

## EASTER 4 2017 – CELEBRATE TOGETHER

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*We played the game 'Simon says' – though renamed it MICHAEL SAYS –  
We are so often like sheep, we follow everyone else even if it is not right or correct.  
LOOK OVER THERE – and everyone looks – because we are a bit like sheep.*

- *We created chairs to build a sheepfold with gap for an entrance. Volunteer sheep went inside and there were a few wolves lurking.*
- Sheepfold was like this – except made of stones not chairs.
- Is there a door? No there isn't. The shepherd himself was the door/the gate – to keep the sheep safe inside and the wolves or the sheep stealers away.
- He can hear and see the danger, using his senses, and take action.
- Sheep get easily frightened but when they hear the voice of the shepherd they know they can trust him and feel safe. They will follow him when he calls.

### Teaching:

In the Gospel reading today, we heard Jesus telling people that he is the sheep-door. He told them all about the sheep being safe when the shepherd is at the door and the sheep knowing his voice and following him.

But the people didn't have a clue why Jesus was talking to them about sheep and shepherds and so they asked him to explain.

Jesus said he was trying to tell them something important about God. He was telling the people they were a bit like sheep and that Jesus is like the shepherd who lies down in the gateway to keep the sheep safe. He was saying that God loves us so much and cares for us. He hates the thought of us coming to harm.

We know we can trust God when we hear him speak and follow him because we know he is faithful and good and loving.

So whenever we are scared to face a problem or we think we might do a wrong thing, just stand, in your imagination, safe in the sheepfold behind Jesus.

Listen out for the quiet calling of God as the Good Shepherd – you probably won't hear it with your ears but you will know it in your heart – and follow him into the way that is right and good and kind and loving.