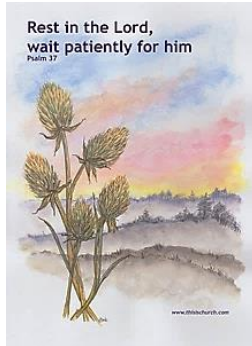


Prayer Pause

For each step that I might take,
 Be my guide, O Lord of life.
 For each load that I might bear,
 Be my strength, O Lord of life.
 For each mountain I might face,
 Be my power, O Lord of life.
 For each river that might impede,
 Be my safety, O Lord of life.
 For each place where I might rest,
 Be my peace, O Lord of life.
 For each sunrise and sunset,
 Be my joy, O Lord of life.



A new initiative from Mel Eyeons.

An On-line Bible Study Group via Zoom

Would you like to be part of an on-line Bible Study Group with Mel?

The Group will begin on Wednesday 20th January, via Zoom, at 6pm for approx. 45 minutes, followed by an optional 15-minute service. If all goes well, the plan is to hold the Bible Study Group on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

If you would like more information or would like to join Mel, please email her at meleyeons@hotmail.com and she'll respond to you and also supply the necessary Zoom information.

A great new initiative. Thanks Mel!

- **A notice on behalf of the family of the late Ray and Joyce Geeves formerly of Great Paxton.**

Joyce was a pianist and took great joy in her Barratt and Robinson piano. Her family would now like it to go to a good home for a donation to Great Paxton Church. Let Annette know if you would like more details.

- Our churches remain closed for public worship, but we are able to offer funerals services with limited numbers.

If anyone would like a chat on the phone, do give Annette a ring.

The Benefice of the Paxtons with Diddington and Southoe

January 17th, 2021

“Keeping in Touch” Edition 43

On a scale of medieval owl how are you feeling today?



Hello everyone! I wonder which medieval owl you are feeling like today? I expect at the moment we might change from one to another even during the space of a morning or afternoon.

Feeling life isn't too bad after all? No 7.

Bad hair day? No 2. On the move? No 8.

Feeling calm and enjoying a good read? No 1.

Our moods and thoughts can change so quickly from hour to hour, but I hope you generally are managing to be cheerful, even if as in No 6 owl, it feels like nasty arrows keep darting at you and need to be avoided.

No 3 owl could reflect how Nathanael felt when he first encountered Jesus in John's gospel, rather hyper-critical and judgemental. But turn to page 3 to find out more and see if he changes his outlook!

And you will find the very best of sentiments also from Alison Martin as she tells us what Jesus means to her.

So, I wish you lots of No 1 owl moments and not too many No 6 owl ones in the coming days.

Stay safe and well. With love and prayers. Annette. 01480 211048

canonannettereed@gmail.com

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Epiphany: John 1 v 43-51

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.'



A Collect for The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In our New Testament story today from John 1: 43 –51, we read that Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote— Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." How can we continue this work of communicating the Christian message of Jesus? We do this in word, just like Philip did to Nathanael. But we speak our faith most loudly not in words but in deeds. As we care for others, we show the love of Christ to those we meet with in person or by other means in these very difficult times.

Further thoughts from Annette about our gospel reading and some words from Alison Martin.

Many bible scholars believe that Nathanael, whom John describes as having been led to Christ by Philip, is the same person as the disciple mentioned in the other three gospels as Bartholomew.

At first, Nathanael was sceptical about the idea of a Messiah from Nazareth. He scoffed at Philip, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" But Philip encouraged him, "Come and see." Nathaniel had a very low opinion of anyone from Nazareth and really didn't want to be associated with such a person. As the two men approached, Jesus called Nathanael a "true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false," then revealed that he had seen Nathanael sitting under a fig tree before Philip called him.

When Jesus called Nathanael a "true Israelite," the Lord affirmed his character as a man receptive to the Lord's work. Then Jesus astonished Nathanael, demonstrating supernatural power by referring to Nathanael's experience under the fig tree. Jesus' greeting not only captured Nathanael's attention but also, by its penetrating insight, threw him off guard. Nathanael was stunned to learn that the Lord already knew him and was aware of his movements.

Jesus' personal knowledge of Nathanael and the recent event under the fig tree caused Nathanael to respond with an amazing confession of faith, proclaiming Jesus to be the divine Son of God, the King of Israel. He underwent a profound change in his life as he became a follower of Jesus Christ, his attitude to the man from Nazareth changing in an instant.

When I interviewed Alison Martin by phone for this week's You Tube video, she described how her faith has always been with her, rather than a sudden conversion experience such as Nathanael had.

(Alison lived in Little Paxton with her family until she moved to Bottisham four years ago. In normal times, she comes back every month to our Forty Minutes Service.)

"I don't remember a time when Jesus wasn't in my life. I always went to Sunday School as a small child every week. When I was too old for it, I stayed in the whole service. I can't recall a time when God hasn't been part of my life.

So, no blinding moment of faith for me – but he has always been there.

I always describe myself as a stick of rock. Cut me open and He's there through and through. To summarise, I talk with him during the day in my mind, when I see something lovely, I think of him; If I am in trouble, I think of him. He is always with me throughout the day".

**Our faith stories are all different and equally valid in God's eyes.
Treasure and reflect on yours!**