



The United Benefice of St Helen, Burghwallis and St Mary Magdalene, Campsall

When I used to work in Slovakia I occasionally visited the Slovak National Uprising Museum in the town of Banska Bystrica. It is a very modernist building with a very striking shape. I asked my friends why it was this shape – they said it was the shape of a Slovak shepherd's hat. As you can see in the



painting of a Slovak shepherd by Hendrick Bloemert this could be the case. It reminded them of the partizans who fought the Nazis in that mountain region. Shepherds in the mountains are tough people. When sheep are threatened by wolves they need tough people to protect them.



In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees whom he recognises as the enemies of the faithful. Jesus is the shepherd who sleeps across the entrance to the sheepfold. It is Jesus who protects his sheep from all dangers. And he speaks of the way in which he was prepared to lay down his life for his flock. It seems rather different to our images of Little Bo Peep and perhaps should remind us more of shepherds going out onto the Yorkshire Dales in the depths of winter. Jesus' audience are the Pharisees who seek to undermine his message and scatter his flock. In dark and difficult times we turn towards those familiar words of faith from Psalm 23 – The Lord is my Shepherd – with its promise that when we walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death we shall fear no evil.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
To
Angela Evans who was 80 on
Easter Monday!

We Pray for the Soul of
John Beddard who died on the 27th of April in
China Cottage. Our thoughts and prayers are
with Enid.

Fr

Richard

I Am the Gate. Whoever Enters by Me will be Saved...

Contacts

Priest in Charge: Revd Dr Richard Walton 723224
Curate: Revd Christopher Herbert 702615
Reader: Mrs Christine Herbert 702615

Churchwardens: Campsall
Jenny Lister 702552
Churchwardens: Burghwallis
Shirley Gill 700057, Colin Bowes 702779