

St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



The **Ivory Coast** was named after the ivory trade which was important in the seventeenth century.

Memory verse

'...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord' (NIV)

1 Peter 3: 15

March 2023

St Christopher's Church Services for March

Tearfund Sunday 5th	10.00am Morning Worship	Readings Psalm 121 and John 3: 1-17 Topic <i>To be reborn</i> Led by Mrs C Griffin Preacher Mr C Collins
	<p>The second part of the service will concentrate on the work of Tearfund in the Ivory Coast.</p> <p>This will be followed by a Hunger Lunch.</p>	

Sunday 12th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Psalm 95 and John 4: 5-42 Topic <i>Living Water from the Messiah</i> Led by Mr C Collins Preacher Mr C Collins
	Tea, chat and pray - 5pm-7pm at the Early's 22 Suffolk Close	

Mothering Sunday 19th	10.00am Morning Worship (Groups)	Readings Psalm 23 and John 9: 1-41 Topic <i>Vision and blindness</i> Led by Mr C Ndigirwa Preacher Mr C Collins
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Sunday 26th	Remember clocks go forward	
	10.00am All Age Holy Communion	Readings John 11: 1-45 Topic <i>The man Who is life</i> Led by Mr C Ndigirwa Preacher Mr C Ndigirwa
	Followed by the APCM and 'Bring and Share' Lunch	

Little Angels Mondays and Fridays 9.15-11.15am Term finishes Friday 31 st March	Scouts (10-14 years) Meeting night Mondays - 5.30-7.00pm Adventurous Activities, also at other times For further details ring Roger on 07766456239
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Chris Collins (Vicar) 0116 332 2722
 vicar@stchristophersleicester.com

Diary Dates

Fairtrade Fortnight 27th February - 12th March

Wednesday 1st Thursday 2nd March - Chris and Charles at New Wine leaders' conference

Tuesday 7th, 14th & Thursday 9th, 16th - Chris and Charles hosting secondary age TGSA assemblies in St C's

Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th - Lent/Easter small group course:

Fruitfulness on the Frontline, venue and start time tba

Monday 20th - Neil and Chris at TGSA Governors' meeting

Monday 20th - **PCC meeting**, on Zoom, 7:15pm

Friday 31st - TGSA break - up for Easter.

Prayer Topics

Pray for:

- those suffering in our church: for blessing on Rob Griffin's daughter Crystal and for Grace and also for Stephen Slatter at Stonesby Lodge who has not been well recently.
- comfort for Flora and Rod and the family following Rod's brother's sudden death.
- secondary age assemblies happening in St C's in March. That students would sense the presence of God, and hear Him speaking through the content.
- the future of St C's Warm Spaces, after very little take-up. Pray for wisdom for what to do going forward.
- those who use our St C's Open Hands Foodbank (an increasing number of people recently). That we offer a warm welcome along with the food, and that opportunities come from these contacts for building relationships and sharing the gospel.
- the much delayed St C's replacement sound system, that it might be installed soon.
- our Mission Partners; that the Lord would use them in the work of His Kingdom.
- the continuing conflict in Ukraine; that a peaceful solution would be secured soon.
- those suffering because of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria

Mission of the month Tearfund

At this year's Tearfund lunch we will be focusing on the Ivory Coast. Tearfund's work in Ivory Coast dates back to the 1980s and expanded in response to a series of conflicts following a military coup in 1999 and a disputed election in 2010. Their work in the country is mainly through local churches, supporting them to bring transformation to their whole communities.

Through local churches they are:

- Helping communities affected by extreme poverty.
- Supporting women and children who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence.
- Equipping farmers affected by deforestation and climate change.
- Providing access to clean water and adequate sanitation, particularly for people living in rural areas.

Thanks to Tearfund's training and support, local churches are enabling transformation, releasing people from poverty for good.

Vicar's Comment

As we approach Easter, we are once again running a St Christopher's small group - as we normally do at this time of year. In these small groups we will be doing a course called **'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'** - which is all about understanding how God can use us in our various contexts, in the whole of life.

When we become Christians, we are safe in God's care for all eternity, but the Lord also becomes our King and Master - and so life becomes about loving and serving Him; and loving and serving those around us.

But how we do that in all of the details of life may make us scratch our heads sometimes. How can the so-called mundane things of life be arenas to love God and love neighbour? Hopefully, God will use **'Fruitfulness on the Frontline'** to help us understand this better. So please do come along!

And whether you do or you don't come along, do remember that if Jesus is your Saviour He is now also Lord of your life. As it says in **1 Peter 3: 15: '...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord'** (NIV).