

# **St Christopher's Church**

**Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA**



**Tearfund is distributing water to the refugees from Goma,  
in the DR Congo**

## **Memory verse**

**'In every situation, by prayer and petition,  
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.'**

**Philippians 4: 6b (NIV)**

# **March 2025**

**St Christopher's Church Services for March**  
**Theme for the month: Following Jesus, being Church**

<b>Tearfund Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00am Morning Worship	Readings tba <b>Topic</b> 5. <i>A compassionate community</i> Led by Mr C Collins Preacher Pete Dawson (Tearfund Rep)
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------	--

There will be no groups today, but we will hear more about the work of Tearfund after the break.

This will be followed by a Hunger Lunch.

<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings tba <b>Topic</b> 6. <i>A reconciling community</i> Leading and preaching: Mr C Collins
------------------------------	------------------------------	---

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b> (Groups)	10.00am Morning Worship	Reading tba <b>Topic</b> 7. <i>A truthful community</i> Leading and Preaching: Mr C Collins
---	-------------------------------	---

<b>Sunday 23<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings tba <b>Topic</b> 8. <i>A fruit salad community</i> Led by Mr C Collins Preacher Michael Ravuri (Intercultural Ministry Enabler)
-------------------------------	------------------------------	--

<b>Mothering Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Remember clocks go forward!</b>	
	10.00am All age Morning Worship	Reading tba <b>Topic</b> 9. <i>A commissioned community</i> Leading and Preaching: Mr C Collins

**Advanced Notice for April**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April the Morning Service will be followed by the **Annual General Meeting** (instead of groups) and a 'Bring and Share' Lunch

**Chris Collins (Vicar) 0777 4346871**

## Diary dates for March

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Chris away at Children's and Youth Action Group
- Wednesdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> - Time to pray for St C's and local community - both daytime or evening, precise times may vary
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - 7:15pm - **Ash Wednesday Holy Communion** service
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> **World Day of Prayer** - 'host' country the Cook Islands
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>-Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Chris away at CYPF Residential
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:15pm - Standing committee (on Zoom)
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> - 7:30-9:30pm (approx) - **Deanery Synod** at St C's
- Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Chris at Diocesan Deprivation Panel
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> - 9:15am (tbc) - **TGSA Founders Day** assembly
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - 7.15pm - PCC.

## Prayer Topics

### Pray for

- the ongoing work in TGSA secondary following the announcement that Jenny Saunders - long-standing Christian staff member and co-leader of Fellows - is leaving the school. Please pray that the staff and young people involved will encounter Jesus at this and receive Him as Saviour and King personally.
- 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 Melvin as he faces treatment for his cancer.
- John Tonkin and family following the death of Margaret. Please pray for John to feel loved and supported during this difficult time.
- Mike and his sister Margaret, who is not expected to live long. Please pray for a sense of God's closeness.
- 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.
- the wider Church of England, following ongoing Safeguarding issues and the decision to keep Safeguarding practitioners 'in house' but to create an external oversight board.

## Mission of the month Tearfund

Tearfund have launched an **Emergency Appeal** for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

People are running for their lives to escape violent conflict in the DRC. Decades of fighting have left millions of people without safe homes. Now, they're being forced to flee again.

Recently attacks in the city of Goma forced hundreds of thousands of innocent people to leave the area. Some 3,000 people have been killed, and 2,800 have been injured.

Families who've already lost their homes are terrified, and their lives are in danger. Carrying their belongings, they're seeking shelter in temporary camps, schools and churches.

In an already desperate conflict, the humanitarian need is growing. Clean water is hard to come by. Hospitals are overwhelmed. Banks are closed. Places that should be safe are under attack.

Tearfund staff and partners in the DRC are working right now to distribute clean water, personal hygiene supplies and emergency cash so people can buy food.

### Vicar's Comment

I had an interesting conversation with someone not so long ago about prayer. This person is involved in mission work overseas. Basically, they shared with me that when it comes to witnessing to people of another faith, they don't suggest to that person 'shall we pray?' but they instead say 'shall we talk to God about this?' The reason for this is that in their culture, the idea of prayer involves a very ritualistic practice of prayer which is quite different to a form of conversational prayer which Christians might be familiar with. But to instead say 'shall we talk to God?' bypasses the idea of that very ritualistic approach.

This is a story from overseas mission, but I think it's a challenge to us as well. Has the word 'prayer' even in our context become synonymous with a very cultural understanding of what prayer is? Because essentially, at its core, verbal prayer is **talking to God**. I think it would be an interesting experiment in our church's life to replace the word 'prayer' and replace it with 'talking to God' and to see if the change feels jarring, and if it does - why?

One of the weeks in the current preaching series 'Following Jesus, Being Church', was focussed on prayer, specifically, the need to be a praying community. That is, the need to be a community that talks to God. And what should we talk to God about? Well here's one verse to be getting on with from the book of Philippians: '**in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God**'. Philippians 4: 6b (NIV)