THE HUB — By Revd. Canon David Baldwin

I would like to offer my thanks to everyone for the donations given at the Easter Offering which are shared between our Partner Priests and Licensed Lay Ministers to defray the cost of their travelling when they lead services across the Parishes of the Team. Since the end of 'Lockdown' I have tried to create a Sunday Service rota that can be realistically managed by the two stipendiary clergy and LLMs supported by our retired colleagues at holiday times and in emergencies and I would like to thank them all for their continued help and support.

Further thanks to everyone for the donations given as a gift to say thank you and farewell to Fiona as she departs for ministry in the Principality. Her time with us seems to have flown by and we wish her good luck and hold this new stage of her journey in our prayers as she prepares for her Licensing in Aberporth later next month.

Next Tuesday the weekly 30 minute bible study and prayer meeting returns after a break for Lenten Study and Easter week. We will be starting at 09.30 am which is 15 minutes earlier than before the break. The group meets in the Hilary Chapel in St Mary's Beaminster and I look forward to meeting with you over the coming weeks.

Finally I would like to wish both Jo and Harry Neary the best of wishes as they begin new jobs this week. Jo will continue to work in the Team whilst taking on the role of Tutor for Rural Ministry Studies at Sarum College two days a week and Harry will combine working for the Team on our Communications and I.T. needs whilst working for the Diocese as Digital Giving Officer alongside Anna Hardy and her team.

PEW NEWS

Beaminster Area Team Ministry

15 Churches: One Community

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Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2. 19-25 John 10. 1-10

White Year A

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

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.

Please take this copy of Pew News away with you for reference during the week.

If you would like material about Church events included in the Pew News, please bring it to the Church Office, or e-mail beaminsterteam@gmail.com by 9am on the Wednesday before publication.

First Reading — Acts 2. 42-47

Many were baptized and were added to the community. 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.

Gospel Reading — John 10. 1-10

Jesus said to the Pharisees: '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.'

Eco Pause for Thought:.. Don't worry about cutting your lawn short; long grass encourages insects and wild life. Look out for them.

What's happening in the Team this week

For more details of local events, please see Team News

Wed 3 May 10am Holy Communion St Mary's, Beaminster 11-12.30pm Walk in Wednesday St Mary's, Beaminster

'Theostory', a fantastic Storytelling event running on Saturday 20th May at St John's Church in Wimborne.

This event is a day for families and children's workers/volunteers to explore creative ways to engage younger generations in God's story. Bob Hartman will be the keynote speaker and different workshops are planned for the morning and afternoon sessions.

The morning session (9:30-12:30) will be for Children's Ministry leaders & volunteers and includes a range of workshops and networking opportunities.

Please contact Jo for the link if you are interested in attending.

During this time of conflict and uncertainty, please keep Sudan in your prayers.

God our Father, whose son Jesus Christ wept over your people, because they knew not the way of peace and were as sheep without a shepherd; hear our prayer for the all the people of Sudan. Turn the hearts of their leaders to reconciliation and peace. Bless Archbishop Ezekiel, his bishops and clergy that they may have the strength and support to be true shepherds of your people in the midst of war. Strengthen those who seek to bring peace, who heal the sick and feed the starving and hasten the time when all nations will own your just and gentle rule and receive your gift of peace. Amen

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on Monday 1st, Friday 5th and Monday 8th May.