

St Christopher's Church Services

December 2011

Sunday 4 th	10.00am Freestyle Service of the Word	Readings Topic Led by Preacher	Isaiah 9:6-7 (Message) and Mark 1:1-8 <i>Mighty God</i> Revd A Roche Revd A Roche
	Monday 7 th 3-4.15pm Craft Café Thursday Church at St Christopher's		

Sunday 11 th	10.00am Holy Communion	Readings Topic Led by Preacher	Isaiah 9: 6-7 (NKJV) and John 1: 6-8, 19-28 <i>Everlasting Father</i> Rev J Tonkin Dr P Cavill
	with prayer for healing		
5-7.00pm Tea, chat and pray at Alison's (256 Milligan Road) with Paul Cavill talking about his trip to China			
Monday 12 th 3-4.15pm Craft Café Christmas Party			

Sunday 18 th	10.00am Service of the Word	Readings Topic Led by Preacher	Isaiah 9: 6-7 (NRSV) and Luke 1: 26-38 <i>Prince of Peace</i> Revd A Roche Rev J Tonkin
	6.00pm Traditional Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies		
Monday 19 th 3-4.15pm Craft Café Last of term (tbc)			

Christmas Day 25 th	10.00am All age Holy Communion	Reading Led by Preacher	Luke 1: 1-20 Revd A Roche Revd J Ling
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Sunday 1 st January	10.00am All age Service of the Word	Reading Topic Led by Preacher	Luke 2: 15-21 <i>Known and named</i> Revd A McCullough Revd A McCullough
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Advent Meditations

Wednesday the 30th November and 7th December 7.45-8.45pm in church

Diary Dates for December

- Friday 2nd - 3.30pm Academy Christmas Fete, - sign up for a slot on our stall!
- Tuesday 6th - 7.45pm - Scout meeting in church
- Wednesday 7th - 2pm - Freeman Ward public meeting at Linwood Centre
- Tuesday 13th - 1.45pm and Wednesday 14th - 9.15am School Nativity Plays (in the church)
- Tuesday 13th - 7-8pm Carol Singing at Stonesby Lodge
- Wednesday 14th - 7.30pm - 'Comedy & Carols' - professional Christian comedy evening at the Cathedral, £15/£12, lifts available - see Alison for tickets
- Friday 16th - 9.30am - Academy Carol Service - all welcome, followed by Alison on the sofa in reception asking if passers-by want her to 'Say one for me' - do join her!
- Monday 19th - from 7-8pm - 'Sing Christmas' - tune into Radio Leicester or bring some friends to join our Mission Partnership, at the Aberdale
- Tuesday 20th - 1.15pm - Academy Christmas lunch - all from St C's welcome - do sign the list by Sunday 18th (Coffee Break as usual on Thursday 22nd)
- Wednesday 21st - 5-8pm - 'Kingfisher and Friends Christmas Celebration' at the Kingfisher Youth Centre, Boulder Lane - do come and join in the all-age fun or help on our stall (see posters).

Prayer Topics

Pray for:

- toddlers and their carers at our Little Angels Nativity/Christingle and Party - that they experience the truth of God's love in Jesus
- who to invite from your family, friends and neighbours to our varied Christmas events
- those who find Christmas difficult, especially if they've lost a loved one this year
- energy to plan and run all the various activities at this time of year
- time to reflect on the real meaning of Jesus coming to earth, especially through our Advent meditations.

Regular Activities

Morning Prayer in church, during term time

Tuesday - Fridays - 8.00am

Little Angels

Mondays and Fridays
9.15-11.15am

Friday 9th Christmas Celebration with Christingles

Monday 12th Christmas Party

Then no meeting until Monday 9th January

Coffee Break Thursdays

refreshments from 11am
lunch from 12noon
followed by Communion at 1pm
finished by 2pm

Scouts Thursdays

Aged 10½+ - 6.15-8pm
Aged 14+ - 7.15-9pm

For further details ring Roger on
07766456239

**Mission for December
Tearfund**

A '15 by 15' target has recently been agreed by the UN in the fight against HIV. This new target is to provide 15 million people with HIV medication by 2015. This is a crucial step forward in the fight against the virus, which has claimed 25 million lives in the last 30 years ago.

Tearfund worker, Laura Webster, says, 'Major investment to tackle the virus is paying off, with over 6 million people now receiving antiretroviral treatment and the rate of new HIV infections falling globally. If this new target is achieved, it will enable all who require HIV medication to access it'.

But global funding for HIV declined for the first time in 2010. More people than ever before are living with HIV - over 33 million - creating an unprecedented demand for antiretroviral treatment, care and support. If funding continues to fall it will significantly undermine the hope of achieving this new '15 by 15' target.

Please pray:

- for people who are struggling alone with the knowledge that they are living with HIV
- that the economic situation will not lead to further reductions in funds for AIDS projects.

Christmas Cards ★

Many people in church prefer to give just one card to the whole church family at Christmas.

Why not use the money saved to give to Tearfund?

Vicar's comment

As I write this, we're celebrating the end of the church calendar - the week before Advent and the feast of Christ the King - what Jesus came to be. He came to be so many things but this is the pinnacle. As I will tell the younger children in collective worship today, he was not a king as we expect them to be - all riches and pomp and ceremony - but a servant king, a shepherd king. Shepherds were treated in Palestine like many people might treat, say, street sweepers - they expected them to be the lowest of the low - smelly, unintelligent, poor. But the job of a shepherd is to courageously guard the flock from wolves, to stay committedly alongside them through night and day, scorching heat and freezing temperatures, and to hunt for the lost ones and carry them home.

It is no coincidence that, when we get to the end of Advent in 4 weeks' time, we find that the first guests of the new king Jesus are shepherds - God wanted anyone who thought they were not good enough to know they were first in his eyes. But who were the second visitors - the Magi - the wise men - who *were* rich and kinglike. He also wanted people to know that *all* need God, even if you do have plenty. Take time this Advent to worship Christ the Shepherd-King who will come *again* in glory for everyone and any day!

**Revd Alison Roche
(Vicar)**

Phone 2830510 or
07918 642567
vicar@stchristophers.info

**Revd Jordan Ling
(Curate)**

Phone: 222 1348
curate@stchristophers.info

Mo Fisher

our administrator, can
be contacted by e-mail:
admin@stchristophers.info

St Christopher's Church

**Trenant Road
Saffron Lane
Leicester**



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