

St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



Memory verse

'Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'

Psalm 46:10, NIV

January 2025

St Christopher's Church Services - January

Sunday 5th (Groups)	10.00am	Reading	Luke 21: 25-36
	Morning Worship	Theme	<i>Epiphany - A global church</i> <i>(IWC focus)</i>
		Led by	Mr C Collins
		Preacher	Jessie Tang

Sunday 12th	10.00am	Readings	Isaiah 43: 1-7 and Luke 3: 15-22
	Holy Communion	Theme	<i>The baptism of Jesus</i>
		Leader and preacher	Mr C Collins

Sunday 19th (Groups)	10.00am	Readings	Psalm 36: 5-10 and John 2: 1-11
	Morning Worship	Theme	<i>An abundance in Christ</i>
		Leader and preacher	Mr C Collins

Sunday 26th	10.00am	Reading	tbc
	All Age Holy Communion	Theme	<i>God's BIG Picture -</i> <i>The perfected Kingdom</i>
		Leader and preacher	Mr C Collins

Diary Dates

- Monday 6th - Friday 17th - Chris on Leave most weekdays during this period
- Friday 17th Margaret Tonkin funeral, 11.30am Great Glen Crematorium, 12.30pm Wyggeston's St Ursula's Chapel, followed by refreshments
- Saturday 18th - 9.30am - Standing committee meeting
- Saturday 18th - 6-8.30pm(ish) - Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz
- Sunday 19th -Tuesday 21st - Chris away at Clergy Youth and Children's work residential course in Bristol
- Monday 27th - 7.15pm - PCC meeting.

<p>Little Angels Mondays and Fridays 9.15-11.15am Re-opens Monday 6th January</p>	<p>Scouts Meeting night Mondays Cubs 5.30-7.00pm Scouts 7-8.30pm For further details ring Roger on 07766456239</p>
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Chris Collins (Vicar) 0777 4346871

Prayer Topics

Pray for:

- Open Hands as they seek to provide for the needy this continuing winter. That the truly needy would receive what they need, including those in our area.
- Melvin, Veronica's husband, after the discovery that his prostate cancer has spread elsewhere in his body. Please pray for peace and faith in Christ for the family and for the successful treatment of the cancer.
- John Tonkin and family following the death of dear Margaret. Please pray for John to feel loved and supported during this difficult time, and for the wider family.
- Mike and his sister Margaret, who is not expected to live long. Please pray for a sense of God's closeness and care for the family and for Margaret to know God's peace.
- the upcoming St C's Fish and Chips Supper with Quiz. Please pray that this will be well-attended by non-Christians and that it will be a happy, enjoyable time and a positive "shop window" for our church community.
- the TGSA/St C's new lunchtime group for Secondary pupils called 'Fellows' - and particularly for the sleepover that is planned for February. Please pray that the staff and young people involved will encounter Jesus at this and receive Him as Saviour and King personally.
- 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.
- places where there is violence and unrest, that the rule of justice and peace will be established across the earth and that nations will resolve their conflicts and seek the common good.
- the safety of all Christians living in the Arab world, especially for missionaries who are trying to tell others about your love.

Mission of the month Arab World Ministries (AWM)

The population of the Arab world is around 380 million, and more than half of the Arab world is under 25 years old. Almost a quarter of the Arab world live in the most populated country of the region: Egypt. The Arab World has been historically resistant to the gospel of Christ. In many nations of the Arab world it is illegal to convert from Islam to Christianity (or any other faith). Believers from a Muslim background are sometimes sent to jail or put to death to deter other seekers.

Muslims who have come to faith in Christ often live in areas where there are no fellowships or in countries that do not have an indigenous church. In many places, it is illegal to hold Christian meetings or even own a copy of the Bible. New believers are reluctant to attend a church or visit a known Christian home due to fear of persecution. However, encouragingly there are a growing number of small house groups of believers meeting and studying the Word of God in secret.

Only a small amount of the whole Church's resources is focused on leading Muslims to new life in Christ. Some estimate that there is only one Christian worker to every one million Muslims.

Vicar's Comment

'Be still and know that I am God' is perhaps one of the most shared Bible verses. I recently received a small devotional book as a gift, and it was this verse that is inscribed on the front cover. But I don't think I've heard anyone preach on this passage *in its original context*. Certainly God loves us and wants us to spend peaceful time with Him - which in my experience is often what this verse is used to try and convey. But the verses in the Psalm which immediately precede this line are about God forcibly ending human conflict - God bringing desolations on the earth, making wars cease, breaking the bow, shattering the spear and burning the chariots!

When we sit down for our quiet time, the large scale destruction of weaponry won't be going on around us (though maybe some Christian soldiers somewhere in the world might experience this!). But we should still take this lesson to heart. For all their power-mongering, the nations of the world are not God. The invading armies with all their technological resources are not God either. And neither are we! This Psalm reminds me that human beings are tempted to 'play God' in their actions, by believing that through their own power they can overpower everything and everyone. But in Psalm 46 God puts an end to such foolishness and says 'Be still and know that I am God' - He will be acknowledged for who He is.

I hope in 2025 you experience the peace of God, and that you enjoy some stillness in his presence....but also that you remember that you are not God, He is - and only He is truly in control of your life and He can be trusted to take care of you perfectly.