

Prayer Lunch, Monday 22nd at 12.15pm at 12 Hillside Ave, Sutton on Sea – All welcome (please let us know you're coming on 440039); **Healing Service** is Wed 17th at 7pm at St. Mary's, Mablethorpe.



Upcoming **Meetings** – please **pray for us** as we make decisions about our parishes:

Tue 16th, **Trusthorpe PCC** at 10.30am

Thur 18th, **Huttoft PCC** at 11.00am

Thur 25th, **Sutton PCC** at 7.00pm

Wardens/Ministry Team Tue 23rd at 10.30am at Trusthorpe



APRIL 14TH – THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

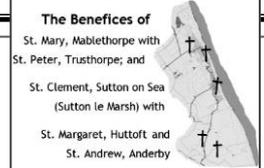
A REFLECTION BY MRS. CHRISTINE COLLINS (READER)

“What a difference a day makes” as the song goes, and what a day it had been!!

Today's Gospel reading doesn't tell us what else had happened that day – the first Easter Sunday! What had they heard? Somehow the eleven disciples and their “companions” still had the energy to talk about it all. I'm not sure I would have done. I'd have been sitting there dumb-founded, emotionally drained and unable to speak or perhaps even unable to think!

Well, what had happened? The women had been up really early, anxious to get to the tomb as soon as there was a bit of light, so they could give the body of their beloved friend and teacher the proper care which there had been no time to do after he had died, as the Sabbath had been about to begin. Oh, no! The stone had been rolled away, Jesus' body was gone – how can this be? Then the appearance of the two “men” and their amazing news, triggering memories of Jesus' teachings. “He is risen!” They rushed back to tell the disciples. Their reaction? “Foolish talk”. But Peter, ever impetuous, rushes off to check on their news. He is amazed at what he sees when he goes into the tomb.

Later in the day two of the companions head off to Emmaus. Luke tells us one was called Cleopas, and we can only guess at why they had decided to leave their friends and go to their own home. Perhaps they felt they would be safer away from Jerusalem. They too have an amazing experience: an actual encounter with the risen Jesus and his hugely enlightening teaching from scripture (the Old Testament). They couldn't wait to rush back and tell the eleven and their companions, who had some equally good news – Jesus had appeared to Peter (interestingly called by his old name, Simon) too! And as they tell their story, Jesus himself comes to them – and still they are terrified, thinking he's a ghost. Jesus urges them to look, to touch him, to give him something to eat. Their joy and disbelief is all mixed up together. Jesus again uses the opportunity to point them to their scriptures, showing how the prophecies about him had to happen. He then gives them their vocation for the rest of their lives – they are to be his witnesses, telling the Good News – Jesus has suffered and died for us, he has risen again, conquering death, paying the price for our sins, so that if we come to him in repentance we can be forgiven. We have not seen Jesus in the flesh, but if we've come to him in repentance, accepting his forgiveness, we have this same vocation – to be the tellers of the Good News we have “seen”, experienced, beginning in the place where we live, telling the people we know and see. The disciples set the ball rolling; they proclaimed the good news of Jesus in other countries. Because they first obeyed Jesus, it spread around the world. We have heard the Good News. Let's do our bit to pass it on.



Please pray: for all who are working to share the good news of the gospel, in our own land (clergy, ministers and all of us!) and for all who live as Christians among a majority of another faith and who may face persecution for telling others; and all who translate the scriptures.

Parish Website: <http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/mablethorpesutton>

Parish Office: Jen on 01507 464855 or office@alfordgroup.org.uk (Tue 11.30am-3.00pm, Fri 11.30am-1.30pm)

Rev Peter Liley 443948, rev.p.liley@btinternet.com & Canon Chris Lilley 440039, c.lilley@btinternet.com

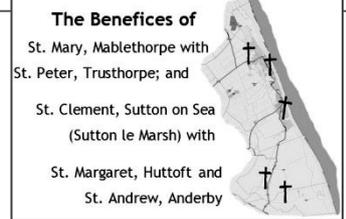
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The Prayer Service (Churches Together in Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe & Sutton on Sea) **HAS BEEN MOVED TO Saturday 20th** at Sutton on Sea Methodist Church at 6.00pm. All very welcome.

APRIL 21ST – THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
A REFLECTION BY MRS. JENNY HAYES (READER)

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me — just as the Father knows me and I know the Father — and I lay down my life for the sheep.” Jesus uses a good analogy for himself and humanity. Knowledge that can be visualised by any generation. Shepherds are amazing people. I concluded this after exploring what a shepherd is and what qualities he needs? A shepherd takes care of the sheep. Common knowledge! But what’s involved?



Requirements of a Shepherd:

- Must be tough at heart. ...
- Must be willing to do hard work. ...
- Must be willing to be humbled daily. ...
- Must not be afraid to learn new things. ...
- Must have great endurance. ...
- Must exhibit ability to observe. ...
- Must have the patience of a saint.

The above skills are a good description of Jesus’ job role during his ministry on earth. A shepherd is responsible for his sheep welfare, enough to lay down his life for them. He seeks best grazing pasture, moving the flock accordingly. He gathers them in at night, guarding who can enter the corral. A shepherd is never isolated from his flock. He spends time with his sheep. The sheep know his voice, and he takes the time to name them and care for them. Often shepherds work in isolated areas for long hours, especially during lambing, forcing them to be self-sufficient. Every day, 24 hours, the shepherd protects and guards his animals. He ensures the sheep do not succumb to poisonous plants or predators. Sheep are susceptible to disease, insects and herd behaviour. They need worming and insecticides, help during lambing and with minor injuries.

Jesus observed suffering and injustice, worked long hours, often alone, within a crowd. During His ministry he healed the sick, worked hard, tried to teach humanity selflessness, caring and the love of God: ways to ensure man stays spiritually and physically healthy. Jesus laid down his life for the forgiveness of all human sin.

So, How are humans like sheep? Sheep are highly social animals with strong social hierarchies. Isolation from the flock causes them stress and they flock together, and panic, when threatened. Sheep readily follow one another, moving away from dark areas, buildings and things that frighten them. They will follow a voice they recognise. Mankind is very social, also having a herd instinct and social hierarchy. Isolation too causes people stress and generally people are happier to follow than lead. Many find darkness depressing.

Jesus provides the light and guidance in our lives. He spent time listening to people. We know him and He knows us. Following Jesus is our way to eternal life.

Please pray: for those who are struggling to find their way in life, maybe facing a difficult decision, or not sure where they’re headed; and all who run FurniChurch (inc. Chris Collins, Chair, and Chris Lilley, Trustee) and our Community Larders and all who need their help.

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