

**The Benefice & Team Ministry of Tettenhall Wood and Perton**  
**The Parish of Tettenhall Wood**

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Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you bearing up well and in good heart.

We have reached the Fourth Sunday of Easter, and the lectionary readings have now moved away from the Easter events themselves. Our first reading, from Acts 2, comes immediately after Peter concludes his address to the crowds on the Day of Pentecost, and we are told 'about 3000 were added to their number.' The verses that follow (our reading) are often considered to be the first description of what the church is and does. It's interesting to reflect on the ways we stay true to this portrayal, as well as how far we have moved away from it.

The set Gospel readings now and for the coming weeks return to St John's Gospel. In chapter 10, Jesus calls himself both the Gate for the sheep, and the Good Shepherd. I am grateful to Richard Shreeve for producing a sermon that helps open up the meaning of today's passage.

The collect for the week also reflects this theme:

*Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep,  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all people may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Jesus' promises to care for his sheep remind me of the last verse of Psalm 121: "The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in [*and we should add, 'and your staying at home'*] both now and forever more." May you know God watching over you, this week and always.

With every blessing,

Phil

**The Parish of Tettenhall Wood**

*Christ Church, Tettenhall Wood & The Church of the Good Shepherd, Castlecroft*

**The Parish of Perton**

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