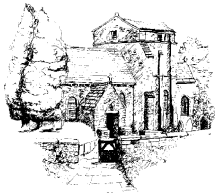
Thought for the Week

In any terms the picture of the Church as the flock of God is a lovely picture, but it is even lovelier when it is set against its Palestinian background. The pasture land of Judaea is no more than a narrow ridge like the backbone of the country. There were no walled fields, and the pasture land either plunged in cliffs down to the Dead Sea or fell away in infertile valleys through the Shephelah to the Mediterranean coast. The wandering sheep would certainly perish, and even on the pasture land itself grass was sparse and wells and springs were few and far between.

The result of this was that in Palestine a flock was never to be seen without its shepherd. Day and night the shepherd was on constant guard; without his constant and unsleeping care the sheep would certainly starve or wander to disaster. The picture of the Church as the flock of God underlines the twin facts of God's unceasing care for his Church, and of the Church's complete dependence upon God. In the picture of the flock we see at one and the same time the love of God and the need of man.

William Barclay



St Nicholas' Church, Studland

Welcome to St Nicholas this morning!
Thank you for joining us.

We hope you will enjoy our worship together,
and join us for coffee
in the Hall after the service.

Readings for this Sunday are:

10.00am Hebrews 10:11-25 and Mark 13:1-8

SUNDAY 18th November	10.00am	Holy Communion

Collect:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion:

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.