

Seeing things differently

August is a month that brings us 'the summer'...

now I don't know about you but I often find myself wondering what that will mean, will it be full on heat of summer, torrential rain, cloudy cool days or all of the above!

We will simply have to wait and see and whatever faces us we will no doubt adapt whatever we are doing to fit the situation as best we can.

This sense of the need to adapt and see things differently brings to mind Bartholomew, one of Jesus 12 disciples, mentioned in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. John's gospel never mentions Bartholomew but does mention Nathanael (the others don't) so many think that Bartholomew and Nathanael are the same person.

I love Nathanael's first encounter with Jesus. Philip comes and tells him about Jesus of Nazareth to which Nathanael replies 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' It's a slightly grumpy response, maybe like those hoping for lovely summer holiday weather in August, he's been let down a few times before.

Still what happens next is a story of being completely turned around.



Jesus tells Nathanael that he saw him under the fig tree before Philip called him. Nathanael is so surprised by this he changes from sceptic to believer and even more than Philip had said. Nathanael says to Jesus "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel."

There are many times when we are sceptical or doubt but when we meet Jesus for ourselves our outlook can be transformed, when we realise we are known and loved by Jesus it changes everything.

Come rain or shine this August I pray you find some time to meet Jesus in the pages of the Bible, in the family of the church, in a quiet place (like Nathanael's fig tree) where you are seen and loved.



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