



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
**CHRISTIAN  
UNITY**

**18th –25th January**

## **The Christian Unity Service**

**is**

**This Sunday**

**21st Jan. at 6.30pm**

**at**

**St John's Church, Kidmore End.**

If you would like a lift, please see

Fr. Michael or Deacon Brian.

**For more information on the week of prayer for**

**Christian unity please visit**

**[www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer2018](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer2018)**

### **Thought for the week**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Last Sunday we heard about Samuel who was instructed by Eli to “listen”. This week, listening is again a theme running through the readings.

Jonah avoided God’s instructions to go to Nineveh and it was while he was trying to avoid the job God had given him, that he encountered the whale. After preaching repentance to the people, they listened to him and the city was spared. Job done apparently!

Jesus called Simon and Andrew; James and John and they left their boats and businesses and followed him. This action changed their lives and probably those of their families forever. St Mark’s Gospel gives the impression that their response was much quicker than that of Jonah!

Listening is difficult. It is hard to find the space and time to allow ourselves to hear that *still, small voice of calm* that speaks to us. Maybe there is a fear that we will not be able to do what is needed. Perhaps it is hard to exchange the thoughts and aspirations that we have nurtured for years, for a new outlook on life.

God knows what we are capable of... as well as our limitations, so we can be confident that we can do what is asked of us and after all ..... there are no whales in Berkshire!

A parishioner