

## THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

GREAT YARMOUTH MINSTER, ST PAUL'S, ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

There are no public services at the moment. Do make time for your own prayers.  
Remember that although you may be isolated, no Christian is ever alone.

### Parish Office:

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## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is often called 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because we hear Jesus describe himself as the Good Shepherd in today's Gospel. A good shepherd who will care for every one of his flock, even to the point of giving up his life for them. It does feel at the moment that we could really use a good shepherd - and as Christians, we know that we've got one!

Some artists' depictions of Jesus as a good shepherd are very clean and tidy, but shepherds were, and are, a tough bunch. It wasn't just wafting around leading the sheep to the cool, clear waters and the good, green grass. There was also steering them through the dangerous, dark places, fighting off wild animals, leaving not one single sheep behind. Contrast this with the hired hand, who would not put himself at risk. The Godly Play version of [the Parable of the Good Shepherd](#) is well worth watching.

It feels very comforting to know, that even in these dark and dangerous times we are being cared for by Jesus, and by people joining in that work of the Good Shepherd. Keeping people fed at the Pathway Café, delivering Foodbank parcels to those alone and self-isolating, sewing scrubs for staff at the JPH, making gifts for people living in care homes. All these acts of love are undertaken in full knowledge of the risks and costs to the person doing them, but that sacrificial love that Jesus modelled for us echoes through them. In the words of the Taizé chant [Ubi Caritas](#): wherever charity and love are - there is God.

With my prayers for you all,

Mother Helen

*This prayer from the Church of England may be helpful*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake.

**Amen.**



## NOTICES

**Salvation Army Foodbank** needs appropriate food or cash donations: 1-3pm, Mondays & Tuesdays or call 01493 858069.

**Contact During Coronavirus:** Ministry Team are trying to be in touch with church members. If you, or someone you know, is in need please do make contact through the Parish Office: there are volunteers who can help people. If you have prayer requests email or phone the parish office.

**Online:** If you're online you can find the "Parish of Great Yarmouth" on YouTube. We'll also do live streaming on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/GtYarMinster](http://www.facebook.com/GtYarMinster). You don't have to be signed up to Facebook to view these.

**Regular Giving** with no weekly collection plate our income is much decreased. If you wish to set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift, account name PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Yarmouth, sort code 20-99-21 and account number 60425850. Thank you.

**Magazine:** The May magazine is out now, If you haven't received either a paper or electronic copy and would like one, please email the office. Any articles for the magazine can be given to Pat Stringer or emailed, [pat.stringer1@sky.com](mailto:pat.stringer1@sky.com).

**Weekly Bulletin:** This bulletin is emailed every Saturday. Contact Parish Office to be added to our circulation.

**PARISH PRAYER LIST** *If anyone wants someone prayed for, ask any of the Ministry Team or the parish office.*

Pray for those who are sick or in need, all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit or in need of God's loving care: Wendy, Susan, David, Linda & Michael. Pray for those ill with Coronavirus, for our local hospitals and healthcare workers. Pray for our local hospital chaplains. Remember before God the recently departed: Audrey Ellis, Keith McCulley. Pray for Fr Grant Bolton-Debbage as he is licensed to the parish of All Saints Hatcham Park on Monday 4th May at 3:30pm by the Bishop of Southwark.

## COLLECT

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.

## FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

### Acts 2:42-end

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### Or Genesis 7

## PSALM Psalm 23

**R** *I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green  
pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they  
comfort me. **R**  
You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who  
trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with  
oil and my cup shall be full.  
Surely goodness and loving mercy  
shall follow me all the days of my  
life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the  
Lord for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

### Either 1 Peter 2:19-end

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

Brothers and sisters: It is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Or Acts 2:42-end (as above)

## GOSPEL John 10:1-10

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "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."

## POST COMMUNION

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.

[Organ]

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ev - er.