

From the Manse: A Thought for the Week

Sunday 14th September 2025

Dear friends,

“Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about...Jesus of Nazareth.’

‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked.

‘Come and see,’ said Philip.” (John 1:45–46)

There is something beautifully simple about those words: come and see. Philip didn’t try to argue with Nathanael or convince him with clever words. He simply offered an invitation and trusted that Jesus would do the rest.

This is how the gospel has always spread—through invitation. Andrew, after meeting Jesus, immediately went to his brother Simon and brought him along. That one simple step of faith set the course of Simon’s whole life, and he became Peter, the rock on which Jesus would build His church. Philip did the same with Nathanael, and countless others through history have done likewise. Someone invited them, welcomed them, and pointed them towards Jesus.

Inviting can feel daunting to us today. We worry about what people will think, or whether they will say no, or whether we’ll be asked something we cannot answer. Yet invitation is not about having all the answers. It is not about persuasion or pressure. At its heart, it is about love. It is about saying to a friend, a neighbour, or a colleague: Jesus and church matter to me, and you matter to me, so I’d love for you to share this with me.

Think of how naturally we share other good things. When we find a book that inspires us, a film that moves us, or even a café that serves the best coffee in town, we tell others. We don’t do it to win an argument but because we want them to share in our joy. Why should it be any different with our faith?

The wonderful truth is that when we invite someone, we are never doing it alone. God is already at work in people's lives—long before we speak a word. God is sowing seeds, stirring questions, softening hearts. We do not carry the responsibility of the outcome; that belongs to God. All we do is open the door and say, "Come and see."

This week, I invite you to take a quiet moment of prayer. Picture just one person, a friend, family member or colleague. Hold them before God, asking: "Lord, bless them. Draw them closer to you. Give me courage to invite." Then, when the opportunity arises, trust God enough to take that small step.

You never know what God might do with your invitation. A simple "Would you like to come to church with me this Sunday?" could open the way for someone to discover faith, to find hope, or to feel welcome in a community that points them to Christ.

The wonderful thing is that the same Spirit who gave courage to Andrew and Philip, and who empowered the early church to share the good news, is the same Spirit who lives and works in us today. Therefore, we don't need perfect words—we simply need a willing heart.

So, let us be people who live with courage and love, and who are ready to say to others, "Come and see."

With every blessing,

Rev Jade