

Returning to the Call

Andrew, the first disciple.

Readings: John 1:32-42 NLT and John 6:5-11 NLT

Jean chose the disciple Andrew as a person from the Bible she could identify with, not only in parallels with what she feels is God's calling for her, but also recognising the people who had come alongside her in her journey of faith. She felt that if she met Andrew, they would get on quite well.

Andrew was a follower of John the Baptist, who preached about the coming of the Messiah – Christ the saviour. He taught that he, John, baptised with water but Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit. So when Jesus walked nearby and John identified him as the Lamb of God, Andrew followed Jesus, no hesitation!

Andrew followed and learned more from Jesus and brought others to see Jesus for themselves. Sometimes, Andrew wasn't quite sure why he was bringing someone to Jesus, (The boy with the bread and fish), but did so anyway, and of course, Jesus knew exactly why.

Some parallels for Jean, were, her friend Helen, bringing her to church. After a time of learning and understanding, she prayed a prayer of commitment and was conscious of being filled by the Holy Spirit, though she didn't know what was happening, until years later. Unlike Andrew, Jean swerved her faith, instead opting to **belong** to a new group of friends who had scorned the 'God Squad'.

Jean returned to the call many years later. More learning, and realising there were some things in her life she needed to be free from. Also, **belonging**, to the Springfield Church Family. (You are all fabulous!) Looking back, she realised how God had always been at work; her interests, and skills, (God given gifts), enabled her to be involved in ministries that focussed on being alongside others on their faith journey, especially that first introduction. "Come and See" – Jesus first words to Andrew and ones Andrew used to others. An invitation.

Importantly, like Andrew, this wasn't a solo venture. Andrew was part of a team, and so was Jean. Groups of people, praying, supporting, encouraging, teaching, caring... Jean thanked God for each and every one of them.

- Questions:
Think about all the people who have had an impact on your spiritual life. Spend some time thanking God and praying a blessing on them.
- Think about times when you have been one of those people for someone else. Was it easy or were you a bit, (or a lot), scared or unsure.
- In the busyness of your life, is there a group, a ministry, a role that is a calling, for you to DO? Is anything in the way? Pray it away!