



**The Good Shepherd
Loughborough**



March 2020

Welcome to the Good Shepherd Church, we do hope that you will enjoy our worship together. This 'IN Focus' leaflet has lots of information to help you know more about our Church and please visit our website for even more at www.goodshepherdloughborough.org.uk

Contacts

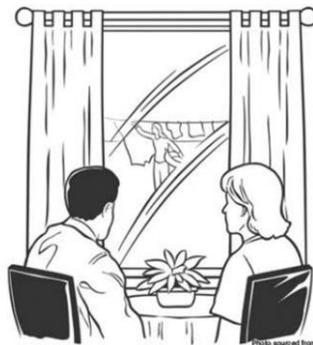
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Thought for the Month

As we move through Lent, it seems to me that we have an opportunity to learn a lot about ourselves. Taking the time to reflect more deeply on the 10 Commandments or 'Words' from God will undoubtedly help us.

Paul Coelho suggests this story to help us think about this: *A young couple moved into a new town. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her new neighbour hanging the washing outside. "That laundry is not very clean; she doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better washing powder." Her husband looked on, remaining silent.*



Every time her neighbour hung her washing out to dry, the young woman made the same comments. A month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she's finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?" The husband replied, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life...what we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look. So, don't be too quick to judge others, especially if your perspective of life is clouded by anger, jealousy, negativity or unfulfilled desires. "Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are."

As we learn more about who we are, the more we can ask Jesus to help us to become more like him. The 10 Commandments are the beginning of Israel's 'Rule of Life', the kind of scaffolding that is going to help them live the very best life they can live together and with God. Scaffolding is used in two ways, firstly to build a new building and secondly, when there is a need to repair a building. Perhaps you have your own 'Rule' already, the kind of everyday ideas and practices that help you live your life well, so that you are always looking through clean windows!

If you haven't, take the chance to listen to the scaffolding God put in place for the Israelites, and that Jesus encouraged and developed in his teaching too. Or maybe you need some re-scaffolding at the moment as life is difficult and stressful. Whichever it may be, take courage in both hands this Lent to build some scaffolding – I suspect you'll be very glad you did!

Sue Willetts

Diary

Sun 1 Mar	8am Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion 6pm Lent Group	<i>Exodus 20.1 – 17</i> <i>Mark 12.28 – 34</i>
Mon 2 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer	
Wed 4 Mar	9.30am Holy Communion	
Fri 6 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer	
Sun 8 Mar	8am Holy Communion 10am Morning Worship 6pm Lent Group	<i>2 Kings 5.20 - 27</i> <i>Exodus 20.1 - 7</i>
Mon 9 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer 9.30am Messy Church Planning	
Wed 11 Mar	9.30am Holy Communion 2.30pm Wednesday Friendly AGM & Tea and Chat	
Fri 13 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer	
Sat 14 Mar	8.30am Prayer Breakfast	
Sun 15 Mar	8am Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion 6pm Lent Group	<i>Luke 6.6 - 11</i> <i>Exodus 20.1 – 11</i>
Mon 16 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer 9.30am Pastoral Team Meeting	
Wed 18 Mar	9.30am Holy Communion	
Fri 20 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer	
Sat 21 Mar	4.30pm Messy Church	
Sun 22 Mar	Mothering Sunday 8am Holy Communion 8.50am Parish Breakfast	<i>Ruth 1.6 - 22</i>

Sun 22 Mar	10am Morning Worship	<i>Exodus 20.1 – 12</i>
Mon 23 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer	
Wed 25 Mar	9.30am Holy Communion Wednesday Friendly – Spring Lunch	
Thur 26 Mar	7.30pm PCC Meeting	
Fri 27 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer	
Sun 29 Mar	8am Holy Communion 10am Holy Communion 6pm Lent Group	<i>2 Samuel 12.1 - 10</i> <i>Exodus 20.1 – 15</i>
Mon 30 Mar	8.45am Morning Prayer	

Mission Focus

Pray for Beacon Academy and the area around it.

Give thanks for the new head teacher, Catherine Gadd, and all the staff who are helping the school make improvements.

We have lots of opportunities to help the school:



- Sue is able to take assemblies regularly. She also serves on the Board of Governors.
- On Monday lunch times we run SupaClub for 35 minutes. This year we are running 6-week courses for specific year-groups, starting with Year 6 and then 5. Now it will be Year 4 (age 8-9). This gives us opportunity to introduce them to the Bible and tell them some important stories.
- Pray, Bake, Read is up and running. Cakes are appreciated by the staff, and most club helpers stay on after club to hear children read.
- Perhaps there are other things we could do. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity.

As we continue in our Resourcing Church Partnership with Emmanuel, please pray that God will show how we can work towards planting a worshipping community based in that area of Shelthorpe. This is a BIG challenge! But God can do more than we ask or think.