

# You are invited!

Forefront is reflecting on 'calling' this year—how God invites us to individual, specific tasks which answer the prayer, “thy Kingdom come” in our lives. During the summer holidays, we look at individuals who were called by God, to see what lessons we can learn from the way they were called, and the results of their obedience to that calling.

**30 July**—Samuel, with David Burfield

**6 August**—Martha, with Jo Kerr. Includes Communion

**13 August**—Gideon, with Ben Higgs. Followed by an all-church barbecue ... you are welcome to invite visitors, but please let us know in advance

**20 August**—Elisha, with Nigel Marsh

**27 August**—Timothy, with guest speaker from Chard Methodist Church, Anna Flindell

**3 September**—Simeon and Anna, with Tom Smith



'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.'

**Isa 43:1**

**A caring community with every member equipped  
to demonstrate Christ, working with others to  
advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world**

## Our values:

**Seek God** – in prayer, worship, study of the Scripture and fellowship, we value the pursuit of God in Jesus Christ;

**Love Generously** – in time, talent and treasure, to stimulate one another to good works and a lifestyle of generosity;

**Expect transformation** – to see God's Holy Spirit move in individual lives, in the church and across our community



## Forefront Community Church

You may have been coming to Forefront for years. Or maybe you just popped in for one Sunday. Either way, if you want to discuss things mentioned in the talks, we would be pleased to do so. Ask someone in the service to point you in the right direction, or call in during the week at Forefront Centre (next to Chard Post Office sorting centre).

# Biblical callings

Lessons from six Biblical accounts of lives laid down for God



You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

**John 15:16**

## Samuel



1Sam 3:1-4:1

**30 July**—David Burfield

Samuel was placed into the care and training of Eli, priest and judge of Israel, when he was weaned. Eli taught Samuel about God and his commandments, and put him to work around God's "tent of meeting".. Samuel was still a child when God began to speak to him. His first message from God was a tough one - he was to announce judgment on Eli's corrupt sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were abusing their priestly privilege—and with it, a curse on Eli, who had brought him up. The people grew to trust

Samuel to answer difficult questions and the elders "trembled before him" as the representative of God's authority. He would intercede for the nation at times of distress and ultimately anointed the nation's first two kings.

## Martha



Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-41

**6 August**—Jo Kerr

Martha and her sister Mary lived in Bethany, near Jerusalem. They were well-known in their community (many came to comfort them when their brother Lazarus died) and Jesus loved all three.

Indeed, the siblings appear in Jesus's story in a number of places and ways.

On one such occasion, Jesus is in the area with his disciples. Martha has invited them into her home for a meal. Mary sits at Jesus's feet while he teaches, while Martha is busy and anxious about the preparations. She asks Jesus to tell her sister to help; he responds by endorsing Mary's decision to step back from the busy-ness

and do nothing but listen to his words for a while.

Martha gets her chance to shine in the account of Lazarus's death, however; she knows Jesus is the Messiah, believes in the Resurrection, and puts it all together in a marvellous statement of faith in Jesus, "the Messiah, the Son of God".



## Gideon



Judges 6:7-40

**13 August**—Ben Higgs

Gideon's call begins with a choice. Who did the young man fear most; the God of Israel, or the gods of the Amorites?

Aware of God's promises to his people, guided by an angel and encouraged by small miracles, Gideon sets out to obey God and see what happens. Starting with tiny actions he progresses to becoming a war-lord, then a national leader. His story is an encouragement to anyone who has ever convinced themselves that they are too young, too inconsequential, too untrained or too oppressed to do something important for God. Along with that comes a sober warning—hold on to the humility, obedience and dependence of the early call, even when you are older and more successful.



**Here I am, send me (Isa 6:8)**

## Timothy



1Tim 1:18,19 and 4:11-16, 2Tim 1:3-14 and 22:1-3 and 3:14-17

**27 August**—Rev Anna Flindell

Following a Church council held in Jerusalem about AD 49 (Acts 15), Paul and Silas visited believers in Lystra, where Timothy was "well spoken of" in the local churches. Timothy's father was Greek, and his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) Jewish. These women gave him a solid foundation in the Hebrew Scriptures. Paul asked Timothy to join them in their journey, after which he became a constant companion on his second and third journeys. From Rome, he was frequently sent as a special emissary to various congregations. While Timothy was establishing churches in Ephesus, Paul wrote letters to encourage and instruct him - two of these are in the New Testament.

## Anna and Simeon



Luke 2:25-38

**3 September**—Tom Smith

We don't see how these two righteous, devout people were first called, but they were certain of the promise made to them—they would see the Messiah. Prayerful and worshipful, they seem to emerge briefly from the background to crown their lifetime of service with one glorious act of witness to a baby who would grow to be salvation for both Jew and Gentile. This child was a sign from God, and everyone's response to him would reveal the state of their own hearts. Joseph and Mary, who were in Jerusalem simply to fulfil a religious duty, were amazed by the testimony and marvelled at it.

## Elisha



1 Kings 19:15-21, 2Ki 2:1-15

**20 August**—Nigel Marsh

Elisha was the successor whom God picked for Elijah, to continue his work of bringing the people back to faith when the older prophet was due for a dramatic retirement.

Elisha, ploughing in a field, accepted his call to service instantly, leaving job, family and security for an unpredictable life of obedience—initially to Elijah as his manservant, then directly to God.

Part of Elisha's work was to visit, encourage and eventually lead groups called the "sons of the prophets", apparently training schools for budding prophets.