

St Christopher's Church

Trenant Road Saffron Lane LE2 6UA



Memory verse...

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"..(which means "God with us")'

Matthew 1:23 NIV

December 2025

St Christopher's Church Services for December

Sunday 7th (Groups)	10.00am Morning Worship	Readings Psalm 72.1-19 and Matthew 3.1-12 Topic A voice calling in the wilderness Leader and Preacher Mr C Collins
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Sunday 14th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Psalm 146.1-10 and Matthew 11.2-11 Topic Words & deeds of Messiah Leader and Preacher Mr C Collins
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Sunday 21st	10.00am All Age Morning Worship	Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Topic Emmanuel - God with us Leader and Preacher Mr C Collins
	Time tba	Carol Service Details tba

Christma s Day Thursday 25th	10.00am All Age Holy Communion	Readings Matthew 2.13-23 Topic The Word on the street Leader & Preacher Mr C Collins
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Sunday 28th	10.00am All Age Holy Communion	Readings Matthew 2.13-23 Topic Escape to Egypt Leader and Preacher Mr C Collins
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Diary Dates for December

- Tues 2nd - Fri 5th, Tues 9th - Thurs 11th, Wed 17th - Chris doing TGSA secondary assemblies in St Cs
- Sat 6th - St Cs Working people's breakfast at St Cs (time TBC)
- Fri 12th - Chris delivering Christmas assembly at Marriott Primary
- Tues 16th - Neil participating in TGSA Christmas story trail (in TGSA Primary & St Cs buildings)
- Thurs 18th 6.45pm - Carol singing at Stonesby Lodge

Prayer Topics for December

Pray for:

- Chris as he delivers 9 Christmas-themed assemblies to TGSA & Marriott Primary children; pray that God is at work so that He speaks clearly about Jesus and that God give the pupils receptive hearts.
- the future of certain St Cs ministry activities over which there is a question mark at the present time - Little Angels, Open Hands foodbank & Craft Cafe. Please pray that prayerful, scripturally-informed decisions are made and that these would be directed by God.
- upcoming TGSA Primary Christmas story trail - that God will speak to pupils through it that they would turn to Jesus.
- God's guidance for our Minster Community steering group. This is made up of members of both Holy Trinity church and St Christopher's church with a view to hammering out the detail of how our Minster Community might work. Please pray for their guidance, and also that the Minister Communities project might bear good fruit in the years ahead.
- Rita's full recovery from illness.
- the resolution of Manny's work situation, for the good of staff and residents.
- Queen's living circumstances; that a clear way for her to rejoin St Cs gathered worship becomes apparent, or that she finds a good, caring worshipping community nearer where she lives.
- the Odiba family (Bisi, John, Emmanuel, Emmanuella & Ella) as they search for new accommodation; pray they are settled somewhere soon in the home God has for them.

Chris Collins (Vicar) 0777 4346871

Little Angels

Mondays
9.15-11.15am

(Last meeting in 2025
on 15th December)

Scouts

Meeting night Mondays
Cubs 5.30-7.00pm
Scouts 7-8.30pm
For further details ring Roger
on 07766456239

Mission for the month – Tearfund

My name is Loida Carriel Espinoza. I serve as Tearfund's Latin America Influencing Lead.

I lead Tearfund's influencing work in Latin America, equipping and mobilising churches, networks and communities to respond to the challenges of poverty, violence, corruption, environmental crisis and forced displacement. My daily work involves coordinating with allies, designing strategies and supporting leaders to become agents of change in their contexts.

One of the most inspiring moments this year was spending time with church leaders in Ecuador and Colombia who serve in communities marked by extreme violence. Despite the risks, they have become voices of peace, reconciliation, and hope – showing that transformation is possible when faith and action come together.

Please pray for wisdom and protection for our team and partners working in high-risk areas, and for the church in Latin America to have the courage to live out an integral mission – bringing hope, peace and justice to their communities.

Vicar's thought

There is an old hymn by a man called William Leslie called 'The old, old story'. I hadn't actually come across it before writing this thought, but I was familiar with the simply phrase 'the old, old story' to describe the gospel of Jesus Christ. The first verse of the hymn says this:

While others sing their "songs of love and war",

I sing the old, old story,

In Christ, my King, both love and glory are;

I love the old, old story.

Christmas could be the time of year when preachers such as myself worry about what new thing they are going to say at the various Christmas services! But whilst we might find new ways to illustrate the hope of Christmas – God come to us – the essence of the story is something we should celebrate because it does not change: it is an 'old, old story' we can rely on.

There can be security in what is familiar and well-established – the still-recognisable haunts of your home time, the family get-togethers, the unspoken rituals of our close relationships. And it's vital that we sense the security that comes from telling 'the old, old story' of Jesus come to earth to save us from our sins. That story is true and it will never change; it will never be undone. It happened, and that's that – and it means the gates of heaven are wide open to us. Celebrate 'the old, old story' this Christmas.