



Benefice of Atworth with Shaw and Whitley

The Disciples of Jesus: Philip

14th June 2015

1 Corinthians 1: 27 - 29 John 6: 1 - 14

In essence:

- Philip is the fifth name on each list of the Disciples
- Philip is a Greek name meaning 'lover of horses'
- Most commentators agree that 'our' Philip should not be confused with Philip the deacon (Acts 6) who led the Ethiopian Eunuch to Christ
- We read that Philip 'was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter' (John 1:44) situated on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee
- Although he is mentioned in the lists of Disciples in the Synoptic Gospels and chapter 1 of Acts, all that the Bible really tells us about him is in the 4th Gospel, that attributed to John
- Philip recognised Jesus as '... the one Moses wrote about in the law, and about whom the prophets also wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph'
- Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus, encouraging Nathanael to 'Come and see'
- According to tradition, Philip was greatly active in the spread of the early church but, sadly, among the first of the apostles to suffer martyrdom, put to death by stoning in Phrygia (Asia Minor)
- The 4th Gospel includes episodes concerning Philip for a purpose: to help us learn more about Jesus through his questions and caution

For Reflection:

'Jesus said "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit. Fruit that will last....."' (John 15:16)

1. Can you imagine leaving behind all that is familiar to follow Jesus Christ?
2. Can you imagine encouraging a family member to do this?
3. Can you identify someone to whom you could say 'Come and see' Jesus?
4. Do we celebrate our differences sufficiently?
5. How might we embolden, value and support those we recognise as a Philip?