

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
July Focus 2017

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

As I write the UK is reeling from recent terror attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire in London. It has been truly heart-warming to see how communities have pulled together, supporting those struggling because of these awful situations in so many ways. It is also the weekend where people have been encouraged to join in 'The Great Get Together' in memory of MP Jo Cox who was murdered in 2016. In her maiden speech in Parliament she had said 'we are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us'. I have been reflecting on all this and wondering what God might be saying.

Pictures of exhausted firemen have filled our television screens, followed by parties and celebrations as people have come together. Anger has been evident as people have tried to deal with their grief and confusion and then for many there is just a vast silence as they try to come to terms with it all. We all deal with these and other enormous crises in different ways. But another reaction has been to foster community. One picture I saw was of rows and rows of clothes and shoes laid out for those who lost everything in the fire. Such an expression of care for one's fellow human being, whether you know them or not, is an amazing picture for us to witness.

In my wondering, God reminded me of Jesus' Parable about the Good Samaritan (Luke 10.25 – 37), the most unlikely person to care for the man mugged on his journey, and yet he went beyond just helping the man to safety but paid for his care and returned to check the inn-keeper was not out of pocket. I wonder just how many Good Samaritans there are today. Perhaps you know one or two, people who have really helped you in a moment of struggle. Perhaps you are one, a person who dares to help another no matter who they are, because they have a need. But looking back over the last few weeks there has been so much extra need, on top of that which we already know of in our own communities. The parable Jesus told was given in response to a question from an expert in the law about how to obtain eternal life, a question about how to have hope for the future. Our faith brings us hope for the future and that will mean living as community together. It will mean caring for those struggling in whatever way, through the 'headline crises' we see on the TV, or our neighbours and colleagues dealing with the everyday issues of life. I wonder what this might look like already, I know that there are many Good Samaritans out there, but what else might we find ourselves doing? The expert in law understood that the law demanded total devotion to God and love for one's neighbour, but the wounded man was just a topic for discussion, the robbers saw him as someone to exploit; the priest avoided him altogether; and the Levite thought he was just a curiosity to gawp at, only the Samaritan treated him as a person to show love too. There are needy people near to us – there is no good reason for refusing to help – I wonder how we will?

And during the summer we are going to think about some more of Jesus' parables to see what other things we can learn to help as we live our lives together. *'Happy Summer wondering!'*

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

Rev Sue Willetts

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www.goodshepherdloughborough.org.uk

July 2017 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in July Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services

July 2nd Holy Communion & Sunday Club
July 9th Morning Worship
July 16th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
July 23rd Morning Worship
July 30th Holy Communion & Sunday Club

Parish Breakfast

July 23rd 8.45 please do come along

Sunday Prayer Meeting

July 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

July 30th The Good
Shepherd Church
12.30pm



**The next
Messy Church
Will be on July 22nd
at 4.30pm**

Stage Group

Rehearsals every
Wednesday 7.30pm

Toddler Group

Meets every Friday
Morning 10am -
11.30am. (Term time
only).

Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

July 5th
July 12th
July 19th NO MEETING
July 26th **Day at
Ulverscroft Manor.
Please check for
times and details**

The Good Shepherd Summer Holiday Club

All sessions free for children ages 5 - 11,
begins on Monday 17 July 10am-12.30pm
at the Good Shepherd Church, Park Road and
continues on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
and then for all the family at Messy Church
on Saturday 22 July 4.30pm to 6.30. pm



**Will you join the secret spies to find out
about the rescue plan?**

**If you are able to help on any of these
dates please see Rev. Sue Willetts**

Christian Aid Lunch.

The July Christian Aid Lunch on the 30th will
be hosted by The Good Shepherd Church.

As in past years a list will be circulating for
contributions towards the supply of food for
the meal. If anyone would rather make a
financial donation towards the cost of the
food rather than providing it please see Joan
Cheetham or Dorothy Gregory.

Please stay after the 10am Service to share
in this simple meal, it also provides an
opportunity to catch up with friends from
other local churches.

