

[View this email in your browser](#)



Church Link
Sunday 17 January 2021

No. 43

*Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Alternative Collect for the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Important Notice:
Following advice from the Diocese, we have taken the difficult decision to suspend worship in our buildings. We are also not currently able to open them for private prayer. This decision will be reviewed weekly and we hope to be able to worship in our buildings from February 21st 2021. Please join us for Sunday Worship and Church in the Spirit of Iona on our website and via Zoom. Full details can be found in the notices below.

The suspension of worship in our church buildings feels tough. However this time we are better prepared and more used to online routines and communicating via telephone, video link and email rather than in person. Please do take up the invitations to attend our online services. Zoom coffee and worship provides an opportunity to share with others and reminds us that our local community is still able to support us and strengthen us over the next few weeks. Below are the regular links to online worship, the Sunday reading and reflection, radio broadcast, Young Church Mag, Diocesan Connect Magazine and prayer within our community.

We know that things can change at short notice! Please always check the [website](#) for the most recent information and we will do our best to reflect changes in legislation as quickly as we can.

Yours in Fellowship,
Revd. Simon Lewis
Laura Williams

If you would prefer not to receive electronic communications from us, please [unsubscribe](#) here.

Second Sunday of Epiphany
Online worship this week

Sunday 17th January

- 10:30am - Online Church Worship via [this link](#)
- 11:00am - Isolation Station Radio Broadcast
- 11:15am - 11:45am Virtual coffee and chat [via Zoom](#)

Thursday 21st January

- 12:00pm, Online Church in the Spirit of Iona via Zoom. Please [click here to join](#)

During the lockdown, worship will be exclusively online. We will consider re-opening our buildings for worship after Saturday 20th February.

Sunday Reading and Reflection
17 January 2021

Theme: Epiphany 2
Reading: 1 Samuel 3.1-10
Samuel's Calling and Prophetic Activity

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.'

A Reflection

Two 'Epiphany stories' set the tone this week. On Isolation Station this morning I enjoy talking about Andrew who says, 'we have found the Messiah; and Nathaniel, who says, 'come and see.' You also read today how the boy Samuel many centuries before Jesus was called by God. We think of him as the last 'Judge' and the first 'Prophet' in Israel. He was a man of God, and in God's name chose Saul as the first King of Israel and then King David; he was their chief advisor. When Samuel chose, they were the right people at the right time; alas the lives of both Saul and David also give strength to that almost universal truth that 'all power corrupts.' It was true of Saul and of David; Samuel we honour for his obedience to the voice of God.

The account you read today is just a beautiful 'atmospheric' story; and one well known to Jesus; in his teaching Christ sees some aspects of power illustrated by Samuel through Saul and David (Mark 2); respect of persons and accountability to God. They are guiding principles by which nations, communities and individuals *could* and *should* still measure their behaviour. Where there is failure, there must be challenge and this may involve political and social action. Christians must not fail the poor, the oppressed, the dispossessed; they are biased to the poor.

It is just as important to recognise the power each of us wield over other individuals. Nearly all of us have influence. The more influence you wield, the more you enter the public eye, the greater your responsibility. The use of your power depends on the value you place on people and on the control of self-interest. Behind that lies a concern for truth and as the Christian would discern it, accountability to God. This was both the promise and the warning in the picture Christ gives of judgement. Power is not a possession but a stewardship from God. The old man, Eli, recognised that God was calling Samuel; he too was obedient to that voice.

A Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new;
transform the poverty of my nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of my life,
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.
Amen.

Sunday Worship
17 January 2021

You are invited to join us for online worship, led by Simon on our website. Please click the link at 10:30am to join our Church family.

[Sunday Worship](#)

Please join us for 'virtual coffee' and a chat after worship by [clicking here](#) to join us via Zoom. Whilst we cannot gather face to face, this is a great chance to catch up with the Church family.

Meeting ID: 895 9895 4667
Passcode: 692228

Midweek Worship
Church in the Spirit of Iona
Thursday 21 January, 12:00pm

During lockdown, our midweek Worship in the Spirit of Iona will be moving online. All are invited to join, whether you are a regular attendee or new to this style of worship. We will be meeting via Zoom at 12 noon and you can access the meeting by clicking the icon below, or by using the following details:

Meeting ID: 893 2042 8702
Passcode: 744856



Ringers' Radio Isolation Station



This week's recording for the Ring of Bells' radio station will be broadcast on Sunday morning, beginning with the sound of church bells at 10:45am and with the talk beginning at 11:00pm. You can also listen to this week's recording on our website, by clicking on the image below.



Children's Corner

This week's Young Church Mag looks at the calling of the first disciples. There's colouring, coding and a maze to help you explore the story. It's available as a printable PDF download by clicking [this link](#).

CONNECT
DIOCESE OF Bath & Wells
Living the story. Telling the story.



During the past week, as part of Prayer - Everyone - Everywhere, the Diocese of Bath and Wells has released a video on their youtube channel and a series of themed suggestions to help you develop your relationship with God through prayer. Thursday's video featuring local artists is available through clicking the image below. Full details can be found on the [Diocesan website](#) under the headline 'Let's Pray'

Prayer within our community

We have been asked to pray for:
In the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Joy, Joyce, for Elizabeth and Elaine, for Michelle, Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, for Elizabeth, Nick, Elairs, Neil and Margaret.
In the Parish of Ubley, please pray for Richard.
In the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Mathew, Tom and Harry, Ceinwen and Robert.

We pray for Bishop Peter as he continues chemotherapy following his diagnosis of acute myeloid leukaemia. We pray for God's healing grace for Bishop Peter and also for Jane, his wife, and all his family that they continue to know God's love and strength through this difficult time. We pray also for Bishop Ruth as she postpones her sabbatical and leads the Bishops' staff. We pray for all those being treated for illness at this time.

Remembering those who have died:
Please pray for the repose of the souls of Giles Barwick, Neville Machin, Hilary Allen, Dorothy Hares, and for their families and friends who mourn.

*O good Jesus,
Word of the Father and brightness of his glory,
whom angels desire to behold:
teach me to do your will that, guided by your Spirit,
I may come to that blessed city of everlasting day,
where all are one in heart and mind,
where there is safety and eternal peace,
happiness and delight,
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
world without end.
Amen.*

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

Community Support and Help Details

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

For those who live in Ubley

Ubley Cares
Landline: 463509 speak to Wes Hallam
Email: whallam@ubleyparish.co.uk
Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst
Email: jl1andjl2@sky.com

For those who live in Compton Martin:

Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish
Email: comptonmartin.cv@gmail.com
Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Luckett
Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Luckett
Email: peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com
Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston

For those who live in Blagdon:

Blagdon Community Link
Support during Covid-19
Email: carobl@blagdon@gmail.com

