



## Benefice of Atworth with Shaw and Whitley

### The Disciples of Jesus: Andrew

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

2 Kings 4: 1 – 17 John 1: 29 - 42

#### In essence:

- Andrew was a fisherman with his brother Peter and together with James and John. He lived in Capernaum on the North side of the Sea of Galilee. The fishing was good here and it was a major trade route.
- Unlike his brother Peter, Andrew is not mentioned very often in the Gospels. In fact apart from where the writers are naming the disciples, he is only mentioned nine times.
- He was a devout man going with his friends in to the desert to hear the teaching of John the Baptist. It was John the Baptist that introduced Andrew to Jesus.
- After spending time with Jesus we are told in John 1: 41-42a 'the first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon (Peter) and tell him "we have found the Messiah" (that is the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.'
- Andrew was part of the inner circle which included Peter, James and John. Andrew takes a thoughtful and inconspicuous role.
- He saw the worth of insignificant gifts. He saw the potential of the five loaves and two fishes. He had learnt what Jesus could do with small, insignificant gifts.
- Andrew's service to God was by bringing people to Jesus. He brought his brother, the small boy with the fish and loaves, the Greeks (John 1:41-42a. John 6:9. John 12: 20-22). Scholars say that he introduced a provincial Roman governor's wife to the way of Christ; which caused him to lose his life.
- He was crucified on a saltire cross, an X-cross. He was tied and not nailed to the cross to prolong his suffering. Apparently, during the two days he was on the cross he tried to persuade passers-by to give their life to Christ.

#### For Reflection:

- 1. Can you think of anyone who has influenced your Christian journey?**
- 2. Have you a small gift you can offer to God?**
- 3. Can you identify someone you can introduce to Christ by walking alongside them?**
- 4. Do you feel the need to have your actions noticed or are you happy to be in the background?**
- 5. How might we encourage and value those we recognise as an Andrew?**