

*The Good Shepherd Church*  
*Park Road Loughborough*  
*February Focus 2017*

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

My goodness February is here already! Christmas seems long gone and Easter is on the horizon – how do I know – cheap sales of last year's Christmas cards and chocolate eggs and hot cross buns in the supermarkets!!

But there are a good few weeks in between with all that they will hold for all of us. All of our regular things, our worship, our weekly groups, our trips to the shops, the washing and ironing, all the things that are routines that regulate our lives. I have been watching my Hellebore in the garden, and true to form, it is flowering now just as it has for the last few years – a great delight as we moved it from Uttoxeter! I wasn't sure whether it would move well, whether it would change its 'routine' of flowering. We were very careful to make sure that we brought as much of the roots as we could and when we planted it here we made sure we put the roots as deep into the ground as possible to give it the best possible chance.

The Hellebore has made me think again about my 'roots'; my roots of faith. How deep are they? Are they being 'fed and watered' so to speak? Sometimes life can be so busy that they can get a bit forgotten and things can become a bit dry, and when I finally realise it those are the times when I turn to the Psalms. They remind me of who God is and how he cares for me, for all of us. During February's sermons, we are going to look at some of the Psalms and consider how they can help us in our every day, with all the different things that we find ourselves facing. As I look at the deep red flowers that are braving the fog and frost at the moment, I am reminded that the Psalms were written as songs in the form of Hebrew poetry which can be very complicated in its structures but the resulting words gave beautiful meaning to people's lives when they were composed just as much as they help us today make meaning of our own life stories. I hope that our foray into Psalms will bring some food and water to your 'roots' as we continue the journey towards Easter.

On 19 March, we will have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), time to reflect as we look back over 2016 and also time to look forwards to 2017 and beyond. At our Away Day in January, the PCC made a review of our life together as a Church and made some recommendations for our future ministry to each other and to our community – more on this soon!! The APCM is also a time for elections of Officers of the Church and it is important therefore that I let you know that after 22 years Mick Gregory is standing down from the role of Church Warden. In the short time that I have worked with him, he has been an excellent Warden and I know many of you will agree with me, and we shall have opportunity to thank him and pray for what God will call him to next. But I am telling you this now because we will need another Warden, and so I want to ask you to pray about who might be the right person, the person God wants, to serve in this way, at this time.

So, over the next few weeks as we all watch other flowers beginning to show us the way to Spring, let's pray that God will show us the way he wants us to follow, as individuals and as a Church, with deep roots that are well 'fed and watered'. I wonder what variety of flowers we'll see, both in our gardens and in the Church – it's going to be amazing I'm sure!

*For Further Information please contact our Vicar*

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## February 2017 News, Views and Calendar

### Church Services in February Every Sunday Morning

**8am**

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book  
(BCP)

### 10am Services

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> ATC Parade Service  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion & Sunday Club  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion & Sunday Club  
Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Morning Worship

### Sunday Prayer Meeting

February 12<sup>th</sup> 4pm

### Every Wednesday Morning 9.30am

Holy Communion (said)



**Parish Breakfast**  
**February 26<sup>th</sup> at 8.45am.** Please come along to this friendly and informal breakfast. An opportunity to catch up with friends from the 8am and 10am Services.

### Michael Culpin.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of dear Michael Culpin. Michael and his wife Rhoda have been members of The Good Shepherd Church for many years. Michael had total commitment to his faith and supported everything to do with the Church from attendance at the 10am Services, Wednesday Friendly, fund raising and all social events. Wherever Michael went his friendly personality and wonderful smile radiated through. It will be well remembered how in his 80<sup>th</sup> year he took part in a sponsored walk for the True Vine Trust on what turned out to be the wettest day of the summer, but he was determined to complete the walk through rain and mud.

Michael was a loving husband, father, father in law and grandad and doted on them all. Our sincere condolences go out to all the family. Rest now in Peace Michael in the hands of your Lord.

### 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

February 26<sup>th</sup> at Friends @ Trinity Loughborough at 12.30pm.



**The next  
Messy Church  
Will be on 18<sup>th</sup>  
February 4.30 pm**

#### Resolve

The last meeting of this course will be on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm.

#### Stage Group

Rehearsals every Wednesday 7.30pm

#### Toddler Group

Meets every Friday Morning 10am - 11.30am.

#### Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>  
Feb 8<sup>th</sup>  
**Feb 15<sup>th</sup> NO  
MEETING**  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Annual Parish Meeting (APM).

In her letter to us all, Sue makes reference to the APM which will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March. This is an important meeting for your Church and the opportunity to receive reports on what has taken place over the last year and a look forward into the next. Also various appointments are made including the PCC. Please do come along your contribution and opinions are important. Do not worry you will not be pressurised to join any committee if you don't want to do. This year following the meeting we plan to have a **HOT parish lunch. The meeting will start 11.30 followed by lunch at 12.30ish.** A list to sign for catering purposes will be available soon.

