

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
August Focus 2017

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

So what will you be doing during August? Or maybe that question should be 'who will you be being?' I have had a few conversations recently with different people about this – it all started when someone asked me what work I did for a survey form they were completing and when I said 'well actually I am a Clerk in Holy Orders', they said 'oh I don't think that's on my list, is it a job – isn't it just something you are? I went on to explain that I was a Vicar in the Church of England and a whole big conversation opened up about work and faith and how they might mix together. Reflecting on this later, I realised that first question is one I have been asked many times, as though what I do could explain who I am to someone who doesn't know me. But does it? And what happens when I retire from working? How can I answer the question then?

So I would rather answer the question 'who will I be being during August?' because I know the answer to that straightaway – I will be being a disciple of Christ – well at least trying as hard as I can! And that will mean that I'll be trying to live my life every day in the way he teaches. I will be endeavouring to be gentle and kind, loving and joyful, generous and faithful, peaceful, patient and full of self-control. Some days it will be easier than others, just like some days it is easier being a Vicar or a shop-keeper, a train driver or retired, than it is on other days. So often society defines people by what they do instead of who they are. God's name as told to Moses is 'I am who I am' from the verb, to be. So if God defines himself in his being not in his doing – surely we should too, after all we are human beings, not human doings!

That's all very well, I hear you say, but what's your point? It is this, we can be so busy doing things, even doing things for God, that we neglect our being, especially our being for and with God! So during August let's take some time to be with, and for, God more. That might mean reading the bible more, perhaps reading a Christian book or magazine, perhaps spending some time in the garden or on a walk enjoying creation. Let's make a conscious effort to be reconciled to God, like the prodigal son was to his Father instead of being like the elder brother who in his own way was just as lost as the younger son had been! A book that might help is called the Prodigal God by Timothy Keller, I was reminded of it recently by someone and I remember how it helped me to realise that the elder brother's kind of lostness brings just as much misery actually to him as that of the younger brother when he's weighing up the taste of pig food! Being the oldest child has its ups and downs in Jesus' story, just as it does for many of us today, but it doesn't change the Father's love for either of his children, in the story he goes out of his way to greet each of his sons, just as he does for us. But if we are too busy doing things, then we may well miss out on being the children of God that we are.

So let's enjoy the lazy summer days of August, being just who God is calling us to be as we try to discover more of who he is and we are!

Sue

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

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August 2017 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in August Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services

Aug 6th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Aug 13th Morning Worship
Aug 20th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Aug 27th Morning Worship

Parish Breakfast

Note: There is no Parish Breakfast this month. Please see notice about Vicarage Barbeque.

Sunday Prayer Meeting

Aug 13th pm

Every Wednesday Morning

9.30am

Holv 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

No Christian Aid Lunch during August.



The next Messy Church Will be on August 19th at 4.30pm

Stage Group

Rehearsals every Wednesday 7.30pm

Toddler Group

No Toddler Club until schools return.

Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

No Wednesday Friendly during August.

Holiday Club.

Another successful Holiday Club was held last month. All the children attending had an enjoyable time, along with I think, the adult helpers. A big thank you to all the helpers for giving up so much of their time throughout the week, and also in preparation for the Holiday Club.

Barbeque.

Sue and Andy are hosting a Church BBQ on Sunday August 27th at the Vicarage. This will follow the 10am Service. If you would like to attend please let Sue know for catering purposes. They hope that you will be able join them and that the weather is kind to us.



Harvest Concert.

Harvest weekend this year is on 7th and 8th of October. To begin the weekend we will be holding a Harvest Concert in the Church on Saturday October 7th at 2.30pm. There is no charge for entry, but a retiring collection will be held. The concert will contain a variety of music to show the versatility of our new organ, some light hearted songs that you will all know I am sure, a visit from some puppets and to finish with a last night of the proms finale that you can sing along with. Please bring your union flags to wave.

Sponsored Ride and Stride. Saturday September 9th.

As always the Church will be open all day for those taking part in this event raising funds for the Historic Churches. If you would like to take part, walking or cycling please see Graham or Sue for details. If you have a little spare time on the day to help to man the Church please let us know.