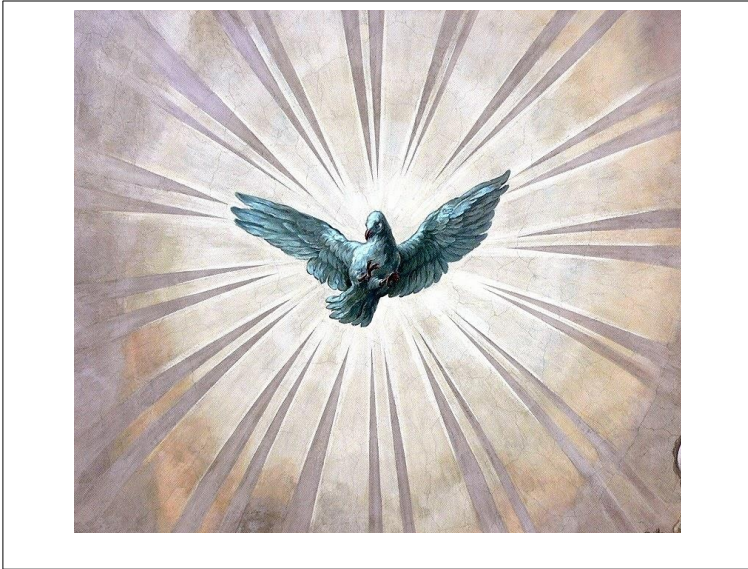


St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



Memory Verse

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!'

2 Corinthians 5: 17 (NIV)

May 2024

St Christopher's Church Services for May

Sunday 5th	10.00am Morning	Readings	Acts 1: 1-11 and Daniel 7: 13-14
	Worship (Groups)	Led by Preacher	Topic <i>Ascended on High</i> Mr C Ndigirwa Mr C Ndigirwa

Sunday 12th	10.00am Holy	Reading	Hebrew 6: 1-8 and tbc
	Communion	Led by Preacher	Topic <i>A solemn warning</i> Mr C Ndigirwa Mr C Collins

Pentecost Sunday 19th	10.00am Morning	Reading	Acts 2: 1-21 and Ezekiel 36: 24-28
	Worship (Groups)	Led by Preacher	Topic <i>Pentecost 1 - God with and in us</i> Mr C Collins Mr C Collins

Sunday 26th	10.00am All Age	Readings	Acts 2: 1-11
	Holy Communion	Led by Preacher	Topic <i>Pentecost 2 - Making many nations one</i> IWC focus (Intercultural Worshipping Communities) Mr C Ndigirwa Mr C Collins
Jessie Tang from the Diocese is also visiting to lead us in some intercultural worship!			

Diary Dates for May

- Wednesday 1st - Charles on curate's training day
- Thursday 2nd - 1pm - **Hope Explored**, Session 3
- Wednesday 8th - Daytime - Chris and possibly Charles at Bishop's study day
- Wednesday 8th -7:15pm - Standing Committee, by Zoom
- Saturday 18th - Chris at Diocesan Synod
- Monday 20th & Wednesday 22nd - Chris taking assemblies at TGSA Primary
- Tuesday 21st - 7:15pm - PCC meeting in church

Little Angels

Mondays and Fridays
9.15-11.15am

No meetings 6th May (Bank Holiday)
or 27th and 31st May
(Half-term)

Scouts

Meeting night Mondays
Cubs 5.30-7.00pm
Scouts 7-8.30pm

For further details ring Roger
on 07766456239



Light Up The World In Prayer
9th – 19th May 2024

Thy Kingdom Come

Ascension Day, 9th May to Pentecost Sunday 19th May

Prayer Topics for May

Pray for:-

- those taking part in our **Hope Explored** course, that they would know God's truth and come to Christ
- the increasing involvement of St C's with TGSA, that the growing number of contact points between church and school would be mutually enriching and that God would grant us wisdom to invest in the most fruitful activity
- the planning of the **Prayer Space**, undertaken in collaboration with TGSA, which will be taking place Tuesday 25th-Thursday 27th June. Please pray for effective planning and teamwork, and that when it eventually happens pupils will encounter God.
- Sandra and the family: for Ikenna to find an optician's placement so as to join the family in the UK and for the family as they settle into a new home in Leicester.
- Fred and Jo and the family as **Miri** continues her treatment for bone cancer. That the treatment would be totally successful and that the family would feel the support of Christian brothers and sisters around them. Also for their decision-making regarding future commitments where they were previously living in Africa.
- a peaceful way forward for the conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen and Sudan, and that the gospel of Jesus, the Prince of Peace would be received by many in these conflict zones.
- Haiti, which whilst not suffering from a conventional conflict is suffering from very serious gang violence and a political power vacuum.

Chris Collins (Vicar)

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Charles Ndigirwa (Curate)

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Mission for the Month Crosslinks

When did you last hear Moldova mentioned in the news? Could you even locate it on a map of Europe? It is sandwiched between Ukraine and Romania and was part of Russia until the 1990s. It is currently the second poorest county in Western Europe, after Ukraine.

So when **Crosslinks** workers, Sarah and Matt Gurtler, moved there in January 2024, they felt more than a little daunted by the fact that they needed to learn both Russian and Romanian languages.

They are serving at Logos Church, situated in the capital city Chişinău, where they even find that the hymns are sung in both languages and that the sermon is preached in Russian and then translated live into Romanian. Vocabulary from one language is mixed in with the other.

The Russian war in Ukraine has only made things even more complicated. The government is pro-European and wants to step closer to the Romanian side of things, but there's been an influx of Ukrainian refugees who can't speak Romanian, but can speak Russian. English is of very limited usefulness, but it does provide a great outreach opportunity as young people will often jump at the chance to come to an English-speaking club, especially if it's run by native speakers.

And as their Moldovan pastor said to them 'It's possible for people not to understand each other well when they speak the same language. And it's possible for people speaking different languages to understand each other perfectly!'

Vicar's thought

I've been thinking recently about what it means to be 'in Christ'. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, we see many references in the Bible to the blessings of being 'in Christ'...but what does it mean? Well, first off - I feel a bit like I'm only scratching the surface of understanding this myself! But to give a few thoughts....yes we are saved through Jesus and his work, but living in the state of salvation involves a continuing dynamic connection to the risen Jesus through the Holy Spirit. It is not just that we were saved in the past, but when we first believed we entered a continuing state of salvation. And it's not just that in the past we believed, but that when we first believed we entered a continuing state of believing. Being 'in Christ' involves living in a dynamic reality in which we are connected to the risen Jesus. Perhaps in English saying 'I believe' doesn't quite capture this, perhaps saying 'I am believing' would be better. And finally, if we believe, we are now living in a state of being a new creation.

As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!' (NIV). We were not just a new creation when we first believed, in Christ we are a new creation - so let's live like it to his glory!