Sermon: **“Samuel! Samuel!” “Speak; your servant is listening”** (1 Samuel 3.10)

When Samuel was born **‘everyone did just as he pleased’** (Judges 17.6, 21.25); there was no king.

Sounds familiar? If it’s right for me… You believe what you want… As long as you hurt no-one… Sounds OK.

Would you let children do *anything* they want to? But just as children need direction, so do we all.

This is where God comes in. TEXT.

Would-be preachers had a ‘Call to Preach’, presbyters had their Call. Are only preachers/presbyters called?

The Twelve were called. Their call might be special…. Are ordinary people called? Are not all presbyters, preachers, the Twelve, Samuel ordinary people who become extraordinary *because* they respond to the call?

How often do we assume that God only calls other people but not ourselves?

Why might I *not* want to listen to God?

* I might be too busy to listen, or doing something I should not be doing.
* God might say something nasty and upset me, or tell me to do something I don’t want to do.

If the Awesome God wants to speak to us, we had *better* listen. TEXT.

What can help us to hear God speaking to us?

No good having a radio and expecting to hear the news, if you do not turn it on! No good expecting a letter if you never empty the letter box! No point waiting for a phone call if the phone is disconnected!

There are many ways in which God can speak – thought about some of these in this service.

So be ready, and expectant. Keep eyes and ears open. But we should only do so if we want to listen. TEXT.

There is another reason for listening - God’s love for us is such that what he says will be for our own good, even if we disagree or doubt it. Myra felt a call to go to the Solomon Islands – who could deny that this was for her good? TEXT. Are you ready to listen?