



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

21st April 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

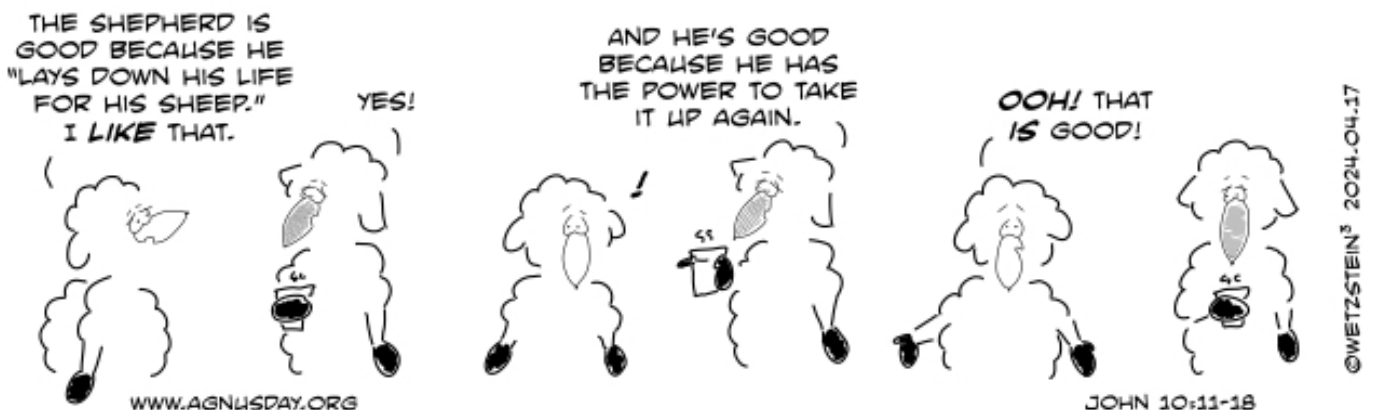
Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. There does seem to be a little more space in between the storms and showers at the moment. This has been a huge relief, not just to those wanting to get out and mow the lawn (!) but also to farmers and growers. The wet weather has prevented machinery getting onto the land, and has made for a very difficult lambing season. Shepherds – both the employed and those who own their own flocks – have had many cold, wet days and nights trying to keep tiny new lambs and the ewes alive and well.

Verse 13 of Sunday's gospel reading from John has always seemed harsh to me. "*The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.*" I've known plenty of shepherds who would qualify as 'hired hands' – contractors and full-time employees who have been soaked to the skin and exhausted and achy in order to care for someone else's sheep. Many years ago I watched as rising floodwater took out a raised bank of the river Nith, inundating the fields beyond. The water rushed towards a flock of 'on tack' ewes faster than a man could run. But the stockmen ran anyway and at considerable risk to themselves they drove the ewes to safety and returned, soaking wet despite their coats and leggings. "Hired hands" every one of them, completely undeterred by not owning the sheep.

My over-simplistic reading of the passage is unhelpful, as usual. Jesus is not suggesting that those who don't own the sheep will always fail them. Not all hired hands are cowards. But he is telling us that he – the good shepherd - has a very specific and different relationship to the flock, because it was entrusted to him by his Father. To several different flocks, in fact, all entrusted into his care. Different sorts of sheep, grazing different hills, gathered into different sheepfolds, and he is responsible for bringing them all together.

The love that he shows for those flocks – the care and protection that he offers – the dedication and devotion that means that they recognise his voice – the willingness to die for them – these are the defining marks of the ultimate shepherd. All that is asked of the sheep is that we hear his voice and know him, and he will overcome death for us.

With every blessing, Anne
07864938898
rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk



Family and Community News

Spring Fair at St. Martin's
Saturday 20th April - 12noon-2pm
Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments and Fun!

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch at the Wye Inn (contact the office so that we can book the table)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

Making Room is a new initiative based at St Martin's which, whilst it will not offer any formal professional mental health treatment, will offer a safe space to express any worries you may have. *Making Room* is intended for people of working age, and is about making room to have safe discussions about our mental wellness, making room to support one another, making room for mindfulness and to start or share any hobbies and interests and making room to offer hope. If you are interested in joining us please contact us and we can discuss plans further. If you wish to volunteer equally please do get in touch. *Rev'd Lauren Bell* curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk 07429 862444

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 26th April & 10th May

Bonus Ball Scheme

The next payment for the bonus ball scheme is due at the beginning of April, for the period April to September 2024. If you do not pay by standing order, could you please your £26 for each ball you have to the office by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to St Martin with St Francis Roof Account. Alternatively, you can pay directly to the account, sort code 30-80-55, account number 42121368. There are numbers available if you wish to increase your chances of winning and to raise more money for the church. Please contact the office or myself. Many thanks for your support,

Sue Cockroft

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Gill	James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W	Brenda B
Sue	Brooke	Christina	Betty	Mandy	Hazel	Ian

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Barbara. Joe. Grace. Hugo. Dean. Kjay.

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Australia - Most Revd Geoffrey Smith.

Hereford: Pray for the development of shared ministry in our churches, including the Local Ministry Scheme, study opportunities and shared resources and good practice: for all that helps stimulate faith, support teamwork and motivate action.

Porvoo: England: Blackburn, Bishop Philip North, Bishop Jill Duff; Scotland: Brechin, Bishop Andrew Swift; The Lutheran Church in Great Britain: Bishop Paulina Hlawiczka-Trotman.

South Wye: Please pray for the clergy, ministers, and congregations of all the churches in South Wye

The Wider View: The issue of migrants in small boats remains in the news, and is likely to feature as an election issue. Over 90% of “small boat migrants” seek asylum; historically some two-thirds of claims have been accepted, but there is a major backlog despite attempts to deal with this. The “peak season” for Channel crossing begins in May. Pray that all in genuine need of refuge may find it. Pray for those running in today’s London Marathon, especially for those running to raise funds for charities.

International Mother Earth Day is kept on Monday. To speak of the Earth as our mother (a phrase used by Francis of Assisi among others) affirms the fact that we have only this one planet, which we share with many other forms of life. The day seeks to raise awareness of the challenges before us, and of the responsibility we share to promote harmony with the natural world, and to have in mind the needs of future generations of humanity.

Tuesday is St George’s Day: pray we may be proud of our heritage, and that this may be expressed in a generous spirit that honours the rights and freedoms of all. English Language Day is also celebrated on Tuesday, a reminder that English was the language of Shakespeare, who was born on this day. Give thanks for English is a vital means of global communication in the modern world, but also as a language of literature, full of beauty and possibility.

Wednesday is Beep Beep Day, organised by the charity Brake to help ensure the safety of children aged 2 to 9 on our roads. The aim is both to teach young children basic road safety skills, in schools and nurseries, and also to raise the issue with parents, to ensure they know what is good practice. Pray for all that encourages road safety.

Thursday is World Malaria Day, focusing attention on one of the major killer diseases of our world. Global travel and climate change may impact on malaria (and several other diseases) by allowing the spread of species of mosquito into new areas. Pray for the continued investment and sustained political commitment that will be needed for malaria to be prevented and controlled.

Thursday also commemorates Mark the Apostle, writer of the shortest of our Gospels, with a refreshing directness and a sense of urgency. Pray for all our use of the Bible, and for study groups, etc, in our churches.

The poet Christina Rossetti is remembered on Saturday. Give thanks for all who by their poetry inspire our thought, our prayers and our praise.

**Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio
For the week beginning 21st April**

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin’s Facebook page

Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin’s

11.15am Holy Communion at St. Peter’s

Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin’s Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin’s Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin’s and the St. Peter’s Facebook pages and the St. Martin’s YouTube channel later in the day.

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

BBC H&W 8am Sunday Worship.

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship- HMP Wandsworth

BBC 1 1.25pm Songs of Praise- Faith and Service

Prayer for the day:

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Collect for 4th Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings for 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." ¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

1 John 3: 16-end

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

John 10: 11-18

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Bible Study based on Acts 4: 5-12

Bible notes

Peter, with John, took a lame man by the right hand 'and raised him up' in Jesus' name (3:1-10), and explained to the crowds at the Temple that 'this perfect health' was the work of the risen Jesus, 'the Author of life' (3:11-26). 'The priests, the captain of the Temple, and the Sadducees' are displeased at this teaching about resurrection, arrest Peter and John, and hold them in custody overnight (4:1-4). In the morning, the Council gathers to interrogate them. The listing of parties, 'rulers, elders, and scribes', and the naming of people, 'Annas the high-priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family', emphasise the political and religious power of those assembled, as well as their networks of personal influence. In contrast, the disciples invoke only 'the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead' (v.10). This makes clear the contrast between worldly power, self-serving and death-dealing, and spiritual power that enabled a lame beggar to walk, leap, and praise God.

The apostles noticed a beggar neglected by the authorities, and his new life proclaims the resurrection that so annoyed them. This is the pattern of Psalm 118, quoted here and elsewhere in the New Testament. It is the rejected stone that becomes the cornerstone (Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42; 1 Peter 2:7). It is Jesus, 'humble, and mounted on a donkey' (Matthew 21:5) who is acclaimed: 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord' (Psalm 118:26; Matthew 21:8-9; Mark 11:9; Luke 19:38; John 12:13).

Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help. Social media influencers such as Justin Bieber or Ariana Grande, with many millions of followers, wield considerable power when they recommend a particular brand or lifestyle. Indeed, for some it can be a very lucrative career choice. However, while an influencer's endorsement may affect your consumer choices, when it comes to impacting on your core values and moral behaviour most of us demand a higher standard of authenticity than popularity or media exposure. We justly ask do they model what they advocate? Do they ring true? That's what drew people to listen to Peter or follow Francis of Assisi. Both pointed away from themselves to Jesus. Faith depends more on modelling than marketing. Is that true of you?



Questions

- What circles do you move in? What power and influence do you have?
- Can you think of a time when doing something small has had a big impact?
- What small action could you take this week that might make a positive ripple in your community?

Sudoku (Easier!)

			1					7
	7				3	9		
						1	2	6
		9	6	1				3
5			2		4	6		
				5	8	4	9	
					5		8	
	9	6						
						3		2

8		6					3	7
					8			
		7			3		8	
			8	9				6
4	5			1		2		
		1	3		2			
9				5				
1					9			
	7	3			6			5

7	5	4	9	8	1	3	6	2
8	9	6	7	3	2	5	1	4
1	3	2	4	6	5	7	8	9
2	6	7	3	5	8	4	9	1
5	1	3	2	9	4	6	7	8
4	8	9	6	1	7	2	5	3
3	4	8	5	7	9	1	2	6
6	7	1	8	2	3	9	4	5
9	2	5	1	4	6	8	3	7

2	7	3	4	8	6	9	1	5
1	6	5	2	3	9	8	7	4
9	8	4	7	5	1	3	6	2
6	9	1	3	4	2	7	5	8
4	5	8	6	1	7	2	9	3
7	3	2	8	9	5	1	4	6
5	2	7	1	6	3	4	8	9
3	4	9	5	7	8	6	2	1
8	1	6	9	2	4	5	3	7

Trickier!

						7		5
				4				
	4			6			3	
9	6							
		5	7			1		
3	7				4			
							5	
	3			8			7	
		8		9		4		1

		1	8					
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	4				1		8	3

7	2	8	3	9	5	4	6	1
5	3	6	4	8	1	9	7	2
4	1	9	6	7	2	8	5	3
3	7	1	9	2	4	5	8	6
2	8	5	7	3	6	1	9	4
9	6	4	1	5	8	3	2	7
1	4	7	5	6	9	2	3	8
8	5	3	2	4	7	6	1	9
6	9	2	8	1	3	7	4	5

5	4	9	7	6	1	2	8	3
3	1	7	2	4	8	6	5	9
2	8	6	3	5	9	4	1	7
4	2	5	9	3	6	8	7	1
1	7	8	4	2	5	9	3	6
9	6	3	1	8	7	5	2	4
7	3	4	5	9	2	1	6	8
8	9	2	6	1	3	7	4	5
6	5	1	8	7	4	3	9	2

Wordsearch based on John 10: 11-18

H	S	B	S	Y	A	L	I	A	X	D	E	H	T	W
D	A	H	L	O	Y	G	I	W	W	C	W	A	X	I
L	R	S	O	R	U	N	S	H	I	A	F	N	T	L
P	C	E	Z	W	A	O	F	O	A	Q	D	D	E	D
Y	A	W	H	U	N	L	V	V	O	O	O	A	O	S
I	R	C	F	P	O	E	Y	R	O	I	V	W	H	E
F	E	S	Y	W	E	B	E	G	D	E	N	S	A	E
F	N	Y	F	X	R	H	V	J	S	F	S	S	B	S
F	O	L	D	I	T	H	S	G	E	U	I	H	R	E
P	Z	S	N	O	I	I	N	W	H	N	P	E	G	Q
A	K	G	J	R	X	N	O	H	C	R	T	E	G	R
R	V	C	E	F	I	L	T	W	T	T	M	P	F	E
T	J	D	O	A	V	L	W	U	A	R	J	U	G	W
H	D	L	L	L	Q	D	M	C	N	L	A	W	S	O
C	C	N	S	Q	F	M	S	S	S	F	X	Y	B	P

GOOD
LAYS
LIFE
HIRED

NOT
SEES
LEAVES
SNATCHES

CARE
BELONG
BRING
FLOCK

SHEPHERD
DOWN
SHEEP
HAND

OWN
WOLF
RUNS
SCATTERS

OTHER
FOLD
VOICE
POWER

Hymns for Sunday 21st April 2024 (Ancient and Modern)
Easter 4

696. Jesus, where'er thy people meet

1 Jesus, where'er thy people meet,
there they behold thy mercy-seat;
where'er they seek thee thou art found,
and every place is hallowed ground.

2 For thou, within no walls confined,
inhabitest the humble mind;
such ever bring thee when they come,
and, going, take thee to their home.

3 Dear Shepherd of thy chosen few,
thy former mercies here renew;
here to our waiting hearts proclaim
the sweetness of thy saving name.

4 Here may we prove the power of prayer
to strengthen faith and sweeten care,
to teach our faint desires to rise,
and bring all heaven before our eyes.

5 Lord, we are few, but thou art near;
nor short thine arm, nor deaf thine ear:
O rend the heavens, come quickly down,
and make a thousand hearts thine own!

William Cowper (1731-1800)

800: The Lord's my Shepherd,

**1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want
He makes me lie in pastures green
He leads me by the still, still waters
His goodness restores my soul
*And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home***

**2 He guides my ways in righteousness
And He anoints my head with oil
And my cup, it overflows with joy
I feast on His pure delights
*And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home***

**3 And though I walk the darkest path
I will not fear the evil one
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know
*And I will trust in You alone
And I will trust in You alone
For Your endless mercy follows me
Your goodness will lead me home***

Stuart Townend (1963)

766: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

**1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the everlasting King.**

**2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia, glorious in his faithfulness.**

**3 Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia, widely as his mercy flows.**

**4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the high eternal One.**

**5 Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia, praise with us the God of grace.**

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

218. *Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son*

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

2 Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

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