

Bringing in the cows by Rev John Marshall

I have been remembering my time on the Southwark Ordination Course, and especially at Wychcroft, which was surrounded by cows and farm fields. It was fascinating to watch the cows – especially when they were calving. They seemed to manage perfectly well without human intervention but with the careful support of other cows.

Our Registrar was the Rev Phyllis an ex-headteacher with two corgis. Corgis are cattle herding dogs and they couldn't resist – they loved to bring the cows to inappropriate places, nipping at their heels.

Phyllis also told us they liked to herd window cleaners, on one occasion following him up his ladder and keeping him there.

We know that the good shepherd brings the sheep to the fold.

We are reminded in Matthew 11.28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”