

Thought for the Week

For many people in first-century Palestine, shepherds were despised and regarded with suspicion. Just as some groups today on the margins of society are feared because they are all cast as thieves or hooligans or drunks, so first-century shepherds were considered to be on the margins of society. Some hired hands deliberately allowed their sheep to graze on other people's land and stole wool, milk and lambs from the flock, so all shepherds tended to be cast as villains.

Jesus takes the image to its extremes by describing how hired hands flee at the first sign of trouble. By contrast, he himself is prepared to lay down his life in order to save the sheep. He makes it very clear that he chooses this course of action. His death is not the result of unfortunate circumstances which sweep him along without his will, but is a deliberate decision by Jesus.

Why did he choose to die? Would it not have been better to avoid death at such an early stage in his career and to go on teaching and preaching and healing for many more years?

Jesus explains that he lays down his life in order to take it up again. And with the benefit of hindsight, we know that his new life after death was radiant and amazing. But how does that save human beings? It does, of course, mean that we can look forward to a radiant new life after death, but perhaps it means more than that. Perhaps Jesus is saying that if we love and trust God enough to give up our status and power and wealth, however lowly that might be, in order to face trouble and conflict rather than evade it, we will discover an amazing new quality of life right now.

Intercessions

In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them-

Stuart Forman, Archie Webster, Mason, Ray, Kevin, Elaine Harrod, Jennifer Lane, Liz Galton, Berna, Daphne Carty, Snowy, Joy from Hillrise, Joan Pritchard, Beth Hirst, Lionel Hall, Mark, Lorna Sturney, Becky, Joyce Upward, Strat Liddiard, Karen, Lucy, Jenny, Betty Tripp, Maureen and Derek White, Tracy Nicholls, Alice Pink, Barbara Shearman, Loretta, Paul Hanscombe, Stanley and Gill Gibbons, Ivy Webb, Crawford, Ralph and Zara Toop, Zac, The Lenaerts family, Jasmine, Michael, Alison, Carol and Don Knott

We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends especially

Pat Dibden, Lydia Mills, Anthony Brereton, Joseph, Joyce James and Emma.

Praying as a Benefice

Please use the following text and prayer in quiet time; the text is from this Sunday's readings and the prayer is from Bishop Jonathan. Please pray either at noon or 5.55 pm (or both) every day.

This week's Bible Text

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. (John 10: 14-15)

The Prayer

Glorious God,
You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Week Ahead

Tues 24 7.15 pm	Homegroup Peter and Peggy 8028 2378
7.30 pm	Rock Choir St M
Weds 25 9.30 am	Visiting Bellringers AS
10.30 am	Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts
7.00 pm	Lay Pastors St M
7.30 pm	APCM AS
Thurs 26 2.00 pm	Visiting Bellringers AS
7.30 pm	Bellringing St M and AS
7.30 pm	Homegroup AS
Fri 27 3.00 pm	Kneeler Group AS
7.30 pm	APCM St M

Next Sunday 29th April

Easter 5

10.30 am	Morning Worship CC
10.30 am	Coffee then Altogether Worship St M
10.30 am	Service of worship and Music AS

Acts 8. 26-end	GNB NT 153
1 John 4. 7-end	GNB NT 293
John 15. 1-8	GNB NT 133

Notices

Lay Pastors Meeting.

Wednesday 25 April coffee from 7pm. Speaker Terry Smith of OPEN SIGHT. Hants Association for the Blind. Table Top display of work of Torch Trust. All Welcome.

Garden Party for Christian Aid

The Bee Garden Bank on Saturday 2nd June at 2.30 pm No tickets. Donations on the day please.

Prizes for Raffle and Cakes for Stall would be most welcome. Look forward to seeing you. Telephone 8028 2378.

The Lyndhurst Catholic Church is once again holding a **plant sale at Dunelm in Silver Street.** Nuala and Henry Rosenvinge look forward to seeing as many people as possible from **10.00 am to 12.00 pm on Saturday 12th May.** All proceeds are going towards CAFODs work in Ethiopia. As usual there will be lots of flowering and vegetable plants; a large garden bric-à-brac stall; tombola and one of the best cake stalls you'll ever see. £2 entry to include tea/coffee and cakes. If anyone has any items of garden bric-à-brac that are spare, in particular clay pots and garden tools, please could they contact Henry on 02380 282485 and he will come and collect.

Jumble Sale

Saturday 26th May 10.30 am St Michael's

May

6th May

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am You Church CC
11.00 am Holy Communion, Young Church and coffee St M

10th May

Ascension Day
Benefice Holy Communion AS

13th May

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship St M
4.15 pm Discussion Group and tea AS
6.00 pm Evensong AS

20th May

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M
6.00 pm Sunday at Six CC

27th May

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in
LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD
Trusting Christ Transforming Church
Transforming Community

22nd April 2018

Easter 4

Welcome to our gathering today!
If you wish to know more about the activities of our churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us benefice@newforestparishes.com or look us up on Facebook, or the website (www.newforestparishes.com).

Today's Services

10.30 am Holy Communion followed by APCM CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS
2.00 pm St George's Day Service St M

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. Amen.**

Today's Readings

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13
GNB OT 9

God's act of destruction is also an act of recreation, through the faithfulness of Noah.

Acts 4:5-12 GNB NT 147

When Peter and John appear before the religious elite, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit and preaches about the salvation gained for all by Jesus, crucified by the rulers.

John 10:11-18 GNB NT 126

Jesus chooses to lay down his life for human beings, just as a good shepherd is willing to lay down his life for the sheep for whom he is responsible.