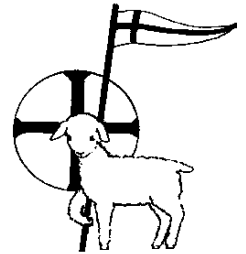


Church of St John the Baptist, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 3rd May 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

From Canon Judy Anderson, Licensed Lay Minister

One of the joys of walking regularly in the recent beautiful spring weather has been seeing the lambs playing in the fields - and watching them grow! This lovely picture was taken by Juliette on one of her walks.



In the Bible, God's people are frequently referred to symbolically as sheep, and God as the shepherd: 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.' Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.' In forgiving Peter for his denial and reinstating him to the inner circle of the disciples, Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.' And the parable of the lost sheep makes it clear that if any of us does stray away from him, Jesus, the good shepherd, will come looking for us.

Today's Gospel passage is based on this analogy. We are the sheep, safe in God's fold. Jesus, our shepherd, knows each of us by name; he cares for us and leads us in the right paths. 'I am the gate,' he says. It's through him that we enter into God's sheepfold, that we're saved and have eternal life. But there are

others, thieves and bandits, who may try to deceive us and lead us astray. These may take the form of worldly temptations which distract us, or of difficulties which may deceive us into thinking that God has abandoned us and left us to struggle alone.

Today we need to hold fast to the knowledge that Jesus is our shepherd, that he is the gate to peace and fulfilment, that he cares for us to the point of giving his life for us. In all the trials we may face, we are sustained by his promise: 'I came that [you] may have life, and have it abundantly.' May you know the love and protection of Christ, the good shepherd, in your heart in the coming days and weeks.

From the Revd Juliette Hulme, Parish Priest

Dear Friends,

Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers and hoping you have had a good week. We hope to see you at our Sunday Benefice service and also perhaps at our VE day service on Friday at 10am.

With love and prayers, *Juliette*

Today at 9.30am Benefice Communion

President: The Revd Joanna Naish Preacher: The Revd Tina Fox

Hymns: *Ye choirs of new Jerusalem; The King of love my shepherd is; To God be the glory*

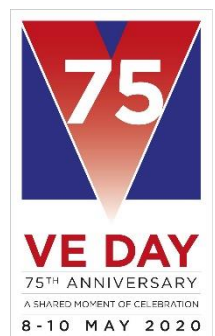
Stuart and Heather Robinson have added to their recordings of Easter hymns. Do listen - they may be found via the church website

Regular services during the week are shown overleaf – all welcome!

Friday 8th May at 10am Service for the 75th anniversary of VE Day

Do join us for this online service, before the televised national commemoration at 11am. The Zoom code and password are the same as for all our services (see over). Materials for use on Friday will be sent to you during the week.

Next Sunday, 10th May The Fifth Sunday of Easter
9.30am Benefice Communion



The Revd Juliette Hulme, Team Vicar
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The Collect for the Fourth 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. Amen.

The New Testament Reading: Acts 2.42-47

The Gospel: John 10.1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Services online in the Nadder Valley Benefice

You are very welcome to join us online via Zoom for any of our services, using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84966332040>

Password: 039012

Sundays at 09.30

Mon 08.30, Tues-Thu 08.00, Sat 09.00

Fridays at 08.00

Wednesdays at 10:00

Mon-Sat at 17.30

Benefice Communion (CW)

Morning Prayer

Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Communion (CW)

Evening Prayer

If you don't have internet access, you can join by phone on 0203 051 2874. The meeting code is 849 6633 2040; you may be asked for the password, too: 039012

Calls are charged at national rate, but they may be included in your telephone package.

The orders of service for Benefice Communion / Holy Communion can be obtained via email from the parish administrator (contact details overleaf).

A Prayer for use during the Covid-19 Coronavirus Outbreak

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayer requests

We continue to pray for all affected in any way by Covid-19. If there is someone for whom you would particularly like prayer for this or any other reason, please contact either Juliette or Judy (see over). If you would like us to pray for them during one of the online services, please obtain their consent for this. Or we can hold them in our private prayers.

Thought for the day

Did you know that, each day, a thought written by a member of the Nadder Valley ministry team is published on Facebook, and appears also on the church website?

If you need support

As always, the Revd Juliette Hulme (Parish Priest) is available to give pastoral and spiritual support (see over)

Tisbury Neighbourhood Response may be phoned on 01747 684010

Other useful numbers with trained listeners (calls to these numbers are free):

The Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 1111

Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

Silverline (age 55+) 0800 4 70 80 90

Focus magazine

You will have realised that Focus was not printed in April, and there will be no hard copies in May, either. You can read Focus, free of charge, on a temporary website: www.tisburyfocus.com Our thanks to Monica and the team for working so hard to provide this facility.