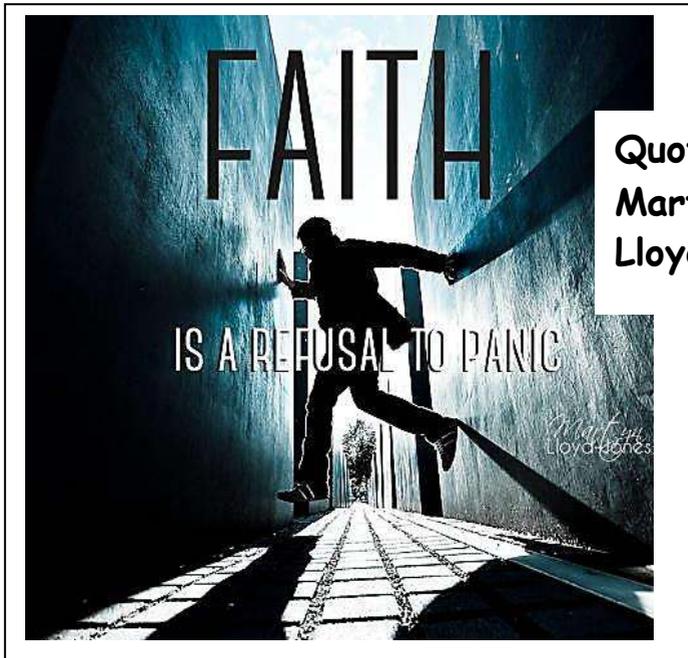


St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane
LE2 6UA



Quote from
Martyn
Lloyd-Jones

Memory Verse

'If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!'

Luke 11:13, (NIV)

May 2021

St Christopher's Church Services for May

Sunday 2nd	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Acts 8: 26-40 and John 15: 1-8 <i>Topic</i> <i>True Fruitfulness</i> Lead and preacher Revd C Collins
	In the Sports Hall	

Sunday 9th	10.00am Home Worship	Readings Acts 10: 23b-48 and John 15: 9-17 <i>Topic</i> <i>Love without borders</i> Lead and preacher Mr C Ndigirwa
	In the Sports Hall	

Sunday 16th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Psalm 1 and John 17: 6-19 <i>Topic</i> <i>Us on Jesus' heart</i> Lead and preacher Mr C Ndigirwa
	In the Sports Hall	

Pentecost 23rd	10.00am Home Worship	Readings Acts 2: 1-21 and John 15: 26-16: 15 <i>Topic</i> <i>Life in the Spirit</i> Lead and preacher Revd C Collins
	In the Sports Hall	

Trinity Sunday 30th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Romans 8: 12-17 and John 3: 1-17 <i>Topic</i> <i>Trinity Sunday</i> Lead and preacher Revd C Collins
	In the Sports Hall	

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension (13th May) to Pentecost (23rd May) for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

This praying together has been across our diversity and differences as every person, household and church are encouraged to pray in their own way. According to the annual survey in 2020 an astonishing percentage of people said they were praying for family and friends to come to faith in Jesus, and a significant number of people joined in for the first time.

So who will you pray for this year?

Diary dates

- Monday 10th **PCC meeting** - on Zoom
- Sunday 23rd - **St C's Picnic Lunch** from 12 Noon, location and details tbc nearer the time.

Whether this takes place will depend on the **weather** and also if the **government guidance** allows it. (The change to allow outdoor groups of up to 30 is due on 17th May. The 30 person limit could mean 'pre-booking' is required.)

- Monday 24th May - 5-7pm - Chris and Neil at TGSA **Governors' meeting**.

Prayer Topics

Pray that as we (tentatively) begin to think about our ministry post-pandemic (both as individuals and as a church community), that God would shape us as He wills. That we would seek to be worshipful and obedient to Him in all that we do.

Pray for:

- those in our community who continue to face financial or food challenges
- the local groups that have served our area during the pandemic and continue to do so, notably our local Schools (TGSA, Holy Cross & Marriott Road) and also Goldhill and Saffron Young People' Project. That they are equipped to make a positive difference to our community both now and in the future
- Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, in their recruiting of a new Head of Secondary
- Pat, as she receives treatment in hospital and for Roger in supporting her
- Hazel, as she prepares to move to Sheffield, which will likely happen in May
- the end of the global pandemic, and for the continued effectiveness of the vaccination process both in the UK and worldwide
- 'vaccine inequality' around the world to be eliminated, as poor nations source the vaccines as much as richer nations
- the continued work towards racial equality and justice in our world, that the church, the people of God, will be genuinely and joyously a people of every tribe, tongue and nation, without ethnic or nationalistic prejudices, united around our Saviour Jesus. Pray that the Lord will lead us so we can truly live this out and make a difference.

Mission for the Month Cross Links

Over the last century there has been tremendous evangelistic success in sub-Saharan Africa, but this has created a huge discipleship challenge. This requires a new generation of disciplers - not just hundreds, not just thousands but literally millions!

For example Nigeria's population is currently 200 million and about 50% claim to have some sort of Christian affiliation - that's about 100 million Christians just in Nigeria! The majority of bible college students are first or second generation Christians. Previous generations have followed African Traditional Religions (witchdoctors and so on). This can mean that in times of trouble church members quickly revert back to seeking 'charms' and other traditional or animistic remedies.

Looking to the future Nigeria's population is expected to double by 2050 - that's an extra 200 million people! If Nigeria is going to have enough Christian leaders to keep up then 1 to 2 million will need to be trained.

So pray for all those who are involved in training national gospel workers.

Vicar's Comment

What words might you associate with the past year? Fear? Loneliness? Anxiety? Boredom even? How about 'Powerlessness'? Is this something you have felt in the last year? In some ways the pandemic has been jarring for societies around the world, as people have gone from enjoying the appearance of holding power and control over their lives, to a place where they suddenly realise there are things which they cannot control. I feel we would do well not to forget that lesson.

Before Pentecost, we see Jesus' first followers in what might be viewed as a powerless position. They had seen their risen Saviour, but they weren't yet taking the gospel to all nations. But in obedience to Jesus, they were waiting. We are told *'they were all together in one place'* (Acts 2: 1, NIV) waiting for the Gift of the Spirit which Jesus had promised to them. And then? *'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them'* (Acts 2: 4, NIV).

Recognising our powerlessness when we're left to ourselves is not a problem to God...in fact, it can bring us to that place of humility and desperation before God where He can truly empower us. As the 20th century Welsh preacher Martyn Lloyd-Jones once said, *'When God acts, he can do more in a minute that man with his organizing can do in fifty years'* ('Revival', P.121-122). Perhaps if we were to realise this, it might be a watershed moment for the church....maybe especially in the West.