

St Christopher's Church

**Trenant Road Saffron Lane
LE2 6UA**

Fair Trade Fortnight



22nd February to 7th March

Memory Verse

'I can do everything through Him who gives
me strength.' Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

February 2021

St Christopher's Church Services February

Services on Sundays 7th, 14th, and 21st will all be **home worship**, but Sunday 28th might *just possibly* be back in the Sports Hall, depending on a decision made by the Standing Committee on Monday 22nd February, following the latest government guidance.

Sunday 7 th	Readings John 5: 1-15 and Romans 15: 1-13 <i>Topic</i> <i>Caring for one another</i> Worship guidance and recorded talk - Mr C Ndigirwa
Sunday 14 th	Readings 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 and Mark 9: 2-9 <i>Topic</i> <i>Transfiguration and Transformation</i> Worship guidance and recorded talk - Revd C Collins
Sunday 21 st	Readings Psalm 25: 1-9 and Mark 1: 9-15 <i>Topic</i> <i>Temptation and Proclamation</i> Worship guidance and recorded talk - Mrs C Griffin
Sunday 28 th	Readings Romans 4: 13-25 and Mark 8: 31-38 <i>Topic</i> <i>Salvation and Self-denial</i> Worship guidance and recorded talk - Revd C Collins

Diary Dates for February

- Monday 1st - start of the Archbishops daily call to prayer
- Monday 8th - TGSA Governors' meeting provisional (Chris + Neil)
- Thursday 11th, 18th & 25th - 7:45-9pm - start of a 11 session **Alpha course** online via Zoom
- Tuesday 16th - **Shrove Tuesday** - ie Pancake Day!
- Wednesday 17th - 7:30pm - **Ash Wednesday marking the start of Lent** online via Zoom and/or pre-recorded content (*format and details will be confirmed and shared nearer the time*)
- Monday 22nd - 7.30pm - **Standing Committee**
- Wednesday 25th - 7:30pm - first of our **Lent Devotional Studies** online via Zoom.

Chris Collins (Vicar) 0116 332 2722
vicar@stchristophersleicester.com

Kashenye Water Project - Charles Ndigirwa

After successfully striking water, the process to put in a water tank and taps has started. However, results from a survey showed that although the water flow was completely fine the water quality wasn't. An intense flushing of the well to rectify this problem was recommended.

A heavy vehicle sent to rectify the problem had got stuck in mud following excessive rain and another truck to pull it out had to be sent. Meantime the recent rain at least meant that people are able to collect water!

These additional processes mean that the cost has increased significantly, but so far there has been enough money to cover them. **Praise God!**

Prayer Topics

Give thanks for Flora, Mark and Rob G's recovery from Covid and pray that they will have no lingering symptoms.

Pray for:

- St C's as we head into 2021, that God by his Holy Spirit would mould us more and more into disciples of Jesus Christ
- Jenny following the death of some friends to Covid and the loss of her step mum Ronnie some weeks back
- Bev following the death of her grandmother
- Manny and Mark as they begin a new job and new job arrangements respectively
- those signing up for the Alpha Course
- our local schools as they plan for their future opening, and for the many families struggling with Home schooling
- those in our community who continue to face financial or food challenges (needs that we might be able to play a part in meeting)
- the roll-out of the vaccine to the vulnerable in the coming weeks and months, that it would happen swiftly and efficiently
- our government and all the governments of the world to make wise decisions in dealing with the pandemic.

Pray that:

- the current vaccines prove effective against new variants of the virus
- rich countries will not 'hog' the vaccines at the expense of the poorest countries.

Church Pastoral Aid Society (our patrons)

Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, sixty new ministers have been licensed at CPAS patronage churches.

Give thanks that, despite all the restrictions and challenges, this has still been possible. Praise God for these faithful gospel-hearted leaders now ministering and witnessing for Christ in parishes across the country.

January and February are often peak times both for new clergy jobs starting and posts being advertised, and 2021 is no exception. In the first few weeks of the year, the CPAS Patronage team and trustees have attended several licensing services, some taking place virtually and some with a small numbers in person.

Pray for:

- new ministers as they settle in to their parishes, during these difficult times
- new ideas, time and energy to respond to the physical and spiritual needs of the communities God has called them to serve
- good relationships to develop - sometimes difficult when the only contact is online
- parishes who have already had a long vacancy, that they will not lose heart when there is still no sign of a new minister.

Vicar's Comment

Stifling. Perhaps that's a word you feel applies to yet another lockdown stifling. A new year in normal times can feel like a bit of a blank slate, an opportunity. However, this time around it feels a bit like history repeating. The similarities with spring last year are obvious, and I confess that there have been days during the last fortnight or so when my mood has not been upbeat. And yet those days are not the end of the story.

I find that starting my day coming before God in prayer, inviting the Spirit to come, and reading/listening to the Bible, changes the feel of my day. There is no shame in admitting before God that you need Him and that you don't have the strength for the challenges you face. He already knows your situation completely. Be honest with Him as you approach Him in reverent fear. Spend time reminding yourself of all the blessings of the gospel of Christ - including the renewing power of the Spirit Who can turn downcast days into days of awareness of his glory + experiencing his joy.

And also....remember that we can be used by God to bless one another. Even if it's just one-to-one it's very much possible: on the phone, on a screen or in a park (*see my email from Wed 27th Jan for more on that subject*).

As the Psalmist says: *'You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy'* (Psalm 30:11, NIV).