

## Reflection 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)

The link between the OT reading and the Gospel is the call of God, to Samuel and to the early disciples of Jesus. We might smile wryly at the topicality of the first verses of this OT lesson: the word of God was rare and visions were not widespread. Nevertheless Samuel under Eli's prompting, finally realises what is going on. John's account of the call of the disciples is more stylised than that of the Synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, but we still have a process of call and response.

Another word for this is vocation, wrongly thought simply to include vocations to priesthood, an easy and perhaps collusive escape for other vocations – or is that too mean a thought? Vocation is what God calls us to be and then to do, a response to our baptisms, or in more contemporary thinking, knowing how we can make a difference.

God may have to call repeatedly (and the Samuel passage is helpful here), but God's still small voice is very persistent. Vocation also implies a measure of testing, to ensure that this is not some great ego trip. Candidates for ministry who tell us that they are just what the Church needs may not get very far!

So notwithstanding all that, what is God calling you to be and do in this parish and elsewhere?

*Fr David*

### Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 6 December to the end of January:

**Meeting ID:** 894 0983 2572

**Passcode:** 061920

**Telephone numbers:** 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

**NEXT SUNDAY 24.01.2021 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**

**SERVICES** 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

#### READINGS

OT Genesis 14: 17-20

NT Revelation 19: 6-10

Gospel John 2: 1-11



#### CONTACT US

**Fr. David Nixon** 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays

rev.dave@virgin.net

**Revd Sarah Cumming** Curate 07543604115

rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

**Revd. Alison Whiting** Associate Priest

rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

**Phil Baker**, Reader 07970 216740

lionelbaker@outlook.com

**Revd Terry Litherland** 07594633195

tlitherland36@gmail.com

**Ian Totterdell** Church Warden 01392 848674

07961621001 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

**Email:** parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/sttexeter

**Website:** www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

**Twitter:** @sttexeter

**Office Tel:** 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 17th January 2021**

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

**10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)**

**12 noon Mass in Church**

I feel a bit like those revamped wartime posters, that we are **keeping calm and carrying on!** And indeed we are at present, but not without consultation with other members of the St Thomas community, the wider diocese, and of course the national guidance. So we are holding at present to our established Sunday pattern as described above—but with review, thought and risk assessment.

May I add a word about **mingling** at the risk of sounding like a headteacher? This is not just about chatting in church, it's also about what we do in the grounds of the church by the doors, where a 2m rule applies, that's more than 6 feet apart from one another, probably wearing masks, and keeping conversation to a minimum; which I know is very difficult, but bluntly, an open Church is dependent on this.

**St Agatha** is one of the saints for this week—mutilated and martyred c251, she is patron of rape victims, breast cancer sufferers and wet nurses.

*Fr David*



## 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. **Amen**

### 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.' [Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.' Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him

everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.' As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

### Revelation 5: 1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll for God and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

### 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 towards 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. **Amen**

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### NOTICES

**Christmas Lights** One suggestion for brightening our spirits and those of others is that we leave up our lights until Candlemas, through the early evening darkness and the darkness of this new lockdown.

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Please continue to be generous.

**Knit and Natter Update for January 2021** We are delighted that so many members of the congregation are knitting blanket squares. This comforting activity is resulting in three more large blankets to add to the five already being enjoyed at Parkland House. Eight inch squares are the best – any wool, any colour, in garter stitch.

Nattering is on Thursdays via Zoom from 11.15am to 11.55am, thanks to Vanessa for setting this up for us, whilst we aren't able to meet in person. All information from Jenny on 01392 498725

**House Group.** Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

**PCC** will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, 27th January at 7.30pm