

Our calling is for every day

BY BISHOP CHRISTOPHER

I DON'T know how often you think about your calling, or vocation, but I suspect most of us don't think about it every day.

We're used, after all, to thinking about it in terms of taking up a job; vocational training is focused on a set of skills for an occupation. And, in the Church, we often talk about vocation or calling to ministry, whether ordained or not. In all of this, there is a sense that calling is about what we do, and that it is unique to each of us.

The surprising thing about that is that the New Testament rarely talks about calling in that way. More often than not, 'calling' describes what is going on when people become Christians. Jesus quite literally calls his first disciples to follow him. Later, while Paul does talk about his being called to be an apostle, he talks far more about how we have *all* been called to be saints, called to fellowship in Jesus, called to peace, called to hope.

That means before we are ever called to a role, we're called to a relationship. We are all called to know God in Christ,



and to follow him who died and rose again for us.

Even if we have only just begun to reckon with what that all means, then we have begun to hear and respond to the most important calling there is. That's my calling and yours, but if we stop to think about it, it also means that Christian calling is about the whole of our lives, because it's the calling to know the God of life.

It's about how hearing Jesus's call to follow him leads us into a new life in the everyday, wherever we find ourselves. And, wherever we find ourselves, there are people round about us whom God is also calling, people that we might be able to help hear that call.

So have a think about that as you read this. Jesus is calling you to know and love him, to trust and follow in his way, and to help others hear that call.

How might thinking about that shape your day ahead? Will it make a difference to how you speak to the person at the shopping checkout? Will it affect your tone and temper in a difficult phone call? Does it influence your decisions and choices? Our Christian calling impacts all we are and do.



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Front page photo: courtesy Mike Cooter