

St Christopher's Church

Tenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



Taking the banana crop to market in Rwanda

Memory verse

'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'

Matthew 16:24(NIV)

March 2022

St Christopher's Church Services March

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| Tearfund Sunday | 10.00am Morning Worship | Readings Topic Led by Preacher | Psalm 91 and Matthew 4: 1-13 The temptation of Jesus Mr C Collins Mr C Ndigirwa |
| 6th | <p>The second part of the service will concentrate on the work of Tearfund in Rwanda.</p> <p>This will be followed by a Hunger Lunch.</p> | | |

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| Sunday 13th | 10.00am Holy Communion | Readings Topic Led by Preacher | tba Church for a post-covid world - Subject tba Mr C Collins Mr C Collins |
| | <p>Tea, chat and pray - 5pm-7pm at the Early's 22 Suffolk Close</p> | | |

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| Sunday 20th | 10.00am Morning Worship | Readings Topic Led by Preacher | Isaiah 55: 1-9 and Luke 13: 1-9 Escaping judgement, finding life Mr C Ndigirwa Mr C Ndigirwa |
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| Mothering Sunday 27th | <p>Remember clocks go forward</p> | | |
| | 10.00am All Age Holy Communion | Readings Topic Led by Preacher | 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 and Luke 15: 1-10 Finding lost treasures tba Mr C Collins |

| Regular Activities | | |
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| Little Angels Mondays and Fridays 9.15-11.15am | Scouts and Cubs Mondays - 5.30-7.00pm (Cubs 8 plus, Scouts 10½ plus) | Scouts Explorers (14 plus) Will be meeting on a Saturday each month tba. |

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Diary Dates for March

- Tuesday 1st - Thursday 3rd - Chris & Charles at New Wine Leaders conference
- Wednesday 2nd - **Ash Wednesday** (no service this year, but Home Worship resources to be provided)
- Monday 7th - Standing committee, time tbc (on Zoom)
- Tuesday 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th - **Saints Alive!** course 7:15pm at Church
- Monday 14th - Chris & Neil at TGSA Governors' meeting
- Monday 21st - Chris doing Key Stage 1 assembly at TGSA
- Monday 21st - Joan Seller's funeral (afternoon - time tba)
- Monday 21st - PCC meeting 7:15pm (in person)
- Wednesday 23rd - Chris doing Key Stage 2 assembly at TGSA.

Date for April

- Sunday 3rd **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** - during the second part of the service, followed by a 'bring and eat' lunch.

Prayer Topics

Pray for:

- Roger and the family, in the wake of Pat's passing. For God's comfort and love to be known by them in the days and weeks ahead, that they would be drawn closer to Him.
- the family of Joan Seller, following her recent death. That they would experience God's comfort and be drawn to Christ.
- Lou who has recently broken her hip.
- peace to prevail in the conflict in Ukraine, and the same for other conflicts around the world, including Ethiopia & Yemen. For wisdom for political leaders, and for protection & provision for the vulnerable.
- the different 'gathered church' expressions of our St C's church family, that they would enable us to grow as disciples of Christ. And in relation to this, for two groups happening this month.
- The 'Saints Alive!' course starting this month, that participants would experience the power & presence of the Holy Spirit.
- TCP as it restarts on 13th March, that God's presence & blessing would be experienced by those praying at TCP....and for God's guiding of their prayers.
- the work planned on our Sound System, that it would be straightforward and cost-effective.
- Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, in their recruiting of a new Head of Secondary.

Mission for the month - Tearfund

Rwanda is a landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley of Africa. It's often called the 'land of a thousand hills' and is known for the beauty of its landscapes, lakes and savanna, with national parks which support abundance of wildlife.

Unfortunately, it's also known for the tragic genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, which saw around a million people killed in 100 days. Many women were raped which resulted in around 20,000 babies and many mothers and children contracting HIV.

The effects of this have been far-reaching, but a focus on reconciliation and building together has meant that over the past 20 years, Rwanda has made significant development progress.

In spite of this 2 in every 5 Rwandans still live below the poverty line with an estimated 16% living in extreme poverty.

On our Tearfund Sunday we will be finding out more about Rwanda and how Tearfund is working alongside the church in supporting self-help groups. We will learn how one group is supporting people with disabilities and see what they have achieved in spite of their limitations.

Curate's Comment

Freedom and peace are the things that every human being will fight for. Sometimes these things come at a cost. The last few weeks we have been under pressure and worrying that soon the war that might escalate to the entire world and possibly becomes World War 3 is about to start. I might be wrong, but I do not remember in my entire life the level of diplomacy employed to try to avoid war. It is becoming increasingly evident that very few people like war and in fact statistics show that war very rarely resolves conflict and instead it makes things worse. We have many examples of this.

Most of the leaders who start war do not go to the battle ground. They just command their subordinate to fight, and their aim is to see that their personal needs, agenda and desires are being met.

But when we look at Jesus, he never had personal needs, agenda, or desire. He only wanted me and you to receive the gift of eternal life for free at his own cost. This gift of bringing peace, freedom and eternal life cost him His life. I find this overwhelming and a good reminder that as Christians our calling sometimes might come at a cost. Matthew 16: 24 states *Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'*

Are we willing to take the cost that our faith might bring? Let us always remember that we are saved by grace and we just need to submit - our cost has been paid by Jesus on the Cross and at Easter time we will be reminded of that truth.