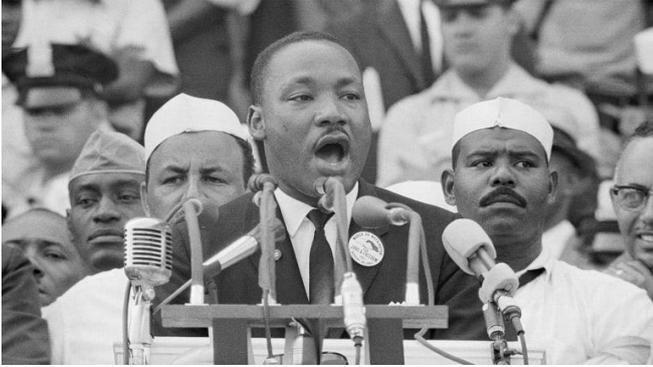




The Aldershot and North Camp Anchor

Issue 38: Sunday 24th January 2021

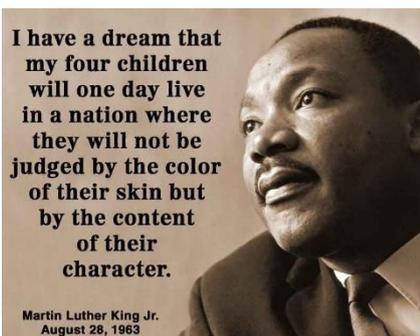


Dear Friends,

In the United States, Monday January 18th 2021 was marked as Martin Luther King Jr Day. The day is a federal holiday and is held each year on the third Monday in January so that it falls close to Martin Luther King's birthday which was on January 15th.

Martin Luther King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which successfully protested against racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honour began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech was delivered to 250,000 people at the March to Washington rally in 1963 and it remains one of the most significant speeches ever given. It is hard to pick out one part from that powerful speech but the sentence "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character", with its very personal reference, is one that I always find particularly moving.



This year's Martin Luther King Day falls in the same week as the inauguration of a new President of the United States. The last four years have seen increasing tension in the country and a confrontational style of leadership. Let us pray for a new movement of unity in the United States, for a recommitment to the development of a more equal and less racially divided society and for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the incoming President and Vice President, as they take on the most challenging of roles.



Martin Luther King's 'I have a Dream' speech was delivered almost 60 years ago – but its message is still of vital importance for our world today.

Yours in His service

Chris Blake

Worship Reflection

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. (Psalm 62 v 1-2)

Hymn (StF 250)

Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult,
of our life's wild restless sea;
day by day his voice is sounding,
saying: 'Christian, follow me.'

Prayer

Loving God, open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, our hearts to love you and our lives to serve you. So, may we share in the work of your Kingdom to the glory of your name. Amen.

Bible Reading (Mark 1 v 16-20)

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John,

who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Reflection

This week's set reading encourages us to focus on the call to discipleship given by Jesus to Simon and Andrew as recorded in Mark's Gospel.

That call is seen in verse 17 of our reading "And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'"

It is a call which is personal ('And Jesus said to them'), it is a call which is about pilgrimage ('Follow me') and it is a call with a purpose ('and I will make you..')

We may not be fishermen on the Sea of Galilee, but Jesus nevertheless calls each one of us. Jesus knows each one of us, and each one of us is invited personally. That call is to a journey of faithful pilgrimage as we follow where Jesus leads. And that call has a purpose in that when we accept Jesus' personal call to pilgrimage, He will shape our lives so that we can be purposeful disciples.

The next verse tells us that Simon and Andrew responded 'immediately'. Let us do the same.

Prayers of Intercession

This week let us pray especially:

- For a peaceful and orderly handover of power after the inauguration of a new President of the United States
- For the expanding vaccination programme that it might quickly reach those who need protection the most.

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen

Hymn (StF 653)

O Jesus, I have promised,
To serve you to the end;
Lord, be forever near me,
My Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle,
If you are by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway,
If you will be my guide.



Final Prayer:

May the grace, mercy and peace of God be known to us this day and for evermore. Amen.

Precious Memories

You are invited to submit a short article describing a significant person, place or event under the heading of 'Precious Memories'. You might like to describe how that person, place or event was significant in your own faith journey.



This week's 'Precious Memory' comes from Joy Blake.

This photo, taken in the early 1980s, shows my Grandma, Eliza Renouf. I'm deeply thankful for precious memories of her. Grandma, a diminutive Guernsey woman, journeyed through many challenges in her life. These included being evacuated from Guernsey with other Mums and young children, immediately prior to the Channel Islands being occupied by the Germans in the Second World War. Grandma was apart from Grandpa throughout the 5 years of the occupation, because Guernsey became 'occupied' before many of the men could make the crossing to England. During those years, both of Grandma's parents, who also remained in Guernsey, passed away....something that she didn't become aware of for several months due to the length of time that it took for Red Cross messages to travel from occupied Guernsey to the north of England where she was living with their 3 boys. I came to know and love Grandma so very much as a young girl and as a 15 year old, having invited Jesus into my life, Grandma and Grandpa were two of the people that I wanted to share that news with right away. I told them that I admired and deeply respected them. I always remember how thrilled they were about the news I was sharing...yet alongside that was the comment, "...but don't ever put us on a pedestal." Grandma was more aware than many, of how totally she needed God's help for each moment of each day.