

St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth
Readings for Sunday 26th April – EASTER 4
Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

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.

PSALM: 23

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

He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦

and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul ♦

and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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.

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.

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. AMEN

FIRST READING:

Acts 2: 42 - end

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

SECOND READING:

John 10: 1 -10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.'

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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.

AFTER THE SERVICE:

At St Mary's Refreshments are served in the Mews which is at the bottom of the steps leading to the village green. Toilets are available in the Mews.

St Peter's APCM will follow the service.
There is a toilet at the back of St Peter's Church.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 3rd May – Easter 5

St Mary's	9.30 pm	Family Service
St Peter's	11.00 am	Family Service

SAFEGUARDING:

St Mary's & St Peter's take our duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at:

<https://www.chesterdiocese.org> and click on the "Safeguarding" tab