



The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
December Focus 2015



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

Thought for the Month.

Riding on my bike recently, the words of a hymn came to mind. I don't think I've sung it for maybe 30 years, but it sprang, uninvited, into my thoughts. The chorus is "Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest.

Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest." That word 'stayed' is used in an old-fashioned way. The writer, Frances Ridley Havergal, got the expression from Isaiah 26:3 'Thou doest keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusts in Thee'. Isaiah is saying that if we fix our minds on God and trust Him, then our hearts will be kept at peace - 'perfect peace'.

Cycling along, I asked myself whether I had ever really experienced 'perfect peace'? The conclusion? 'No'! Have I experienced the peace of God? Oh, Yes! Do I doubt the truth of what Isaiah said? No. So why haven't I experienced perfect peace (or perhaps more peace than I currently do)?

Well, I have a strong tendency to be anxious/ to worry/ to fret (choose whatever expression you like). As a result my heart and my mind are not "stayed" trustingly upon God. Imagine a continuous line from 'being worried sick' through to 'experiencing perfect peace'. When difficulty comes along, where we are on that line will depend on the degree to which we have our minds fixed on God and are putting our trust in our heavenly Father. My part is to fix my mind on God, in trust; God's part (according to Isaiah) is then to give me peace.

How do I move further along that line in the right direction? There are numerous ways. One that I find helpful is to ask myself: 'How would I be acting right now if I really did trust God and had cast my anxieties upon Him?' Whatever the answer is, I then commit to that behaviour - even if my heart doesn't quite match where I would like to be, trusting that it will eventually follow. I'm surprised how often God honours my tentative step!

What a tremendous encouragement it is to know that in any circumstance the perfect peace of God is available to me! As the hymn writer insightfully puts it "They who trust Him wholly, find Him wholly true".

I pray for myself, and for you, that we shall learn more and more to be 'stayed upon Jehovah' and find increasing levels of peace in our lives. You might like to pray that for yourself (and for me as well, please).

Bryan Johnston

PS No I have not forgotten that Christmas happens this month. If we are alert we shall hear 'peace' as a frequent theme in both the hymns and the readings throughout Advent and Christmas.

PPS I would love to hear what you've found helps to move you along the 'line'. _____

The chorus is from the hymn "Like a river glorious / is God's perfect peace".

Christmas Services.

Christmas Eve 7pm Carol Service, followed by the first Communion of Christmas.

Christmas Day 9.30am All Age Holy Communion



Contacts For Further Information

www.goodshepherdLoughborough.org.uk

For Contacts please phone.
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December 2015 News, Views and Calendar

Sunday Services in December.

Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book (BCP)

10am Services

Dec.6th Holy Communion Sunday Club

Dec. 13th Morning Worship

Dec.20th Holy Communion Sunday Club

Dec. 27th Please Note, There is No 10am Service only the Service at 8am

Prayer Meeting

Dec. 13th 4pm.

Parish Breakfast.

**December 6th
8.45am.**

An opportunity for the worshipping communities at both morning services to share fellowship. Please do try to come along.



Every Wednesday Morning

9.30am

Holy Communion (said)

Home Groups

The Thursday Ladies' study group continues to meet on Thursdays at 2 - 3.30pm except December 24th and 31st. Please contact Jackie for details 01509 212207. New members welcome.

Wednesday Friendly

December 2nd Christmas Lunch

December 9th 2.45pm. Carol Service

No More Meetings in December

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday
9.30am



Tuesday Group 8pm
8 Freesia Close.

PCC Meeting

December 8th 7.30pm

Stage Group Pantomime

"Once upon a fairy tale the musical" 3rd to 5th December
7.30pm. Matinee Saturday
5th 2.30pm.

Toddler Group

Meets every Friday Morning
10am - 11.30am.

No Meeting December 4th

Messy Church and Christingle

December 19th 4.30pm

Monday Club

Last meeting Dec.7th
Restart January 11th

ATC Carol Service

Monday Dec. 14th 7.30pm in the Church

Change of format this month

Due to the amount of information this month, we have had to change the format of the Focus. If you like this layout please let Dorothy or Mick Gregory know.

Christmas Market

Thank you to everyone who came along to help out on the day or came along to support the event. At the time of printing this Focus it is not known how much was raised this will be reported in the January edition.

Thank You All.

Ed, Mick and all the PCC would like to say a big thank you to you all for your continued Prayers, help and support during the ongoing interregnum. Let us all continue to Pray for unity of heart and mind into 2016 and that the Lord's blessing will fall on us all, and for the ongoing process leading to the appointment of our new Vicar.



A Happy and Peaceful Christmas To You All

