

St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6 UA



Remember those in this country and around the world
who have been affected recently by floods.
Climate change is leading to heavier rainfall and
extreme floods in many areas.

Memory verse

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

(Psalm 90: 12 NIV)

January 2024

St Christopher's Church Services January

Sunday 7 th	10.00am	Reading	Matthew 2: 1-12
	All Age	Topic	<i>Epiphany - A global Messiah, a worldwide church</i>
	Morning	Leader	Mrs P Ndigirwa
	Worship	Preacher	Mr C Ndigirwa

Hebrews series continued

Sunday 14 th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings	Hebrew 4: 1-11 and Matthew 11: 25-30
		Topic	<i>Sharing in God's rest</i>
		Leader	Mr C Ndigirwa
		Preacher	Mr C Collins
Tea, chat and pray - 5pm-7pm at the Early's 22 Suffolk Close			

Sunday 21 st (Groups)	10.00am Morning Worship	Readings	Hebrews 4: 8-13 and Psalm 33
		Topic	<i>Sharp words and soft hearts</i>
		Leader	Mr C Collins
		Preacher	Mr C Collins

Sunday 28 th	10.00am All Age Holy Communion	Readings	<i>Tbc</i>
		Topic	<i>Telling the Big Story 3 The Partial Kingdom</i>
		Leader	Mr C Ndigirwa
		Preacher	Mr C Collins

Little Angels Mondays and Fridays 9.15-11.15am Restarts Monday 8 th	Scouts Meeting night Mondays Cubs 5.30-7.00pm Scouts 7-8.30pm For further details ring Roger on 07766456239
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Charles Ndigirwa (Curate)

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Diary Dates

- Monday 8th - Standing Committee (on Zoom, time tba)
- Tuesday 9th - Neil & Chris at TGSA Local Governors' Board meeting
- Saturday 13th - Fish & Chip Supper with Quiz, 6pm
- Wednesday 17th - Charles & Chris at Leicester Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship
- Saturday 20th - Scouts Open Afternoon - 2-4pm
- Monday 22nd - PCC meeting, 7:15pm (on Zoom)
- Friday 26th-Tuesday 30th - Evangelistic nights with J John, One Church Leicester (Frog Island)
- Monday 29th-Tues 30th - Chris away at Estates Evangelism Task Group conference
- Wednesday 31st - Charles/Chris doing TGSA Primary Assembly.

Prayer Topics

Pray for:

- our upcoming Fish & Chip supper with Quiz - that it would be a really enjoyable evening but also that the Lord might use it in some way to draw guests to Jesus.
- Sandra's husband Ikenna; that he finds an optometry placement so he can be reunited with family here in Leicester very soon
- Jenny's sister as she struggles with serious cancer, also for her husband and for Jenny too as she seeks to support them both
- Olive who has been unwell recently
- a full recovery for Manny after knee replacement and shoulder dislocation
- Miri as she embarks on 9 months of treatment for cancer and that the treatment will be effective
- Fred and Jo and for the whole family as they support her and for them to use the time wisely while they are in England
- a peaceful way forward for the conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine & Yemen, and that the gospel of Jesus, the Prince of Peace would be received by many in those conflict zones
- all who are persecuted because of their faith.

Mission of the month Arab World Ministries (AWM)

TESTIMONY: Finding Faith on the Internet

Karim's* search for God started online. But his journey really began before then, when he was serving a sentence in a Moroccan prison. While he was there, Islamic spiritual leaders visited him and gave him lectures about what a bad person he was. "There was little grace," he says, "only a wide chasm between me and the expectations of Islam." Their words seemed meaningless. He struggled with the rigidity and lack of compassion he saw in spiritual leaders and was longing for something different.

After he was released, Karim searched the internet for answers and, finding a media outreach website in his language, he filled out a simple contact form. To his surprise, a local believer named Elias* sent him a message the very same day.

Finding answers to his questions

Elias invited Karim to download a copy of the Bible on his phone and begin reading it. As he did, Elias was there to explain the parts he didn't understand. "I had so many questions," says Karim. "How can you say Christ is God? How can I become a Christian? What is the difference between Jews, Christians and Muslims?"

After four months of messaging and studying online, he met Elias in person and they continued to meet for a further six months. Karim came to appreciate the grace and warmth he saw in Elias. It was a huge contrast to what he had experienced with spiritual leaders in the past. Then in 2021 Karim came to faith in Christ...

*Not their real names

Vicar's Comment

Last Sunday (31st) I mentioned that because our service had fallen on New Year's Eve, there might be a sense in which we feel pulled in two directions. Firstly, backwards, because we were still in the Christmas season going by the calendar....but also forward because New Year's Eve points us towards 2024: a new year with new possibilities perhaps.

For most if not all of us, time seems to operate in 'chunks' of weeks or perhaps months...we exist in a bit of a matrix of multiple commitments and relationships that means we don't feel we can afford to think of nothing but today. And yet - today is worth thinking about. I read a book once which pointed out that God gives us time in little parcels called days: in Psalm 90:12 Moses prays 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom' (NIV, emphasis mine). Not weeks, months or years, but days. My hope is that I am better at seeking God's wisdom and will in 2024 as I follow Jesus - I hope you aspire to that too.