

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
September Focus 2015

Please see the calendar for Services. Meetings and Other Events.

"Being there"

Most of us will remember the Watergate affair in the USA. We may even remember the name Charles (Chuck) Colson who was one of President Nixon's closest advisers, his "hatchet man". What we may not have known is that whilst he was going through the turmoil of Watergate, Colson became a Christian. I have just been reading one of his books, "Loving God".

In it he quotes the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple's description of the Church as being: "the only cooperative society in the world that exists for the benefit of its non-members." Colson goes on to say that "Too often, the Church's strategy for reaching those who 'don't belong' is exactly backward." He then says that priority is given to a nice building, in a nice location, good organisation, good meetings, Bible studies, and the like.

"Then, with fresh welcome mat at the door, the members enthusiastically wait for all the lost and needy souls to come and join them. Of course they never do. Isn't it interesting that Jesus didn't set up an office in the temple and wait for people to come to Him for counselling? Instead, He went to them – to the homes of the most notorious sinners, to the places where He would most likely encounter the handicapped and sick, the needy, the outcasts of society."

*"I am not naive enough to think the church can bridge the cultural chasms overnight. But I do know that we can come out of our safe sanctuaries and move alongside those in need and begin to demonstrate some caring concern. Our presence in a place of need is more powerful than a thousand sermons. **Being there** is our witness. And until we are, our orthodoxy and doctrine are mere words; our liturgies and gospel choruses ring hollow."*

Colson didn't just write, he put what he wrote into practice. The route **he** took to 'being there' was to set up the Prison Fellowship. Through Colson and other Prison Fellowship members, who come from a wide range of churches in numerous countries, thousands of prisoners all over the world have come to a living Christian faith.

I don't know about you but I find all this extremely challenging!

Bryan Johnston

News and events

Harvest Celebrations On Sunday 13th September at 10am we will be holding our Harvest Worship Service. At this service we will be welcoming our missionary friends, Peter and Martina Morriss from Paris. After the service there will be light refreshments served in the Church Hall. Gifts of flowers and produce will be most welcome on the Saturday morning from 10am and also at the 10am Service. These will be distributed as gifts around the Parish on the Monday.

Christian Aid Lunch Around 50 people attended the Lunch at the Church in July raising £321 for Christian Aid. Many thanks to those who donated food and to Joan Cheetham for co-ordinating the catering and to the team of helpers.

Historic Churches Ride and Stride The Church will be open on September 12th 10am – 4pm to receive visitors. Please see Graham Dew if you could spare a couple of hours to be at the Church.

Church redecoration. Those who have been into the Church will see that the Church has been redecorated, new lighting installed, a replacement door fitted (behind the organ) and the wooden doors from the Vestibule into the Church glazed. Thank you must go to those who came along after the work was done to reinstall all the furniture and to get the Church ready for Worship.

Contacts For Further Information

www.goodshepherdloughborough.org.uk

For Contacts please phone.
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September 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 9.30am Holy Communion 2.45 pm Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	3 2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207	4 10am Toddler Club	5
6 8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 8.45am Parish Breakfast 10am Holy Communion Sunday Club	7 6pm Monday Club	8 9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 7.30pm PCC Meeting 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	9 9.30am Holy Communion 2.45pm Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	10 2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207	11 10am Toddler Club	12 10am – 4pm Historic Churches Ride and Stride Church open from 10am – noon preparations for harvest
13 8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 10am Harvest Worship 6pm Battle of Britain Service NO Informal Prayer Meeting	14 Distribution of Harvest Gifts. Helpers with a car required. 6pm Monday Club	15 9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	16 9.30am Holy Communion No Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	17 2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207	18 10am Toddler Club	19
20 8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 10am Holy Communion Sunday Club	21 6pm Monday Club	22 9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	23 9.30am Holy Communion 2.45 pm Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	24 2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207	25 10am Toddler Club	26
27 8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 10am Morning Worship	28 6pm Monday Club	29 9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	30 9.30am Holy Communion 2.45pm Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group			

Interregnum Update. The PCC at its meeting in August approved the Parish Profile. This document explains all about the church, the parish and the town. It also lays out our vision for the Church showing our strengths and our challenges. Importantly it defines what we are looking for in the selection of our next Vicar. All of this work has been drawn together by a sub group using the information gathered at the profile meeting attended by many people in April. It has been a very detailed piece of work and much time and effort has gone into it. The document has been sent to the Archdeacon and Area Dean and a meeting with them is to be arranged this month. It is hoped approval will be given and the vacancy advertised during September. Please continue to pray for our Church, all those involved in running it in the interregnum and for the selection of the person to come and lead our Church.