

ST PETER AT GOWTS CHURCH

14TH JANUARY 2018
2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9.30AM SUNG EUCHARIST

Readings Epiphany 2

First reading; 1 Samuel Ch. 3 v.1-10
Second Reading; Revelations Ch. 5
v. 1-10
Gospel; John Ch. 1 v 43—end

Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the
riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Priest in charge:

Revd Jeremy Cullimore.
The Vicarage,
Sibthorp St, Lincoln.
tel 01522 542908
email; jscullimore@btinternet.com.

Lay ministry Mrs Mary Rose

Church Wardens

Mrs Mary Rose, Mrs Margaret Simpson

Hall caretaker David Hansell

Hall bookings & baptisms

01522 528215

Please pray for;

the sick; Fred Bowskill, Charlie Cullimore, Elizabeth Graham, Pam Goodman, Joy Gray, Joan Hill, Claire O'Neil, Stuart Rose, Michael Vaughan , Tim Wheeldon.

Years Mind;

15 Vera Pugh

- The CAMEO members (15th)
- The Community of the Resurrection (Charles Gore 17th)
- The Week of Prayer for Church Unity (18th—25th)
- Those affected by the mudslide in America.
- The NHS and the crisis due to the cold weather flu bugs.
- Those struggling with alcohol consumption. (Dry January)
- The relationships between countries and their leaders, and peaceful solutions to possible conflicts.

Upcoming events

15th	Tuesday	10am	Women's social group	church hall
15th	Monday	7pm	CAMEO	church hall
16th	Wednesday	10am	Keep fit	church hall
21st	Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	church
23rd	Tuesday	7.30pm	PCC	church hall

Sam's Gift (Part 2)

At first my daily Bible reading was strictly private. Then still in the days of America's compulsory national service, I found myself in the US army stationed next to the Pentagon. John, my room mate, had a thin version of the Christian faith. One morning before I went to work he spoke of being badgered about his faith by the men in our military police unit. 'They're always after me', he complained, 'but they never bother you.'

'Johnny,' I pushed back with the tenderness of a drill sergeant, 'it's because you don't stand for anything! You say you believe in God, but you never seem to spend any time with him. If you claim to be a Christian, why don't you show it?' I asked him about his bible reading. Had he ever read the Bible through?

The exchange came over breakfast and I had to go to work; but John had the day off. I felt guilty for being sharp with him so at noon I headed back to our flat for lunch ready to offer a rehearsed apology. I started but he waved me off—'No, I needed to hear it.

Then he gushed, 'This is good!'

He was in the easy chair, Bible in hand, and almost half way through Genesis. By that evening he had made it through most of Exodus! Soon he was carrying his Bible to work and at breaks he would

read segments to his amazed military police friends. He finished reading the entire bible in just six weeks!

John quickly gained new credibility with his friends and ended any badgering. He also became a strong presence in the church we attended. In the meantime we spontaneously started sharing verses aloud when ever we were at the apartment doing our separate reading. He was in one section of the Bible and I was in another, but it didn't matter. We just enjoyed swapping verses with each other whenever a verse struck a chord. We loved it!

After the army he went on to Bible college. Before he left we talked about our Bible sharing and he summed up the result: 'I came to love God through my reading.' That's what we were actually sharing: a common delight in hearing from the living God who loves us.

{ He goes on to describe other instances of sharing Bible reading with others, and the blessings they received. }

I call this 'Sam's gift' - and I'm happy to share it with you as a pathway to get to know and enjoy God more than ever before. And please find a partner—you'll both love it!

**Ron Frost, Daily Bread ,2018,
Scripture Union**