

The Rambling Rector

Definition: A White Flowering Climbing Rose Or A Vicar With No Sermon Notes!

Bible Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The Lord calls Samuel

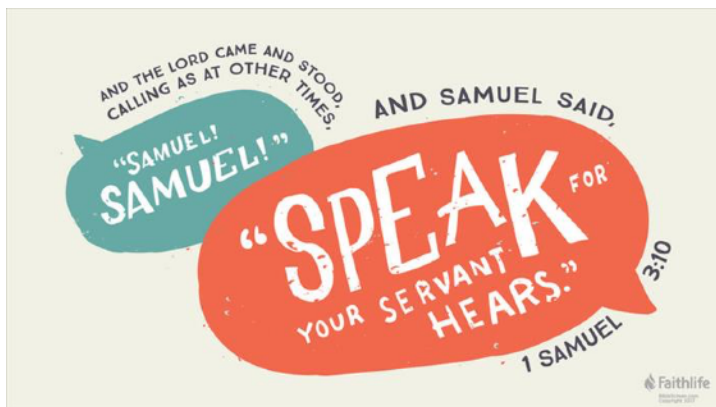
The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, 'Here I am.' And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down.

Again the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'



Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!'

Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

THIS WEEK



Chilled
Your Winter Pics



Exposé
The Sound Guy



News
Your News and Stories

John 1:43-end

Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'

'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked.

'Come and see,' said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.' 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.'

Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.'

Jesus said, 'You believe^[h] because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that.' He then added, 'Very truly I tell you,^[i] you^[j] will see "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on" the Son of Man.'

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WEEKLY PRAYER

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.



A Reflection - by Margaret Liddle

So Jesus has been baptised and chosen his first disciples. I wonder what the mood was among those who he had chosen? Imagine them talking to themselves;

"Why are we here?"

"Why has he chosen us we're ordinary."

"What will I tell the wife?"

"How can I explain that I'm going off with this Jesus and I don't know when I will be back."

Maybe some thought, 'if I walk slowly at the back I can wander off and not be noticed.'?

What was it about Jesus that made them follow him; he must have had some sort of commanding presence to instil trust in them.

Philip joins them but he's cautious, maybe unsure and he thinks, *"I wonder if I can get someone else to come along, safety in numbers, it will be good to have another friend with me."*

Philip sees Nathaniel and says, *"come along with us, here is the man to fulfil the prophecies, the one we've been waiting for, he comes from Nazareth."*

here is the man to fulfil the prophecies

Nathaniel is surprised and replies, *"Can anything good come from Nazareth"* The first racist comment, coming from Cana? Nathaniel had contempt for those from Nazareth. Rather like today when some think nothing good can come from anywhere north of Watford... but we know differently.

The point here is Jesus came from Nazareth, he's been brought up with ordinary people in an area not highly thought of by others. Philip replies to counter this prejudice; come and see for yourself don't prejudge him.

Jesus greets Nathaniel, captures his attention and throws him off his guard. Jesus sees in Nathaniel a man with no guile, someone who is straight talking and will be loyal. Jesus knows Nathaniel already and appears to have knowledge of his movements; *"I saw you under the fig tree with Philip"*

At this first meeting Nathaniel replies; *"You are the Son of God"*, Nathaniel has such Faith from the

start, which will deepen and grow as he spends time with Jesus.

Then we have the reference to Jacobs ladder which linked heaven to earth. But now with Jesus the meeting place of heaven and earth is no longer a ladder but it is Jesus himself. Jesus is the person in whom heaven and earth meet: The Son of God made man, the Messiah.

Jesus continues to this day to issue his summons: *"Follow me"*. It's heard throughout the world and we bear witness to our faith as did those first disciples.

Today, as then, he reaches out to people of all types. Jesus calls out today to everyone in the hope he will be heard; regardless of their talents, gifts, faults, fears and hopes. He calls out to ordinary people, the sinners as well as the saints, the poor and the wealthy.

the man from Nazareth was, and is, the meeting point between heaven and earth

Now, as then, much of the world still know him not. But, for all who will commit themselves to faith in him and follow his lead, they will come to the discovery, as those first disciples did, that the man from Nazareth was, and is, the meeting point between heaven and earth. That when you are with Jesus you are with God himself.

Jesus called the first disciples and they left all they had to follow him. The way of following Jesus is sometimes hard and difficult. But faith true faith endures through all life's ups and downs.

The message remains the same it's just going out to a new set of people. The message; have faith and follow Jesus and you will be with God. And it's this message which we need to take with us and share with others.

Have Faith and follow Jesus, then you will be with God and God will be with you.



IN DEPTH

The Sound Guy...or is he moonlighting? We interview our resident Sound Engineer and Santa lookalike - David Liddle

What was your least favourite food as a child?

Brussels sprouts

What is the worst job you've ever had?

Cleaning aeroplanes

If you were an animal, what would you be?

Penguin

Tell us something we don't know about you.

I used to park in Buckingham Palace when I went to London

What's the most exciting thing you've done?

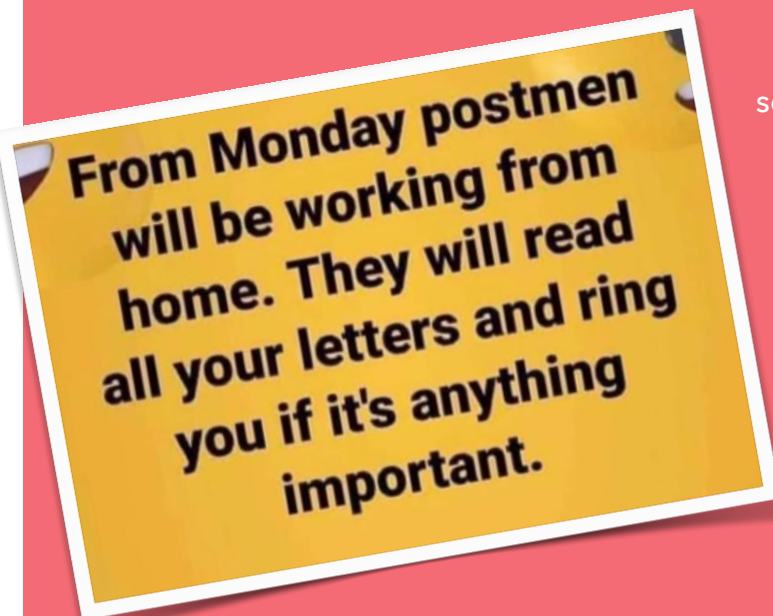
Driving through a minefield - they said it was cleared!

If you performed in a circus, what act would you be?

Juggler



IMPORTANT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



sent in by Len
Hornsby...

Essential Advice from Terry and Sybil Jones:

How to open a wine box

1. Tear box apart and discard
2. Find sharp knife and cut into the enclosed plastic bag
3. Find jugs and cloths to collect spilt contents
4. Retrieve damaged packaging from bin
5. Read instructions
6. Cheers !!!

Information
from
Olive
Hammond



Walking in the light
of Christ

Taken from this week's
Coronavirus ad clerum



**THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD**

Renewed | Released | Rejuvenated

'Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Dear friends,

Once again, we have been so encouraged by the response of our Diocesan family in this first week of lockdown number three. We could not have asked for a greater degree of wisdom and maturity shown in the way that you have reflected on all that is required of us in response to the government's message to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

Yesterday we celebrated the baptism of our Lord Jesus by John in the river Jordan. No doubt this also served to remind us of our own baptismal vows and our calling and commitment to live as 'Lights for Christ'. This lockdown is, for some, proving the most difficult yet. With longer nights and a more 'sticky' variant of the coronavirus in circulation, with plans changed multiple times and many worried about financial security and the impact of ongoing social isolation, there is greater need than ever for us to receive, walk and reflect the Light of Christ wherever he places us. This is the greatest message of hope we have for ourselves and for the world experiencing such darkness at this time. As bearers of his hope, it is our prayer that we can all become beacons of hope in our communities. For those who find the meditative songs from the Taizé community helpful aids to prayer, we commend this simple chant from Psalm 27: 'The Lord is my light, my light and salvation, in him I trust, in him I trust.' Of course we were never meant to make this witness alone. The church stands together whether gathered or dispersed.

+ Pete Sheffield

The Rt Revd Dr Pete Wilcox
Bishop of Sheffield

+ Sophie Doncaster

The Rt Revd Sophie Jelley
Bishop of Doncaster

With the Presidential Inauguration In Mind

At their inauguration in 1961: John F Kennedy:

"We observe today not a victory of party, but a celebration of freedom — symbolising an end, as well as a beginning — signifying renewal... Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans.... And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

Let's pray for for the USA at this challenging time in their history

Plans for Lent 2021



ASH WEDNESDAY

This year we will be in lock down for some of Lent definitely, for all of lent...probably, as Ash Wednesday falls on the 17th Feb, currently one day after the next review, with any changes implemented from the 22nd...maybe...

So, our Ash Wednesday service will be on-line. I know that for many the imposition of ashes is very important, but sadly we won't be able to do that this year, nevertheless I wanted to be able to offer something for those who might find it helpful.

There will be an on-line service at 7.00pm, and for those who would find some physical ash helpful, I would be happy to mail some out on a postcard, suspended in some form of resin, along with the usual words printed alongside. Whilst this isn't what we're used to, many churches are adopting this idea. We did consider sending some actual powdered ash out. However, it was pointed out that they might be intercepted at the post office given a small amount of powder in a 'dealer' bag would look suspicious!

If you would like a postcard, with some ash, then please let me know and I'll arrange that to be mailed out to you.

LENT COURSE

Once again we will run a Lent course each week leading up to Easter. Again, it's likely this will be online this year. More news on this in the coming weeks.

Take care. Neil

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ZOOM

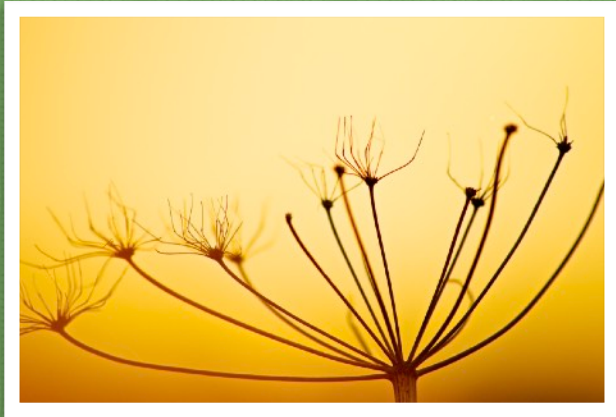
If you're unable to Zoom then we have resources available. If you would like fresh copies of Morning Prayer then please just give Neil a call who will be happy to mail them out.

In addition, the Church of England also has the following option available too.



Your Pictures - Beauty In Nature

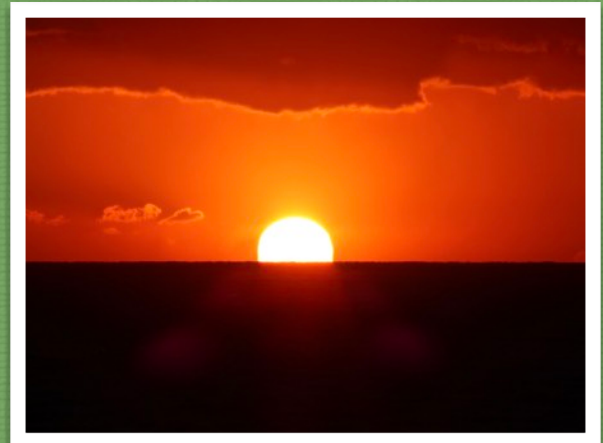
A beautiful picture sent in by Dawn Adcock, taken whilst on the families daily exercise.



A weed is just a plant where you don't want it, and they can be beautiful too.

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the
skies proclaim the work of his hands.*
Psalm 19:1

Sky by God, picture taken by Neil



A Bit Of A Yarn

Kay Pawley is knitting hats and gloves to raise some money for Church Funds.

The gloves are £5 per pair with all the money going to church, the hats are £8 each with £5 to church funds as we're buying in the wool for them, based on the orders we get.

If you would like to place an order then please give Kay a ring, or contact the parish office.



HOPE FOR 2021: CELEBRATING THE NOW AND FUTURE CREATION

I find that watching buds swelling on trees and plants during the winter months gives me a tremendous sense of hope. We may all need some extra hope for 2021, after the events of 2020.

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By the time you read this a number of us may have been fortunate enough to receive a COVID vaccine, but all of us will probably still be under various kinds of restrictions. After creation's winter shut-down, the sight of tiny flowers poking out of brown earth may be more important than ever.

Getting outdoors during daylight hours, enjoying green spaces and getting some fresh air and exercise are great ways to keep ourselves healthy at any time of year. A psychologist colleague wrote, "Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood and increased life satisfaction." I expect it is this sense of awe that makes it easier for many of us to connect with God outdoors.

Helping ourselves and others to thrive is a good start to 2021, but it is also vital to have hope for the future. The COVID-19 pandemic was caused by an animal virus jumping into the human population. Diseases like this are not 'natural disasters', but are almost certainly caused by environmental destruction and poor farming practices - either from greed or the desperation born of poverty. Part of the answer to the current crisis is for us to care for all of Creation,

both human and everything else, with God's help.

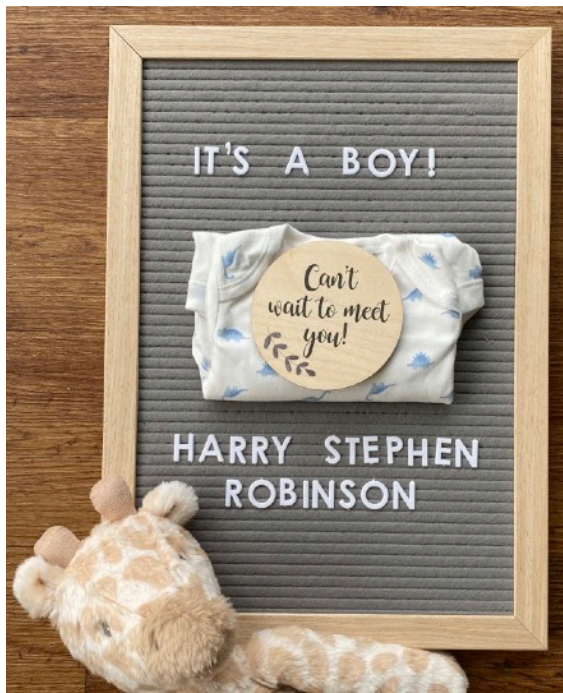
Our ultimate hope is in God's promise that He will bring about a new heavens and new earth. We can look forward to the day when Creation will be fully redeemed and liberated from evil. The Greek word used to describe the new creation is the same as that used to describe someone who becomes a Christian, whose humanity is restored and renewed. There will be continuity between the old and new earth as it is cleansed and purified, surpassing and perfecting what has gone before. There will also be some discontinuity, as there will be no more suffering or death.

So, one source of hope for 2021 is that we can enjoy both caring for and meeting God in Creation. But the parts of Creation that we find most beautiful, giving us a sense of awe and helping us to worship, are also a reminder that there is something much better to come.

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*By Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director,
The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion,
Cambridge*





Say 'Hello' to ...

Hannah and Stephen are thrilled to share:

“Our baby boy, Harry Stephen Robinson, is healthy and growing well.

Got to go back in a couple of weeks for another scan as he was facing the wrong way, showing us his back, so they couldn’t measure everything they needed to but nothing to worry about.”

A certain lady called Joyce is now 99 years young, baby Harry is minus 4 1/2 months. If my maths is correct there are 100 years between Joyce and Harry!



We can't wait to welcome him into the Church family.

Prayer & Prose

Truth Encounter

(Luke 4:1-14, John 17:17, James 4:7)

Led by the Spirit
And tempted by the devil
He wandered in the wilderness,
Hungry
And focussed on God,
And the truth and power of His Word.
Truth and power enough
To resist His enemy and ours.
To go on - armed with the Spirit -
To give His life,
To give us life.

A lesson in tactics then:
Know the truth,
Submit to God,
Resist the devil
And our wildernesses will blossom.
We will bear fruit,
Fruit to be known by
As His.

By Daphne Kitching

Dear Father God,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time - and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

There's Snow Business Like Snow Business



From Tricia - don't forget, there's snow services in church at the moment!



Chloe being a little angel, and we didn't know she had a twin!



That's Des and Mary Wright as snow people, along with trainee husky in the background!



Encouraging news from Jenny Webb. It's 4.42pm and not yet dark - soon be summer!

Your Snowy Pictures

On how to deal with your church's correspondence

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

You may have had several years of intensive training on biblical interpretation, preaching and church history, but that doesn't cover the really important matters in parish life: how to evade disgruntled parishioners, run a brisk Summer Fete and, in your case at present, deal with correspondence, either by letter or email.

My regular practice, which I recommend to you as a New Year Resolution, is to read all the letters/emails you receive and then discard them. If the matter is truly important, you will receive a second message, to which you respond; more likely, the sender will either have forgotten all about his first letter/email after the second month or will write to some other cleric instead. In either case, you will be saved a great deal of trouble.

You only need two folders for your filing system, either for post or emails. The first is for complaints; they are to be filed and ignored, no matter how many duplicates you are sent. Should you be confronted personally, you simply say that the matter has been passed on to the bishop. Those truly dogged complainants who pursue the matter will eventually receive an episcopal reply saying he knows nothing of the matter, for which you then blame the postal system/spammed email. After letters and emails have ricocheted round the country for many months, the person complaining will either have lost energy to pursue the matter, or the will to live.

The second file receives all other correspondence/emails chronologically. The earliest letters and emails will be at the bottom of the pile and the most recent on the top. In my experience, the postal file only needs attention when it reaches a height of about two feet and becomes unstable. The practice then is to discard the lower six inches and allow it to continue its steady growth. If the stack is kept in the church vestry, then mice usually attend to the papers on the bottom of the pile.

Sadly, your own church, with its electronic systems for filing, sorting and retrieving correspondence and with your parish secretaries, removes all of these blessings at a stroke. You have therefore no excuses for not dealing instantly with every note that comes your way. As ye sow, so shall ye reap.

May I also remind you that not even St Paul, that unflagging letter-writer, ever ended one of his letters with a request for a prompt reply. Need I say more?

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

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Suduko

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Just For Laughs



Neil was thrilled with his new cloak, but not so impressed with the face mask.

Live Services

Don't forget that every Sunday at 10.00am we are using Zoom to join together to worship. If you are unsure about using Zoom, then Hannah is more than happy to guide you through initial set up and have a practise run before the Sunday service. Please do get in touch with Hannah at hannah@centenaryproject.org.uk or 07875 500555.

TO SIGN IN, PLEASE USE THE DETAILS BELOW

Meeting ID: 596 313 8891

Password: FABParish

Parish Office

Telephone: 01302 770240

Email: parishoffice@fabparish.org

Web: www.fabparish.org.uk

Facebook: [finningleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/finningleychurch) [stsavioursauckley](https://www.facebook.com/stsavioursauckley)

Twitter: [@finningleycofe](https://twitter.com/finningleycofe) [@auckleychurch](https://twitter.com/auckleychurch)

We also have a parish WhatsApp group. If you would like to join please text Hannah Robinson on 07875 500555