

A Churchwarden Writes

Our first reading at the service on January 14th told the story of the call of the prophet Samuel when, as a young boy serving the old priest Eli, he is aroused by the sound of what he thought was Eli calling him but subsequently discovers is God's voice calling. It is his simple answer that is so striking, "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." An appropriate reading for so close to the beginning of a new year for that surely is the only way we can approach the unknown of what lies ahead, with our ears open to whatever God is saying to us. If you read on in the chapter you find that what God was saying was not a welcome message but Samuel, although reluctant, did not hold back the truth from Eli and at the end of the chapter we read that, 'As Samuel grew up the Lord was with him.... and all Israel knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet.' God did not just call Samuel, He was with him as he worked to convey God's truth to the rather deaf inhabitants of Israel so that whether they took his message to heart or not, they did respect Samuel as trustworthy.

By the time you read this we will be well into Lent and approaching our Annual Church Meetings when we elect our churchwardens and members of the PCC to represent you and your needs. These are very important positions so please consider carefully whether there is someone whom you could nominate or maybe second the nomination of and especially listen hard to whether God may be calling you to one of these positions. Remember that Samuel did not have to act on his own, God was with him.

Chris Hjelt and I have been extremely grateful to the many of you who have given help in so many ways during this past year when we have been without an incumbent and have enabled our church and congregation to remain in good heart during this time. Perhaps now is the time to consider whether maybe you could make this help a little more formal by signing up for one of these positions. The nomination forms are on the board in church.

It is not only such official sounding positions that need to be filled. We have a Library full of books that would love someone to come and look after them to make them more available and that job would not require a great time commitment. Chris Jones would also love to hear from anyone who feels they could join her team of pastoral visitors, talk to her about what is involved if you feel that might be something you could be interested in helping with. I know the catering team are always happy to hear from any of you who are good with a teapot or dishcloth. Think about it and listen for a voice that may be calling.

In the words of the hymn chorus:

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Jane Preston