

Hello everyone

I hope you are well and staying safe in this continued period of uncertainty.

Last Sunday Bob and I were out for a walk and stopped at a nearby field to 'speak' to a couple of lambs who were huddled under a hedge. The lambs started to bleat and alerted their mother who was some distance away. The mother immediately came and offered her little ones protection, a place of safety.

Wherever you are Jesus, the good shepherd offers a place of safety and we can draw closer to him in worship, prayer, Bible study or in fellowship by phoning folk or video calling them using Zoom or Whatsapp. We can also help by donating food to foodbanks and by delivering groceries or medicines. For those of us who are more adventurous we can even make face masks or scrubs.

Today we heard the first cuckoo, and that reminded us that summer is on the way. Gardens are looking at their best, thanks to the lockdown, and we are reminded of the beauty of nature which is all around us.

We continue to thank God for the work of the NHS and all carers, without whose hard work and dedication our situation would be a lot worse. We also thank him for the efforts of our scientists in working for a vaccine for Covid 19, and we look forward to a lifting of some of the restrictions that are now in force.

It is easy to succumb to feelings of fear, anxiety and loneliness at this time. I would like to share with you some words from hymn 22 in our Church Hymnal.

If you pass through raging waters, you shall not be drowned.

If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.

If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side,

Know that I am with you through it all.

Be not afraid, I go before you always.

Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

Let us pray

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