

The lens of mercy

Dear Friends,

As a boy, I used to enjoy going to my grandfather's farm at Eastertime. He was a shepherd and at this time of the year his fields would be full of new-born lambs, skipping along next to their mothers, who in turn followed my grandfather through the pastures to a fresh grazing place. Lambing is hard work, often involving long sleepless nights. At times, when a ewe died, my grandfather would take on the role of mother-sheep, feeding the lambs with a bottle – a job I loved helping with.



I've been thinking about this recently as we hear of Jesus describing himself as the Good Shepherd. In his time, the agricultural metaphor was an easy one to draw on to teach his disciples how he exercised his leadership, at once authoritative 'my sheep hear my voice and they follow me' as well as nurturing and protective, 'I lay down my life for the sheep'.

It's hard to find another parallel with a leader figure who embraces such qualities perfectly. At some point in life most of us have to exercise leadership and be led at different moments. Leadership in different guises is exercised in the family as parents, in the workplace, in the Church, and in politics at local and national levels, to name a few examples. Those being led expect a great deal from their leaders, and rightly so! We look for integrity and vision, an ability to win respect and to draw people together. But how often do we feel let down or disappointed by those in whom we've placed our trust? I'm often amazed that anyone would want some of the leadership roles out there, such is the weight of expectation and burden of responsibility.

Although we have the model in Jesus, as fallible humans we make mistakes. However hard we try we can't get things right all the time, either as leaders or those being led. Recently Pope Francis has urged Christians to consider how another name for God is Mercy – that's the characteristic at the heart of God which we see in so much of the New Testament. Mercy ought to be the lens through which we look at each other, especially when we feel let down or frustrated, whether that is as shepherds, or as the flock.

-Tom Pote

Tuesday Communion • St. Mary's • 12pm

A weekly reflective service of Holy Communion has begun at 12pm on Tuesdays in the beautiful, newly refurbished St. Mary's. All the precautions regarding distancing and masks will still be in place and the service will last around half an hour.

Please [let us know](#) if you'd like us to bring you Holy Communion in your garden or on your doorstep!

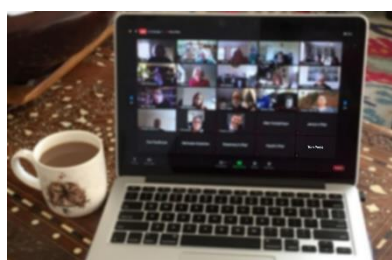
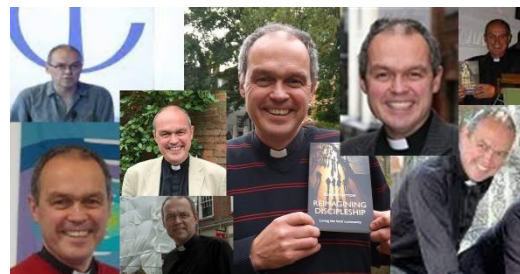


Worship and Choirs

We've really enjoyed having our choirs back with us in church over the past few weeks to sing on our behalf during services. On **Sunday 9th May** we look forward to the return of choral evensong. In preparation, from this Sunday, evening prayer will now be broadcast on YouTube (see link below).

Robert's 25th Anniversary • Sunday 2nd May

It has been lovely hearing from so many people about how much Robert's ministry has meant to them. Your messages will be presented to Robert this Sunday morning at both churches. - [HTSM Churchwardens](#).



Trinity Club@Home

Tuesday 4th May • 10:30am – 12pm

This week, we would like to welcome you for a chat over a coffee via Zoom in the virtual Trinity Centre.

To join us, please [email the parish office](#).

Parish Walk • Saturday 22nd May • 10am

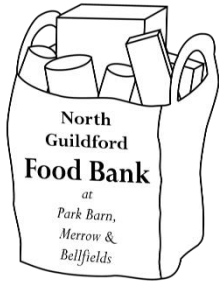
The Parish Walking group intend on organising a walk on May 22nd in the Chawton area. It will be about 5 miles starting at 10am. As this will be the first of our walks [Government Covid Restrictions permitting] we think it is best to take a packed lunch as pubs may be rather full or difficult to organise. Please register your interest with [Yvonne Cameron](#), [Nicky Matthews](#) or [David Uzzell](#) so that we can send you more detailed information nearer the time. – Yvonne





Café Club report

Last Thursday Café Club, our group for 12 -15 year olds, met up in person on the mound in the churchyard and chatted together in the warm sunshine, after a long period of meeting weekly on Zoom. Happy days



Food Bank donations welcome this Sunday

Our monthly collection for the food bank starts again this Sunday. A list of the currently 'most wanted' Items can be found in the North Guildford Food Bank's page on [Facebook](#), otherwise tinned meat, tinned fish and household cleaning products are always welcome. Please bring any donations to church with you.

Sunday Services • 2 May 2021 • Easter 5

8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Tom Pote

[At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

10am Holy Trinity Eucharist • Sermon by Robert Cotton

Readings: Ruth 1:10-16 and John 15:1-7

[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube • Breakout rooms on Zoom after the service](#)

10:30am St Mary's Morning Worship • Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock

Readings: Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8

[At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

6pm Holy Trinity Evening Prayer • Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-9 and Acts 8:26-40

[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube](#)

To receive Zoom links and service sheets by email
contact office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 567716

You can also watch our services (LS) Livestream on the HTSM YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/HTSMGuildford>

If there is news that we should know, please pass it on:
Rev Robert Cotton rector@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 575489
Rev Tom Pote curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 511725
Parish Office office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk | 01483 567716
Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you.