

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 17th January, Second Sunday of Epiphany

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3. 1-10 (11-20)

Psalm: Psalm 139. 1-5, 12-18

New Testament: Revelation 5. 1-10

Gospel: John 1. 43-51

Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Rev Fiona Beale

Today's reading really reminds me of a CEO head hunting specific people for his company. So, the scene is set for us as Jesus decides to head for Galilee, and that's when the encounter with Philip begins. The first point we notice is actually very easy to miss.

Right from the start of the story of how Jesus chooses his disciples, John says: "Jesus found Philip". Hence, Philip didn't find Jesus. Jesus found Philip. Let us never think that we chose God first, because he has chosen us! As Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:4: "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world..." You see, at the heart of our Christian story, is not that you and I have found Christ, but Christ has found us. This is important because the knowledge that God has sought us out, rather than *vice versa*, is crucial in keeping us humble before God. Throughout the Bible, we consistently see God seeking out his people. He knows who he wants, and they are not the high-flying religious leaders of the day, they are just simply hard working men and later women.

Following Jesus in his day was quite radical, as it is in today's society. It means that we really need to put Jesus first, because when we do, he transforms our relationships and affects every aspect of our whole way of life. This doesn't mean life will be a constant bed of roses, but putting Jesus first means we are following him, and not our own egos.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Epiphany

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.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm