



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

4th Sunday of Easter

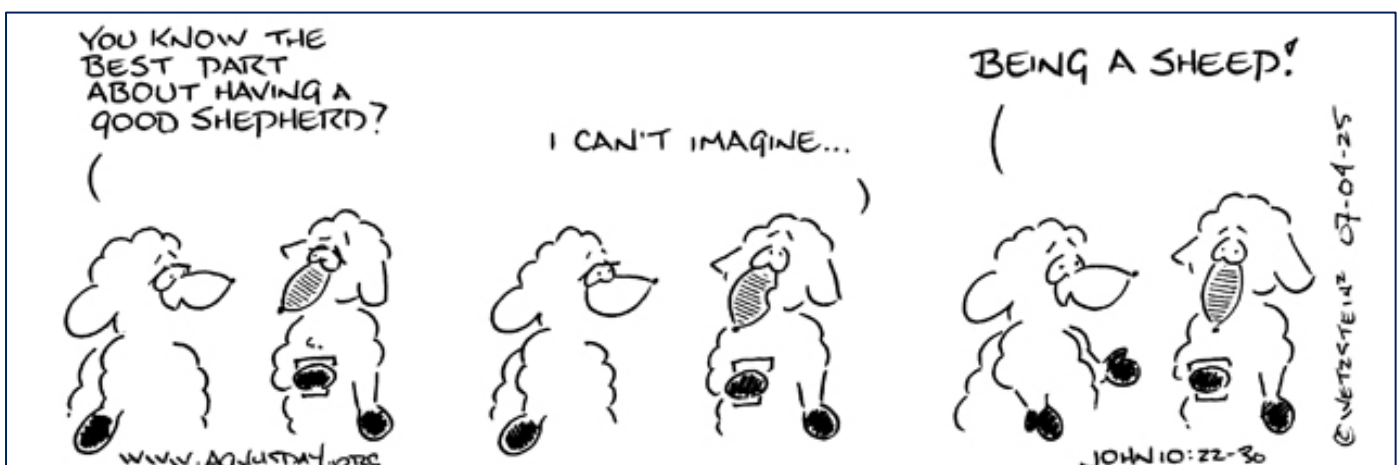
8th May 2022

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

The warmth and sunshine have really got the grass growing, and I've had the suggestion more than once that I should put a few sheep into the Rectory garden to keep the grass down. It's safe to say that these suggestions are not usually coming from people who are very used to sheep – nor are they the people who would be helping me to retrieve the sheep when they inevitably ended up trotting down the Ross Road or grazing the verge outside McDonalds! As I was once woken up in a previous home by the police because my goats had escaped and tried to follow one of my neighbours onto the bus, I think that I'll stick to getting lovely John in to mow the lawn.

Sheep can be a little unpredictable. They don't always respect the fences, even when the fences are there to protect them from the traffic. They don't always appreciate the shepherd's attempts to keep them safe and healthy. I may be just about to push this analogy to breaking point, but be prepared to hear much more about sheep over the next few weeks – they crop up quite a bit in the scriptures set for our services. As one of those ungrateful sheep, constantly wondering about the grass on the other side of the wire myself, one of the most important things that I can do is listen out for the shepherd, learn the sound of his voice – and get better at heeding it.

With every blessing,
Anne
07864938898



Family and Community News

Confirmation

One part of our planning that has been hit by the pandemic is Confirmation and Admission to Communion. We are trying to get back on track this year, so if you are interested in being confirmed or would like to talk about your children being admitted to communion, please get in touch. If you have already expressed an interest, I will be getting in touch in the next couple of weeks – but don't be afraid to remind me! Anne

Catching up with friends – or making new ones

Coffee Time - Tuesday Afternoons at 2pm in St Martin's – everyone welcome, just drop in

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

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 or Sunday afternoon Tea-Time Praise 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. Tea-Time Praise is at 4pm on the Third Sunday of each month and is an informal service with hymns, prayers, tea and cakes and scripture. Everyone is very welcome to either of these services. The hall has level access and good ventilation.

**The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 13th and 27th May
4pm Tea-Time Praise – 15th May**

Annual Meetings

The annual meetings for our parishes are this month.

St Martin's this Sunday 8th May after the 9:30 service.

St Peter's, Sunday 29th before 4pm Evensong

Everyone welcome

For our Prayers

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

Ann W	Carol	Roger	Dot G	Oliver	Chrissie	John
Hana	Brenda B	Bob	Harry	Jo	Viv	Emma
Daphne	Rob	Marian	Claire	David	Claire	Rose
Claudia	Sue	Brooke	Joan	Maureen	Lindsay	Ken

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Bob.	Ian.	John.	Clive.	Richard.	'Boots'.	Enid
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Anglican Communion: Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda - Most Revd Laurent Mbanda, Archbishop.

Hereford: Give thanks for the ecumenical, interfaith and international links that help define and locate us as a diocese, and pray for their ongoing development.

Porvoo: England: Gloucester, Bishop Rachel Treweek, Bishop Robert Springett; Sweden: Västerås, Bishop Mikael Mogren.

South Wye: Please pray for those who work in retail in our parishes.

The Wider View:

Pray for the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), as it seeks to facilitate safe passage for children and adults across the Israel / Palestine border crossings.

This Week:

Pray for all who will be involved in the Diocesan Vocations Day this Saturday at the Forbury, Leominster, and that all those organising and attending this event may be able to hear the call of God on their lives. National Mills Weekend (7th and 8th May) celebrates the traditional work of millers, and those wind and water mills that remain in use or are being conserved. Give thanks for this important part of our heritage. Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, was born on 8th May 1828, and his birthday is kept as international Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, Give thanks for the vital work of this organisation throughout the world, including war zones. Europe Day on Monday is an occasion to celebrate the peace and stability of our continent. Events this year remind us how fragile and precious these things are; may we be inspired to work together to relieve the impact of war, to oppose tyranny and abuse of power, and to build bridges of lasting peace. World Fair Trade Day this coming Saturday aims to connect customers and producers in over 75 countries worldwide. Pray we may be more aware of the need to use fairly traded products wherever possible, and for fair trade education and awareness, for example in our schools. This week also seeks to raise awareness of food allergies, and also of coeliac disease, thinking especially of the early diagnosis of this condition in children. Pray for research, resources and understanding. Pray for all who provide foster care for children, giving thanks for the passion, commitment, and dedication of those who do this work. Thousands of new foster families are needed each year to care for children, with the greatest need being for foster carers for older children, sibling groups, disabled children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Mental Health Awareness Week this week concentrates on the impact of loneliness on mental health: pray for all who struggle with being alone.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 8th May

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8am Morning Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page
8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

Sunday 8th May

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's
11.15am Family Service at St Peter's

Thursday 12th May

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 8th May;

BBC H&W	8am	Sunday Worship.
Radio 4	8.10am	Sunday Worship – 'Love Took My Hand', a celebration of George Herbert
BBC 1	1.15pm	Songs of Praise – Spring Harvest

Prayer for the day:

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

Prayer for the Nation

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops 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 [churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](https://www.churchofengland.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

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

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.

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

Revelation 7: 9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Acts 9: 36-end

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

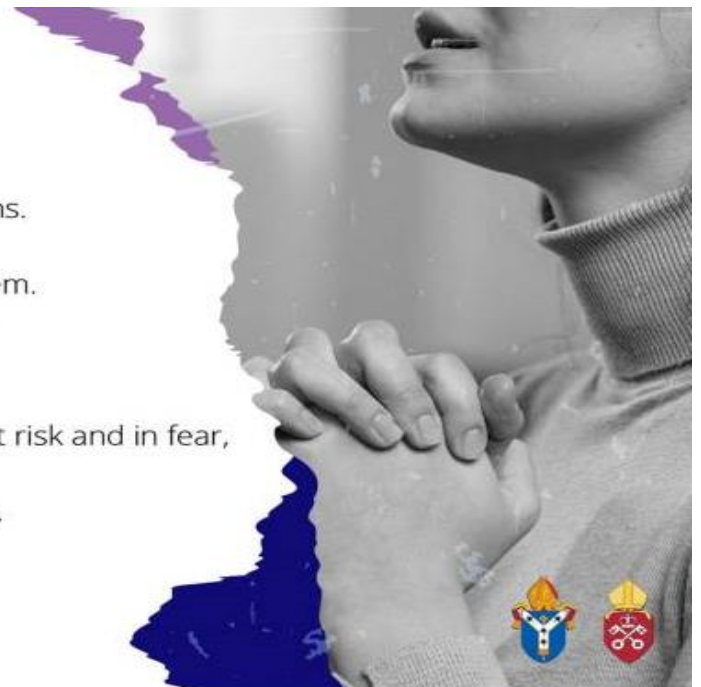
John 10: 22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah,^[a] tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



Bible Study based on Revelation 7: 9-17

Start by reading the Bible notes below. You may want to read them more than once, or pause after each paragraph to reflect on what you have read.

Bible notes

Before coming to this passage, we need to understand the context. Following his vision of the worship of God and the Lamb (chapters 4 and 5), John sees the Lamb opening the first six of the seven seals on the scroll representing God's purposes (chapter 6). Past, present, and future interweave in these visions. The slaughtered Lamb raised to God's throne has already accomplished God's purposes; that is, Jesus unrolled the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and announced, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled' at the beginning of his earthly ministry (Luke 4.16-21). However, God's purposes are not yet fully accomplished, and there is 'an eternal gospel' to proclaim, 'to every nation and tribe and language and people' (Revelation 14.6). The opening of the first six seals revealed the ways in which human beings will slaughter one another and how the souls of faithful cry out, 'how long will it be before you judge?' (Revelation 6.8-11).

Now, in chapter 7, there is another vision of the worship of God and the Lamb. In it those who have been faithful to death are no longer crying out 'How long?' but are before God's throne, worshipping night and day. This divine throne room is eternal in heaven but yet to come on earth. It is more enduring than the throne of Rome, despite the hailing of Vespasian as 'benefactor', 'saviour', and the 'only worthy emperor' (Josephus, *The Jewish War* 7.71). John's images recall worship in the Jerusalem Temple, destroyed by Vespasian's son Titus: the Lamb and the palm branches (v.9) suggest the Passover festival. There are remarkable paradoxes here: The slaughtered Lamb is also the Lord, the shepherd who leads to life (v.17; and, of course, Psalm 23). As in the Book of Hebrews, Jesus is both the sacrifice and the high priest. And the white robes representing God's approval are washed in red blood, a symbolic nod to the testimony that both blood and water flowed from Jesus' pierced side (John 19.34; 1 John 5.6-8).

Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

In folktales, animals are often assigned human characteristics. Foxes are seen as cunning and The compelling visions of Revelation set the everyday events of our lives within the great drama of the victory of the Lamb of God over 'the deceiver of the whole world' (Revelation 12.9). In this light – which is that of Jesus himself – we can see that every decision we make, as individuals and as church communities, is caught up in this struggle. We choose either to worship the Lamb, serving those who hunger and thirst, or to worship the deceiver, subtly serving our own self-interest and the idols, perhaps, of comfort and money, prestige and success, to which we are all too attached.



Questions for reflection

- What does the turtle in this photo symbolise for you?
- Have there been times in your life where you have had to just keep going?
- What aspects of your faith sustain you in difficult times?

Sudoku (Easier!)

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(Trickier!)

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Wordsearch based on Acts 9: 36-end

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JOPPA REQUEST
WEEPING GREEK
DEVOTED PRAYED
HELPED UPSTAIRS
PETER SIMON

DISCIPLE
TUNICS
CHARITY
SAINTS

WIDOWS
DORKAS
OPENED
LYDDA

TABITHA
OUTSIDE
WASHED
ALIVE