**Friday 3rd July**

John 10: 9, 10

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Have you ever watched one of those very exciting films where someone is trying to escape to a place of safety? I expect you have – it’s a very popular storyline!  I find myself feeling more and more tense, and then there is a wave of relief as the character finally gets to a place that they are safe from pursuit! Perhaps you have been in a real life situation where you have had to escape to a safe place. These are the words of Jesus, in which he tells us that He is the place of safety. He is the one to run to, in order to be rescued. He is the place to escape the enemies of our soul. He is the only way to be saved. And when we know him, we find a place of rest and provision – a spacious place. Sometimes you hear all sorts of accusations against God. But it is the enemy who comes to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus is the giver of life in all its fullness.

*Lord Jesus, thank you that you came so that we might have life, and have it to the full! Thank you that you are the place of safety - the place where we find freedom from sin and fear – the One through whom we come to know the Father and become adopted into His family.*

*We pray today for those that are in danger. We pray for victims of domestic abuse. We pray for those caught in modern slavery. We pray for people living in war-torn regions or for those anxious about where the next meal will come from. We pray for your protection and provision and a safe place for them. In Jesus Name. Amen*

