

Anglican Church of
St Thomas à Becket



Sunday 25th April 2021
Easter Four / Vocations Sunday

- **Service Details Sunday 25th April**
Holy Communion (*Common Worship*), 10.30
Click here to join the congregation, from 10.15 onwards. Please join in good time.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272524481?pwd=S3o5cmhaZTZyVkJPNUlrZFFVaSHphZz09>
- **Notices and News**
- **The Week ahead.')**

On this fourth Sunday of Eastertide we consider what it means for each one of us, to have a Christian vocation. The word vocation comes from the Latin verb 'vocare', which means to call. So, our first reading depicts the calling of the boy Samuel, as recorded in the Hebrew scriptures. As he sleeps, he is suddenly awoken by a voice, clearly addressing him by name. It happens three times, and it is only with the wisdom and assistance of his guardian Eli, that we eventually realise that it is God who is calling to the boy. It is the nature of God to call each of his children by name – now, as then. And it is in responding to his call, that we each of us discover our own true vocation. A life's work, which will be not only to our own personal fulfilment, but also for the freeing or enrichment of others:

'There is an old Christian tradition
That God sends each person into this
world with a special message to deliver,
with a special song to sing for others,
with a special act of love to bestow.
No-one else can speak your message,
No-one else can sing your song,
Or offer your act of love.
These are entrusted only to you.'
(after John Powell, 'Through Seasons of the Heart')

Holy Communion

The Collect for Vocations

God our Father,
Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into
the fellowship of your universal Church:
Hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love;
And give to your servants
the needful gifts of grace,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: 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. 2 At 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.'

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The 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. ⁹Therefore 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. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

New Testament Reading: Acts 4:5-11

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

Gospel: John 6:5-13

⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' ¹⁰Jesus said, 'Make

the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

Notices and News

Clergy Chapter meeting of the deanery of Germany, Diocese in Europe took place on Friday afternoon this week. Revd Canon Professor Jack McDonald, who is our diocesan advocate for Living in Love and Faith (LLF), addressed the group. LLF is the title of the Church of England's current engagement around issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Please pray for our congregations and leaders across Germany and the wider diocese, as we read and reflect, listen and learn – in love, and in faith.

Wednesday Morning Prayer continues weekly at 08.30 MP is a short, said service of the daily readings and psalm, placed within the regular format of Common Worship Morning Prayer. It is a wonderful way to ground yourself as you start the day. The Zoom link is in the 'week ahead' section (NB: MP only, waiting room opens at 8.25.)

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the church of STB, to take place on Sunday 30th May at 12.00 noon, on Zoom. Please make a note of the date and time, and further details will follow in due course. The Diocese in Europe has advised that in the context of the pandemic, AGMs may be held virtually.

Online book of Condolence for the late Duke of Edinburgh. You are invited to pay your respects on line if you so wish:

<https://www.royal.uk/commemoration-and-condolence-0>

Our safeguarding officers are currently making sure that checks, training and protocols for STB activities are brought up to date. The procedures need to be thorough right across the church, and we all – that is every single member of the congregation - need to be aware of safeguarding issues and alert to potential concerns. As a community seeking to show God's love, we want to do everything possible to ensure that what we offer is a 'safe space', and to protect all God's children (young and old!) Thank you especially to Madeleine and Norbert for all your work on this, and also to each one of you who has been contacted.

The Bazaar 2021 – could YOU organise the raffle? If you think you might be able to, please talk to Wendy Sprock and she can explain what the job entails. As you know, the November Bazaar is one of our major fundraising and social events, so the planning is already underway.

Wendy and Eric have very kindly agreed to oversee the organisation of the Bazaar between them, (so Wendy most definitely needs to hand over the raffle, which she has organised previously. Please do think carefully about whether you might be able to help in this way!) The plan is for the Bazaar 2021 to have both a physical and on-line presence. The date is Saturday November 20th, in keeping with the tradition of holding the Bazaar on the penultimate weekend of the month.

Keeping in touch with STB: weekly communication from the Chaplain. If you are not yet on the circulation list to receive these weekly updates, and would like to be, please contact Valerie Muller, on church@anglican-church-hamburg.de Please email me with brief details of STB events, and meetings of STB groups, so that

I can include them in this weekly sheet and help our wider community keep in touch with what's going on. Just the title, date and time, and a few words if you wish. The weekly deadline is Friday 10.30, for events taking place the following Sunday to Saturday inclusive.

The week ahead

Wednesday 28th April:

Morning Prayer, at 08.30

Readings for MP:

Ps 135. Deut 10:12-end. Eph 5:1-14

You can join Morning Prayer here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82623076177?pwd=ZTZocUcwY25KNnZTajYvQ1JlSmJJQTo9>

Saturday 1st May:

Evening Prayer at 18.00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89286260101?pwd=WHg2dmJtTit4bWhiVlJHdCtQQnhydzo9>

Sunday 2nd May:

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion, 10.30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85272524481?pwd=S3o5cmhaZTZyVkJPNUlrZfVvaSHphZzo9>

St Thomas à Becket Anglican Church

www.facebook.com/stbhamburg/

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STB church is funded 100% by donations, so if you can make a gift, please do. Thank you! Englisch - bischoefliche Gemeinde:

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