

**St Andrew's Church Woodside
21st April 2024
Holy Communion**



Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

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.

Message from Nick

Today's Gospel Reading: John 10: 11 - 18

There is an idea that Jesus emphasises in our passage with regard to his leading as the Good Shepherd. There is a way he has chosen as the means of bringing abundant life to all who believe in him. As Jesus teaches his disciples and the Pharisees he says in verse 11, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Jesus illustrates how he is the one true Shepherd who goes beyond an ordinary shepherd. He promises to give up his life for his sheep. And we know from the testimony of the Easter story that he did. In the resurrection, sin and death have been conquered. A way has been opened for all people to come to the Father, by faith in the Risen Son.

Disciples of Christ are called to live up to this kind of love. Laying down one's life doesn't necessarily have to include death. Jesus says we are his friends if we do what he commands us to do. When we display Christ-like grace, denying the self, glorifying God and imitating Christ, we lay down our lives through faith in him. The Lord encourages his disciples to deny themselves in all that they do and to serve others. The grace of the Good Shepherd is sufficient for those who follow him; He will lead them, he will keep them safe, he will bless them with abundant life, and he will bring them safely home, fully restored to the Father.

Sharing the Peace

We will be removing distancing when sharing the Peace, so the church family are now free to move around and shake hands or hug. We ask for sensitivity to those who still distance or who feel uncomfortable around physical contact.

For those not in church, 10.30 Sunday services will be available on Zoom:

Meeting 878 5926 2657, passcode 664663 or click on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859262657?pwd=dTdada291VDk2anA5aGtmdnFCN3kzQT09>

Contacts at St. Andrew's

Priest in Charge: Revd Nick Mwandia

e-Mail: revstandreww@gmail.com

Reader: Julie Taylor: 01582 413912

Vicarage: 01582 285791 or 07398 663729

Nick's day off: Friday

Churchwarden: Steve Baird: 01582 738205

**We are here as God's family, to draw closer to God,
to live out our faith and welcome all into the love of God.**



Practical help for the Community

Azalea sends thanks to all those who contribute in various ways, which include our regular Gift Aided donations. They regularly collect our offerings of food, toiletries, etc; always gratefully received!



We continue to deliver food items to the Foodbank monthly as needs are greater than ever. Your generous support provides aid to both adults and children: our offerings are thankfully received. Please donate high protein food items: e.g. tinned beans, dry pasta, long life milk, etc. dropping your items in the Foodbank trug at church or at 7 Crawley Close. We plan to drop off at the Food Bank on Tuesday 30th April.

The Foodbank appreciates regular Gift Aid donations where possible.

See <https://lutonfoodbank.org.uk>

Items for Asylum Seekers

Adult toothbrushes, Shampoo, Body Moisturiser, Shower Gel, Spray deodorants, Baby's toiletries, Baby oil/moisturiser. New T-shirts & Joggers S/M/L, Crop tops, Bras, Socks. Please place items into the box in church.

Blister Packs Recycling

We have a collection box at the back of church for used blister packs, which Paula has kindly volunteered to take for recycling.

Church Diary - April

Sun 21st	10:30	Holy Communion
Tue 23rd	12-2	Soup & Sandwich at the Rising Sun
Wed 24th	10:30	Little Stars, doors open at 10
Thu 25th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom
Sat 27th	10-12	Community Coffee in church
Sun 28th	10:30	Family Service immediately followed by the Annual Church Meeting
Mon 29th	10:00	Little Singing Stars
Tue 30th	12-2	Soup & Sandwich at the Rising Sun

May

Wed 1st	10:30 8pm	Little Stars, doors open at 10 Monthly Prayers in the Family Room
Thu 2nd	9:30	Bible Study in the Family Room & Zoom
Sun 5th	10:00	Informal Communion: joint service at St Paul's

Sharing what God is doing

Want to share God's works in your life?

Not brave enough yet to share your testimony from the front?

Then talk to Nick or Julie about how we can share on your behalf.



The Good Neighbour Scheme in conjunction with St Andrew's present Hot Soup & Sandwich in a Warm Place!

£3 per person, Tea & Coffee available at little additional cost

Open to all Senior Citizens, Tuesdays 12 to 2 pm at the 'Sun'

If you can help, please sign up at the back of church.



Monthly Prayers on first Wednesdays & Weekly Bible Studies ...

Zoom on 589 233 412, passcode 090636 or use:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/589233412?pwd=d1LL0E2Y0w4dDdpUXlTR0pHcGdSQTO9>