

THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

17th January 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

NOTICES

On Thursday evening, 14th January, we noticed that it was the anniversary of my arrival in our two parishes, in January 2020. The first picture below shows me giving the traditional notice of the new minister's pattern of services:



I like this photo, but it's also a bit of an allegory for how I feel about this year. Granted, we can see the benevolent support of Bishop James; and, granted, I am still able (often virtually, rather than in person), to stand at the front and harangue the congregation. However, we all look a bit distanced and distant. You can't see the packed church at all. There's some good things going on (you can see the choir too!) but it's not a complete view of what church should be. It's not a photograph of a church moving forward together.

Here is another photo from the same evening.



Here we (or a fair number of us) are, getting together at Becksides afterwards. You probably can't make out many people in such a tiny photograph. The day after it was taken, when I looked, neither could I put many names to faces. A year later, I'm glad to say that it's very different. Looking at the full-size version, I can identify almost everyone, even where only the back of their head is in shot.

It's been a difficult year in which to get to know the parishes and get to be known in them. I'm not a very outgoing person and it's also my first time of doing this as minister – I'm aware of a fair few mistakes of my own

to add to the difficult circumstances. There are probably some I am unaware of, too.

Nevertheless, I know that God is faithful and we are a faithful people. I'm confident that as infections are brought under control and restrictions ease, there will be fresh opportunities for us to seize together. As PCCs and congregations, we should start now by looking forward in hope and with prayer, to the new things that we might do in the coming year. Our merciful Lord holds out perpetually to us the offer of a fresh start: I hope that as restrictions ease there will be opportunities for me to make a new start in getting to know everyone a little better.

Thanks

I have taken a fair number of funerals recently and I wanted to say thank you to all the volunteers who have given up time to help. I believe that funeral ministry, available to all who ask for it, is essential. This is not the view taken in every parish. The task is made so much more effective by your generous support.

Broughton PCC

Please note that there will be a meeting of Broughton & Duddon PCC, by Zoom, on Thursday 28th January at 7.30pm. Please speak to Helen Lewis about any items for the agenda, or if you have difficulty using Zoom.

For your prayers

Please continue to pray for the family and friends of Tom Metcalfe MBE (funeral in Kirkby Thursday 7th); John Rousseau (funeral in Broughton Mills and Thorncliffe Friday 15th); and Phyllis Hibbert (funeral in Seathwaite this coming Tuesday). *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Collect

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.

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time

Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³ the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵ and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶ The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸ The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Psalms 139:1-10

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Revelation 5:1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root

of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you
ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and people and
nation;
¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God,
and they will reign on earth.'

John 1:43-end

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ 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.' ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹ 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.'

Prayer after Communion

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.