

St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



Memory Verses

'For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.'

1 Corinthians 15: 3-4 (NIV)

April 2022

St Christopher's Church Services for April

Sunday 3rd	10.00am Morning Worship (no groups)	Readings tba <i>Topic</i> Church for a post-Covid world - Singleness Led by Mr C Ndigirwa Preacher Mr C Collins
	Followed by the AGM and 'Bring and Eat' Lunch	

Palm Sunday 10th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Luke 19: 28-40 and Psalm 118: 19-29 <i>Topic</i> Palm Sunday Led by Mr C Ndigirwa Preacher Mr C Collins
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Maundy Thursday 14th 7.15pm Holy Communion, led by Mr C Ndigirwa
Readings John 13: 1-35 and Exodus 12: 1-14

Good Friday 15th 2-3pm Reflection service, led by Mr C Collins
Note there is no Leicester @ the Cross this year

Easter Day 17th	10.00am All age Holy Communion	Readings Luke 24:1-12 and Acts 10: 34-43 <i>Topic</i> Easter Sunday Led by Mr C Collins Preacher Mr C Ndigirwa
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Sunday 24th	10.00am All age Morning Worship	Readings John 20: 19-31 and Revelation 1: 4-8 <i>Topic</i> Hope for the world Led by tba Preacher Mr C Collins
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Diary Dates for April

- Tuesday 5th, 12th and 26th (but not 19th) - **Saints Alive!** course, 7:15pm
- Wednesday 6th/Thursday 7th - Chris (and possibly Charles) reading an Easter Bible story to Early Years children at TGSA
- Friday 8th morning - Chris and Charles involved in TGSA **Easter Whole School Assembly**
- Monday 18th- Sun 24th - Charles on Annual Leave
- Monday 18th- Friday 22nd - Chris on Annual Leave
- Monday 25th April - **5pm** - Standing committee meeting.

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.
- The planned delivery of Easter presents to our 'fringe' (via Little Angels/Craft Cafe/Door-to-door contacts). That it would be well-received and useful to God in bringing them to a full understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Peace to prevail in the conflict in Ukraine and other war-ravaged countries. For wisdom for political leaders, and for protection and 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.
- Our ongoing 'Saints Alive!' course, that participants would experience the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The work planned on our Sound System, that it would be straightforward and cost-effective.
- Jean (Rita's sister), that she would settle into Aigburth Care Home.
- The new Principal of Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, Aiden Bannon.

Regular Activities

Little Angels	Scouts	
<p style="text-align: center;">Mondays and Fridays 9.15-11.15am Last meeting of term Friday 8th April Restarts Monday 25th April.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scouts and Cubs Mondays - 5.30-7.00pm (Cubs 8 plus, For further details ring Roger on 07766456239</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Explorers (14 plus) Will be meeting on a Saturday each month tba.</p>

Mission for the Month Arab World Ministries (AWM)

This year Ramadan starts on 2nd April marking a 30-day fast for Muslims worldwide.

Why do Muslims fast during Ramadan?

Fasting during the daylight hours of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. All observant Muslims adhere to these five acts or behaviours. The origin of fasting during the 'holiest' month dates back to the advent of Islam. Muslims believe they must build up credit with Allah by behaving in a certain way and doing certain things. Fasting during daylight hours in Ramadan is a chance to earn credit and hopefully gain access to paradise. Rewards are multiplied during Ramadan, meaning that any extra effort to perform the pillars - particularly fasting - will receive extra credit from Allah.

A Christian response

In Scripture, God announces his plan for salvation - he does not present a list of duties to perform. While fasting is beneficial, it will not make us acceptable to God. God's plan was to set us free from sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus. If we accept Jesus into our lives, we have been set free from sin (Romans 6:22). We no longer have to fear and wonder about the outcome when we meet God. Yes, we are called to pray, fast and forgive, but in response to salvation.

Pray that this Ramadan, many more Muslims comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ. (Ephesians 3:18-19)

Vicar's Comment

On the day I write this, my morning Bible study passage was 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 (v.3-4 are our memory verses). In this passage, Paul speaks of absolutely central aspects of the gospel message. He says 'what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures' (v.3-4, NIV). At the heart of the gospel, is Jesus' finished work of salvation. Easter is not about 'Once upon a time....' moralistic stories for us to copy, but about *God's* victory over our sin, death and judgement. It's not about what we do, but about what God has done in Christ - and this is appropriated by us through faith.

It's such a relief that it works this way! Because otherwise we'd be lost.

And so where does that leave us? Paul continues in v.10: 'By the grace of God I am what I am' (NIV). Whatever we were before we came to Christ is irrelevant. What matters is that if we are in Him, 'we are what we are' - recipients of God's grace forever. My hope and prayer is that you will gain an expanded understanding of this this Easter.