

Thought for the day

Monday 18th January 2021

Epiphany 2 God calls Samuel

Revd John Marshall

One of my favourite Sunday School stories was the call of Samuel.

It is quite a strange story- but a young child is at the centre and that is appealing.

You know the story – Hannah was childless and prayed desperately for a child. So much so that Eli the priest thought she was drunk. She was praying in her heart but her mouth was moving. Her husband thought she should be content with him.

Well God granted her a son
And she promised him to God
“So now I give him to the Lord, for his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.

And so it comes that Samuel is lying in his usual place, the lamp of God has not yet gone out and Samuel hears a voice.

The Lord called Samuel
He replies and runs to Eli, as you would.
Eli sends him back to bed in the sanctuary.
It happens again and again.

Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel – if it happens again say “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening”

And it happens.
And Samuel is trusted with a message from God.

Often our children can be tuned into God and have the sense of his presence and a close relationship with God. Equally our elders may have much to teach us – although on this occasion the lesson was for Eli.

You might like to read about it in 1 Samuel 3: 1 – 20. The first two chapters of 1 Samuel give the background. Happy reading.