

From the kitchen window 23rd April 2021

As the days get longer and temperatures rise, spring accelerates as birds get into full nesting mode and wild flowers are suddenly everywhere. Before choosing a nest site, birds will explore the area well, especially early in the morning, as Enid found when two Red-legged Partridges were strolling across her lawn as she drew the curtains back! When building a nest, different species choose different lining materials. We watched a female Great Tit carrying sandy-coloured dog hair from our neighbour's garden, while a Goldfinch pulled beaks full of sheep's wool out of the holder in our lilac. It is usually the female bird which does most incubating of the eggs and so will often want to bathe and preen her feathers between long stints on the nest. We watched a pair of Blackcap drinking and bathing in the mixing bowl in our marsh. The male, with his black cap was soon away, probably to brood the eggs while the hen bird, with her ginger crown, spent many minutes enjoying a good splash and preen. She was interrupted by a Robin, who also wanted to bathe, but held her own and the Robin had to wait, despite its larger size. We were delighted to see our first



Slow Worm of the year warming itself on paving slabs by the summer house one evening. It tolerated our presence for a while before sliding into the vegetation nearby, presumably to look for slugs. Slow Worms are very welcome in our garden. At my very rural Primary School we had a

pet Slow Worm which lived in an aquarium with soil and pieces of wood for it to hide under. The Slow Worm Monitor's job was to dig worms from our Headmistress' garden for Sandy the Slow Worm. It seemed very friendly and was quite happy to be handled gently, wrapping its long body around the hands holding it. Judith and Rufus saw their first Willow Warbler in scrub by Fakenham Garden Centre, while Fran and Charles visited a Roadside Nature Reserve near Guestwick and were very pleased to find Wood Anemones flowering and Early Purple Orchids just beginning to open. Having read about our sighting of the Woodcock at Whitwell Common last week, Ian sent an amazing photo he



took looking down on a sleeping Woodcock at Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve in the winter, showing just how cryptically the feathers are patterned. Do send any sightings of wildlife that you have, so we can all share



Pew Notes

Sunday 25th April (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

9am Bylaugh Matins
 10.30am Swannington Whole Benefice Holy Communion

W/C 12/4	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs
Morning Prayer	8am St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	8am St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	8am St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	8am Zoom
Holy Communion			10.30am St Mary's Reepham	
Midday Prayer			12noon Zoom	
Evening Prayer		6pm St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	6pm St Michael's Chancel, Reepham	6pm Zoom

Sunday 2nd May (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

9am Salle Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.30am Weston Longville Holy Communion
 10.30am Elsing Holy Communion
 10.30am Reepham Morning Worship
 10.30am Sparham OASIS

Contact Details

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**Words of Light and Hope
from Tony Hawes**

Now the green blade rises from the
buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many
days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead
has been;
Love is come again, like wheat that
springeth green.
Forth he came at Easter, like the risen
grain,
he that for three days in the grave
had lain;
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is
seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that
springeth green.
When our hearts are wintry, grieving,
or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life
again,
fields of our hearts, that dead and
bare have been;
Love is come again, like wheat that
springeth green.

John M.C.Crum

I am the good shepherd. The good
shepherd lays down his life for the
sheep.

John 10.11

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,,
And where the verdant pastures
grow
With food celestial feedeth.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth.

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

Henry W.Baker

O God, our heavenly Father,
who didst bring again from the dead
our Lord Jesus Christ, that great
Shepherd
of the sheep, in the power of his
Spirit
may we rise with him to newness of
life and follow him in love and
service.

Amen

John 10:11-18

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "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."



Weekly On Wednesdays

Please note the change in Zoom Meeting code

We are holding a weekly "gathering" for those who wish to discuss and dig a little deeper into topics around Christianity. It will be a place for ideas and discussions and built upon the principles of participation, respect and encouragement.

The sessions are open to everyone with no need to book or attend every session. We will meet via Zoom on Wednesday nights from 7pm to 8pm.

28th April: Love - How do we demonstrate love through actions in our communities.

If there are any future topics you would like to discuss, please contact Rev'd Helen. **Zoom meeting ID: 836 9720 0393 Password: 102113**