

REFLECTIONS

Our first reading today is what you might call a Sunday School favourite with the young lad, Samuel, being called by God. He takes a bit of pushing but he eventually responds positively. Then, we come to the reading from the Gospel and the start of our Lord's ministry. The foundation stones, the calling together of the team of disciples, the cabinet, if you like. A question is asked, 'come and join us, Nathanael; come and meet Jesus', to which comes the reply 'can anything good come out of Nazareth?'

Not a very good start, you might think, with that reaction to an invitation to meet Jesus. But, as we read, that is followed by a face to face encounter. Was there a reaction from him - 'What me?' Whatever was said, we know that the team then gets another valuable member.

The team of disciples grows and the journey continues for Jesus and, even though he 'comes from Nazareth', we know that he is 'in charge' but recognises the qualities of those he has chosen.

Chris Bishop

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ONLINE

With rapidly increasing levels of COVID in Uttlesford as well as wider afield, our churchwardens have decided that, for the safety of all, we should suspend having congregations in church until further notice. The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and the email bulletin. They will all take place on Zoom unless otherwise indicated.

SUNDAY

St Mary's Saffron Walden

10.00am Family Service on Zoom Leader: Tracey Nicholls

St Botolph's Hadstock

9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths

All Saints Ashdon

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

All Saints Wimbish

9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon

Cam Villages

10.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom Leader: Alex Jeewan

Preacher: Alan Curren

3.30pm iChurch

Leader: Alex Jeewan

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer (Zoom) Leader: Paula Griffiths

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion (Zoom) President: Paula Griffiths

The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN,
WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

Welcome to our services today
Second Sunday of Epiphany
17th January 2021

Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3.1-10(11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Gospel: John 1.43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Post Communion

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.



See St Mary's Church, SW, website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.

Please 'Like' our Facebook page so we reach more people! Click on the link on our website, or go to: www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In January please pray for: **Saffron Walden Community Church, Saffron Walden County High School**
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Margaret Pedder (Dawn Saxon's mother), Jean Towlson

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

My vocation to the ordained ministry came at an early age. I do remember that, in those days, at a function, my parents were asked what I was going to do job wise. They said I was going into the ministry. The questioner thought they meant the ministry of works or something like that, so he had to be put straight – no, the church!

Today the readings are very much about calling. During my earlier ministry, one responsibility I had was being involved with an organisation called 'Seeds'. 'Seeds' was a group of people who had a variety of skills and worked together to arrange workshops for churches, enabling individuals to explore and develop skills they too could use within their churches: being better readers, interceders or learning about flower arranging, to name but three examples.

A few years ago, an article in the Church Times said 'a church needs more than a leader, and needs a pool of talents, of which the pastoral and liturgical skills of the clergy are only part.' Being part of a mixed age community in a church means there are all sorts of opportunities to recognise the gifts and skills people have. Has that happened to you, and do you have such a story to tell?

We are fortunate to have so many skills and gifts shared by members of our congregations for, hopefully, we also see ourselves as disciples and long may it be so.....and so readers, we reflect upon the readings set for this Sunday.

With love and prayers

Chris Bishop

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

O Lord, help us to continually find you amidst all the webs and complexities of daily life. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 18th	Morning Psalm 146 & 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 Evening Psalm 71
Tue 19th	Morning Psalm 132 & 1 Corinthians 6:12-end Evening Psalm 89:1-37 & Matthew 24:15-28
Wed 20th	Morning Psalm 81 & 1 Corinthians 7:1-24 Evening Psalm 97
Thurs 21st	Morning Psalm 76 & 1 Corinthians 7:25-end Evening Psalm 111
Fri 22nd	Morning Psalm 27 & 1 Corinthians: Chapter 8 Evening Psalm 73
Sat 23rd	Morning Psalm 122 & 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 Evening Psalm 61

NEWS

ONLINE SERVICES are listed on the back page. Full joining details are available on the weekly email bulletin and on the website. Please email Dawn if you would like to be added to the bulletin distribution list.

LIVE WORSHIP by phone - you don't need a computer or tablet to join our services from home. If you would like to know more please contact Judith Hasler on 525041 or John Saxon on 541619.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's, Saffron Walden has now closed during the current lockdown. All Saints, Ashdon, remains open every day. St Botolph's, Hadstock will be open by appointment only.

HYMNS AND PRAYERS SHEET - the sheet issued for Christmas and Epiphany will continue to be used for Wednesday services **and for private prayer until the end of January.**

THE PARISH PRAYER DIARY has been updated and is available for download from the Prayer page of the website. Paper copies available by contacting the Parish Administrator.

BEDTIME CHURCH Please pray for this new venture on Zoom at 6pm this **Sunday 17th January**. Alison Knights and Barnaby Bear will be welcoming 0-7 year olds to a short session including songs, prayers and a Bible story. We already have over 25 children and their parents signed up to join in!

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2021 St Mary's is unable to hold an HMD event this year, but if you would like details of a streamed event which will go out at 7pm on **Sunday 24th January**, please contact Rufus Barnes by phone on 523776 or by email on loavesandfishes@gmail.com

FLOWER TEAM Due to present Covid restrictions I will not be issuing any Rotas until Easter. *Pam Russell*

Foreign and British commemorative **STAMPS, CURRENCY & BRITISH COINS** and notes that are no longer in circulation, please hand to me or St Mary's Parish Office. All proceeds go to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. *Margaret Walter*

All items for the **GRAPEVINE** should be sent to secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com by 9.00am on Wednesday.

IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

You are invited to explore questions of life and faith with others on an Alpha Course. Still a chance to begin this course with Session 1 'Who is Jesus?' Wednesdays 8-9.30pm 20 January - 24 March or Thursdays 2-3.30pm 21 January - 25 March. Online via Zoom. Ideal to invite family and friends along to or just come by yourself! Contact me for joining details (541619). *John Saxon*



PARISH OFFICE HOURS The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12noon. The office is not currently open to personal callers.

MINISTRY TEAM

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