

**Newsletter of the
Parish Church of St Peter,
Jersey**



Issue 6: 03 May 2020

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

'Jesus the Good Shepherd and Gateway to Eternal Life'

Dear Friends,

Before reading my Homily please read this short piece of scripture, which is set for this Sunday

John 10.1-10

10.1 '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. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

"The Lord's my Shepherd: therefore I can lack nothing." (Psalm 23)

This famous quotation from Psalm 23, perhaps the most popular of all the Psalm, illustrates the fact that, Sheep feature in an awful lot in the pages of the Old Testament. Jesus himself uses sheep, a part of contemporary life, to illustrate great things about God, in the New Testament. He uses them, to make various points of teaching about God throughout his ministry.

We are all familiar with Jesus saying, 'I am the Good Shepherd' and this description is much used in the Church itself, in terms of its ministry, as a result. Bishops for example, who are the successors to the twelve apostles, are regarded as shepherds of their Diocese, hence they carry a Crozier which has the same shape as that of a shepherds staff, to demonstrate their caring role.

In today's Gospel extract from Jesus, we are however dealing with a different idea, though at first sight it might seem as if it is the same. In John 10.1-10, Jesus describes himself not as the Good Shepherd (which he *does* do in the second half of the chapter) but instead says of himself, 'I am the Gate for the sheep'.

This is a different concept. The word 'Shepherd' describes a 'caring role and protective' role, but 'I am the 'gate', what does that mean? Also, which is correct shepherd or gate?

Clearly, I am 'the gate' means that Jesus is, 'the way, the truth and the life'. In other words, he is 'the way' through whom we will go to heaven. This fact is expressed elsewhere in the scriptures when he said of himself, 'No one comes to the Father but through me.'

One thing however is common between 'the Good Shepherd' and 'the Gate Keeper' as metaphors. In both descriptions, we his sheep, are to *listen* to the voice of The Shepherd when he calls *and* the same with Him as the Gate Keeper. We are to follow because 'we know his voice': it is the voice of sacrificial self-giving love.

In reality then, Jesus is both Shepherd *and* Gate Keeper, and he exercises both offices for us, his beloved ones, doing so to the praise and glory of God his Father. **Amen.**

A Prayer each Day in Eastertide

During Lent it is the custom to say the say the Angelus each day, *but throughout Eastertide* a different Marian devotion, the Regina Coeli, is used, on the theme of the Resurrection: it is also used at the end of Mass, as indeed is the custom at St Peter's. I have put it here, so that you can use this at home if you wish in your daily devotions:

All Sing: Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven. Alleluia!
He whom thou was meet to bear, Alleluia!
As He promised hath arisen, Alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!

Priest says: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!
All Say: For the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Priest: Let us pray....

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ has brought joy to the whole world: grant, we ask you, that we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

£ A Word About Money £

Many thanks to all those who have already sent cheques, in lieu of money, that would normally be put on the collection plate at services inside the church. It is much appreciated.

For those who have not donated, The Treasurer and I, plus the Church Officers, earnestly hope that you are putting money aside each week in a 'jam jar' (real or metaphorical!) so that when the churches are allowed to reopen, you will be able to bring that money to church or of course to put the cheque 'on the plate'. I hate to even write about money, but having talked with The Treasurer it was felt that a word to you all might be useful.

We have had a letter from the Chairman of the Deanery Finance Committee, stating that they estimate that by October, at the present rate, they will have exhausted all the reserves that they had.

As a priority, St Peters Parish Church is continuing to pay its Share allocation of £1,500 per month towards its Share Allocation of £36,000 per annum as requested, being mindful of The Treasurer's letter in a previous Newsletter, that that is half the amount of £72,000 per annum, the starting point in the Share Allocation process, for each Church in the Deanery of Jersey.

Because of the lack of services, we are not receiving anything like that amount in because there are no 'collections', so there is a danger of things become critical in the not too distant future. As indicated above there is no huge pot of money held by The Deanery from which we could be helped and of course there are other churches on the island, in the same position as us. If we all give methodically and regularly then things will go well, but if we don't then...! 'Cash flow' is so important not only because of our contribution to the Deanery of Jersey but because of the many bills which still have to be paid each month, as is the case in any organisation. I hope you will take this matter to heart.

Father Michael

Annual General Meeting and Election of officers

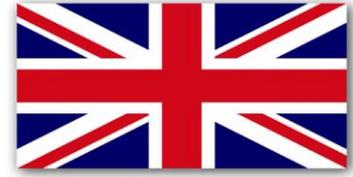
Each church in the Church of England in the Deanery of Jersey has received an email from The Dean of Jersey about these matters.

Basically there will be no AGM this year or Election of Officers within this Calendar Year and all the current officers are asked to remain in post, until the next AGM actually does take place, which would not be until next year.

Having said all that, each church is to send its Annual Accounts for 2019 to The Deanery of Jersey Finance Committee, once they have been inspected by an 'Independent Examiner'. They will also be sent out to everyone on the Church Electoral Roll, for your interest.



Liberation Day



As we all know, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey from the Nazis. It was to have been a huge weekend of celebration here in the Parish Church of St Peter and in the Parish as a whole. This is true, of course, across the whole island as well: a huge amount of work, time and effort had been put in and it is so sad that the services and other commemorations and parties will not be able to take place next weekend.

Although all of the above is the case, I hope and pray that all of you will nevertheless not feel guilty about *celebrating* this great anniversary in your own homes! I hope too that you will celebrate by phone, email, Facebook, Zoom or whatever, in linking with your families and friends. For those who experienced the occupation this will be an opportunity to share precious memories from the past.

It would be wonderful if everyone in the parish could decorate your hedges, fences and walls of your gardens with Jersey Flags and the Flag of the United Kingdom, to give our Parish and Island a festive air, as a sign that, in spite of the present emergency, we do not forget what happened and rejoice in our freedom.

Do have a wonderful time as far as you are able next weekend.

The service for next weekend will be put onto the Church Website Facebook page on Saturday 9th May at 1030 rather than on the Sunday.

Could I re-emphasize that to access this and previous services on the Church Website you do not have to have Facebook yourself. Once on Church Website (www.stpeterschurch.org.je) click on the Facebook to see them.

I say this because some people have thought that if they didn't have Facebook themselves that they wouldn't be able to see the services.

Happy viewing!

Father Michael



Prayers about the current virus Epidemic



I hope that you will find these prayers useful in your own prayer life at home. Prayer is at the heart of any Christian's life, just as much as it is at the heart of our communal life as the Body of Christ, which is The Church. These prayers have been specially produced by the Church of England, for use at the present time.

FOR ALL WHO WORRY

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ your taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need, as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety give us strength to comfort the fearful,
to tend the sick and assure the isolated of our love and your love,
we ask this for your names sake. Amen

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Merciful God, we entrust to your care those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR HOSPITAL STAFF, CARERS & MEDICAL RESEARCHERS

Heavenly Father we ask you to give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strength them with your Spirit,
That through their work many will be restored to health, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

WAYS TO WORSHIP IN YOUR OWN HOME:

SERVICES FROM ST PETER'S RECTORY GARDEN:

Go on www.stpeterschurch.org.je and click on the Church Facebook page. The service for each Sunday will be placed on there at **1030 on the Sunday** and can be viewed at any time of day after that: it will remain on the Face book page.

You do not need to have Facebook yourself to view these services, provided you view them via the Church website: a number of people have asked me about this.

SUNDAYS Radio & TV:

0810 Each Sunday during the emergency there will be a Service on **Radio Jersey** linked in with the national UK radio.

0900 I will be interviewed on Radio Jersey this Sunday 26 Apr: tune in while you have your breakfast!

1315 Songs of Praise (BBC 2, TV)

1500 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3** listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week which is a repeat from the previous Wednesday 1530 broadcast. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

SUNDAYS: 1900 - LIGHT A CANDLE AND PLACE IT IN A WINDOW VISIBLE FROM YOUR STREET

This simple initiative is from the Archbishop of Canterbury: it will help you and others to know that God, through Jesus, is the light of the world and is always with us. Beware of curtains!! Electric candles are best, if you have them. Please leave them lit for at least an hour, but preferably all evening. Look at the candle: think about what some are already going through and pray for them.

WEDNESDAYS on Radio 3

1530 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3**, listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week, repeated on the following Sunday at 1500. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

CROSS, PALM CROSS especially at this time, CRUCIFIX, ICON

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own home. Thank you for the many calls of appreciation about the Palm Crosses being sent to you at home.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Suzette Bradshaw; Dave; Elis; Donald English; Audrey Gem; Peggy Harrison; Jonathan Harvey; Peter Heath; Lester Huelin; Jack Johns; Robin Mallet; Molly; Stephan Mauger; John Le Riche; Riley.

Also, please pray for all those who are ill with the coronavirus.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:

Also, please pray for all those who have died from the coronavirus.



HATS for the MISSION to SEAFARERS!

Back to earth! Many thanks to those who have kindly offered to knit some hats for the Mission to Seafarers, to be given to those who work upon the seas: There are a selection of designs. If you know of anyone else who might like to do this work and you want me to send copies of the patterns on to them, please just let me know their address. I look forward to seeing the hats in due course!