

St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



MEMORY VERSE

**'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling
amongst us'**

(John 1:14 NIV)

December 2024

St Christopher's Church Services

December 2024

Advent Sunday 1st	10.00am Morning Worship Groups	<p>Readings Jeremiah 33: 14-16 and Luke 21: 25-36</p> <p>Theme <i>Ready for His coming</i></p> <p>Leader and preacher Mr C Collins</p>
Sunday 8th	10.00am Holy Communion	<p>Readings Malachi 3: :1-4 and Luke 3: 1-14</p> <p>Theme <i>Hearing the messenger</i></p> <p>Leader and preacher Mr C Collins</p>
	Tea, chat and pray - 5pm-7pm at the Earlys 22 Suffolk Close's	
Sunday 15th	10.00am Morning Worship Groups	<p>Readings Zephaniah 3: 14-20 and Luke 3: 7-20</p> <p>Theme <i>One more powerful than John</i></p> <p>Leader and preacher Mr C Collins</p>
	5 pm Carol Service followed by mincepies	
Sunday 22nd	10.00am Morning Worship	<p>Reading Psalm 80: 1-8 and Luke 1: 39-55</p> <p>Theme <i>The humble lifted up</i></p> <p>Leader and preacher Mr C Collins</p>
Christmas Day 25th	10.00am All age Holy Communion	<p>Reading John 1: 1-14</p> <p>Theme <i>The Word became flesh</i></p> <p>Leader and preacher Mr C Collins</p>
Sunday 29th	10.00am All age Morning Worship	<p>Reading Psalm 148 and Luke 2: 41-52</p> <p>Theme <i>In the Father's House</i></p> <p>Leader and preacher Mr C Collins</p>

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

- Monday 2nd - TGSA Primary Key Stage 1 assembly (Chris)
- Tuesday 3rd, 10th & 17th - 7-8:15pm **Down to Earth** small group AND / OR Advent meditations 8:15-9pm -
- Tuesday 3rd-Thursday 5th, Tuesday 10th-Thursday 12th, Tuesday 17th-Wednesday 18th - TGSA Secondary Assemblies in church (Chris)
- Wednesday 4th - TGSA Primary Key Stage 2 assembly (Chris)
- Thursday 5th - TGSA Christian staff & governors gathering (Chantal, Chris & Neil)
- Thursday 12th - TGSA Primary Christmas Story Trail in school+church (Chris)
- Friday 13th - Little Angels' Christmas Party
- Friday 13th - Biscuit decorating at Kingfisher centre Christmas event (Chris & Amy)
- Monday 16th - Little Angels' Nativity
- Tuesday 17th - Chris speaking at New Wine Discipleship Year at Holy Trinity church
- Wednesday 18th - Carol singing at Stonesby Lodge (time tbc)
- Thursday 19th / Friday 20th - TGSA Whole School Assembly (day tbc) (Neil & Chris)
- Sunday 22nd - Craft Café tbc

Vicar's thought

In our first 'Down to Earth' group we spent a bit of time thinking about the traditions people have at Christmas. One I was interested in was this: apparently in Japan it's become a tradition that people go for Kentucky Fried Chicken on Christmas Day, sometimes booking weeks in advance! I'm not sure how that tradition has developed. Perhaps Japan, a country with a small percentage of Christians in it, associates Christianity with America and associates America with fast food? Whatever the truth of it, we can find traditions reassuring can't we? Perhaps especially Christmas traditions.

Traditions can hold people back, but they can also make us feel comfortable. There is so much about the world we cannot control, but we can at least have these little fixed markers in our lives where we share meaning with others. Having things which are dependable and immovable can be reassuring. And the Christian gospel is dependable and immovable.

Christmas reminds us of this, because the events on which our faith hang actually happened in history and will not be undone. Jesus really did come to earth; or as the apostle John puts it '**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling amongst us**' (**John 1:14 NIV**). That's good news! God came to us in human form so that we could be reconciled to Him - celebrate this truth at Christmas time and always.

Mission for the month

Tearfund

Today I took the church's biscuit wraps and other 'recycle only at supermarket' plastic waste to my supermarket. I'm always saddened that very few people stop and deposit their plastic waste.

As I write the next plastics treaty negotiations (INC-5) is about to take place, the conference finishes on 1st December. It is hoped that a strong legally binding plastic treaty will result from this.

Tearfund hopes that the treaty will provide:

- legally binding targets for countries to reduce plastic production and scale up reuse solutions so that less waste is created;
- everyone to have access to waste collection and recycling solutions so that no one is left having to live among piles of filthy rubbish or forced to burn it and breathe the toxic fumes it releases;
- healing for those struggling with health problems caused by lack of access to safe waste disposal. (Unmanaged waste increases the risk of heart disease, cancer and respiratory infection - resulting in the deaths of up to 1 million people each year.)

And as you recycle remember Tesco's logo 'every little helps'!

Pray for:

- those families and individuals known to us locally for whom Christmas may be a difficult time
- Open Hands as they seek to provide for the needy this winter. That the truly needy would receive what they need, including those in our area.
- the very many St Cs activities taking place in December, ranging from carol singing to the Christmas story trail for Primary age TGSA pupils. Please pray God would use these so that His Kingdom would come.
- Bev following recent serious ill health culminating in a stay in hospital. Please pray for her recovery and that she would know the Lord's presence through it all.
- God to work through TGSA's new lunchtime group for Secondary pupils called 'Fellows'. This is a gentle, conversational group exploring big questions and ideas around life and faith. It is led by a Christian member of staff called Jenny Saunders with Chris assisting.
- TGSA as they prepare for an upcoming SIAMS assessment (a bit like an OFSTED assessment but for church schools). Chris and Neil are involved in this work.
- Our church's future following our PCC's decision to connect up with Holy Trinity Church Leicester and possibly with Enderby Parish Church in a Minster Community. That by God's grace we would be able to establish a community of churches which is seeking the glory of God and the spread of the gospel.