

Vol: 43 - No 30
Sunday 25th April 2021
4th Sunday of Easter



Dear Friends at TaB

If the average cost of a funeral, including the limos, is around £4,500 then the funeral industry in the UK has made somewhere in the region of £571 million pounds from Covid related deaths this last year. Companies such as Amazon, Deliveroo, UberEats & other such delivery companies are also making their mark on a changing world.

Churches are having to adapt to changing behaviours too. Some churches are still not open for worship, some churches have focussed their activities with online worship and Zoom. Others have gradually moved to outside worship now the weather is improving again. At Christmas last year we attended a “drive in’ Christmas service. . . .” Hoot if you love Jesus” !

If you are fortunate to have a garden and have managed to get out into it this Spring, you will know the amount of work involved in weeding and pruning. We spent a couple of hours brutally cutting back an overgrown bush in our front garden, as many of the branches looked dead and were strangling the growth of others. A few years back we had a cherry tree that looked as though it was having second thoughts and we cut it back so severely that we thought that was the end. This year it has produced so many blossom petals that it is a glorious sight. Our garden is aglow with spring blossoms from our apple and cherry trees.

In the period of Lent we are asked to effectively cut back on our excesses and focus on what is real in our lives. We are asked to think what is important and what can be let go: to prune things that do not give glory to God. Let them go. The remaining parts of our lives are then given the space to grow and develop and we too can rejoice in our resurrection. Post Covid-19 we are heading toward, what many are calling, the “New Normal”.

John 14:1 says ““Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me”

In the lockdown period we have experienced, the one message I have taken is that family and friends are vital to our survival as a community. We have found that speaking to family and friends has become more of a regular occurrence than before. It was so easy to get caught up and strangled by the activities of ones’ life at the expense of nurturing and growing good relationships.

In John 13:34 Jesus says “Love one another as I have loved you”. He didn’t say, be so busy doing “good works” that you haven’t time for your friends. In Luke 10 40:42 - She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

I started this letter with “Dear Friends”, I ask that you make a pledge to call a friend today, call another tomorrow. Choose what is better: be busy or be a friend?

God bless, Peter Godfrey

Contact:

admin@trinityatbowes.co.uk - 020 8888 2797 - 07484 309301 - www.trinityatbowes.co.uk - Facebook: TaBChurch

LECTIONARY REFLECTION

Reflection on Psalm 23 & John 10:11-18 The Good Shepherd

By Lilla Hercules

In today's Gospel Jesus says twice "I am the good shepherd" He knows the sheep and the sheep know him. "The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." Christ demonstrated His love for us by dying for us while we were still sinners.

The shepherd will lead, guide protect and preserve the unity of the flock. and that is what Jesus does for us.

The reality is that at times in our lives we do feel and behave like lost sheep, wandering aimlessly, feeling vulnerable and uncertain, even afraid during this lifting of lockdown. After months of seeing limited numbers of people out on the streets, to see so many people at once can be overwhelming. To know that our Lord will be there to restore our soul and bring to us the comfort and peace that we need in those times, and provide for our every need is a blessing indeed. It reinforces the intimacy of the relationship we have with God through His Son and the love that He freely pours upon us day after day.

The psalmist in Psalm 23 attests to the goodness of the shepherd.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as he has promised. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me. You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honoured guest and fill my cup to the brim. I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live". (Psalm 23 GNB)

When we cry out - he comes to us, when we look for him - he is there to assist us, and when we are in danger, he rescues us, but the most marvellous thing of all is this: when we stray from him, he seeks us out and bring us back to the safety and the comfort of his fold.

Jesus teaches us to follow his example and emulate his characteristics of care for all

John also illustrates that the role of the true shepherd is not only to be inward looking and care for the flock already in his care but to be outward looking and bring in sheep that are not part of the flock.

There are many obstacles and dangers in our lives, and many things that challenge us and we can be overwhelmed by them, thinking of the people of St Vincent whose lives have been thrown into turmoil by the eruption of La Soufriere and the increased death from Corona Virus in India. As we move away from lockdown into our new normal, let's remember to be kind to one other, for not everyone is ready to embrace the outside world just yet.

As we reflect let us pause for a moment and sense the presence of the good shepherd with us. Jesus who lead, guide, protect and nurture us. Love us so much that he died for us. Do you know the voice of the good shepherd; are you part of his flock?

When we know the voice of Jesus and can say with conviction that the Lord is my shepherd then we know we lack nothing. Praise God.

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PASTORAL



If you would like news items, prayer requests and or celebrations to be included in the Newsnotes
Please send an email to revsam@mail.com before 6.00pm every Wednesday.
Pastoral Sec. Tony Addo – Anthony.addo54@gmail.com

O God our heavenly Father, as our United Kingdom continues with our restricted lockdown, we continue to seek your strength and courage for the days ahead.

Dear Lord we pray for The Queen as she mourns the loss of her husband, Prince Phillip, The Duke of Edinburgh. His funeral held on Saturday reminds us that she too is bound by the Covid rules of her people. May the Lord God our saviour spread His arms of love and comfort around both her and her family.

God, this week we lift up the people of TaB, the families, friends and those who have asked us to pray for them. Help them to find ways to know that you love us all and consider each one of us important and a part of your creation. Pour into our lives your Holy Spirit to take away our worries, sickness and fear.

We pray for: those who are unwell, for those who are “staying safe” in their homes alone, for those working in care homes as well as the residents. We also pray for parents who struggle; juggling the pressures of work and home, and those whose work puts them in the front line of risk.

We offer prayers for: The family of Diane Howard (Peter Godfrey’s sister) who mourn her passing on Easter Monday and whose funeral took place at The Bourne last Thursday.

We continue to pray for those who continue to need God’s grace and healing, Remembering especially:

Elizabeth Arnold, Joyce Beaumont, Barbara Biggs, Iris Branch, Christina Cabrera, Dorothy Campbell, Yvonne Jardine, Rhona Knight, Yvonne Obeng, Hope Siwela, Victoria Sibanda, Elizabeth Takaedza, Charles & Elizabeth Dadey, Christine (Linda Dawson’s sister), Catherine Smith, Nick (friend of Francis Branch Thomas & the family of Roy Mdudu, the family of Bob Barker and Steve & Francis for the loss of his aunt.

We pray for the families of those who have died recently: including the families of Barbara McNally (previously Lewent) who died recently and also Franklyn and the rest of Cathy Riley’s family. Cathy funeral service will take place at Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church on Wednesday 5th May at 1 PM

Dear God hear our prayers. Amen

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Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to our friends who may be celebrating a birthday this week

**Charles Dadey 27th April
Rev Sam 29th April**

May God grant you overflowing joy, abundant opportunities, and a shower of blessings.
Happy Birthday!

To all who have Anniversaries this week.

May your marriage continue to be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the days of your life.

Remembering our friends and loved ones



As we are not in the church building and enjoying the flowers, we felt it is still important to remember our dearly departed. Where we would usually have flowers in church in their memory, instead, we will still remember them. Let Peter know if there is any dearly departed loved one that you would want remembered.

Cathey Riley & Barbara McNally (previously Lewent)

Donations that would have gone to the flower fund, will instead be used for the church garden project. Please send payment to the Tab bank account detailed on the next page, with a reference "Garden"

Live worship in our church building

Apologies for last week. Zoom did not work for those trying to log in. This was due to a loss of power to our network devices. Hopefully this week we will be up and running. If you are attending live, we look forward to seeing you in your Mask. Please remember that "Live" congregational singing is NOT allowed, but we can rejoice in hearing a solo singer praising the Lord.

The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9928297354?pwd=TjdiSG40ZG5YbUVLaXBFL0RjRGZ5dz09>
ID- 992 829 7354 Passcode- 518822

Supporting conversations about the covid vaccine

21st and 28th April 2021

Session 1 - 21 April, 7.30 - 9pm

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/staff-training-session-registration-147779102273>

Session 2 - 28 April, 7.30 - 9pm

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/staff-training-session-registration-147780191531>



Support Captain Tom 100
at
captaintom100.com



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Church News and Centre Plus

During this Lockdown 3, Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church is open for worship in person, however, worship will still be taking place through the New River Methodist Circuit - Online Church.

Available on Facebook OR search You Tube for New River Methodist Circuit. Alternatively, you can use the link on our website's Home page of <http://trinityatbowes.co.uk>

<u>Streaming Schedule for New River Methodist Circuit Online Church</u>			
Day/(s)	Time	Online Event	
Monday - Saturday	8.00 am	Thought for the Day	<i>Pre-recorded</i>
Monday - Saturday	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	<i>Live</i>
Saturday	10.30 am	Virtual Coffee Morning	<i>Live</i>
Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Circuit Service	<i>Pre-recorded</i>

TaB church: Worship on Wednesday

Every Wednesday at 5 pm-
 As our building is closed, but our worship is growing week by week
Worship & Interactive Bible study.



Join via Zoom

Meeting ID: 992 829 7354 - Passcode: 518822

WORSHIP
ON
zoom

TaB Church Face Book

"Like" our Facebook Page and receive regular inspirational updates



TaB Sunday School Resources

Updated every Saturday and ready for use from the Sunday following



TaB Bank Account Details

Should you wish to make your offertory or a donation here are our details:

Account Name: [Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church](#)

Account no: [92883701](#) **Sort Code:** [09-01-55](#)

Please ensure you use your name as the payment reference



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