

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
March Focus 2017

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

So yet another year flies by, it's March already, and Lent is on our horizon! It's that time of year for fasting, giving up or maybe taking up; an opportunity to reflect on our everyday priorities. Have you planned to give up chocolate, start reading a new book, all in an attempt to use Lent wisely? I wonder if like me, you start off with good intentions and then somehow life just gets in the way and well, frankly, I can easily waste my Lenten opportunity!

On the calendar by my desk as I write, there is a verse from the book of Jeremiah, it says 'Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way and walk in it. Travel its path and you will find rest for your souls'. Jeremiah 6.16 (NLT). I am really struck by the wisdom of this verse. It tells me that actually people have always struggled with 'life'. It tells me that people have always looked back to see how others have handled things and learnt from their experiences. It assures me that there is a way to work things out when life 'gets in the way', so now the challenge is will I do it, will I stop at the crossroads and ask? Will I seek wisdom from those with more life experience than me?

Over the next few weeks as we journey together as church and community there is an opportunity to look at some of the spiritual disciplines that others have found can guide us on our way. We will be looking at 'Knowing God's Word', 'Serving God and his people', 'Listening and Talking to God', 'Responding to grace with graceful giving' and 'Loving the Lord'. In this time, we can only scratch the surface but then we could all try to practice some of these things, and others, that will encourage us in all the situations we find ourselves. I believe that it is important that we talk together and listen to one another, listen to each other's experiences and learn together the 'new to us' things that God will reveal for our mutual benefit and the growth of his kingdom. We are disciples and therefore people of disciplines, people who are learners our whole life-long, learning from those wise travellers who have been this way before. I wonder if we will be wise in this season of Lent.

But Lent also hold some amazing celebrations, join us for the APCM on 19 March to look back at 2016 and all it held; as well as forwards to the future. On 26 March, we will celebrate Mothering Sunday, recognising some of the most important people we will ever know, and then on into April and of course the greatest celebration of Easter itself, beginning with Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and of course, the darkness of Good Friday, the disappointment of Holy Saturday that bring us to the glorious resurrection celebration of Easter Sunday.

So, March holds opportunity and celebration together, let's see how wise we can all be in our travelling together this Lent!

Sue

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

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March 2017 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in March Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services

March 5th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
March 12th Morning Worship
March 19th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
March 26th Mothering Sunday Morning
Worship

Sunday Prayer Meeting

March 12th 4pm

Every Wednesday Morning

9.30am

Holy Communion (said)



Parish Breakfast March 26th at 8.45am.

Please try to come along
to share breakfast and have
a chat.



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.



**Don't forget to
put your clock
forward one hour
for Sunday 26th
March.**



**The next
Messy Church
Will be on 18th March
at 4.30 pm**

Toddler Group

Meets every Friday
Morning 10am –
11.30am.

Christian Aid Lunch

There will be **no**
Christian Aid Lunch this
month



Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

March 1st, March 8th
**March 15th NO
MEETING**
March 22nd March 29th

Chrissie Hall.

It is with sadness that we report the loss of dear Chrissie, who reached the amazing age of 109 last October. She was in residential care for a number of years, and after she was no longer able to attend Church friends joined her for Home Communion together until recently.

Chrissie was a member of the Good Shepherd Church over many years, still coming to the 10am Service when she was in her 90s.

She was the Treasurer and a member of the Mothers Union and the Wednesday Friendly. Chrissie supported the fund raising and social events of the Church, who can forget the delicious cakes she made for the Fetes and Fayres.

A very generous and caring lady, Chrissie will now be reunited with her loving husband Cyril who died in 1990. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Marion and her family at this time. Now at peace and rest with the Lord.

Hilda Shelton.

It is also with sadness that we report the loss of dear Hilda. Whilst she has only attended the Church for a few years, she so loved the people and the worship. Rest in Peace Hilda.

Important Meeting!

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday 19th March at 11.30**. At the meeting reports on the life of the Church over the last year will be presented including the financial position of the Church. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Please do try to come along; it is YOUR Church we will be talking about.

This year following the meeting we are having a **HOT parish lunch**. A list to assist us with catering numbers is available in the vestibule.

