



The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
April Focus 2017



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

So, Easter has almost arrived – it really doesn't seem five minutes since Christmas does it. I wonder how your travelling has been so far through Lent as we are considering our spiritual disciplines. I hope it's been a wise journey up to now (see last month's Focus!).

The Easter story is familiar at one level, but I wonder when you last looked at it in a bible? It is repeated four times in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and, just like the Christmas story, each re-telling gives a slightly different slant on the action, but together all designed to give us as much information as we need to try to understand what really happened and to see what difference it will make to us. You might think it is some kind of incredible tale, impossible to believe; or you may check out the facts, like Peter does in Luke 24, but still be puzzled by what happens; or may be, like the devastated disciples on the Emmaus Road, you need a personal encounter with Jesus to accept the fact of the resurrection – but when you do...

What I, and many others, have discovered is, that such an encounter makes a world of difference to the way you try to live your life, considering others and getting along with them. Christians can look very different from one another, and we can hold widely varying beliefs about life-style, politics and even theology. BUT there is one central belief that unites and inspires all true Christians – that Jesus Christ rose from the dead! This is the centre of the Christian faith that we will celebrate on Easter Sunday; we might use chocolate eggs, beautiful flowers and tiny chicks to think about it but they are all just to remind us that God's love for us is strong, whoever we are, so strong that such a thing should have to happen.

A lot of us may well enjoy chocolate eggs at Easter, but at one time eating eggs was not allowed by the church during the week leading up to Easter (known as Holy Week). Any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make them 'Holy Week eggs', that were then given to children as gifts. The Victorians adapted this tradition using satin covered cardboard eggs filled with Easter gifts, and the first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19th Century but they were bitter and hard. As chocolate-making techniques improved, hollow eggs like the ones we have today were developed and are now enjoyed all over the world.

But why the eggs anyway? Real eggs have new life within them, the tiny chicks develop that we have all seen in pictures or maybe even held in our hands, fluffy and cute, as they break out of their shells at just the right time. Our Easter eggs are symbolic of Jesus' new life as he breaks out from his tomb; but also of the new life that he brings to us as we learn to believe and trust in him, and break out of our old way of life.

So, I encourage you to read the accounts of that 'Holy Week' again, reflect on what you discover and encounter in the story of Easter whether it is for the first time, or after many such encounters.

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

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www.goodshepherdloughborough.org.uk

Easter week at The Good Shepherd.

Saturday April 8th. Messy Church commencing 4.30pm. The focus for this will be about Palm Sunday. Messy Church is open to everyone, and not just children.

Sunday April 9th. Palm Sunday. Normal services at 8am and 10am with the distribution of palm crosses.

Sunday April 9th. Palm Sunday. 6pm. Celtic Communion to begin our Holy Week Journey.

Maundy Thursday. 7.30pm 'Being washed' a service of Holy Communion with washing (feet or hands!)

Good Friday. 12noon - 3pm. Church open for personal prayer.

Good Friday. 7.30pm Interactive Meditations at the Cross.

Easter Sunday. 8am and 10am 'He is Risen' - Holy Communion for Easter

Loughborough Churches Partnership are holding a joint service Easter Day Service 12.30pm to 1pm in the Market Place.

*Christ
is
Risen!*



Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish meeting was held on Sunday March 19th and was well attended by approx. 40 people. At the meeting Ed Grainger and Nuhad Abouela were appointed Churchwardens. The PCC now consists of the following: Nuhad Abouela, John Cheetham, Paul Chung, Michael Devlin, Laurence Emmitt, William Gandanga, Ed Grainger, Jeannette Green, Michael Gregory, Jackie Rotter, Ken Rotter, Linda Tozer, Sue Willetts. If there are any issues that you would like discussed by the PCC, please speak to one of the members. We are pleased to welcome our newly appointed Churchwarden Nuhad. This is a new role for her and she admits she has a lot to learn we do thank her for stepping forward into this position and ask you to give her your love, support and prayers over the next few months as she gets used to her responsibilities.

Following the meeting a 3 course hot lunch was provided and enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to the social committee and Sue for organising and preparing this.

Gardeners Coffee Morning. 10am – Noon. May 20th.

Put the date in your diary to buy your bedding plants and drop in for a cuppa. If you have plants that you would like to donate, please speak to Brian Cockain.

April 2017 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in April Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services

April 2nd Holy Communion & Sunday Club

April 9th Palm Sunday Morning Worship

April 16th Easter Day Holy Communion &
Sunday Club

April 23rd Morning Worship

April 30th Holy Communion and Sunday
Club

**Please see additional information for
Holy Week and Easter Sunday
Services.**

Sunday Prayer Meeting

April 9th 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.



Christian Aid Lunch

At All Saints & Holy
Trinity
Loughborough on
April 30th
at 12.30pm.



**The next
Messy Church
will be on
April 8th 4.30pm**

**Stage Group
Rehearsals every
Wednesday 7.30pm**

Toddler Group
Meets every Friday
Morning 10am –
11.30am.

**Wednesday Friendly.
Meets 2.30pm in the
Church Hall.**

April 5th.
April 12th.
April 19th. **No Meeting.**
April 26th.



Parish Breakfast.

The Parish Breakfast for April will be held on
April 23rd at 8.45am. This really is a good
opportunity for the congregations from the
8am and 10am services to get together.
Please do try to come along.

Church Flowers.

Throughout the year, apart from Lent, we
try to have fresh flowers in the church.
Many people donate the flowers for a special
time of the year or in memory of a loved
one. If you would like to do this, please put
your name on the list in the Vestibule. If you
would like the flowers to be arranged for
you or purchased on your behalf, please
speak to Edie Smithson.



A Big Thank You.

I would like to say a big thank you to you all
for the financial donation you presented me
with on the occasion of me stepping down as
Churchwarden. Also for the wonderful
messages that were written for both Dorothy
and I on the cards, which were then bound into
a booklet.

I felt that I was called to serve in the role of
Churchwarden, the position I held for 22 years.
Over these years I have had the support of my
fellow wardens, Graham and later Ed and of
course the PCC. Without their help the role
would have been more demanding. But
importantly I have felt the love and support of
everyone in the Church, and I feel humbled by
your good wishes. May the Lord bless each of
you in all that you do and may He pour down
his blessing and guidance on The Good
Shepherd Church.