

Sunday 26th April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's 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.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Next Week Services: Sunday 3rd May

10:00am	Harvington	Church @ ten
10:00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Holy Communion
11:00am	Church Lench	Holy Communion
11:00am	Abbots Morton	Church @ eleven
6:30pm	Harvington	Holy Communion Trad Lang

Mid-week Eucharist: 11:00am Wednesdays at St James', Harvington

Upcoming Events

- Quingo! (Quiz & Bingo) – 16th May 5pm, St James' Church Harvington
- Open Exhibition: 10am-4pm everyday (Except Fri Morning and Sun)
The Knitted Bible 21st May - 5th June, Evesham Methodist Church.
- Rous Lench Annual Pig Roast – 27th June. Willing helpers can contact Fran on Herdmanfrances@gmail.com.
- Flower Festival Weekend – 26th, 27th and 28th June.

This Week's First Reading: *Acts 2.42-end.*

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ 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.

This week's Psalm: Psalm 23.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters

³ he restores my soul
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley
I fear no evil for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

This Week's Second Reading: *1Peter 2:19-end,*

¹⁹ For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² 'He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 10:1-10.*

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. 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.

Next Weeks Readings: *Acts 7.55-end, , Psalm 31.1-5, Peter 2.2-10,
John14.1 - 14.*

Prayer of Intercession

We pray for our plans and hopes for days out, holidays and times to rest and refresh; Those who work hard to serve others in our community, and need a break; The Lord guides us on the right path for our lives. So in quiet we think about: Those walking paths to safer and secure places to live, free from fear, oppression and persecution;

Those who lead the world, that they will walk towards peace and stop death and war;

Those who are finding faith and hope in you, and are slowly finding the right path; Those who have taken steps that are hard, and are doubting their own decisions.

You show us the way, you lead us to life. Lord, hear these prayers.

The Lord is with us through the darkest valleys. So in quiet we think about: Those who are grieving others who they deeply and painfully miss; Those in conflict and terror who witness avoidable death every day; Those moving towards their own imminent end to life, for calm and comfort; Those in darkness due to abuse and mistreatment by those who should love them.

You show us the way, you lead us to life. Lord, hear these prayers.

The Lord has chosen us as his people, and we are blessed. So in quiet we think about: Our role as the people of God in our community, to bring help and hope where it is needed; The part we can play in challenging unjust rules and laws in our nation; The help we can offer those from other cultures and faiths who are under attack; Our responsibility to bless others by giving away some of what God has blessed us with.

You show us the way, you lead us to life. Lord, hear these prayers.

The Lord eases our way through life with his goodness and love. So in quiet we think about: Those who love us and those we love, those who are alongside us in all things; Those who lead us, that they would show honesty, good judgement and care in all things; Those we struggle with, that God's love would be planted in our hearts;

Us, that at all times we would give thanks for God's goodness.

You show us the way, you lead us to life. Lord, hear these prayers.

Amen