

# **St Christopher's Church**

**Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA**



## **Memory Verse**

**'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'**

**Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)**

# **Summer 2024**

# JULY

## Continuing our studies in Hebrews

<b>Sunday</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am <b>Holy Communion</b>	Readings Genesis 22: 15-18 and Hebrews 6: 13-20 <b>Theme</b> <i>The Certainty of God's Promises</i> Leader and preacher- Mr C Ndigirwa
<b>Sunday</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup></b> <b>(Groups)</b>	10.00am <b>Morning Worship</b>	Readings Psalm 110: 1-4 and Hebrews 7: 1-28 <b>Theme</b> <i>Jesus the Permanent Priest</i> Leader and preacher- Mrs C Griffin

## All Age Summer Series: Jesus has Power....

<b>Sunday</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	10.00am AA <b>Holy Communion</b>	Reading Mark 7: 31-37 <b>Theme</b> <i>Jesus has power over sickness - Healing the deaf man who could hardly speak</i> Leader and preacher - Mr C Collins
<b>Sunday</b> <b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am AA <b>Morning Worship</b>	Reading Mark 4: 35-41 <b>Theme</b> <i>Jesus has power over nature - Calming the storm</i> Leader and preacher - tbc

## Diary dates for July

- Tuesdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Discipleship Book Group (**Planetwise**)
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup>-Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - Chris away at General Synod
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July-Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August - Charles away on Annual Leave (Tanzania!)

## Mission for July – Open Hands (By Neil Tansley volunteer)

Since moving to its current base in the St Matthews area of the city I have noted a significant broadening in the demographic that Open Hands serves. In its time in Highfields the majority of its clients were the individual homeless. This need is still served today, but they have seen a great increase in families needing crisis support with food and clothing, as well as an increase in asylum seekers and settled arrivals for whom English isn't their first language. Open Hands services have had to adapt as a result - whereas they often used to see familiar faces over a long period of time, they now welcome so many new faces on a weekly basis. They have had to increase the number of English classes from one to four, and change the systems through which they allocate food. They are so grateful for the volunteers who help to run weekly sessions and share God's love and compassion with the guests. Please pray for continued provision of resources - both financial and volunteers, and wisdom for the leadership in responding to the ever growing demand on the service.

## AUGUST

<b>Sunday</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am <b>AA</b> <b>Morning</b> <b>Worship</b>	Reading     Matthew 14: 13-21 Theme <i>Jesus has power to meet our needs -                  Feeding the 5,000</i> Leader and preacher - Mr C Collins
<b>Sunday</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am <b>AA</b> <b>Holy</b> <b>Communion</b>	Reading     John 6: 16-21 Theme <i>Jesus has power to do the impossible -                  Walk on water</i> Leader and preacher - Mr C Ndigirwa
<b>Sunday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am <b>AA</b> <b>Morning</b> <b>Worship</b>	Reading     Luke 5: 17-26 Theme <i>Jesus has power over sin -                  The paralysed man</i> Leader and preacher - Mr C Collins
<b>Sunday</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am <b>AA</b> <b>Holy</b> <b>Communion</b>	Reading     Matthew 9: 18-26 Theme <i>Jesus has power over death -                  Jairus' daughter</i> Leader and preacher - Mr C Ndigirwa

### Diary dates for August

- Tuesdays 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> - Discipleship Book Group (**Planetwise**)
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> - Door-to-door team members door-knocking
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> **TCP** at the Early's (22 Suffolk Close) - 5-7pm
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - **Summer Barbecue** after church
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup>-Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Chris away on Annual Leave

### Mission for August - A century of CPAS holidays

In the 1920s, CPAS was at the forefront of helping churches become more effective in sharing the gospel in a variety of ways, including the start of holidays for young people, which were originally known as Fresh Air Fund camps. This year as they celebrate 100 years of holidays they will be running around 100 holidays a year for 8-18s, now called **Ventures and Falcons**.

CPAS are still finding new ways of sharing the gospel with young people in relevant and inspiring ways through activities, Bible study and Christian community. With 68% of Churches in the UK having less than 5 children in them they have started an ambitious plan to work with parish churches and their local schools to further one of their core aspirations to give 'Every child the chance to explore Jesus,' through their **School Ventures**.

**Vicar's Comment** I'm not sure I've ever known a summer like this one. A few weeks back I was sat outside and it felt incredibly changeable! When the sun came out it was warm like summer and was too hot for a coat. But then almost as soon as the clouds covered over I immediately felt the arctic winds and the coat needed to go back on. You might argue that summers in the UK have always been a bit like this, but I'm not so sure. I think it's evidence of climate change.

But whilst the world might be changing in this and other ways, in our Discipleship Book Group this past week I was challenged to remember that God can and does intervene mercifully in our natural world. We learnt about the town of Almolonga in Guatemala, which was a very dark, dangerous place before God in his mighty power brought many people there to faith in Jesus...there was a revival! And amazingly, following the revival the land (which had previously produced little) became bountiful producing three harvests a year! (You can read about Almolonga online if you are interested).

Yes, there are many problems in our world, and in various ways the human race is reaping what it sows. And yet...God is on his throne, and nothing is beyond his authority. And his throne is a throne of GRACE, so we can approach Him to bring light into the dark situations, like in Almolonga. As it says in Hebrews 4:12 *'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.'* (NIV)

### For our Prayers

**Give thanks** to God for the **Prayer Spaces** that took place with TGSA Primary & Secondary pupils. Please pray that it has a lasting, positive legacy. Pray also for discernment for how to build on what was achieved in the Prayer Spaces.

#### Pray for:

- God's blessing upon all those at St C's going away over the summer
- the **door-to-door team** as they visit over the summer - that God would guide them to people who are open and receptive to Jesus.
- Sarah Jordan, who has been having abdominal pain in recent weeks. That she would get the treatment she needs.
- Bev and her family following the passing of her stepfather, Dennis. Please pray for Bev as she supports her mum.
- **Miri's** continuing medical treatment to be successful, and for God's peace and love to be known by Fred and Jo and the family during this time.
- the family of **Xielo** whose funeral is on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July. (Xielo tragically drowned in February but his body was not recovered until recently.)
- the new government following the **General Election** That God would guide them to make wise, just decisions for the good of all people in our nation.
- a **peaceful way forward** for the conflicts in Democratic Republic of Congo, Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen and Sudan, and that the gospel of Jesus, the Prince of Peace would be received by many in those conflict zones.
- **Haiti**, suffering from very serious gang violence and a political power vacuum.