

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
August Focus 2016

Please see the reverse for Services, meetings and other events.

So we have at last had some 'summer' weather, hot sunshine that brings blue skies and lovely warm evenings, but maybe some sleepless nights too, as we struggle with temperatures that in this county are relatively rare! And as always in Britain, the weather is the topic of conversation wherever we go, in the supermarket queue, the Doctor's surgery, with friends and family. Why is this? Why do we talk about the weather so much? I suspect it has something to do with our need to feel in control, you see if we've got the right clothing whatever the weather it really doesn't matter, but no raincoat in a downpour and we are not happy, too thick a cardy on a sunny day and we're not happy, sandals in the snow – you guessed it we're not happy. We need to be in control and if there is one thing that challenges us in this it is our British weather!

Jesus said lots of things about being in control. Our need to be in control generally comes from some kind of fear or worry, and sadly is a very normal human trait. For some of us it is more powerful than others. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tackles worry head on – basically he says 'don't do it!' Matthew 6.25 - 34. But if you're anything like me it's not that easy, is it? Fear takes two forms doesn't it, the kind of fear we can dare to stand and face and the kind that we feel a need to run from. You will, like me know both I am sure, but Jesus also knew both of these. When he preached in Nazareth, his home town, the crowd didn't like his message and tried to push him down a cliff (Luke 4) and yet he 'set his face' to Jerusalem striding out in front of the disciples – who were terrified, knowing his certain fate (Luke 9).

How could Jesus do this? I suspect it was because he knew that he was not alone, so he wasn't facing his fears by himself, yes he had the disciples – but they all abandoned him, but he also knew that he was loved by his Father in heaven and strengthened by the Holy Spirit – he really was not alone. But most of us have at some time, maybe most of the time, got a different companion, good old worry! The problem with worry though is that 'he' deprives us of other companions, trust in particular. Trust is such a good friend and yet we often struggle to remember that. Trust is defined as reliance on, and confidence in, the truth, worth and reliability of a person. Trust it seems to me then is surely a sign of love. If you really love someone then you can place your complete confidence in them can't you, but a failure in trust shatters any relationship. 1 John 4 reminds us that God is love and that perfect love casts out all fear.

So why do we need to be in control? Is it because we are not as entirely confident of God's love as we might like to think we are? It's tough isn't it, because the one who loves us so much, is also the one who brings us blue skies and trustworthy friends including the one whose control is far better than ours: the Holy Spirit. He doesn't worry about cardys, sandals and raincoats – he just loves us no matter what the weather is doing! I'm going to try and trust him with my fears and worries more – will you too? Happy Summer Holidays to you all!!

Sue

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

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August 2016 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in August Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services

Aug. 7th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Aug 14th Morning Worship
Aug 21st Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Aug 28th Morning Worship

Sunday Prayer Meeting

August 14th 6pm.

Every Wednesday Morning 9.30am

Holy Communion (said)



Home Groups

Thursday Ladies' study group

2-3.30pm Please
contact Jackie for
details 01509
212207. New
members Welcome.

Tuesday Group 8pm (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)

8 Freesia Close.



Prayer and Intercessions.

Over the next
couple of months
Sue is going to run
a short course on
this. Look out for
more details.

Perhaps you have
wondered about
how to pray, or
what you should
pray about. This
should be an
interesting short
course, please chat
to Sue if you are
interested.



**The next
Messy Church
will be on 8th
October when we
will be focussing on
Harvest**

Teen's Club 7.15pm
Meets every Monday

Stage Group
Rehearsals every
Wednesday 7.30pm

Toddler Group
There will be **no**
Toddler Club until
School Term starts

Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

The Wednesday
Friendly **will not be
meeting during
August**. See you all in
September.

Good Bye to Rachel.

Rachel Coupe who has
been our children's
worker for the past
years will be leaving us
shortly. Her last
service will be at
**10am. September
4th**, when the service
will be based upon the
theme "Love the Lord"
which is part of the
material for the Holiday
Club. Do come along to
this service and learn
what Jesus tells us
about love. After the
Service we will be
having a Church Picnic.
The venue for this is
still being planned and
notice will be given in
Septembers Focus.

Church Sunday Rotas.

The Rotas on a Sunday morning are an
important part of our services of worship.
We do have regular members of the
congregation who take part, but we do have
a few spare places. We need a couple of
people to fill a vacancy on the sidesperson's
rota, additional people to read the Bible
passage for the day, and after the service
two people to help with tea/coffee. A big
thank you goes to those who undertake
various roles regularly; if you feel you could
help out please have a chat with Sue, Ed or
Mick. Thank you.

Holiday Club

Holiday Club this year will run from August 22nd to
August 26th in the Church and hall. We already have
children signed up to attend. If you have children,
grandchildren or friends who would like to come along
please speak to Sue for registration forms. Fun,
games, crafts and a Christian message will form the
programme. If you could help out on any day again
please speak to Sue.



There will
be **no**
Christian
Aid Lunch
during
August.

