The Rector Writes….

The Lord is my shepherd ; I shall not want

Psalm 23 : 1

I love Psalm 23. It is such an encouraging and beautiful poem of promise, especially as we come into the pastoral month of September, with its harvests and (hopefully) warmth and gentle winding down of summer. Many people know the short Psalm and really enjoy hearing it.

I recently came across a different version which is equally meaningful and worthy of our consideration. I believe it is translated from a Japanese version.

Psalm 23 Alternative Version

The Lord is my pace-setter : I shall not rush.
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals
He provides me with images of stillness.
Which restores my serenity.

He leads me in the way of efficiency through calmness of mind
And his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day.
I will not fret for his presence is here.
His timelessness, His all-importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares me refreshment and renewal
in the midst of my activity
By anointing my mind with the oil of tranquility
My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness
Shall be the fruit of my hours,
for I shall walk in the pace of my Lord
And dwell in His house forever.

A famous actor was eating in a restaurant. People asked him to speak after the meal. He said "would someone like to choose something for me to recite ?"
A man tentatively put up his hand and asked the actor to recite Psalm 23.
The actor said he would – if the man would also recite it after him.

The actor recited the psalm beautifully, with expression, depth and real skill.
"The Lord is my shepherd – I shall not want … …"
At the end the room errupted with applause. The actor then looked to the man who had made the request. Gradually the gentleman stood and with quiet voice and eyes to the sky he began to recite slowly and with real feeling ; "The Lord is ***my*** shepherd – I shall not want … …"
As he concluded the room was absolutely silent.

After a while the actor stood and walked over to the man and said, "Ladies and gentleman, from what you have heard tonight you will realise that I know Psalm 23 but this man truly knows 'the shepherd !"

Do please talk to me, or any of the church teams, about our true shepherd – Jesus.

With thoughts and prayers

Clive Sedgewick