

St Martin of Tours
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs
Langley Vale

The parish of
St Martin of Tours
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter
Registered Charity Number: 1134149

Sunday 25th April 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter / Kohima

Dear Friends,

Christ as the good shepherd is the theme of this week. Central to this is when our Lord said, 'greater love as no one than this, that they lay their life down for others.' It is fitting then, that today we remember those who fell in the campaign in Burma; as time passes so the number of veterans reduces, but we shall always remember the willingness of those, who often seemed forgotten after the war, to lay down their lives in the cause of peace.

Nick Parish

THIS WEEK

Sunday 25th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter / Kohima

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen's – led by Andris Abakuks
- 10.00am – Service of the Word at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed –
With our choir, and including the Burma Star Association remembrance
led by Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – Holy Communion and Baptism in Church and live streamed –
led by David Candlin.

Thursday 29th April

- 10.00am – Holy Communion, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 2nd May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9.30am – Morning Prayer at St Stephen's – led by Ruth Foxcroft
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed –
led by Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – Evening Prayer in Church and live streamed –
led by David Candlin.

We can now host weddings with up to 15 people in attendance.

Funerals remain at 30 but can now be followed by a reception for up to 15.

We can also host children's activities indoors (that meet the covid safe measures).

When phase 3 date is confirmed, we will update this guide, and we are planning for that next phase now.

DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

First Communion

Receiving Holy Communion for the first time is a significant step in a young person's journey of faith. We are running a preparation course for children who wish to receive Communion, meeting on three Sunday afternoons in May. All who participate in the classes – on 9th, 16th and 23rd May – will be invited to receive Holy Communion at the ten o'clock service on Sunday 13th June – our Patronal Festival. Please get in touch with me if you know someone who might like to take part.

David Candlin

Embracing The Shadow: A Journey to Love

Saturday, 15 May 2021, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Led by Julie Leger Dunstan via Zoom

Blending psychology, theology, poetry, reflection and prayer, this will be a day to explore the journey inwards to a greater experience of Love, via those things which we find most difficult to embrace.

Starts at 10am and ends at 4pm. Cost: £30

Longing for God: Weekday Individually Guided Retreat

Mon, 17 May 2021, 6:00 pm - Fri, 21 May 2021, 3:00 pm

Led by the House of Prayer Team, residentially and via Zoom

This retreat provides an opportunity to step aside from the busyness of everyday life and spend time in quiet prayer and reflection. A retreat guide will be available for daily individual meetings to accompany you through the retreat. Above all, this retreat is a time of listening to God who is present in the experiences of prayer and daily living.

There are two ways of participating in this retreat, from your own home or residentially at the House of Prayer. In both cases, all communal prayer meetings and spiritual direction will be online using the Zoom platform. If you wish to attend this retreat from the House of Prayer you will need to bring a laptop or device with you.

Arrive on Monday for supper at 6pm and leave on Friday after 3pm.

Retreat from home cost: £110

Residential retreat cost: £360

Retreats from the House of Prayer, May 2021.

House of Prayer

35 Seymour Road

East Molesey

Surrey KT8 0PB

Tel: 020 8941 2313

Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1174120

STEWARDSHIP

Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit.

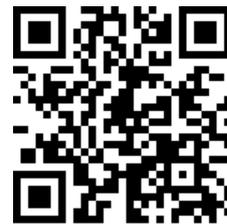
To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below



There is also a "Donate" button on our website.

Thank you for your continued giving directly and via online giving.

OTHER NOTICES

Mission For May

HOME

Young Carers in Epsom and Ewell

Young Carers, are often the forgotten people as they are not obvious in society. They can be anyone, from a very young age who supports someone in their own family in multiple roles. In their isolated situations they need support in order to cope.

My Time for Young Carers is a charity relying on enough volunteers to provide activities outside of the home, to mix with others and take part in fun activities. It is for young Carers between the ages of 7—16, who live locally. Their needs have increased especially in the Covid time.

Jill Chapman

ABROAD

The Barnabus fund works to provide hope and aid for the persecuted church from Christians, to Christians, through Christians. The main ministry of the Barnabus Fund is to send financial support to projects which help Christians who, as a consequence of their faith, suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution. In 2021 we as a church have contributed financially to the Christians in Tigray, Ethiopia.

Meg Topley

Can you please hold these Mission areas in your Prayers – Thank you

Electoral Roll Revision

The Electoral Roll is due to be revised on 7th May 2021 and a notice to this effect will be displayed outside both our churches from 19th March 2021. If you are unsure please check that your name is entered in the current Roll (at the back of St Martins) or with me by email (aronson_john@hotmail.com), also if there have been changes to your address or contact details please inform me or the Parish Office. Your full details can be checked in the office. We always want new people to join so if you are not yet on the Roll and would like to join please complete an application form and hand it in to the Parish Office. The Roll will be closed for any new entries from 6 May 2021 until after the Parish AGM on 23 May 2021.

John Aronson, Electoral Roll Officer.

Christian Aid Week 2021

With every gift, we help people like Rose and stop this climate crisis

In Kenya, extreme weather is making it harder and harder to survive. For communities fighting the climate crisis, every last drop matters and every last one of us can help them thrive. The coronavirus pandemic has only increased the urgent need for families to access a reliable source of water.

The devastating climate crisis robs people of the water and food they need to live. Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Rose and her grandchildren shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop this climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help ensure people like Rose fight this climate crisis.
- **Act** as we call on the UK Prime Minister to lead the world with ambitious climate action that will also address inequality (caid.org.uk/climate-justice-petition)
- **Pray** for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that as a global community we will care for our common home and for people living in poverty.

Together we stop this climate crisis.

Join us at caweek.org



Eco Church at Epsom Farmers Market

Epsom Methodist Church Eco Church will be taking a stand at the Farmers Market each month starting on Sunday 2nd May.

This is a new venture and our aim is to encourage people in the community to become more active in protecting God's Creation. There will be information and a craft activity for children and adults!

Please support this new venture and hold us in your prayers. Come and visit us at the market between **9:30am and 1:30pm on Sunday 2nd May.**

Latest message from Chris Short at Food Bank

Can you please help us this week, with any of the following?

Tinned tuna

Tinned soup

Biscuits

Tomato ketchup

Powdered Milk (semi or full fat only, thank you)

Custard

Long life sponge puddings

Baby wipes

Adult and children's toothbrushes, age 6+ only please

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask);

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank

Generation Resource Centre

(Behind West Ewell Primary School)

Ruxley Lane

Ewell

KT19 0JG



Donation Drop Off Times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm

* PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL DONATIONS ARE SEALED, IN DATE AND DO NOT CONTAIN ALCOHOL*

Can't get to the shops? You could text to make a small donation, send us a supermarket delivery to the address above, or contact us about sponsoring some fresh fruit & veg!

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT2** to donate £2

Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5

Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15

Text **FOODBANKGIFT3** to donate £3

Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10

Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20

Kind regards, Chris Shortt

CONTACT US

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The Revd Nick Parish, Vicar – 01372 743336

Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd David Candlin – Curate - 07723 849 477

Email: revcandlin@gmail.com

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.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 4:5-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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."

Or **Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13**

PSALM Psalm 23

R *The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways
for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they
comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who
trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either 1 John 3:16-end

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do

what pleases God. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Or Acts 4:5-12

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to
be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his
life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his
steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday Homily

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

25 APRIL 2021

YEAR B

“The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd.”

John 10:13-14

Illustration

At the end of one of the Harry Potter films the hero's headmaster, Professor Dumbledore, says: “It is not the abilities you have that make you what you are – it is the choices that you make.” Thus a modern amusing film suddenly takes on the nature of a morality play!

Gospel Teaching

It would be quite wrong to assume that just because a person is paid to do a job, they have less interest and less dedication. But we can all recognise the truth of what Jesus says. We often complain that levels of service are “not what they were”, and we get infuriated when we are forced to listen to recorded messages on our telephones. We want something extra, beyond what is efficient or economic. We want something that we can describe as good.

This is what Jesus describes as the qualities of the good shepherd. He knows his sheep. He protects them from the wolf. He is prepared to lay down his life for them. This word that Jesus uses – “good” – describes the difference between the able person and the one who chooses to give love and service. Jesus is not talking about one occupation – although the image of a shepherd makes us think about pastoral care. He is speaking about an attitude which should be an essential part of life for those who follow his teaching. Naturally we think that Jesus is speaking of himself as the shepherd, and the Church as his sheep. We are those who get lost, who run into danger, and who become scattered.

First, there is a message to the Church in this. We must try and avoid losing contact with our master. We must try and keep together, rather than fragment our church into little groups that need to be brought into one flock. We must recognise the gifts that the good shepherd displays – the pastoral gifts which we are all called to show. Pastoral care springs from our faith in a loving, caring God. We do not employ a vicar, rector, or minister to carry out this task alone (a hired hand!). We are all called to share in the “shepherding” of the flock.

Second, there is a message to us all in the work we do each day. We are called to be good as well as competent. There is an extra responsibility that demands

the commitment shown by the good shepherd: a care for those around us; a willingness to show integrity, and honesty, to go the extra mile. That is what makes the difference between the ones who are just doing a job because they are being paid for it, and those who are fulfilling their calling – whatever that may be. We are all able to recognise that difference in others. Do they see it in us?

Third, there is a message to us in our homes. It is at home that we may be impatient and intolerant, where we can acknowledge that we are tired, and let our behaviour show it. The good shepherd had to return home at the end of his tiring day in the fields and on the moors: Jesus would certainly not have suggested that he then could forget his principles and cease to care for others – to drop his attitude of care and love.

Application

The picture that Jesus gives of the shepherd of his day is one that still applies to us, whatever our work and occupation. The concept of good work, done with honesty and integrity, is one that we can recognise. We can contrast it with jobs that are done grudgingly and with what we call “ill grace”.

That is a very appropriate term to use. Those who follow the teaching of Jesus, the good shepherd, work and live with grace – not with ill grace! These are virtues that we can show in our church, in our daily work and in our home. In each of these places today we see the need of the grace of God. In our churches we know that we should be one: one within each worshipping community, and one in the whole Church of God. In daily work, and in international politics, we know the need of truth and of healing. In our homes we know the need of honesty and purity. All of us who try to follow Christ are taught that we need to have, in every part of life, the qualities of the good shepherd.

MONDAY**26 APRIL****Mark the Evangelist**

Proverbs 15:28-end

or Acts 15:35-end

Psalm 119:9-16

Ephesians 4:7-16

Mark 13:5-13

TUESDAY**27 APRIL**

Acts 11:19-26

Psalm 87

John 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY**28 APRIL**

Acts 12:24 – 13:5

Psalm 67

John 12:44-end

THURSDAY**29 APRIL**

Acts 13:13-25

Psalm 89:1-2. 20-26

John 13:16-20

FRIDAY**30 APRIL**

Acts 13:26-33

Psalm 2

John 14:1-6

SATURDAY**1 MAY****Phillip and James,****Apostles**

Isalah 30:15-21

Psalm 119:1-8

Ephesians 1:3-10

John 14:1-14

REFLECTION

This week's readings are framed by the feasts of St Mark and Ss Phillip and James. The readings from Acts, though, begin to follow the ministry of another Jesus' apostles – Saul, who starts to be known as Paul in the midst of these passages. The change of name is not really explained – it may be that Paul, a Roman name, was easier to use in a missionary context than the Jewish name Saul, when he was speaking about Jesus to the Gentiles.

Why did Jesus choose Paul? Why does Jesus choose any of us? What's certain is that Jesus always knows what he's doing (see John 13:18 – "I know whom I have chosen"). The vital thing is who we are in our relationship with him: it's not ourselves, but Jesus whom we proclaim, whether we are a Mark, a Phillip or James, a Saul or a Paul... a Tom, Dick or Harry.

What do you think your name brings to mind for those who know you? Is it a word of life, of love? And most importantly, does it point to Jesus, who himself lives to bring people to the Father – the heart of these verses from John's Gospel.

PRAYER

Loving God, you know us and have chosen us
and call each of us by name.

May our lives reflect your calling,
and may the way we live always point to your Son,
who is the way, the truth, and the life.



June 2020, George Floyd Protest in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
awoods3 / Shutterstock.com

PART XXXIII – MICAH – A BOOK FOR A TIME OF TROUBLE

Georgina Byrne takes the baton and continues our book-by-book series about the Bible.

When trouble comes, how do you treat those who are poorest? This question remains pertinent to every generation and every society, and for this reason Micah is a book that bears reading over and again.

Micah was prophesying in the southern kingdom of Judah towards the end of the eighth century BC, at the same time as Amos and Hosea. His words are addressed both to the people of Judah and to the kingdom of Israel. The prophet speaks at a time when peace and relative prosperity are coming to an end. The region is increasingly unsettled by the expansion of the Assyrian Empire and the threat is coming closer: **“It has come to Judah; it has reached to the gate of my people, to Jerusalem”** (1:9).

Micah connects the inevitable disaster with the abandonment of justice. Having enjoyed a time of plenty, the people have forgotten how to live righteously as God’s people. Instead, they **“walk haughtily”** (2:3), their leaders **“eat the flesh”** of the people (3:3) and abhor justice (3:9).

God issues a challenge to the people: **“What have I done to you? In what have I wearied you?”** (6:3). God has saved them, brought them out of Egypt, and given them prosperity, and yet they have taken their privilege for granted and neglected those in need.

Even amid the sharp criticism, there is hope for the world beyond the coming doom. Micah shines with a vision of the future that is both peaceful and inclusive. We read of the Lord’s house being established with **“many peoples”** streaming to it, of turning **“swords into plowshares, and... spears into pruning hooks”**. We read that: **“nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”** (4:1-4).

But it is the challenge to live a just life – individual and corporate – that is Micah’s lasting gift to every generation: **“what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”** (6:8).

Canon Georgina Byrne is Residentiary Canon at Worcester Cathedral and a Chaplain to The Queen.

LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Fourth week of Easter

Monday 26 April to
Saturday 1 May
2021

WEEK

Extraordinary powers



We give you thanks, O God, for the riches of our faith, and for the inheritance we share with your ancient people and their descendants. Keep us faithful and make us wise, that at the last we may feast at your table with all those you call your own. Amen.

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Every April I sit in the fields, somewhere, quietly watching and waiting to see if help is needed. With primitive breeds of sheep like ours, small and wiry, help is rarely needed. The lambs are born with narrow head and shoulders and

come easily without great fuss. The ewes push them out quite slowly, in stages, and within two minutes the lamb is up and trying to suckle. The lamb is wet and slippery like a human baby and the ewe dries it off by licking.

All this happens while I sit nearby. These are not tame pets, though they are fairly used to me now. I crawl nearer very slowly and speak quietly to the ewes. My only intervention will be to spray the lamb's navel cord to stop any infection. God's attentiveness to us is of this sort – quiet, close, watching and listening, speaking words of gentleness. 🐏

“ Endeavour seven times a day to withdraw from business and company and lift up thy soul to God in private retirement.”

Adoniram Judson (1788-1850), American Congregationalist and Baptist missionary

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* Acts 4:5-12

At issue is the healing of a man who has been lame all his life. But that is not the real reason why Peter and John have spent a night in custody. The authorities are fed up with them and who can blame them? They draw attention to themselves, they preach heresy, they twist the meaning of the sacred scriptures and they draw unruly crowds. The authorities simply want them to shut up and go away, but that shows no sign of happening. So Peter and John find themselves in front of the court, defending their words and actions.

Peter makes his defence. There is no apology. Peter's language is provocative – the cornerstone of God's plan of salvation is the one “whom you crucified”. It is Jesus, Peter says, who has healed the man, Jesus who brings salvation. It is clear that Peter and the others are not going to stop their activities any time soon.

It is evident that something extraordinary is happening and that it is proving popular. Seeing trouble ahead, and no doubt hoping it will burn itself out like so many other renewal movements, the court wisely lets the disciples off with a warning.

It will not always be so. The stage is set for a long and tragic war between Judaism and Christianity, whose horrific results can be seen into our own times. There is much in the book of Acts about which we rejoice, but there is also much we have cause to regret. 🙏

World Malaria Day

by Christine Clark

Over three billion people in 106 countries live with the risk of malaria, with most of the half-million annual deaths occurring in African children. Today is World Malaria Day, which aims to promote education and understanding of malaria, and share information on control strategies, particularly prevention and treatment.

Several excellent charities provide practical help in this area, as well as fundraising,

education and research, and participating in dialogue with governments. Two of the smaller charities doing great work are the Butterfly Tree (www.thebutterflytree.org.uk), which runs health programmes in the rural areas of Zambia, providing nets and educational workshops, and Shelter Box (www.shelterbox.org), which provides insecticide-soaked nets to areas that have been flooded, as these are now prone to the insect infestation more than ever.

These are just two examples of outreach, although there are many more. What better way for us to obey Jesus' commandment, that we should love our neighbour as ourselves? 🙏



Sunday 25 April 2021
John 10:11-18
4th Sunday of Easter

My name is _____

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

Jesus tells the people that he is the good shepherd and he will protect his sheep.

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU!

You are one of Jesus' sheep.

He will always look after you.



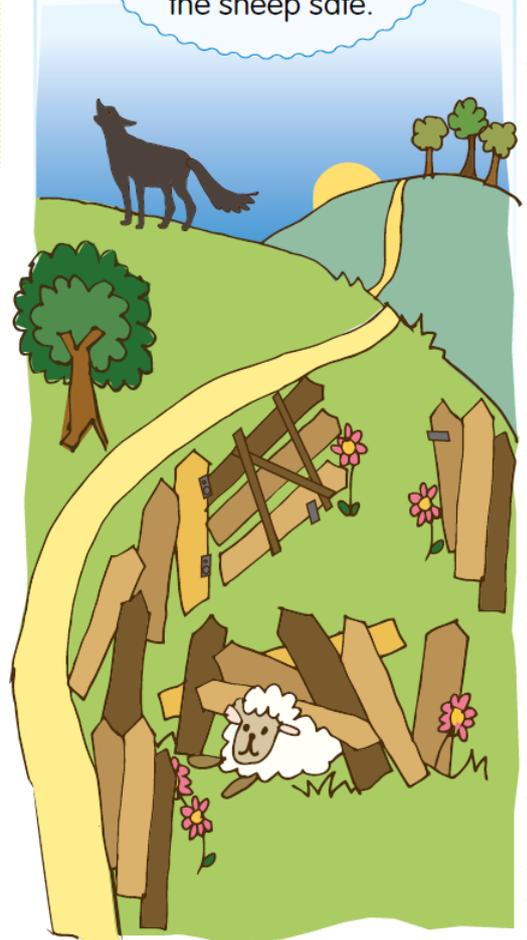
5	10	15	20	25	30
25	4	8	9	16	24
20	5	10	15	23	29
1	3	9	30	19	21
4	7	20	25	17	14
5	10	15	13	12	11



Find a path together by colouring the circles with numbers you can divide by 5.

Being safe

Circle four things the shepherd needs to sort out to keep the sheep safe.



Follow the sheep

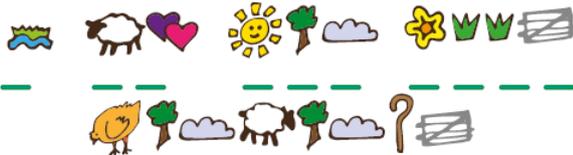
Even if we are naughty sometimes or we get lost, the Good Shepherd loves and looks after us.



Help the shepherd find his lost sheep by following the right path.

Code

Jesus says



a =	sheep	e =	cloud	h =	tree	m =	heart	p =	sheep	t =	sun
d =	fence	g =	flower	i =	hill	o =	grass	s =	bird	r =	question mark

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd and I am one of your sheep. Thank you for loving and looking after me. Amen.

Answers: Jesus says 'I am the good shepherd'. The shepherd needs to mend the fence, rescue the sheep, close the gate and chase the wolf away.