

# Beacon



www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

# Light Online

...linking the Beacon Parishes

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April - 4th Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Harescombe	Holy Communion
10.00am	Pitchcombe	Celebration of Queen's Birthday, St. George & Shakespeare
11.00am	Painswick	Beacon Praise
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Cranham	Evening Worship

*Covid regulations state that indoor services should have plenty of ventilation, which may mean that the church doors remain open throughout the service - **please wear warm clothing**. To reserve seats for Sunday services, please contact your churchwardens. For St. Mary's, please email [lychgateoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:lychgateoffice@btinternet.com) or phone Margaret Radway on 07896 430107*

### Not-the-Rector

In today's gospel, Jesus, living in the first century, is talking to people for whom livestock and agriculture were part of their daily lives, telling his disciples, his friends, us, that he is the Good Shepherd. Perhaps here in the countryside, with its farming connections, we are closer than many to identifying with this image.

Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." This second half of Jesus' Good Shepherd narrative is remarkably tender, vulnerable, and human.

Jesus is telling his disciples then and us now that this is how he cares for us. He's not a leader who is around just long enough to get paid. He's not there to just do the easy work. Jesus the Good Shepherd has come to offer salvation: salvation through love, self-giving, tenderness, and vulnerability.

Jesus the Good Shepherd is tender, affectionate, and vulnerable. As he meets and tends to us this Sunday in the bread and wine of the eucharist, he joins us to his life, the life that he laid down and took back up. Jesus the Good Shepherd knows us as his own, and we know him.

*Revd. Andrew*

### Readings

#### Collect

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **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.

## ***The Gospel according to 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.'

### ***This is the Gospel of the Lord***

How do we know we are loved? By our friends and family? By our God?

Are you able to accept that God knows you and loves you – that we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand?

## Sunday Worship in the media

9.00am	Live worship on the Church of England website <a href="https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online">https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online</a>	
10.15am	Gloucester Cathedral Sunday Eucharist <a href="https://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/">https://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/</a>	
8.10am	Radio 4	Sunday Worship
1.15pm	BBC 2	Songs of Praise

## Beacon People

Our prayers are asked for all who are sick, especially **Andrea Linsell, Peggy Ward and Jennifer Watts**. Pray for all those people, whether they are relatives or friends, who care for the sick and disabled in their own homes, for those undergoing cancer treatment at this time and for all from our churches and villages who work in the NHS and in care homes. We also remember before God all who have died recently, as well as all whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

## Notices

**OneLife/PSALMS Prayer requests:** Give thanks that at the first PSALMS 'Hangout' last Monday we had some 7 young children come along and enjoy the session. It was light touch in terms of faith content, but the aim at the moment is in rebuilding the connection and relationship that were there pre COVID. We are expecting more this week, so pray for this also.

On Thursday this week, we start back ultimate Frisbee Club in Cranham, with another one starting next week in the Croft School. Pray for a good cohort with which to reconnect and build a connection with that has been lost during the last year. This weekend is Beacon Praise, and I will be looking to run some sports before the service, with the view that the children then join me for the service. Pray that this will be a good first step for some families to get involved in the service. With all the practical stuff starting to happen it raises the need for you as partners in the gospel to get involved. Many of you have volunteered with PSALMS before, but as you will know I can't do it all on my own - and so pray for volunteers to assist with the work. In the next 2 weeks we have 5 clubs starting up/starting back, and we need some support.

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**Marah** has continued to provide meals for the homeless and vulnerable in Stroud throughout the pandemic. Lockdown restrictions meant that they had to switch to doing this on a takeaway basis. However the demand has continued to rise and currently they are providing up to 100 cooked meals three days a week. In Painswick we had to suspend the collecting box at the back of St Mary's but the small change collection continues and any money we have been able to send Marah has been very gratefully received. So please continue to save your 5ps, 2ps and 1ps and hand them to Frances Watson (812 071) or Alison Robinson (812086) who will willingly call to collect them if that is easier. Even small amounts are very welcome and help enormously.

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We have planted up several **pots of snowdrops** for anyone who would like some. A small donation to our fund would be much appreciated. They can be found behind the privet hedge in the St. Mary's church garden. Donations to Freda please. *The Garden Committee*

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## Sources of help :

**Cranham Covid-19 Community Response Team:** The initial contact for Cranham residents is: [nigelrobincooper@gmail.com](mailto:nigelrobincooper@gmail.com) Tel: 07973 340227

**St. Mary's Pastoral Link system:** Anyone who is self-isolating or unable to get out, we can help you by getting shopping, prescriptions etc. Please contact Delyth Allen (St. Mary's Pastoral Link Coordinator) on 813182 or 07854262517 or email [delyth\\_allen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:delyth_allen@hotmail.co.uk)

**Painswick Community Support:** The Painswick Covid-19 Community Support initiative set up in March will be providing ongoing community support for Painswick with the same telephone number but an updated e-mail address. If you need support, please contact 07956 203087 or [painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)

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## Weekday Worship

### Each evening:

I invite you to join me in lighting a candle and praying at 6pm.

Prayers can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

### Thursday weekly :

9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom from Sheepscombe

If you would like to join in or would like a copy of the service sheet please email Karen Riding [kriding07@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kriding07@yahoo.co.uk).

### Weekday worship in the media

9.45am Daily Service - Radio 4 (Long Wave)

3.30pm Wednesday Choral Evensong - Radio 3

The Church of England website;

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.

## Services next Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – 5th Sunday of Easter

9.30am Painswick Holy Communion

11.00am Cranham Holy Communion

11.00am Sheepscombe Morning Worship

tba Zoom Evening Prayer

## Contacts

Rector: Revd. Janet Turville Tel:01452 245526 Email: [janetbeacon6@gmail.com](mailto:janetbeacon6@gmail.com)

Associate Priest: Revd. Andrew Leach Tel: 07564 448692 Email: [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com)

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Information for the next Beacon Light Online to [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com) by **Tuesday 5pm at the latest**, please.

## and Finally...

**Seen in a pewsheet:** "The Vicar would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning."