



25 April – 1 May • Faith 24/7

The cost of care

 **John 10.11-18**

A 'monologue' where Jesus describes himself as a good shepherd. To explain how far his care for the sheep extends, he contrasts the way a good shepherd behaves with that of a hired hand, who when faced with danger like a wolf will run away and abandon the sheep to their fate. The good shepherd does not run away, rather he stays and faces the danger even when that costs him his life.

Now read **John 10.11-18** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

This is a striking image of God's powerful love for his children. The image of a shepherd reaches back into Old Testament metaphors for kingship, and by describing how the good shepherd would lay down his life for the sheep. The passage also describes the way the shepherd knows his sheep. How do you relate to this description?



Do you see Jesus as your shepherd? How does it feel to be known by the good shepherd?

WATCH

Enjoy watching a few episodes of *Shaun the Sheep* (on BBC iPlayer). Talk or think about how Shaun's life might be different if he had a good shepherd.

Or instead watch a short clip of a modern-day shepherd' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coq_grSFIn.

Think about how this image relates to the one Jesus paints in the Gospel of John.



MAKE

You will need: yogurt pots, wooden pegs (four per sheep), cotton wool balls, glue, black paper, scissors, black felt tips. (Alternatively, go on a walk and look at a real flock of sheep.)

Craft your own flock of sheep.

- Colour the tip of each peg black then use glue to attach four to an upside-down yogurt pot. These form the legs for your sheep, with the tips pointing downwards to look like four hooves.
- Put glue all over the pot (now the body of the sheep) and cover with cotton wool balls. Cut out some ears, a tail and a face from the black paper and stick them onto the body.

Use your sheep to reflect on the different 'sheep' in your family, church or community and how God cares for each of them.

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The good shepherd knows his sheep. Play a game to see if you can identify each other as sheep. Appoint one person to be the guesser and either blindfold them, or if you're on a video call, get them to turn away from the screen. Quietly move if you're in the same room so the guesser doesn't know who's sitting where. Everyone else should start making sheep noises. The idea is for the guesser to try and work out who is making which sheep noise. See how realistic you can sound!

CARE PACKAGE



By comparing himself to a good shepherd, Jesus is explaining to the disciples how much he cares for his followers. Make a care package for someone in need, containing food items and/or toiletries. Donate this to a friend, neighbour or through a local charity or Foodbank.

Pray



Devise four short prayers that start with the letters C, A, R, E and are about the need to look after others. Use your prayers during the week to think about what it means to care. Each morning, ask God to give you a chance to show care for someone else during the day.

Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church, Ronkswood

Weekly Newsletter and Reflections 4th Sunday of Easter 2021



A date for your diary is Sunday 16th May – we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.00 a.m. after the morning service. We will be looking to recruit both a new PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer at the meeting. As you know Julie and Laura have filled these roles from before we moved to Ronkswood and agreed to do so to get us over a difficult period. Both feel it is now time to pass them on. Please consider prayerfully whether you might be able to take one of these roles on. Much support will be given for as long as necessary, so do not be afraid you will be left to cope with it alone. Do contact me if you would like to know more about it.



Altar Flowers

Could you provide some flowers for the altar-table on a Sunday?
We are looking for people to bring a few blooms or greenery each Sunday.
If you think you can help, please have a word with Penny.

Daily Readings for week commencing 26 th April 2021			
Monday	Isaiah 62: 6-10	Acts 12: 25-13:13	St Mark
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 9: 23-10:5	Ephesians 4: 17-end	
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 10: 12-end	Ephesians 5: 1-14	
Thursday	Deuteronomy 11: 8-end	Ephesians 5: 15-end	
Friday	Deuteronomy 12: 1-14	Ephesians 6: 1-9	
Saturday	Proverbs 4: 10-18	James 1: 1-12	St Philip & James

Pray for those in need...Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy, Mandy, Joyce, Pete, Ian, June, Ruby and Juliette. **Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...**

Just a thought...

A group of older people living in a block of low-rise inner-city flats looked forward to Mondays. Mondays was when their bins were emptied. Why would these people so look forward to having their bins emptied (apart, perhaps, from the obvious reason of getting rid of smelly rubbish)?

Over several years, the residents and the binmen had got to know each other by name. The binmen never stayed very long; they were always rushing on to the next bin and the next street – schedules to fulfil! But while the bins were being emptied, or those few moments, the binmen and residents exchanged gossip and asked after each other. And the binmen asked especially after those they hadn't seen for a while. For some of the residents it was one of very few points of human contact during their week. For some of the residents it was just a bit of Monday morning fun, but for others it was a lifeline. They felt – they knew – they were not all alone; they were part of a community. And in that community, relationships mattered. And in that community, they felt cared for. Relationships make us feel cared for.

Then, without warning – or that is how it felt to the residents – it all changed. The old well-known team of binmen were given a new area to work. Monday mornings weren't the same for the residents. They now had to get used to a new group of binmen or 'waste management and disposal technicians' as they were now called. They had to start building their relationships all over again. The sense of being a community was certainly diminished for a while. Some residents said the changes made them feel less cared for.

Coping with the pandemic and its aftermath during this past year has provided many challenges to our sense of community, and some very good opportunities too. What do you think God might be calling us to do that will help us build relationships and make sure everyone in our community feels cared for?