

The Lenten Missive

Dear Reader,

On Ash Wednesday, the departing gospel told the story of the Lost Sheep. If you ever get a chance to talk to a child from Great Bedwyn School, they will tell you all about their lost sheep. The parable tells the story of the shepherd with ninety-nine sheep who goes out to find the lost one. When he finds it, he returns and celebrates the recovery of his sheep. I found myself thinking deeply about this and my role in the community.

The comfortable thing is to stay with the ninety-nine and do nothing. Do the ninety-nine remaining get resentful when Michael (their Vicar) is off wandering the highways and byways? Probably, and it is somewhat akin to the resentment Jesus faced when he dared to speak to anyone who was not a Jew. However the gospels call us to 'Come and See.'

The programme that we are offering for Lent is up and running. Look at <https://www.comeandyouwillsee.com> to find the many more still on offer, from film nights to music, from prayer to bread making.

Like saying 'sorry', getting the energy to go out and try something new takes courage. Maybe one of our annual Good Friday walks is the option for you, where you take your dog and walk with others whilst reflecting. Maybe the Good Friday workshop in Great Bedwyn if you have children to occupy. If you are a film buff, why not try Pewsey Film Nights.

The important thing is that this will shape the future Church and worship in this area and our future searching will focus on the feedback we receive.

I wish you all the best for the rest of Lent and a joy-filled and Happy Easter.

Yours

Michael (Savernake Team Rector)