

*The Good Shepherd Church*  
*Park Road Loughborough*  
*October Focus 2016*

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

As I sit writing this, I have put the heating on!! Summer seems to have gone and Autumn is well and truly here. Now some might look forwards and consider the nights' drawing in and the colder weather appearing on weather forecasts with fear and trepidation, and that is all happening now, but you know I think it's really exciting. Autumn brings us the opportunity to reflect on all that we have received in the spring and summer, especially in our Harvest celebrations, which this year, we will consider over the second weekend in October. In our Messy Harvest and our Harvest Festival we'll reflect on saying 'thank you' – I wonder how often we do this – does it come naturally to us in some circumstances, and then in others, well we have some kind of expectation that suggests we might not need to say anything. 'Thank you' is such a powerful phrase, it is a recognition that one person or group has done something for another individual or group that is really valued and might encourage a similar action again in the future. How often do you say thank you? As the people of God we are called to value others and so I want to take this opportunity of saying thank you to all those who work for the good of our church family and the wider community, those we all know about and those only a few know of, with all the care and concern that I know is being shared.

Autumn also brings us opportunity to prepare ourselves for the winter months. Squirrels are busy hoarding nuts etc. ready for the austerity of winter. It seems to me that this is a lesson for us too, how well are we preparing ourselves for the future? There are lots of things we can do for this, but perhaps the first and foremost is to take a look at our own faith journeys and see if there are things we need to do. To help this process, and in response to some folk's questions of the past, we are going to take the opportunity of thinking together about prayer. Our 6 session course will begin on Monday 3 October, and to give as many of us as possible the opportunity to take part, it will be run twice each Monday at 2pm and again at 7.30pm. Each session will last about an hour and takes the form of a short video followed by discussion and prayer. I don't know about you, but sometimes I find prayer really difficult, I don't know what to say, I'm fidgety or wondering about other things, somehow it all just seems really tricky. This course is based around the Lord's Prayer and is designed to take the struggle out of it all. After all this is the one thing the disciples specifically asked Jesus to teach them, so it must have seemed to be really important to them as they watched him doing it, surely therefore it must be important for us too. I do hope that you will be able to join in so that we can all encourage each other as we learn together.

I wonder what other preparations we might need to make for the Autumn, perhaps some things in the garden, maybe some things in the house – maybe you have an 'Autumn clean' akin to a 'spring clean' I guess! And then of course there will soon be Advent and Christmas to think about – the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal is well under way already and we say THANK YOU to Eadie and her team for all their efforts with this once again –but let's save the rest of that season for next time!!

Sue

*For Further Information please contact our Vicar*

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# October 2016 News, Views and Calendar

## Church Services in October Every Sunday Morning

**8am**

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book  
(BCP)

### 10am Services

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Communion & Sunday Club

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Messy Harvest

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> **Harvest Morning Worship,  
followed by Harvest Lunch**

Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion & Sunday Club

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> Morning Worship

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion & Sunday Club

### Sunday Prayer Meeting

October 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm.

### Every Wednesday Morning

**9.30am**

Holy Communion (said)



### Harvest

The church will be open on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am till midday to decorate. Please bring any contributions along on this morning. However contributions will also be welcome at the 10am service on the Sunday.

The Harvest Morning Worship Service will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am, everyone is very welcome to come along. Following the service there will be a harvest lunch served in the Church Hall at 12.30pm. This will be a ploughman's style lunch followed by a sweet. To assist us with catering numbers there is a sheet in the Vestibule to add names to. Please do try to stay and share lunch and fellowship with each other.



### Home Groups

#### Thursday Ladies' study group

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

#### Tuesday Group 8pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays)

8 Freesia Close.



#### Christian Aid Lunch

October 30<sup>th</sup> will be  
at St Mary's  
Catholic Church  
Ashby Road  
Loughborough at  
12.30pm.



**The next  
Messy Church  
will be on 8<sup>th</sup>  
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**  
Meets every Friday  
Morning 10am -  
11.30am.

**Wednesday Friendly  
meets at 2.30pm**

October 5<sup>th</sup>  
October 12<sup>th</sup>  
October 19<sup>th</sup> NO  
MEETING

**October 26<sup>th</sup> AGM**

### Sponsored Walk for the True Vine Trust

4 intrepid walkers set off on the annual sponsored walk in very wet conditions, but spirits were high and whilst the money raised is for a very good cause, the exercise also did us good. At the time of going to print we have raised over £300 but we will inform in the next edition of the Focus the final amount. All of the money will be added to the amount raised by the True Vine Trust when they did their walk in June (we were unable to make this date, hence the separate walk). The True Vine Trust (TVT) for Tanzania is a non-governmental, Christian-based, non-profit making charity assisting in the support and development of education, healthcare and vocational needs in Tanzania. A lot of the funds raised in the past have gone to the building and development of a school. The project in Tanzania is run by the Rev,d Canon Kedmon Mlemeta. Who was Priest in Charge at The Good Shepherd in the late 1990's. Thanks to all for the support.