

Sunday April 26th 2015



The United Benefice of Long Crendon, Chearsley & Nether
Winchendon

WELCOME EVERYONE: MAY YOU BE BLESSED TODAY

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. *Psalms 23*



Loving Shepherd of thy Sheep,
Keep thy lamb, in safety keep
Nothing can thy power withstand,
none can pluck me from thy hand.

Introduction

The image of Jesus shown above is typical of many early examples of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Pictures of Jesus like this carrying a lamb on his shoulders can be found in the catacombs and on early grave stones. The Christian is shown to have Christ as the support. Then a change takes place, later pictures show Jesus the Good Shepherd cradling the church. We can see how an understanding develops of Christ working through the church, rather than the individual. Sheep listened to the church, obeyed the minister and were cared for.

Perhaps we need to move away from the idea of being looked after by clergy and rediscover that we all have service to do ourselves. We all have a mission and ministry and are called to serve. Christians move in the power of God and we are to grow as we each serve and fulfil our responsibilities to Christ.

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.



Readings for Today:

Acts 4: 5-12: First Reading

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, 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, 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. This Jesus is

“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.”

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

New Testament Reading: 1 John 3: 16 - end

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 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?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

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. 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.

Gospel Reading: John 10: 11-18

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 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.’

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Services Today: April 26th Easter 4

8.00am	Holy Communion	Long Crendon	JW
10.30am	Sung Eucharist	Long Crendon	JW
	Followed by the APCM		
10.00am	Family Service	Chearsley	JS
6.00pm	Evensong (shortened)	Nether Winchendon	JW
	Followed by the APCM		

Services Next Week: May 3rd Easter 5

8.00am	Holy Communion	Long Crendon	JW
10.00am	Café Sunday	Long Crendon	
9.00am	Holy Communion	Nether Winchendon	AB
10.00am	Holy Communion	Chearsley	AB

The priests's task is to shepherd the sheep. The sheep's task is to live sheepfully among the goats.



Friends of St. Mary's, Long Crendon
and
Aylesbury Opera Group presents
A Night at the Opera
St Mary's Church, Long Crendon
Saturday 9th May 2015 at 7.30pm

A concert programme featuring a quartet of local, professional singers accompanied at the piano by Anthony McCarthy. The programme will comprise famous and popular arias and ensembles from across the opera repertoire, including Handel, Mozart, Rossini and Verdi.

www.FSMLongCrendon.org

for tickets at £10 each e-mail Friends@FSMLongCrendon.org
or just call Lindsey Kennedy on 290602.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy popular opera music in a brilliant setting. See you there.

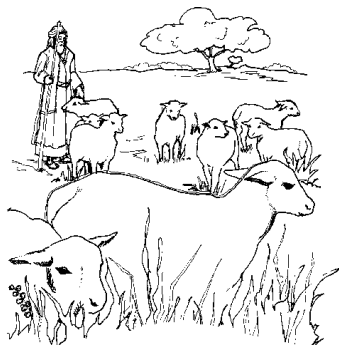
LOOKING AHEAD



MAY DAY MADRIGALS
at St. Mary's Long Crendon
and Teas
at Nether Winchendon.

Start the Bank Holiday Monday by coming to listen to Madrigals sung from St. Mary's Church Tower at 8.30am by the Witchert Chorale. Be there! Coffee and rolls served.

Then, in the afternoon from 2.30pm – wend your way to St. Nicholas Church, Nether Winchendon, where delicious afternoon teas will be served.



Prayer

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd, and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action. Believe in the name of Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he has commanded us. And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death. May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life. And may the Holy Spirit abide in youand tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life.