

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news
25 April 2021

EASTER 4

We welcome our visiting priest
Rev'd Canon Dr Sandra Millar



As we come to worship today, let us remember that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, didn't just lay down his life for us, but for many other sheep who he intended to bring into the fold. And

that, even more importantly, having laid down his life, Jesus took it up again, so that we may all become one flock with one shepherd.

So let us welcome all who come in through our church doors and be prepared to share the good news of salvation to those who have not yet experienced the goodness and loving mercy that Jesus has already given us, so that we may all dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Susan

Today's service on YouTube

The service can be listened to as an audio file from the church website www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk. The service will be available from Monday. Click on the blue banner at the bottom of the page. Enjoy, and sing aloud to your hearts content.

Are there restrictions now we are open?

Sadly.... Yes! The rules that apply are as follows

- Wear a face mask.
- Sanitise your hands.
- No singing (except from the heart),
- Observe Social Distancing – the 2m rule.
- **Socialising outdoors is now permitted.**
With no more than 6 people in the bubble.

Sorry to say these rules are necessary.

Next week we welcome
Rev'd Canon Mike Parsons

Order of Service

The Good Shepherd

Processional Hymn

Love's redeeming work is done
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Prayer for Today

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. Amen.

Acts 4 Peter and John before the Council

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This Jesus is

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

¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Prayer: Lord thank You for Peter's clear understanding and brave declaration that we are saved through Jesus alone.
Amen



Psalm 23 The Lord the Shepherd of His People

1 The Lord is my shepherd; **therefore can I lack nothing.**

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures **and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He shall refresh my soul **and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

4 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.**

5 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.**

6 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.**

Prayer: O God, our sovereign and shepherd, who brought again your Son Jesus Christ from the valley of death, comfort us with your protecting presence and your angels of God and love, that we also may come home and dwell with him in your house for ever. Amen.

John 10 Jesus the Good Shepherd

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the



sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶

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. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ 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.'

Prayer: Thank you Lord Jesus for willingly laying down your life for each of us and all of us. Amen

Reflection from Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar

Finding courage

Today's readings came as rather a surprise. The last time we saw Jesus he was on the beach, and now we are hearing about Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

And Peter was vulnerable and anxious, even if still his usual impetuous self – now he is imprisoned, yet boldly telling people they are wrong as he declares the truth about Jesus.

Peter is not alone – he is part of a group of prisoners. They are imprisoned because they have been empowered by the Holy Spirit, have been teaching and healing, and generally stirring things up. Peter's confidence and courage is drawn from his growing sense of just what Jesus has done. Both passages have just a short phrase that reminds us that our faith is based on something very clear. "This Jesus, who was crucified, is raised from the dead." Perhaps Peter is remembering the way Jesus expressed it – I lay down my life in order to take it up again.



Peter has the courage to step out because he knows that whatever happens to him now, Jesus, The Good Shepherd, is with him. We are so caught by his confident proclamation that

we can forget his circumstances. Being imprisoned is never a good place to be. This group of people should have been worried, anxious and afraid – a bit like sheep when they are threatened. The story in Acts tells us the names of people of power, making us think that they are the ones who can change things.

But Peter and Jesus followers have discovered it is Jesus who changes things. In our tough times may we too find courage to keep going when we join with those early disciples and remember that we have a hope in Jesus who overcame death. He is the Good Shepherd who will never desert us, will always look out for us, whether we find ourselves bold like Peter or simply one of the prisoners.

We declare together our commitment to faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Intercessions from Helen McGeoch
Heavenly Father

We thank you for the incredible way you pour out your love for us, for sending the good shepherd to die for us. We thank you for the way you lead and guide us and for the promise that you will never leave us.



In that great love, we come to you with our prayers that reach out to the far corners of our world; for leaders who are struggling to make good decisions for their countries; for the peacemakers fighting against wars; for the families who have lost loved ones in political situations, in natural disasters, because of disease and those who grieve in secret because it would be too dangerous to do it publicly. We especially pray for those in America who now have to work through what the outcome of the trial means for the whole country.

We pray for our own leaders; for coming elections and for those who lead in communities up and down the country. Give them your wisdom and your grace. Guide them through these tough times and bring them to a place where it's not their own agendas they are pushing through, but yours.

We pray for our benefice, for the next few months as we look forward to meeting our new priest. Guide us as we step forward into this new phase and prepare our hearts for the next step of our journey with you.

We pray for our own families and those whom we know are sick or in need this week. In silence we name them in our hearts now... Be with them, and use us if there is a way that we can help.

And for ourselves, God we ask that you will protect us and draw us ever closer to you.

Merciful Father

Offertory Hymn chosen by Helen McGeoch
How great thou art

O Lord my God! when I
in awesome wonder
consider all the works
Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the
mighty thunder,
thy power throughout
the universe displayed:



*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:
Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!
Refrain

After the priest says to us all: “the body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life”, we all respond **Amen.**

A steward will guide you forward.

We each receive a wafer, the priest alone receives the wine on behalf of us all.

We receive Communion with arms outstretched, and in silence.

Please maintain a 2 metre distance at all times.

Final Hymn

Fight the good fight with all thy might!

Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally

Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

Please leave the building immediately after the priest.
Please remember to keep 2 metres apart.

NEWS 25APRIL – 2 MAY

In Memoriam:

Hedley Ringrose (priest), Patricia Fivash,
John Raymond Perris RIP

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Bill, Sarah, Pat, Christine, June, Daphne, Rosemary, Carol, David and Angela, Tony and Jean, David, Sylvia, Margaret & Mark.

Anniversaries of Death:

Maureen Bell, baby Ralph Dre-Pritchard, Ruby Grech, Hannah Crumpler, Norman Cowley, Peter Johnson, William Richardson, Daphne Steer, Wally Jenkins, Lorraine Edwards, Ronald Dennis, Gladys Mitchell, Wendy Gillard, Alan Trenfield, Alan Smith, Gillian Cox, William Saunders, Charles Bell, Lewis Powell, Royston Bodimeade.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Jayne Close 26th, Derek and Sarah Kingscote celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on 1st May

If you would like your birthday or anniversary mentioned in Signpost please let Glenda know.

DIARY DATES

Sun 25			Crossroads available
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Dot Readers: Sylvia C/David Intercessions: Helen
Wed 28	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	2.00pm	Crem	Funeral of the late Patricia Fivash RIP
Thu 29	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
Sun 2			EASTER 5
	10.30am	St M's	Family Praise
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: David Readers: Joceline/Helen Intercessions: Sylvia C
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong

St G's = St George's St M's = St Margaret's
Z = Zoom Crem = Crematorium

Singing Group...

There are still quite a few weeks to go before we are all given permission to sing as a congregation, but we are allowed to have a group of socially distanced singers at the front of church. If you would like to be part of that group, please let Helen know.

Next two **Standing Committee Meetings** are on **Tues 04 May & Tues 25 May, both at 4.00pm**

The next **PCC Meeting** is on **Tuesday 11 May at 7.00pm** As usual these meetings are via Zoom

The **APCM** for both St George's and St Margaret's will be held after their respective morning services on **Sunday 11 July 2021.**

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; **new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Friday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am.**
Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank, in addition LONG LIFE MILK, LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE, CUP-A-SOUPS, and POT NOODLES are needed.

Thank you!

Know someone who:

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Then **Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub on 01452 583519**

Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)
Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174
Pioneer: Helen McGeoch 07729 615993
Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com
Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk
Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon
Administrator: Glenda Stevens 01452 307456
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The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).

