

# Time to reflect

“I am the good shepherd”. It’s a bucolic image; gentle wind causing grass to wave, spring lambs jumping around fields, warm sun on the face. We like this image. It comforts us, reassures us that Jesus will care for us, protect us from all that harms, ensure that we are in a place of rest and refreshment. “And relax” as they say. Isn’t it so lovely to be one of the sheep?

Well, to be fair, if you just read part of the gospel set for today, you might come away with that image. It plays into one of those motifs we perhaps inherited from Sunday School, of gentle Jesus, meek and mild and which subtly suggests that we, too, would be ought to aspire to gentility.

Read on and you find that being a shepherd carries serious implications. It’s less about cuddling lambs (the image that we most often find in stained glass windows) and more about fighting off the powers of darkness and destruction. Jesus clearly knows this, talking about laying down his life, about the autonomy to choose, about the responsibility that comes with the title “shepherd”.

One of the temptations we have is to sentimentalise Jesus, to drench his ministry in saccharine and thereby also to turn the Christian life into a mushy, woolly, ill-defined message which can be reduced to “being kind to cats”. If we learn to take Jesus seriously, to take his love seriously, in all its commitment, all its investment, all its riskiness, then we can rediscover our call to also be serious shepherds, walking his way, caring for his flock.

## Worship and Activities this week

Today	5.00pm	Office Hour
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Mon	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	1.00pm	“In-house” @ House on t’ Rock
	7.30pm	Youth Group @Blackburne Hall
Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	Study Group @ Ashton Room
Thurs	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	Tiddlers @ Church House
	12.45pm	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Book Group @ The Rectory - see April magazine pg. 19.
Fri	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert by Bury Grammar School. Admission £5.00
	4.00pm	Choir School
	7.00pm	Full Choir Practice

### Next Week: 5th Sunday of Easter 29th April

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday School
11.30am	Gallipoli Service
3.00pm	St. George’s Day Service
5.00pm	Office Hour
6.30pm	Evensong

### Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: [bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk) by Wednesday please.

Collects from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England; Common Worship: Pastoral Services; The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects 2000 The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised Edition)*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# Bury Parish Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

22nd April 2018

[www.buryparishchurch.com](http://www.buryparishchurch.com)

We **welcome you** and hope you enjoy being with us. If you’re not familiar with our services, don’t worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we’re on.

We also **welcome children in church**. If your child gets restive in church, don’t be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church. There is a children’s area at the back of Church.

**8.00am Said Holy Communion**  
President: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc R’tr

**10.00am Parish Eucharist**  
President: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc R’tr  
Preaching: Ian McVeety, Hon Assist’t  
**Hymns: 475 (omit\*); 517; 589; 625; 599**

**Motets:**  
**Goodall:** The Lord is my shepherd  
**Rutter:** Go forth into the world

**6.30pm Choral Evensong**  
Minister: Julian Heaton, Rector  
**Hymns:** 217; 405; 614  
Psalm: 111(pg. 493-494)  
Jeremiah 15. 15-end (pgs. 616-617)  
Hebrews 11. 32—12. 2 (pg. 1010-1011)

**Canticles:**  
**Herbert Sumsion in G**  
**Anthem: Tomkins:**  
My Shepherd is the living Lord

Cornerstone

Breaking down walls. Building bridges. Creating shelter. Being God’s people in Bury

## Today's Readings

### **The 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. **Amen**

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 4. 5-12)**

The Jewish 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."

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 10. 11-18)*

### **Glory to You, O Lord**

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "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*

### **Praise to You, O Christ**

8.40am Sunday 10th May:  
Breakfast @ Church Hall. Cost  
£2 plus donations to **Christian  
Aid**

8.40am Sunday 17th May—  
Adult Sunday School &  
breakfast @ Church Hall

## Dates for Diary



## Food Bank Donations

If you could bring **just one item** (tinned food/toiletry), weekly, to church for the food bank and put it in the "Bin" in the entrance that would be appreciated.



Chesham Fold Tennant and Residents' Associations are grateful for any Food Bank supplies.

## Safeguarding Training

The Diocese is running a Roadshow for all those who have DBS or would like one because of your ministry with children and/or vulnerable adults. The Bury Deanery event will be held here in Church House on Tuesday 8 May at 7.00pm. Please see Dawn Wight if you would like to attend. We do encourage as many as possible to update their training. Thanks for all you do in your ministry.

## Memorial Anniversary

Please see the April magazine for details of the anniversary names for the coming week.

## Magazine Material

A reminder for those who provide material for the Magazine that Peter would like it soon!

## Confirmation—last call

If there are any candidates for Confirmation (Adult or younger!) please let the clergy know.