**Saturday 18th April**

Psalm 23: 1 – 2

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

I expect that for many of us this Psalm has come to mind in the past few weeks. Its familiar words seem particularly pertinent for the season that we are travelling through. David, the shepherd turned king, recognises that in the same way that he took responsibility for guiding, feeding and protecting his flock, so the Lord was with him. As sheep in the flock of the Good Shepherd, our responsibility is to trust Him implicitly. If the Lord is our Shepherd, then we can be confident that ‘no good thing will he withhold’. He provides for our needs. I have felt so grateful in the past few weeks for the many ways in which we see the Lord’s provision: skilled health workers who have been able to bring relief and restore good health to the sick; technology which has meant that we are able to keep in touch with each other; the ease of going to the supermarket and finding it working efficiently and well-stocked (a small queue is inconsequential when we think of those for whom there is no such luxury). You will be able to think of many more blessings that perhaps we have been tempted to take for granted, but now we are seeing their true value. Spend some time today counting those blessings.

*Father, we thank you so much for every good and perfect gift that you give. We recognise that all good things come from you. Thank you that when we put our trust in you, the Good Shepherd, we know your provision, protection and peace in all situations. We pray today for any who are feeling anxious about things that they need. For those that are stressed or frightened. Lord, today we pray for those green pastures and quiet waters of your presence. In Jesus name. Amen*

