



This is a picture of a lamb in the garden of Ruth Smith from Great Broughton. It's there because its mum didn't have enough milk and Ruth has been giving it a top up bottle.

When Ruth was feeding the lamb, it made her think about all the times that sheep or lambs were mentioned in the bible, including when the shepherds heard the message about Jesus's birth and the parable of the Lost Sheep.

Did you know?

Sheep are mentioned in the Bible more than 500 times, more than any other animal! The prominence of sheep in the Bible grows out two realities. Sheep were important to the nomads and agricultural life of the Hebrews and similar peoples. Secondly, sheep are used throughout the Bible to symbolically refer to God's people – and with the Lord as our Shepherd, we shall not want.

The Shepherd
by William Blake

How sweet is the Shepherd's sweet lot!
From the morn to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.
For he hears the lamb's innocent call,
And he hears the ewe's tender reply;
He is watchful, while they are in peace,
For they know when their Shepherd is nigh.