



London Diocesan Board for Schools

Act of Worship: The Good Shepherd

(The story can be acted whilst the narrator speaks)

Once upon a time there was a shepherd who wanted to find a good place to feed his sheep. He led the sheep across the hills looking for green grass and water. Sometimes they travelled a long way from home in search of the best food.

In the hills the rocks were hard to climb and sometimes a lamb slid off the edge and the shepherd had to rescue it. That could be quite dangerous for them both.

When the shepherd sat down for his lunch he was very careful even while he ate to keep a good look out.

One day while he was eating he jumped to his feet. He thought he had seen something creeping round a rock. He kept his eyes fixed on the spot and then took out his sling and picked up a small stone. Ready – Aim – Fire!
A grey wolf ran off into the distance.

As night fell the shepherd led his sheep on until he found a safe resting place – a circle of stones. He led the sheep inside and then lay down across the gap. If any sheep tried to get out he would know about it and could shoo them back in and if the wolf came he was ready for him armed with his shepherd's crook to scare him away. That was frightening work because wolves attack humans too.

King David in the Bible was a shepherd when he was a boy and he wrote a psalm about that experience. Sometimes it is sung as a hymn:

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, or 2. The King of love my shepherd is.

PSALM 23 v1-6

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I lack for nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me to water where I may rest;

³ He revives my spirit; for his name's sake he guides me in the right paths.

⁴ Even were I walk through a valley of the deepest darkness I should fear no harm, for you are with me; your shepherd's staff and crook afford me comfort.

⁵ You spread a table for me in the presence of my enemies; you have richly anointed my head with oil, and my cup brims over.

⁶ Goodness and love unfailing will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD throughout the years to come.

Years later St John wrote in his gospel some words of Jesus (John 10 v14-15)

Reader: 'I am the Good Shepherd and know my own, and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep'

Let us sit quietly and for a few moments think about those who protect and care for us – our parents, our family, and our friends.

Loving Father we thank you for all those who love and care for us. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to be our shepherd. We ask that you hold each one of us safe and help us to remember to care for each other as we work and play today. Amen