



The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
April Focus 2018



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

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

These are the words that will start many Sunday services on Easter Day around the country, in churches of all sorts. But I wonder what they mean for you? They are words of greeting sometimes known as the Easter Acclamation. The word alleluia (the Greek-influenced form of Hebrew Hallelujah) is a call to praise God as well as a way of praising God. But what difference do they make to us, these words?

This week my computer has 'died' – it needs a new hard drive (the main bit that works inside) and the man in the shop said to me, 'this will resurrect it!' Now I don't know whether he had noticed my clerical collar or not, but his words certainly made me smile. I thought back too, to the number of times I had used the power cable of said laptop as an example of us needing to be plugged into the power of the Holy Spirit to make sure that we 'work' properly, as God would want us to.

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, as the acclamation says, so that the main 'bit' inside of us works properly – we might say this is our soul perhaps. Alongside that of course being 'plugged in' to the Holy Spirit makes such a difference to the way our soul works, to our everyday life with all its ups and downs.

But you may be asking, how do you know all that in the first place? How do you know about this soul difference – and does it even matter? I first found out about Jesus some 45 years ago, a lovely couple called Joy and Ted helped me to see what a difference he made to their lives, they had some struggles but somehow, they knew that he was helping them through it all. After a lot of consideration, I decided that maybe there was something in what they said, and maybe I could experience that same kind of difference too. You could say that my 'hard drive' was replaced and it was hard, I was always wanting to achieve the very best I could, I had learnt as a child that that meant people liked you, even loved you, and I definitely wanted that to be the case! I learnt a new way of living – a way that meant I wasn't working hard to achieve stuff, making my 'hard drive' work so hard it would overheat and break, but I was relying on the power from the Holy Spirit to help me work smarter and live better no matter what was happening around me.

So, what about your 'hard drive', is it working in the very best way possible, plugged into the best kind of 'power'? As we move through our 80th Celebration year I hope that more and more of us will be able to answer yes to this question. In the past others did answer 'yes', that's why our church was built – but what about you – what is your answer? Would you like to be able to say the Easter Acclamation – not just on Easter Day but everyday and really mean it – really know the power of the Risen Christ? If you would, but don't know how to start then please get in touch and together we can see what 'repairs' might be needed.

Wishing everyone a very HAPPY EASTER as we proclaim: Alleluia. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia! *Sue Willetts*

For Further Information please contact our Vicar

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April 2018 News, Views and Calendar

Church Services in April Every Sunday Morning.

8am

Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book
(BCP)

10am Services.

Apr 1st **Easter Sunday.** Holy Communion
& Sunday Club
Apr 8th Morning Worship
Apr 15th Holy Communion & Sunday Club
Apr 22nd Morning Worship
Apr 29th Holy Communion & Sunday Club

Every Wednesday Morning. 9.30am.

Holy Communion (said)

Morning Prayer.

Every Monday and Friday 8.45am – 9.15

Parish Breakfast.

April 22nd 8.50am. Please come along

Home Groups

Thursday Ladies' study group

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

Christian Aid Lunch

29th April 12.30pm
Knighthorpe Rd.
Methodist Church



**The next
Messy Church
Will be on 14th April
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

4th April NO Meeting
11th April
**18th April NO
MEETING**
25th April

Spring Concert

In spite of the terrible weather on the night (Frost and heavy snow) over 40 people came along to the concert, and had a very enjoyable evening. Thank you to all who provided the entertainment on the night, and those who helped on the night. In total £240 was raised for the Church developments. Look out for our next concert on September 29th.

Gardener's Coffee Morning.

Appeal for help! The event will take place on Saturday 12th May 10 am till noon at the church. If you are growing plants etc. for the event thank you, if not and you want to do, please start planting now. Everything grown and donated will help to boost the day and of course the takings. Do come along for an enjoyable time, share a chat over a coffee and buy your garden plants.

Annual Parish Meeting.

This took place on Palm Sunday following the morning service. Church wardens and members of the PCC were elected, as were all those who sit on committee's and undertake duties on rota's. Please see the notices on the board in the church giving details of those appointed. There are still vacancies on the PCC and if you would like to consider joining and serving the church in this way, please speak to Sue. Following the meeting a hot lunch was provided by the social committee and was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all concerned.

Dates for the diary.

May 12th Gardeners Coffee Morning. May 13th 80th Celebration Service 10am followed by lunch
May 10th – 20th Thy Kingdom Come, National Prayer Event. Details to follow
July 7th Summer Fete in the Church Grounds, BBQ, stalls and lots more. More info to follow
30th August Holiday Club all week.
September 29th Autumn Concert. Sept 30th Celebration Service 10am. Invites will go out to those who have had past connections with the church.

More is planned for us all to celebrate this 80th Anniversary of the Church. A busy but a wonderful way to celebrate, and give thanks to God for his work in the Parish.