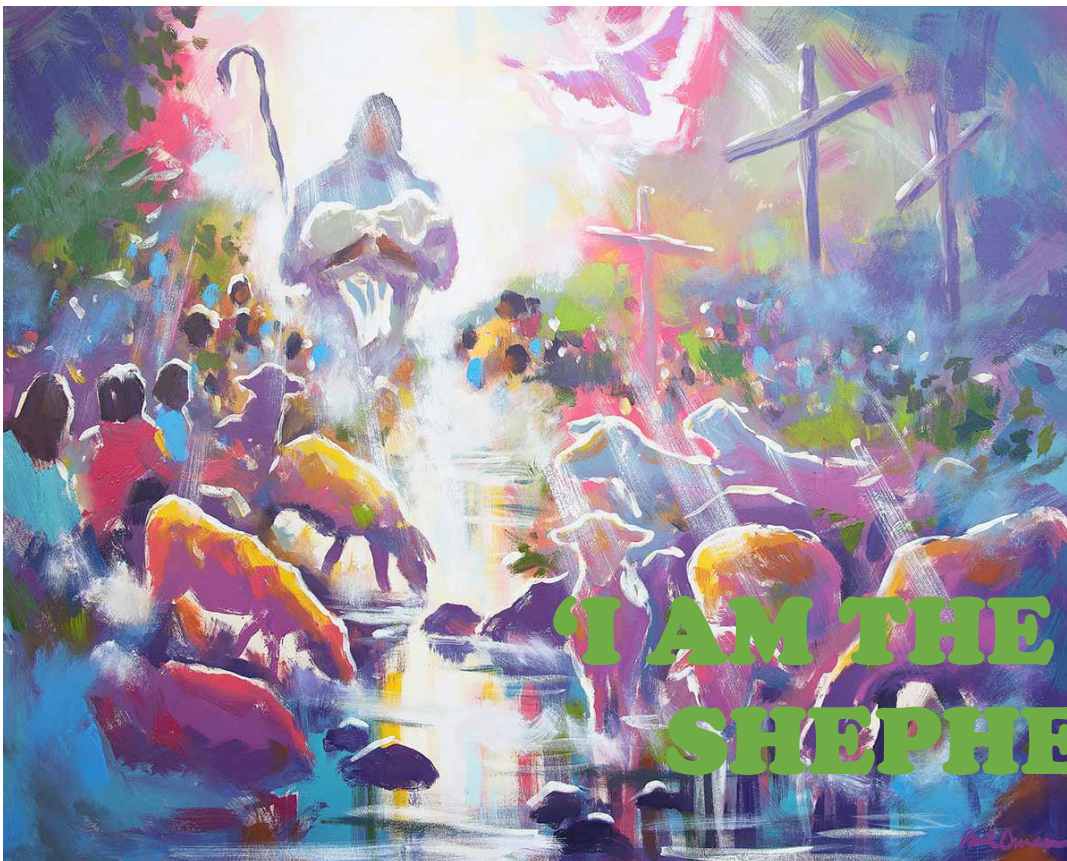


**The Church of St Francis
WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
25th April 2021**



'I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD'

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Carol; Matthew; Carson W; Lorna; Megan; Stephen C; David & Cynthia; Maegan; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; Jeanette, David & Grace; Paula.

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Pete and Rosie; Doreen; Rosemary; Sheila; John and Jane; and Shirley.

We pray too for Woodside House Care Home and all NHS and NSFT Staff.

We remember also those who have died in recent days and all who mourn.

A PRAYER FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or feeling isolated. In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Church of St Francis
Heartsease**

**Heavenly Father
We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST FRANCIS?

'LET IT GROW'

Over the weekend of 5th & 6th June, St Francis will be launching this years 'Let it grow' project and hosting an Eco Church and Climate Change Awareness event.

One of the features will be a repeat of the big plant giveaway that proved so popular last year.

We already have pledges of sunflower seedlings and some veg plants, but would be very grateful to receive further offers - the more the merrier!

Also, as we start whipping the veg patch into shape - we would be thrilled if you have any surplus gardening tools laying around unused in your garden shed that you would be willing to donate; we're hoping to get a team of folk working on the project so will need plenty of equipment.

If you would like to know more about the project or can help in any way, please contact the vicar who will be very happy to hear from you!



Some of the plants that grew from 'Let it Grow' Seedlings last year.

JIM GREEN

As from this Sunday, Jim will be exploring pastures new and different ways of being church as he undertakes a six week placement at Thorpe St Andrew as part of his training for Lay Ministry.

This means that he won't be back at St Francis until early June – we wish him well on his placement and hold him in our prayers.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Good News! We are delighted to announce that Adam and Tracey will be confirmed in Norwich Cathedral at Pentecost – 23 May. Further details to follow...

PRAYERS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE COLLECTS

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. Amen

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people
may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

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. Amen

READINGS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ACTS 4: 5 – 12

The next day their 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.’

PSALM 23

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

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.

**4 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.**

5 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.

**6 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**

I JOHN 3: 16 – end

We know love by this, that he 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 him.

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.

JOHN 10: 11 – 18

Jesus said, ‘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.’



FORTHCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Mon: Morning Prayer – 9am

Tues: Morning Prayer – 9am
Evening Prayer – 5pm

Weds: Morning Prayer – 9am
BCP Holy Communion – 11.30am
Evening Prayer - 5pm

Thurs: Morning Prayer – 9am
Evening Prayer – 5pm

Sun: Celebrating Together – 10.30am
[Holy Communion]

ST FRANCIS APCM

[Annual Parochial Church Meeting]

As directed by the Lord Bishop of Norwich, The Rt Revd Graham Usher, the business that was held over from 2020 regarding the 2020 APCM will take place on Thursday 29th April at 7.30pm. Whilst the meeting will be conducted via the St Francis Zoom Room, it is possible for those unable to access the appropriate technology to meet in the church building. Please note that only those whose names appear on the St Francis Electoral Roll are entitled to take part in any APCM.

Directly following on from that meeting the 2021 'Meeting of the Parishioners' will take place, during which the election of Churchwardens will happen. Once this meeting has concluded the 2021 APCM will be convened.

This meeting sees the proposal and election of members of the Parochial Church Council. Whilst some members still have time to serve [once elected to the PCC the period of service is expected to be three years] there remains the opportunity for anyone who would like to serve on the PCC to put their name forward for election. If you are interested in standing please talk either to the Vicar or to the Vice Chair of the PCC, David Lechmere.

ST FRANCIS CHURCH
HEARTSEASE
96 – 98 RIDER HAGGARD ROAD

**IF YOU
OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW
IS IN NEED OF A HELPING
HAND...**

**WE WILL DO OUR BEST
TO HELP**

**CALL IN AT THE CHURCH
WEEKDAYS 10AM – 12PM
OR
CALL OUR 24HR
ANSWERPHONE
01603 431259**



cma
Heartsease
Community Money Advice

Now open

We have trained debt advisers

We can also help you before you get into debt
Please call 07765739987 and leave your name &
number

Or email heartseasecmacentre@outlook.com



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