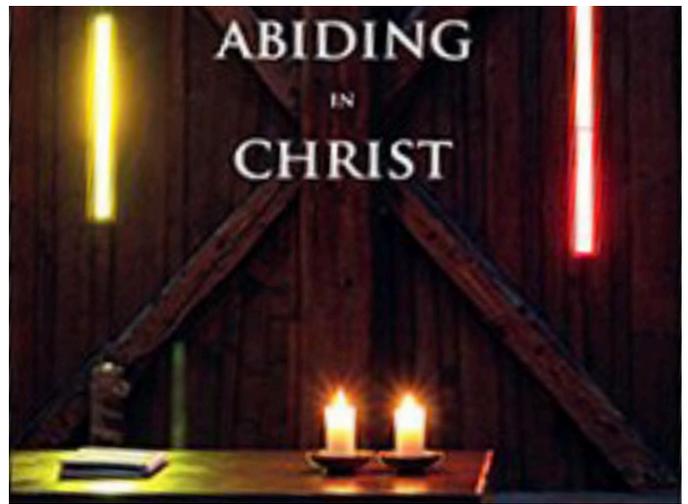
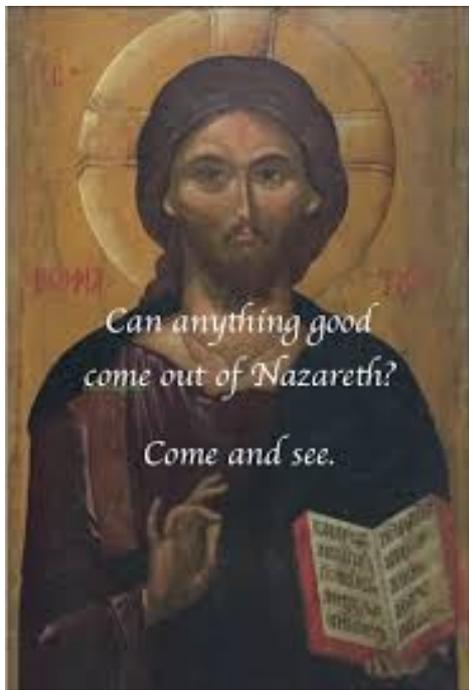


St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold,  
Sunday, January 17, 2021

# ePEWS NEWS



## IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2021

Next week (January 18-25) is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe."

With the world facing so many massive, common challenges as we confront Covid-19 there has not been a better time in recent memory for us to pray with our brothers and sisters around the globe.

Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for unity. Congregations and parishes all over the globe share an ecumenical vision through prayers.

Even though our church doors are closed at the moment for public worship and private prayer let's find time to say our own prayers and focus on our fellow Christians joining us from all over the world. We are not alone.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began in 1908. It is supported by Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Pentecostal churches as well as many smaller national churches.

This year's Week of Prayer has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp, Switzerland. The theme is taken from John's gospel, chapter 15: 1-17. "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit." This expresses the Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and human family.

Each year Christian Aid provides the **Go and Do action points** for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice. (Click on the link highlighted above and you will be taken to their website)

Here is one of the prayers written for use next week.  
Holy Spirit,  
May we receive in our hearts the presence of Christ,  
And cherish it as a secret of love. Nourish our prayers,  
Enlighten our reading of Scripture,  
act through us,  
so that the fruits of your gifts can patiently grow in us.  
Amen

**NEXT WEEK:** Please go to [www.achurchnearyou/dunsfold](http://www.achurchnearyou/dunsfold) each day for the latest thoughts, reflections and prayers being shared by millions of Christians in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Let's join them.

## 10am Holy Communion (via Zoom)

Click on the link below to join our shortened service this Sunday. The link will go live at around 9.45 am and Reverend Ian and his wife Susie will take communion on behalf of the parishes of Dunsfold and Hascombe.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2746581498?pwd=WjllcHBydjdOOEEzZ2tBVjNBMFBaZz09>  
Meeting ID: 274 658 1498 Passcode: 7C7La6

Readings and collect for the Second Sunday of Epiphany.

OT: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)  
NT: Revelation 5: 1-10  
GOSPEL: John 1: 43-51

Collect for the 2nd 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 forever.



## REVEREND IAN MASLIN ASKS IF WE WILL BRING OUR FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS CHRIST?

### Jesus did not directly call Nathanael to be one of the Twelve, He called Philip.

It sounds from the Gospel reading that Jesus actively sought out Philip to invite him to become one of the inner band of apostles, just as He had deliberately invited Andrew the previous day.

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus calls people from their work to follow Him, but here in John's Gospel Jesus calls disciples of John the Baptist to change their religious allegiance in order to follow Jesus.

Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus and, in today's reading, Philip seeks out his friend Nathanael, eagerly telling him that Jesus of Nazareth is the long-awaited Messiah.

But Nathanael is highly sceptical; "*Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?*", possibly Nathanael is using a local proverb as people from the region of Nazareth were not popular in Judea. But despite his scepticism Nathanael went with his friend and meets Jesus.

As soon as Jesus spotted Nathanael, He saw a young man who was honest and upright, someone who might be outspoken in his views but who bore no malice and would be a loyal and faithful supporter.

Perhaps it was this characteristic of open transparency which Jesus saw in little children. When Jesus was teaching His friends about the kingdom of God, He told them that in order to enter the kingdom, they must receive it like a little child.

And just as a little child is instantly trusting, so Nathanael immediately trusted and believed in Jesus, simply because Jesus told him that He saw him standing under a fig tree when Philip found him. But Nathanael was aware that this was more than just a clever display of clairvoyance.

Nathanael was conscious that Jesus actually knew him, completely and utterly, even though they had never met before. That was enough for Nathanael.

He didn't moderate his response or hedge his position; he gave himself wholly to Jesus and became exactly what Jesus foresaw, a loyal and faithful supporter.

Nathanael is not mentioned in any other Gospel, but he is thought to be the Bartholomew of the other three Gospels and of Acts. Nathanael/Bartholomew went on to become a missionary, carrying the news of Jesus to Syria and Asia Minor. He was martyred in Great Armenia and remains the patron saint of Armenia today.

Nathanael came to faith through his friend. Philip didn't urge or cajole him into following Jesus, but merely shared his own excitement and invited Nathanael to see for himself. Philip did no more; Jesus did all the rest. As soon as Nathanael met Jesus for himself, he believed.

As Christians, all we are required to do is share our excitement about Jesus and invite friends to come with us.

Once they meet Him for themselves, they too may believe, for Jesus does all the rest.

Jesus can see the potential within every person and can bring potential to fruition. But He needs us to say to our friends "*Come and see*".

Amen.

## ZOOMING FORWARD IN FAITH

You will have read that this Sunday Reverend Ian is creating a bit of history for our parish - our first live service via zoom.

If you can't join us live Ian will be putting a recording of this Sunday's service, plus his reflections and prayers on our website, [www.achurchnearyou/dunsfold](http://www.achurchnearyou/dunsfold).

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHURCH: We pray for the vergers, administrative staff, volunteer guides and chaplains who help keep our Cathedral as a living place of worship.

WORLD: The millions of Christians around the world taking part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

THE SICK: Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Sarah Godwin and John Davies, Norman Edsall, Jan and Mark Knott, William and James Mason, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jacky Williams, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Lorna Thompson, Sami Bennewith, Lizzy and Paddy Lavery.

THE DEPARTED: Sheelagh Thomason. Peter Williams

## PLEASE SHARE THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S SPECIAL LOCKDOWN PRAYER

**Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, And lift up all who are brought low; that they may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.**

## SAFEGUARDING IN YOUR CHURCH

We take safeguarding seriously in Dunsfold Church. If you have any concerns or information you wish to pass on please contact our safeguarding officer, Hazel Wiltshire on 01403 753847 or email her at [hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net](mailto:hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net)

## THE LAST WORD...

### WILLIAM TEMPLE (1881-1944):

Former Bishop of Manchester, Archbishop of York and Archbishop of Canterbury.

**"The church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."**



