

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
May Focus 2017

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

How do you share news? Maybe you send a card, make a phone call, send an email, share something on Facebook? There are so many options for us in 2017 aren't there. I've been wondering about this since recent reporting about 'fake news', wondering what fake news really is. The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity recently suggested this on its website:

"Fake news' has received much media attention lately. The spread of disinformation, propaganda, and fabrication of fact is hardly new: humans have been spreading mistruths through trusted sources for years. What has taken it to a new level, however, is the way it is now spread: social media. Fake news items can pop up on our social media stream at any time and, being one of myriad other pieces of information passing before our eyes, they are easily read without care for checking the source. Add to this the fact that they are usually sensational in content, can be shared or liked in just one click, and you have the ingredients for gossip and lies on a global scale.'

I wonder how the disciples handled news in the days between the resurrection and the ascension. How did they cope with the gossip that was undoubtedly about, how did they ensure that their news was really heard? The fact that we can still read their news nearly 2000 years later suggests to me that their method was pretty good. Basically, they told the truth about their personal encounters with Jesus and how their lives were changed.

So, what about us – do we share this kind of news? I know that there have been many occasions where I have and people have been really interested but there have also been many occasions when I haven't because I haven't been sure how, what would be best to say, or because I was afraid of the consequences. I suspect that the disciples would have felt like me sometimes, after all they were human too.

I have some news to share – news of things that are going to happen over the next few weeks – exciting things for us all to be a part of!

First: 'Thy Kingdom Come' - This year our Diocese is encouraging every church within the family to pray between Ascension (25 May) and Pentecost (4 June). You can look at the Diocesan website to find out more <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/category/thy-kingdom-come/> or at the national website <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> and I invite you to sign up to Pledge2Pray like I have. There will be opportunities for you to do just this here at the Good Shepherd - see overleaf!

Second: 'Alive in Loughborough' – this year sees the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Loughborough Churches Partnership and we are celebrating this over Pentecost weekend. On 3 June from 12pm to 6pm there will be a celebration filling Queen's Park with live music, great food, family fun and community engagement and from 7pm to 9pm there will be live music and inspiring stories in Dolcino's in the Market Square. On Sunday 4 June from 11am to 12.30pm there is a united celebration service, followed by a 'bring your own' picnic. One of things that Jesus was desperate for was unity – he prayed for it in the Garden of Gethsemane – this is an opportunity for us to share with other Christians yes, but also a really big chance to share our 'Good News' with our community and parish.

Third: Andy and I have been part of the Good Shepherd family for exactly one year as I write! We would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their welcome and care and to say just how much we are looking forward to more 'news' sharing with you all in the next one!

Sue

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

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May 2017 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in May Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services

May 7th Holy Communion & Sunday Club

May 14th Morning Worship

May 21st Holy Communion & Sunday Club

May 28th Morning Worship

Parish Breakfast

May 28th 8.45 please do come along

Sunday Prayer Meeting

May 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.



Christian Aid Lunch

May 21st Trinity
Methodist Church
Loughborough at
12.30pm.



**The next
Messy Church
Will be on May 20th
at 4.30pm**

LCP Leaders' Breakfast

Did you know that the church leaders from the Loughborough Churches Partnership meet once a month for breakfast? We move around the churches each month to pray with and encourage each other, as well as share information, resources and food! The next one will be held at the Good Shepherd on 9 May. Please pray for us all especially as we continue to plan for the 'Alive in Loughborough' event at Pentecost. PS Many thanks to those who have kindly offered catering

Christian Aid Week

May 13th - 20th.
Please see
noticeboard for
additional
information.

Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

May 3rd.
May 10th
May 17th NO MEETING
May 24th
May 31st

Gardeners Coffee Morning.

This will be held in the Church Grounds on **May 20th from 10am till noon**. This is always a very popular event and items sell very quickly. Don't be disappointed come early to get your bedding plants, vegetable plants and other items for your garden. Thank you to those members of the church and their friends who have been growing plants for some months in preparation for the event. Also on the day we will be serving refreshments in the hall, and a book stall will be available. Come and get your plants for the garden and a book to sit and read in it.



Prayer Space

Last year for 'Thy Kingdom Come' you may remember we had some prayer stations in the Church for people to use, looking at the Lord's Prayer in a variety of ways. This year we have invited Beacon Academy and Outwoods Edge to come to church for similar events in the week before half-term. During half-term week, the same prayer stations, suitable for adults and children, will then be available for anyone who wishes to come and use them. The church will be open from 9am to 3pm Tuesday 30 May to Friday 2 June, as well as two evening slots on 31 May and 2 June to enable anyone from the town to come and pray as this is then linking in to the 'Alive in Loughborough' event too and all the Prayer Stations will be moved to Queen's Park for the Saturday afternoon.