

Near the beginning of John's gospel we read of two disciples who start to follow Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them: "What are you looking for?" They said to him "Rabbi, where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come and see".

The last year has been very difficult. But take a moment to look back.

Ask what your Christian faith has meant to you? What has it meant to pray, to share worship, to be part of the church, to have a common hope for the future and to walk through all of this with Jesus?

For many of us our faith has been really tested. But that faith has become deeper and more dear to us in this difficult time.

Over the course of the pandemic many people outside the church have been looking in and asking deep questions about faith. One in five people in our online congregation were not regular worshippers before COVID.

So now we want to invite to everyone who is searching for truth and meaning to go deeper. As a Church across the Diocese we want to send out a big, warm, open invitation to everyone: Come and see.

We are going to offer that invitation over the next few weeks through our services, in person and through e-cards inviting people to respond and discover more.

Then in Lent, we hope that everyone will have the opportunity to go deeper as we explore the heart of the Christian faith together: through daily reflections, through weekly videos and podcasts, through one-to-one conversations and through small groups meeting online.

Please pray that God will be at work and that in the Easter season, as we emerge from lockdown, there will be many people who want to be baptised and to renew their Christian faith.

You can sign up for daily reflections and to walk this journey with us by clicking the link below. https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/

This can be for everyone. Walk with us as we walk with Jesus and come and see.

Bishop Steven