

## 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: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021, Ninth Sunday after Trinity

**Old Testament:** Exodus 16. 2-4, 9-15

**Psalm:** Psalm 78. 23-29

**New Testament:** Ephesians 4. 1-16

**Gospel:** John 6. 24-35

### Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Sarah Keen

This passage is all about vocation and God's gifts. God calls all baptised Christians into his service and provides us with gifts to help us. The form of these gifts is set out in verse 11, *'The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers.'* These roles can roughly be divided into two groups, those seeking to bring new people into the family of God and those looking after committed Christians and supporting them on their journey of faith. Most of us fit into one of these roles, perhaps more than one, even if so far it is just a feeling of being called.

However, though a personal calling is an important and wonderful thing, it is only part of the story. As Paul points out, in using our gifts for the church, we need to act in a collaborative manner. The body of Christ is more than the sum of its parts.

Many of us are, of course, already active in the church but when was the last time you spent some time reflecting on your calling? As you've become more involved, has it changed? Are there other things you now feel God may be calling you to do?

For those of you would like to investigate your calling further, help is at hand. In the autumn, David and Jo will be focussing on helping people discern their vocation.

### Collect for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity.

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 Worship; Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm