



**THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LOUGHBOROUGH**

E-news
Week beg. 1 November
All Saints Day

The Collect for this Sunday

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are praying for the people who live and work in Fishpond Way, Freesia Close and Carnation Road this week.

All Soul's Memorial Service

It is not possible for us to meet for this service as usual, but the pain and loss of bereavement does not go away. Attached is a short service that we can all use this afternoon or evening to remember loved ones. Please pray especially for the families that we have ministered to in their bereavement in recent times.



Prayers

This week please pray for the families of Roman and Poppy who were baptised around this time last year, and also for all the couples whose banns we have called in the past or were preparing to call, who have had to postpone their weddings. Pray too for those whose expectations had to change for their wedding day but whose commitment to each other encouraged them to change their plans and get married anyway.

Looking forwards...

Following last week's first service in Church, we will continue to have services at 9.15am and 11am, whilst restrictions allow. We will follow the pattern of Holy Communion on a 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays and a Service of the Word on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. If you do wish to come to church on any Sunday, please don't forget that you must reserve your seat for that day, by ringing our telephone booking line, **07598 967235** on the Thursday before between 11am and 1pm – and ensure that you speak to the person on duty – please do not leave a message.



A very Happy Birthday to Sandra Lockwood on Thursday!

Remembrance Sunday

We will be holding services of Remembrance on 8 November, but as not everyone will be able to come to those, and there are no public acts of Remembrance in the town this year, we have been thinking about how we can still remember. Perhaps one way is to put a poppy in your window? Enclosed this week is a poppy-making kit in the post, or a printable version by email, that you could use to help those in your community to join in with remembering the fallen.

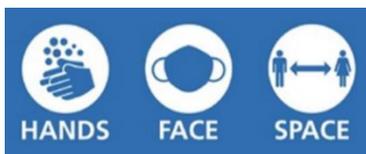


Loughborough Streets of Light

How many homes did you see with decorated windows last week – what did yours look like? Here is the Vicarage version.

Opening Church for Prayer and Services

The PCC is sure that everyone is very grateful to those who are making this happen each week by stewarding, cleaning and 'manning' the mobile phone so seats can be reserved. However, at the moment this is a very small group of people and they are concerned for their well-being as this unusual time for us all continues. We urgently need some more volunteers to be able to sustain what we are currently doing – might this be you? Looking after the phone calls reserving seats for instance, could be someone who is at home and cannot yet come to the building. If you think that you may be able to help in any way, even if it is only once every month or two, please do be in touch with Sue, 215042 or Mick Gregory, 557262 so that we can ensure everyone's well-being over time.



Remember – If you have any Covid-19 symptoms, you must self-isolate and obtain a test. Remember, Hands, Face, Space



Hymns and Songs for 1 November – All Saints' Day

This week's three hymns to use with the Autumn Worship leaflet are: **For all the saints** (No.109 in Songs of Fellowship – track 1 on the Festivals and Favourites CD), **Open our eyes, Lord** (No.443 in Songs of Fellowship – track 50 on the Good Shepherd Songs CD) and **Lord, I come to you** ((No.895 in Songs of Fellowship – track 39 on the Good Shepherd Songs CD)

Prayers led by Sue Lymn-Brewin

Today is All Saints Day, so we turn our thoughts to the Saints, both from the past and in the present.

Dear God,

Looking back to the Saints from the Bible and from history, we know that Saints did great and wonderful things. Some suffered and died in your service. Many faced hardship and persecution. But they all had one thing in common – they loved you deeply and devoutly.

Today, Lord, we want to thank you for the example of the Saints. In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul said we are all called to be saints. In a culture where we are supposed to be modest and self-effacing it is hard, therefore, for us to imagine ourselves as your saints. Help us to remain humble yet realise our value to you, as your children. Help us to seek to do wonderful things in your service. In these strange and difficult times help us to fulfil our potential as Christians, so that we reach out to others to disciple, to support and to encourage. We may not all be able to aspire to great works in your service, but in a time when we are increasingly forced to isolate from one and other, let your Holy Spirit guide us to find ways to show our love for one another in small acts of kindness.

In his letter to the Philippians Paul said "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." So, Lord, today we bring our cares and concerns and lay them at your feet.

We pray for hospital staff and care-workers, who, although they are tired and possibly emotionally affected by their work in the first wave of this pandemic, are now called to step up yet again as the situation worsens. Sustain them in their vital work, Lord, let them rest peacefully so that they can face the challenges of each day refreshed. We pray too, Lord, for all people in hospital, either for Covid related illness or for other treatments. Hold them close Lord, and let them feel the comfort of your presence in their time of need.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all people who have faced hardship during this crisis. We think of families who have suffered financially and may be struggling for food, and as the weather now turns, for warmth. We remember those who may have the invisible scars of loneliness or anxiety, and for those who have lost loved ones during a time when it has been difficult to hold funerals. Not all hurt can be seen by us, Lord, but we know that you see all, and that you will comfort and provide.

We pray for all people in positions of leadership, from Sue at our church, to those in education and business. In each very different sphere, leaders are being tested daily in making decisions and arrangements which none of them could have imagined a year ago. Lift and sustain them all in their challenging work, dear Lord, give them courage to be bold, wise and vigilant without losing sight of the well-being of the people they lead.

Importantly too, we turn our prayers to leaders in government, both local and national. They too are dealing with unimaginable pressure to make vital choices on behalf of us all. So we ask that you guide them in their work, and enable them to secure the best medical and financial outcomes possible. This year has already seemed so long, dear Lord, and many of us are becoming weary of living under rules and restrictions. As Christians, we have the advantage of knowing that you will provide for our needs, so help us to remain sensible and cautious in order to play our part in reducing the spread of this virus.

As we offer these prayers to you, dear Lord, speak to our hearts to remind us that each of us can be your saints in our daily lives as your children. Please help us to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ, to conform ourselves to his image, and to seek to do your will in all things, and to devote ourselves and all that we do, to your glory.
Amen.

