

THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH
GREAT YARMOUTH MINSTER, ST PAUL'S, ST MARY'S
SUNDAY 17th January 2021 **2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

Services online only: Facebook at 10am.

Parish Office:
The Rectory, Town Wall Rd, Great
Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 1DJ
Tel: 01493 858410
office@gtyarmouthminster.org
www.gtyarmouthminster.org

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

The gospel of John starts off at a pace after the cosmic opening which we always hear at Christmas about the light coming into the world. There is then a succession of days where on day one we are introduced the John the Baptist; day two John meets Jesus; day three Jesus calls Andrew and Simon Peter and in our reading today (John 1:43-51) we land on day four where Jesus calls Nathanael.

Nathanael is initially sceptical about Jesus when his friend Philip comes to find him. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" he declares. Nathanael is reluctant, but is won over when Jesus speaks to him. His scepticism is not condemned or admonished but rather it seems Jesus praises him.

Scepticism or unwillingness are part of a journey of faith and God can always use an enquiring mind. But there is one crucial invitation spoken to Nathanael which is for him to "Come and see". As we slip into lockdown again it may feel like there is not much to come and see as once again, we cannot gather in church and must be very careful at all times. What this lockdown does do is force many of us to look for God in other places because there are remarkable things to behold. Again, we are asked how we can use the time we have to be closer to God and carve out that space to pray or be still or read the Bible or reflect and hold the needs of others in prayer before God. It is possible to come seeking even if we can't set foot outside.

Jesus final words to Nathanael are of an invitation for all to "Come and see"

Fr Simon

NOTICES

Changes to Minster Opening times: the Minster will be open Thursday – Sunday, from 10am-12noon for private prayer. Please follow distancing guidelines. There will be an online service every Sunday at 10am. If you wish to volunteer to help keep the Minster open, contact the Parish Office.

Midweek Eucharists cancelled for January while this region is in Tier 4. We'll review this during the month.

Annual Report 2020 – although groups only met for a short period of time last year, if any leaders wish to submit a brief report to be included in the Annual Report, please email to Tracy in the Parish office.

Pathway Volunteers – if anyone is interested in volunteering at Pathway, please contact Jennifer King:07715 959830. Pathway opens Mon, Wed & Fri serving a lunch. Any amount of time you can offer may help.

Online: If you're online you can find the "Parish of Great Yarmouth" on YouTube. We'll also do live streaming on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/GtYarMinster. You don't have to be signed up to Facebook to view these.

Regular Giving To set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift, account name The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Yarmouth, sort code 20-99-21 and account number 60425850. Thank you.

Parish Magazine: The January magazine is out now, if you have any articles for the magazine please contact Pat Stringer, email: pat.stringer1@sky.com

PARISH PRAYER LIST If anyone wants someone prayed for please ask. Pray for those who are sick or in need, all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit or in need of God's loving care: Sheila, Brenda, David, Susan, Wally, Pam, Nadine, Claire. Remember before God the recently departed Eileen Reed, Lillian Newson, Robin Hambling. Pray for St Nicholas Priory School: head teacher Maria Grimmer.

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]

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

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.]

PSALM Psalm 139:1-5. 12-18 (or 139:1-9)

R Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether. **R**

You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.
For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb. **R**

I thank you, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows
well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth. **R**

Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;
already in your book were all my members
written,
As day by day they were fashioned
when as yet there was none of them. **R**

How deep are your counsels to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
If I count them, they are more in number
than the sand,
and at the end, I am still in your presence. **R**

SECOND READING Revelation 5:1-10
A reading from the book of Revelation.

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 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."

GOSPEL John 1:43-51

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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.



Search me out, O God, and - know my heart.