

7th February – **We need to be prepared for God to lead us in unexpected directions**
by Mary Morgan

Luke 2: 25-38

In the first book of Samuel the Lord tells Samuel that he has rejected Saul as Israel's king and wants Samuel to go to Jesse the Bethlehemite to anoint the son he has chosen to be Israel's next king. As Jesse's boys walk by Samuel is sure he knows which boy he will anoint but God says "Do not look at his appearance for the Lord does not see as mortals see"

Over the years Simeon must have seen many young men pass through the Temple. How often must he have asked himself "Is this the one?" With no word from the Lord, he must have wondered if he really would see the Lord's Messiah as he had been promised.

And life and people don't change. We are all guilty of deciding we know what is the best outcome for our lives and our prayers. I know I am. And so we pray and are sometimes surprised, sometimes upset with what we see as an answer to prayer. And when life goes in an unexpected direction we are confused.

When Simeon saw Mary and Joseph with the baby and God urged him forward, I wonder if he asked himself if he was really understanding what he felt. After all what difference could a baby make and growing up took time, but he followed God's lead and was shown the future of this child. Such was his joy and wonder that Anna the prophetess felt it and came to bring her blessing to this family, this tiny child and she and Simeon knew the world would never be the same again.

And just as Simeon showed his knowing with Anna and Mary and Joseph, so we who are blessed in knowing God and being known by him must be ready to share our knowledge. We have to be Christ's body here telling people the good news of God's love, redemption and salvation through Jesus. We must show through our lives that God's Kingdom is already here and we can live the resurrection life now.