

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
February Focus 2018

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

As I write I am preparing to leave the Vicarage for a couple of days to go to a conference at Swanwick in Derbyshire. It's a familiar place to me for conferences - a big house turned into a conference centre to save it from demolition at some point in the past I expect. It is one of those places that feels like a haven to me. You know the kind of place, somewhere where you can feel safe, perhaps get some rest, enjoy time with good friends and make new ones too. This particular conference is about called 'Apprentices not passengers' and it's going to be looking and how we can be good disciples - ones with good habits - 'holy' habits we might say! Apparently we are going to be encouraged to develop these good habits and to make sure that they are deeply embedded in our lives - watch this space!

I wonder what 'holy' habits you have - who and what are things you know and do that make life worth living. On 14 February it is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It's that season that comes round every year challenging us to give things up - but it seems to me that it might only be worth giving things up if you are going to put better things in their place. What might that look like for you this year? In our sermons in Lent 2018 we are going to study Paul's letter to the Philippians. We will look at the new attitudes we can have as we develop our holy habits. We will also be running a Lent Course - commencing on Sunday 18th February. This will be based on the film *Chocolat*! It will help us to think about being a community together with good disciples habits, by exploring the Bible and reflecting on the community in the film. We will have a film night beforehand to make sure that we have all seen the film, so please sign up to join in. (We need to know numbers etc before we can finalise times and dates and numbers of groups!)

On 18 March we will have our Annual General Meeting followed by a Parish Lunch - please get that date in your diary now so that we can all share together that day as we look back to thank God for what he has done amongst us, and forwards to how we will work with him in the future. I hope that you will by now be aware of our work in partnership with Emmanuel Church as a part of the Diocesan Bid to the Church Commissioners as a Resourcing Church in our Diocese. Please do continue to pray for this process as our PCCs work together in the next months and years.

2018 is a very special year in the life of our Church as we celebrate 80 years of ministry from our building to the surrounding area and Parish. That ministry is on-going and developing in all sorts of new ways and that will mean exciting discoveries and experiences for us all as we work together for God. We will need to take care of ourselves and each other so that we can help those around us who do not know Jesus yet. Lots of celebrations are being planned - so what will you join in with? And where might it all lead in the Kingdom of God? I believe that exciting times lie ahead - will you join me in seeing what God will do with us?

Now - off to develop those 'holy' habits!!

With every blessing for your journey with Him too. *Sue*

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

Rev Sue Willetts

The Vicarage 21, Parklands Drive

Loughborough

LE11 2SZ

Phone: 01509 215042 Email: revsuewilletts@btinternet.com

www.goodshepherdloughborough.org.uk

February 2018 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in February Every Sunday Morning

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services

Feb 4th ATC Parade Service
Feb 11th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Feb 18th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Feb 25th Morning Worship

Service of Evening Prayer

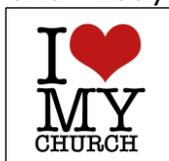
February 11th 4pm

Every Wednesday Morning 9.30am

Holy Communion (said)

Morning Prayer

Every Monday and Friday 8.45am – 9.15



Home Groups

Thursday Ladies' study group

2-3.30pm Please
contact Jackie for
details 01509
212207. New
members Welcome.



Christian Aid Lunch

Please see
Noticeboard for
details



**The next
Messy Church
Will be on 17th
February 4.30 pm**

Stage Group

Rehearsals every
Wednesday 7.30pm

Toddler Group

Meets every Friday
Morning 10am –
11.30am.

Wednesday Friendly meets at 2.30pm

Feb 7th
Feb 14th
Feb 21st No Meeting
Feb 28th

Parish Breakfast

February 25th at 8.50am. Please come along to this friendly and informal breakfast. An opportunity to catch up with friends from the 8am and 10am Services.

Dates for your diary.

Lent course starts on Sunday 18th February when we will be showing the film *Chocolat*. This will begin at 6pm. Please speak to Sue about details of the full course.

PCC Meeting February 1st 7.30pm

Annual Parish Meeting March 18th following the 10am Service, followed by a Parish Meal.

Maundy Thursday March 29th We will be sharing a Passover meal. More details to follow.

Saturday 17th March 7.30pm. Loughborough Ladies Choir are holding a concert at the Church. Music on the night will have a spring and Easter theme with music from Bach to Bart, so there will be some musical theatre in the mix. Please do come along to support this concert and have an enjoyable night, whilst also raising money for the Church. Tickets are £5 and include refreshments.

Your Church is 80.

This year The Good Shepherd Church celebrates its 80th year. Throughout the year we are planning various events to mark this very special celebration. We will bring you more details of these as the year progresses, allowing you time to become involved. It is a very exciting time for us all as we become involved in the Church planting programme. Had it not been for a group of dedicated people over 80 years ago our Church may not have been built. Here we all are 80 years later looking at how we can now plant and grow God's Church in the new areas of our Parish and town. How proud those people must be knowing that from a vision of hope to grow and plant God's Kingdom in Shelthorpe, we are now in our 80th year looking to do the same again. Let us give thanks for our Church, and Pray that we all may grow in Faith as we move forward in this and subsequent years