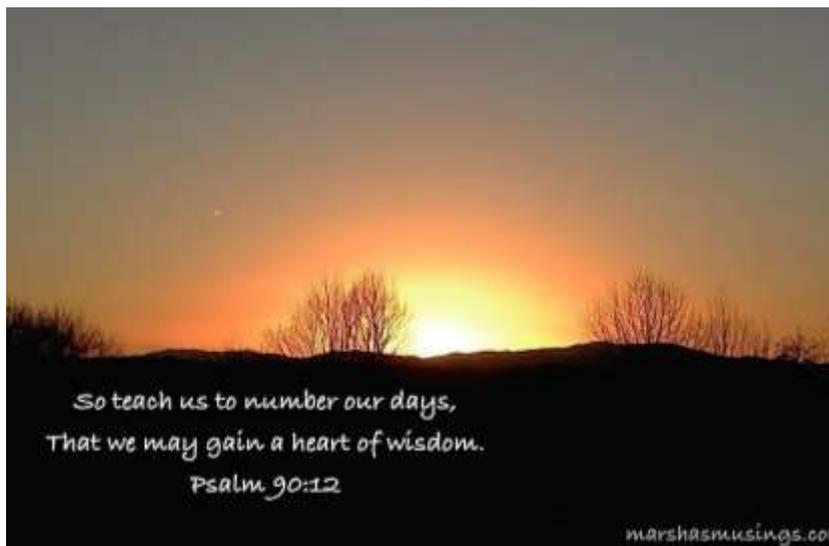


St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



Memory Verse

'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain
a heart of wisdom'

Psalm 90:12 (NIV)

January 2022

St Christopher's Church Services January

Sunday 2nd	10.00am Morning Worship	Readings <i>Topic</i> Led by Preacher	Isaiah 60 :1-6 and Matthew 2: 1-12 <i>A global Messiah (Epiphany)</i> Mr C Ndigirwa Mr C Collins
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Sunday 9th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings <i>Topic</i> Led by Preacher	Isaiah 43: 1-7 and Luke 3: 15-22 <i>The baptism of Jesus</i> Mr C Collins Mr C Ndigirwa
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Sunday 16th	10.00am Morning Worship	Readings <i>Topic</i> Led by Preacher	tba <i>Church for post-covid world - taking stock for 2022</i> Mr C Collins Mr C Collins
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Sunday 23rd	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings <i>Topic</i> Led by Preacher	tba <i>Church for post-covid world - Intercultural Worshipping community</i> Mr C Ndigirwa Mr C Collins
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Sunday 30th	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	Readings <i>Topic</i> Led by Preacher	tba <i>tba</i> tba Mr C Ndigirwa
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Diary Dates for January

- Monday 10th - 7:30pm - Standing Committee
- Monday 17th - 7:15pm - PCC
- Tuesday 18th - 25th January Week of prayer for Christian Unity

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

Prayer Topics

Pray for:

- God's guidance for St C's in 2022, and for decision-making around ministries new and established in the Spring
- the world as it faces the new threat of the omicron variant; that its symptoms would be milder, as has been hinted at by some of the evidence
- governments to make wise decisions in handling the Covid situation.
- people's **mental well-being** as we face the long dark and cold winter months with even the possibilities of another lockdown
- those in our community who will be especially hit hard if we go into another lockdown, either because of loneliness or work-related issues.
- TGSA, in their recruiting of a new Head of Secondary
- churches that they will showcase what it looks like to love their neighbours through this latest phase of the pandemic
- Fred and Jo as they await the arrival of their third child, due at the end of the month, and for Miri and Abby, that they will enjoy being '*big sisters*'.

Vicar's Comment

How we think about time perhaps tells us a lot about where our head 'is at'. When we're super-busy, perhaps we're only thinking about getting through to the end of the day. When we go on holiday, maybe we've got a week or two planned ahead of us. Perhaps at the beginning of a New Year, we allow ourselves to think about an entire 12 months.

As we begin 2022, there remains uncertainty around the virus. It's starting to look like coronavirus in some form could be with us permanently. And perhaps with that, how we think about time is affected. A lockdown might bring us back to taking one day at a time. A new strain of the virus might wipe out our plans for the next few months.

That's where our verse from Psalm 90 comes in. This Psalm (written by Moses), prays that God would 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom' (v.12, NIV). If God brings us understanding that our days in this mortal life are limited, then we will be better able to shape our lives around eternal priorities. And notice here it is 'days' that are specifically mentioned - each individual day is a gift of God, and an opportunity to love Him and enjoy his fellowship, and also to love our neighbour.

Mission for the month - Arab World Ministries -AWM

How are Christians persecuted in Afghanistan?

It is impossible to live openly as a Christian in Afghanistan. Leaving Islam is considered shameful, and Christian converts face dire consequences if their new faith is discovered. Either they have to flee the country or they will be killed.

If a Christian's family discovers they have converted, their family, clan or tribe has to save its 'honour' by disowning the believer, or even killing them. Christians from a Muslim background can also be sectioned in a psychiatric hospital, because leaving Islam is considered a sign of insanity.

Urgent prayer called for Christians in Afghanistan

In August 2021 the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, resulting in thousands of families fleeing their homes amid intensified extremist offensives. Afghanistan was already the second-highest country on the Open Doors World Watch List of persecution of Christians, even before the Taliban takeover.

With the recent confirmation of the Delta variant inside the war-torn country, Covid-19 cases have surged, killing 7,335 to date and infecting 157,816 and only about 9% of the population is fully vaccinated.

"How we survive daily only God knows. He knows because He has been kind to dwell with us. But we are tired of all the death around us."

A SECRET AFGHAN BELIEVER

With the ongoing effects of civil war, the expansion of extremism, food shortages and the raging pandemic - as well as the Taliban takeover - Afghanistan needs urgent prayer from the global church right now more than ever.

Many of these believers have been forced to flee and leave everything they own to find safety in an already unstable and dangerous situation. Pray for the host countries to make these refugees welcome

Pray for St C's efforts to become a **'Welcome Church'** to support refugees.

Regular Activities		
Little Angels Mondays and Fridays 9.15-11.15am Reopens Friday 7 th January	Scouts	
	Scouts and Cubs Mondays - 5.30-7.00pm (Cubs 8 plus, Scouts 10½ plus)	Explorers (14 plus) Will be meeting on a Saturday each month.
for details ring Roger on 07766456239		