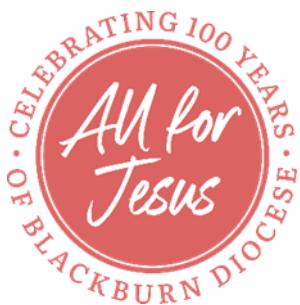


+WEEKLY SERMON

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Looking ... finding ... sharing ...

John 1:29-42

In recent times, there have been several news headlines of increasing numbers of people showing an interest in Christianity. Today, a colleague was telling me how her church is running an Alpha Course and 12 people are attending with 5 being new to church. It was so encouraging to listen to her talk about this.

I wonder whether you have noticed that people are seeking answers to questions about hope, peace, purpose and other things that are on their hearts.

In today's passage, we find people who are looking for God's promised Messiah. The Jewish leaders are asking John the Baptist if he is the Messiah or a prophet or Elijah. John firmly says, 'no' and then tells his listeners, when he sees Jesus, to 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'

The Jewish people were hoping and looking for the Messiah to come. John the Baptist makes it very clear that Jesus is the answer to their searching. He is the Messiah, the Lamb of God, God's chosen one, the only one who can take away their sins.

Andrew, one of John's disciples, immediately responds by following Jesus and asking if he can spend time with him. Jesus' response is 'come'. Having spent an afternoon with Jesus, we read that the first thing Andrew does is tell his brother Simon that he has found the Messiah.

Thinking about Andrew's response to Jesus encourages me to reflect on how we respond. As soon as Andrew finds what he is looking for, he tells his brother, Simon. He then brings Simon to meet Jesus and they both accept Jesus' invitation to follow. Having found Jesus for ourselves, who could we invite to come and meet Jesus?

In our Centenary year, we are praying for the Holy Spirit to give us confidence in our witness.

Sarah O'Donoghue and I are running a Hope Explored course on Thursday evenings on February 5, 12 and 19. Sessions will run on Zoom from 7.30pm to 9pm.

If you would like to join us, please contact me on joy.rushton@blackburn.anglican.org or if you know Jesus already but would like to come with a friend who doesn't yet know Him then please also get in touch.

Joy Rushton, Being Witnesses Manager

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES