didn't like him and showed that today, when someone is unkind to us we still have those same feelings that Elijah felt. There was some fantastic acting from the children and a really great message for Key Stage 2 about being kind.

Some of the group are now preparing to lead our Nativity Service at St Peter's.



This half-term we are learning about the Prophets, particularly Isaiah which leads us nicely into Christmas. The children enjoyed making postmen (messengers) and letter writing as we learnt what a prophet is. We then heard Isaiah's message that God



says; 'I have called you by name, you are mine.' We thought about our names, played some name games and made our own name signs which also remind us that God has called us by name and we belong to Him.

Muddy Church

Our first Muddy Walk, led by Kat on October 25th, had an autumnal theme, seeing how many different leaves we could find; big ones, little ones, orange, red, brown, green and even a few silvery ones. Who knew we had such a variety within such a short distance? We stopped off to listen to nature, and to God, praying for our time together and giving thanks for all that we could see around us. As we came to the end of our walk we reflected on the garden of Eden and how we don't always treat nature with the respect that we should.



We finished off back at church with some warming soup and some cheese twists, a real hit with everyone.

Our November walk was an extremely wet day, the floods were up and the rain was pouring! A few of us met at church, but just 2 humans and 1 dog decided to brave the rain and go for the walk. Despite their decision to shelter in a café for a while, they still returned extremely wet!

We extended our tree decoration making over to the Sunday when a few of us made some lovely pine cone Christmas trees for our Muddy Church tree at the Christmas tree festival.

Our December Muddy Walk will be a Christmas Story Trail – all are welcome to join us; there will be a warm drink and something to eat on our return to church. Meet at Christ Church at 10am

Dates for December

5 th - 7 th	Christmas Tree Festival at Christ Church
Sunday 7 th	11am Bible Buddies at Christ Church
Sunday 14 th	11am All Age Worship Crib Service with Alison at Christ Church
Saturday 20 th	Muddy Church Christmas Trail, 10am at Christ Church
Sunday 21 st	Nativity, 4pm at St Peter's Church
Christmas Eve	Christingle Service, 4pm at Christ Church
Mondays	Sunbeams baby & toddler group – Christ Church, 9.30-11.30am Note: NO Sunbeams on Monday 8 th December
Wednesdays	The Gap after school at Christ Church (term-time only)

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

After much planning, the day of the Craft Fair finally arrived and we were truly blessed with a beautiful sunny day from start to finish. As well as reaching out to the community, it served to raise income for Christ Church.

The Craft Fair this year surpassed all expectations. Many of the Stall Holders over the previous three years were very keen to attend again and, together with several newcomers, gave us a full capacity of twenty stalls. On top of this we had a waiting list containing an additional five more people. Although they were disappointed, I have since made contact with them all and it is their hope that they will be able to take part next year.

The help given, setting up the tables before and at the close of day, was much appreciated. Special thanks must go to Colin, Liz & Sarah throughout the day for their hard work in the kitchen. Thanks too for the help given by Paul helping with the publicity, Helen, Kat, Margaret and Nicola during the day.

Below are some photo's and just three examples of messages received from Stall Holders: -



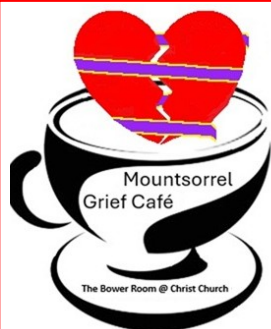
Thank you for the team's hospitality last Saturday
Will be booking next year, as had a very good day (over £300) !!!!!
Regards
Neil

Just a quick email to say thank you for organising such a wonderful event again. We had a great day and did some pretty good sales.
We would definitely like to come back again next year, so if you could put us on the list that would be great.
Hope you have a lovely Christmas!
Kind regards,
Nicky

Many thanks for yesterday we really did have a good day in sales - the best yet.
Hope the church itself had a good day all round, especially financially.
Thank you.
Diane

Looking ahead to next year, the Book Stall will be replaced by a Plant Stall. More of this later, so please be ready with your ideas and hopefully, contributions.

Veronica



Mountsorrel Grief Café

2pm in the Bower Room @ Christ Church

Christmas can be a difficult time for many, but especially those who are missing a loved one.

In December we are holding three Grief Cafés:

2nd December, 16th December, and 30th December. Anyone feeling lonely over the Christmas period are welcome to join us.



Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival

Friday 5th – 12pm – 5pm

Saturday 6th – 10am – 5pm

Sunday 7th – 1pm – 5pm



Festive treats and warming soup will be on sale in the Bower Room as well as a selection of handmade cards. This year there will also be a treasure hunt with a small prize for those that find all of the answers.

Monday 8th - 7pm Carols around the trees



Carol Service amongst the Trees

*Led by the Ladies of
Christ Church & St Peters*

*Monday 8th December
7pm at Christ Church*

Followed by light refreshments



**Carols on the Green
Saturday 13th December
from 11:00am**

Nativity Service

Sunday 21st December 2025

St Peter's Church Mountsorrel

Come and join in with the Christmas story!

3.30pm – arrival to choose your costume and get dressed up.

4pm – service starts with everyone who wants to playing whichever part they want to.

There could be 3 Mary's and only 1 Wise Man, but we'll just go with the flow and enjoy telling the story and singing the carols!

Grown-ups are welcome to dress up too – a dressing gown with a tea-towel on your head makes the perfect shepherd!



Refreshments will
be served following
the service

!!Warning!!
This service may be
wonderfully chaotic but very
cute and lots of fun!

All are welcome



Christmas Eve
Christ Church @ 4pm



Join us for another all age, everyone welcome, Christmas Eve service.

The Light That Never Goes Out

Midnight Communion



Christmas Eve
Christ Church
11:30pm



**Service of
Holy Communion**

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

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C8

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INTEGRITY

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St. Peter's Church Flowers



Can you help?

We're looking for anybody who would like to help or join our small team who manage the fresh flowers at St. Peter's. We specifically need help to keep a check on, and water the fresh flowers.

This should take about 10 minutes, probably twice a week, if any of the flowers need replacing either Sheila (details below) or a Churchwarden would need to be notified.

Should you also be interested in arranging the flowers, this would be most welcome and any initial assistance, if required will be given.

Your help will be greatly appreciated by the team.

If you want to know more please speak to a Churchwarden in Church or contact Sheila Scott on:

07779 728 238

Thank you

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a head for figures and a passion for serving the Church community? We are looking to recruit a new treasurer to manage and oversee the finances of our Churches.

What You'll Do:

- Maintain accurate financial records and reports
- Prepare budgets and track expenditure
- Ensure compliance with financial policies and procedures
- Liaise with the church leadership and external examiners

We Are Looking For Someone With:

- Experience in finance, accounting, or bookkeeping (professional or volunteer)
- Integrity, reliability, and attention to detail
- Ability to work collaboratively with the Church Councils
- A heart for service and a commitment to serve God in this way

What You'll Gain:

- A meaningful way to use your skills for a greater purpose
- Connection with a supportive and faith-filled community
- The satisfaction of helping ensure the church's resources are used wisely

Time Commitment:

Flexible hours, approximately 6–8 hours per month. Training and support provided.

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you! Please contact Colin Resch at revcolinresch@mountsorrelchurch.org for an informal chat



Donations by Monday 15th December to: Christ Church, St. Peter's Church or to Mountsorrel Baptist Church



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
or search for 'Sunbeams Mountsorrel' group on Facebook

All welcome






Senior Sunday

*Welcomes
Friends, Old and New*

*At St. Peter's Church, Mountsorrel
Sunday 14th December*



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
breakfast cereals, 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:

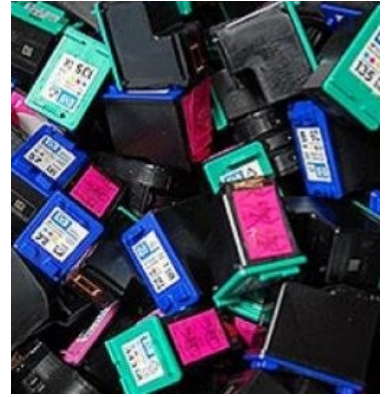
mountsorrelchurch.org/prayer

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

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: 07488 330 893

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

PCC Secretary, Mrs Helen Shaw, 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

Assistant Warden, Mr Jonathan Brookes, 07703 686 722

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 Thursday 18th December, but
if items are ready, please send earlier)*