



# South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

## The Fourth Sunday before Lent

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

I'm giving away something about my age here, but this week's reading has brought the 1980 charts back to me. "Call Me" by the wonderful Blondie reached number one that year and went on to feature at a lot of school discos over the next few years. I may have been too busy perfecting my green eyeliner and working my way into my pin-striped jeans, but I never really mastered the lyrics. In that far away land before the internet, learning the lyrics to a song involved listening over and over to a scratchy C60 cassette whilst reading the words as printed in *Smash Hits* and for some reason I failed to put in the required effort for Blondie. So all that has stuck in my memory is the repeated "Call me...Call me....Call me any anytime."

I'm sure that Debby Harry was entirely sincere with that 'Any anytime', as we all may be when we say similar things 'give me a ring whenever you like', 'let me know if I can ever help.' We say 'call me anytime' but even when we have the best possible intentions we really mean something closer to 'call me sometime – not too early, say after about 8am, certainly not after 8pm, Monday morning when the tide is high is wild swimming, so not then, I don't usually have my phone when I'm having a cuppa next door with Denis and I won't hear it when I'm ironing because I play the hits of the 80s really loud, and I won't answer during the Masked Singer – but call me anytime!'

I wonder if this gap between what we'd like to mean and what we feel able to do also happens in our response to calls – specifically, to God's call to each of us. One way or another, we say, and sing, and pray, that we will respond to God's call. We would like to think that we mean 'I will listen for God's will for my life and respond as positively and directly as I possibly can.' In truth though, do we sometimes mean "I would love to hear God's will for my life, but I haven't really got much time to sit around listening and if I do hear a call, it would be great if it didn't involve too much significant change to my life and lifestyle."

The disciples in Sunday's Gospel reading could easily have responded to Jesus in a similar way. "Thank you very much for the fish, and I'd love to follow you, if you wouldn't mind just waiting till we've finished fettling these nets and maybe had a chance to pop back home, say some goodbyes and pick up a couple of Mum's loaves for the road. And if it's alright with you, could we swing back this way next week, because I'd promised to give Jeremiah a hand with his new boat?" But they don't. After the minor miracle of the huge catch, they "left everything and followed him." No equivocation, no doubt. They were called, they heard and they followed him.

I'm not for a second suggesting that it's simple or easy. But God is calling each of us. He is calling you – perhaps to some form of ministry, to a role within the church or membership of the PCC, to focussed prayer, to pastoral visiting or to something that neither you nor I have ever thought about. In our prayers and our hymns we ask God to 'Call us any anytime!' If we mean it, we had better be ready!

*With every blessing, Anne*

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## Family and Community News

### **How do you get to Church?**

Do you drive, walk, cycle .... or perhaps you are unable to get here? Whatever your situation, there may be small changes we could make, to help the environment and each other.

If you drive, would you consider giving someone a lift (we know many of you already do)?

If you walk or cycle would you consider walking with someone for company?

Would *you* like a lift or someone to walk with?

If the answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, please get in touch with a member of the Eco Church Team or Church office, and we can arrange a match.

*Sarah, Peter and Dafydd (Eco Church Team)*

### ***Toastie and Warm at St Martin's***

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

### **Catching up with friends – or making new ones! *Young at Heart***

First Thursday of each month – Lunch together in the church hall. Please email or phone Home Instead to book. 01432 804000 or [info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

### **Services at Belmont Community Centre**

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

**The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February**

### **St Martin's PCC – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7:15**

Are you a handyperson? We have a few minor bits of maintenance and upkeep that need to be carried out at St Peter's Church Bullinghope – could you help? Please have a word with the churchwardens Simon or Jeff or one of the clergy.

### **Valentines Service**

#### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 4pm at St Martin's**

Are you planning a wedding? Celebrating an anniversary? This service includes wedding readings, hymns and music and blessings in a celebration of love

## For our Prayers

### ***Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:***

Brenda Baylis      Maureen Gerard      Irene F      Julia Ware      Steve Miller  
Margaret      Mavis Adams

### ***Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:***

Maureen.      Bob.      Joyce.

**Anglican Communion:** Anglican Church of Australia - Most Revd Geoffrey Smith, Primate

**Hereford:** The Clun Forest Deanery: Rural Dean – Stephanie Fountain; Lay Co-Chair – Andrew Wood; Sub-Warden of Readers – Julia Francis; Deanery Healing Adviser - Mary Hardham.

**Porvoo:** England: Worcester, Norway: Hamar

**South Wye:** Please pray for taxi, bus and train drivers passing through the parishes

### **The Wider View:**

As in many other developing countries, girls in Tanzania can face a range of barriers to educational development. These can include an unequal burden of domestic responsibility, negative attitudes within older family members, and early marriage. Opportunities for girls are restricted, and many may drop out of school at a young age. Pray for projects to tackle inequality, to encourage girls to feel safer and better valued at school, and to promote self-confidence. Pray for better support among parents and families for the right for girls to receive a full education.

This Week Monday is World Epilepsy Day, a day devoted to raising awareness of this condition, ensuring that those who live with it receive the medical care they need, and also other needs are also met so they can live life to the fullest. Pray for all who live with epilepsy, especially where the condition is poorly understood.

In the week of Valentine's Day, pray for all who are in love, and for those who will be married in our churches during the coming year; pray too for our support and help for those setting out on married life. Saturday remembers Thomas Bray: born and baptized in this diocese, he went on to found the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel: pray for the ongoing work of SPCK and USPG within our Church and Communion today.

Real Bread Week starts at the end of this week, and is an opportunity to pray for small food businesses within our diocese, and especially for artisan bakers. Pray too for the highest standards to be maintained in food production, and for farm shops and other similar outlets.

Pray for all who teach music in our schools and colleges, and for all that encourages an awareness and love of music in young people. Pray also for choirs, musicians and bands within the life of our churches.

As the days begin to open out, give thanks for the first signs of Spring about us, and pray for events like snowdrop days and walks at this time of the year.

National School Governors Awareness Day is on Thursday: give thanks for all who serve as governors in our schools, and for all who offer guidance and training to help governing bodies work effectively and supportively.

## Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> February

### South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

### Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

11.15am Morning Prayer at St. Peter's

4pm Transport Prayers at St Martin's

### Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin's and the St. Peter's Facebook pages and the St. Martin's YouTube channel later in the day.

### Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

### Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

### TV and Radio on Sunday;

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship-Love's Journey

BBC 1 1pm Songs of Praise- Belfast's Religious Gems

### Prayer for the day:

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

### Develop a daily connection with God

Connect with God with the new Everyday Faith app. Journey daily with reflections to inspire, equip and encourage you in your everyday faith.

Everyday Faith is now available to download for iOS and Android. If you already have the *Watch & Pray* app installed, you will automatically get the upgrade.

### Collect for Fourth Sunday before Lent

Lord of the hosts of heaven,  
our salvation and our strength,  
without you we are lost:  
guard us from all that harms or hurts  
and raise us when we fall;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Readings for Fourth Sunday before Lent

### Isaiah 6: 1-8 (9-13)

<sup>6</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

<sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' <sup>9</sup> And he said, 'Go and say to this people: "Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand."

<sup>10</sup> Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.'

<sup>11</sup> Then I said, 'How long, O Lord?' And he said: 'Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; <sup>12</sup> until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup> Even if a tenth part remains in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.' The holy seed is its stump.

### Psalm 138

<sup>1</sup> I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup> I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

<sup>3</sup> On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

<sup>4</sup> All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

<sup>5</sup> They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

## 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

**15** Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

<sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.



## Luke 5: 1-11

**5** Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

## Bible Study based on Luke 5: 1-11

### Bible notes

This episode falls hot on the heels of the healing of Simon's mother-in-law at Capernaum. One can easily imagine the confusion and disruption caused by Jesus, who appears and does two miraculous things in quick succession and then, without much commentary, asks that Simon Peter follows him to catch people instead of fish. The response of Simon Peter and his colleagues to this call is shown by Luke to be the correct one. This call marks the next major phase of the story as Jesus gathers followers 'who will listen to his teaching and witness his mighty acts and thus become qualified to teach and act with authority themselves'.

Not only does Simon Peter witness and understand Jesus' ministry and person, he also correctly identifies himself as a sinner. Even though the fishermen catch nothing at night, when they would most likely have succeeded, they still acknowledge the worth of Jesus' words as one who speaks with authority above the ordinary man. Simon Peter acknowledges Jesus as 'Lord' just as Elizabeth had also (1:43). As a result, Simon Peter abandons security and certainty to follow Jesus – as tradition has it, all the way to his own cross.

**Reflection** Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.

Simon Peter was a fisherman. Jesus told him that he would continue to fish, but for people. Peter was used to planning out a day's catch of fish; now he was planning where to go and how to reach people. Similarly, can we give thought to how we can best meet people and to help them to see Jesus. If Jesus is going to encounter our friends and family in their workplaces or their homes, it will surely be through us!

**Questions for reflection** You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.



- What stops us following Jesus' call on our lives?
- Is there something you feel you are being called to now?
- How can you encourage others to follow their call?

# Sudoku

		6					9	
						7		3
				3				6
1				6		4		7
9					8		2	
			5	7	3	6		
3	9			1	2			
	1					8		
7		4		5				

				5		3		
8								
		9		1				5
9						6		
5	6	2			4		1	
	4				3		7	
		3			2			1
2						3		8
6			9			2	5	

7	2	4	8	5	6	9	3	1
6	1	5	3	9	4	8	7	2
3	9	8	7	1	2	5	6	4
4	8	2	5	7	3	6	1	9
9	6	7	1	4	8	3	2	5
1	5	3	2	6	9	4	8	7
8	7	1	9	3	5	2	4	6
2	4	9	6	8	1	7	5	3
5	3	6	4	2	7	1	9	8

6	8	1	9	3	7	2	5	4
2	7	5	4	1	6	3	9	8
4	9	3	5	8	2	7	6	1
1	4	8	2	6	3	5	7	9
5	6	2	7	9	4	8	1	3
9	3	7	1	5	8	6	4	2
3	2	9	6	7	1	4	8	5
8	5	6	3	4	9	1	2	7
7	1	4	8	2	5	9	3	6



## Sudoku (Trickier)

5			4			1		2
	8				7			
				2	3		6	
7		5						6
2			5					
				8				3
		9				3		
			3					8
						4	7	9

		8					7	2
	2				1			
				6				1
			4				1	
		6	9		5			
						9	2	
	9	3	5					
	1					3	8	
5	4							

3	5	6	2	1	8	4	7	9
1	4	7	3	9	5	6	2	8
8	2	9	6	7	4	3	1	5
9	6	4	7	8	1	2	5	3
2	3	8	5	4	6	7	9	1
7	1	5	9	3	2	8	4	6
4	9	1	8	2	3	5	6	7
6	8	2	1	5	7	9	3	4
5	7	3	4	6	9	1	8	2

5	4	7	1	3	8	2	6	9
6	1	2	7	9	4	3	8	5
8	9	3	5	2	6	1	4	7
4	5	1	6	7	3	9	2	8
2	8	6	9	1	5	7	3	4
3	7	9	4	8	2	5	1	6
9	3	4	2	6	7	8	5	1
7	2	5	8	4	1	6	9	3
1	6	8	3	5	9	4	7	2

Wordsearch based on 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Q	S	R	E	T	S	I	S	N	J	B	O	B	H	G
U	R	K	P	B	R	Q	S	C	F	N	I	A	V	A
V	H	O	X	X	K	E	C	N	A	P	B	H	R	G
E	F	T	U	R	N	T	R	L	D	E	K	R	O	W
G	V	I	P	D	E	V	I	E	C	E	R	Z	R	A
M	X	B	R	I	G	V	P	J	W	G	I	I	E	P
D	S	R	G	M	E	V	T	A	C	L	L	E	D	R
N	T	O	V	U	L	X	U	P	K	Q	D	C	R	O
I	A	T	S	S	R	Y	R	P	M	L	E	A	A	C
M	N	H	V	T	I	M	E	E	A	T	R	R	H	L
E	D	E	D	N	A	H	S	A	C	H	D	G	C	A
R	T	R	N	G	L	E	Y	R	J	Y	N	O	R	I
I	G	S	T	W	E	L	V	E	B	J	U	O	U	M
Z	S	I	N	S	C	Y	B	D	X	U	H	D	H	E
G	S	N	E	W	S	A	V	E	D	C	Q	Z	C	D

REMIND  
ALIVE  
VAIN  
PROCLAIMED  
SCRIPTURES

SAVED  
SISTERS  
CHURCH  
HARDER  
WORKED

HUNDRED  
STAND  
NEWS  
TIME  
RECEIVED

BROTHERS  
APPEARED  
HANDED  
TURN  
TWELVE

FIRMLY  
GOOD  
SINS  
GRACE