

St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



MEMORY VERSE

**'I have come that they may have life, and
have it to the full.' (John 10:10b, NIV)**

December 2023

St Christopher's Church Services

December 2023

Sunday 3rd	10.00am Morning Worship Groups	Readings Theme Led by Preacher	1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 and Mark 13: 24-37 Advent 1 - Staying Awake Mr C Collins Mr C Collins
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Sunday 10th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Theme Led by Preacher	Isaiah 40: 1-11 and Mark 1: 1-8 Advent 2 - Truth from the wilderness Mr C Collins Mr C Ndigirwa
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Sunday 17th	10.00am Morning Worship Groups	Readings Theme Led by Preacher	Psalms 126 and John 1: 19-28 Advent 3 - Making straight paths for the Lord Mr C Collins Mr C Collins
5 pm Carol Service followed by mincepies			

Sunday 24th	10.00am All age Morning Worship	Reading Theme Led by Preacher	Luke 1: 26-38 Advent 4 - The promise of 'God saves us' Mr C Collins Mr C Ndigirwa
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Christmas Day 25th	10.00am All age Holy Communion	Reading Theme Led by Preacher	Luke 2: 1-12 Joy to the world Mr C Ndigirwa Mr C Collins
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Sunday 31st	10.00am All age Holy Communion	Reading Theme Led by Preacher	Luke 2: 8-20 Witnesses to salvation Mr C Collins Mr C Collins
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Christmas Cards

Many people at church prefer to give just one card to the whole church family at Christmas.

Why not use the money saved to give to **Tearfund?**

Just pop it in the Pringles tin!



Diary dates

- Tuesdays 5th, 12th and 19th **Bible Study and prayer** 7.15pm followed by **Advent Meditations** 8-9pm.
- Tuesday 5th & 12th, Wednesday 13th, Thursday 7th & 14th - Chris & Charles taking TGSA **Secondary Assemblies**
- Saturday 9th **Craft Café**
- Wednesday 20th - 7pm - **Carol singing at Stonesby Lodge**
- Thursday 21st - 4:30-6pm (at the latest) **Carol singing outside Iceland**
- Friday 22nd - Chris, Charles & Neil at TGSA **Whole School Christmas service**.

Pray for:

- Christ's church (both locally & globally) that it would have a renewed sense of God's glory displayed in Jesus' coming.
- the various school assemblies in St Cs & TGSA this month. That pupils and staff would sense the presence of God and hear Him speaking to them.
- our different carol singing activities: at Stonesby Lodge, outside Iceland and our carol service at church. That we would be a winsome presence in our community and create gospel connections with people.
- those local contacts who will be receiving an Open Hands Christmas hamper via our Foodbank. That it would bring them some joy over the Christmas period, and that it would be used by God to bring people closer to Him.
- those in our community who face a challenging Christmas for different reasons.
- a peaceful way forward for the conflicts between Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia and Yemen, and that the gospel of Jesus, the Prince of Peace would be received by many in those conflict zones.
- our various **Carol singing** opportunities (see Dates) - that God may use them to build people up & point them to Jesus
- **Craft Café** that God would work through it to bring people to personal faith in Jesus
- the various school assemblies/class visits taking place in December, that God would use the words of truth that are spoken

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Mission for the month

Tearfund

When we're cutting into our turkey, tearing open our gifts and reaching for a drink, most of us aren't thinking about the environmental impact of Christmas. And why would we? The season demands overindulgence. It's the one time of the year when eating, drinking, and merry-making is state-sanctioned.

But in England the environmental impact of Christmas is enormous with more than 100 million rubbish bags being sent to landfills over the Christmas period.

And globally, the excess waste from packaging, wrapping paper, cards and food increases by 25 to 30% during the holiday season. If it was all recycled this would not be so much of a problem, but one in four of us, that's 2 billion people worldwide - have no safe way to dispose of rubbish, meaning many are forced to live and work among piles of waste.

It is this environmental problem that Tearfund is highlighting in their current **Rubbish Campaign** and why they were so disappointed that the recent third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on **Plastic Pollution** (INC3), held in Kenya, finished with no legally binding plastics treaty being agreed. However, some progress was made and INC4 takes place in Canada in the spring....

Vicar's Comment

I wonder what practical aspect of the Christmas season you most appreciate? Is it the opportunity to worship the Saviour at special seasonal services? Is it time with family? The exchange of gifts? Or good food? Something I think I appreciate is the sense of 'cosiness' at Christmas gatherings when it's dark and cold outside; finding a place of comfort, acceptance and light in which to talk and laugh with loved ones.

Apparently the Danish have got a particular word, *hygge*, which describes such a sense of warmth, comfort, cosiness and safety. So for Danes, doing things like lighting candles in a warm home with loved ones is *hygge*. Although in English I don't think we have a word which quite captures the meaning (I could be wrong!), I think it's something we all recognise, and even want.

I wonder if the idea of *hygge* is some sort of distant echo of the warmth, safety, cosiness and comfort that God has promised to all who trust in Jesus. The Psalmist says in Psalm 91:2, 'I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."' (NIV). This is the hope of Christmas: God's safety, comfort, warmth made available through the Messiah Jesus, who became a human being. As He Himself said '**I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full**' (John 10:10b, NIV).