**Talk for Trinity Sunday 4th June at Christ Church. Matthew Ch 28. 16-20. Caroline Seaton**

We are Starting with a short drama where a Church committee discusses evangelism strategies, but somehow misses the point.

Dramatic presentation.

Thank you to all those actors taking part. No one was incriminated in the making of this production.

I’m sure no one has come across such a scenario? Or may be!! Grand ideas which are pie in the sky totally missing the point!!

Our reading we heard before the drama, from the gospel according to Matthew, is commonly referred to as The Great Commission. And is certainly a challenging commission.

Go, Baptise, Teach, Obey.

Lin spoke last week asking us if we were we up to a challenge? We all have doubts as to whether we are good enough or able enough to take on something which is outside our comfort zone. And I’m sure the disciples had some concerns as to whether they were up to the job – Go! Baptise! Teach! Obey. But there was reassurance for them as they had just received the Holy Spirit and having been filled with the Holy Spirit, I’m sure their doubts quickly disappeared when they finally realised the true meaning of Jesus’ message. They had the Power and the Spirit of the long awaited one, who came to bring hope and truth to all nations.

Our drama highlighted the pitfall of losing sight of the bigger picture and trying to over complicate the commissioning that God really wants from us. He doesn’t want grand gestures or wacky ideas of how to bring people to him, but every day gestures which is within everyone’s reach. John in the drama helped his neighbour. He helped his neighbour assemble a shed. It was very windy, and he was struggling by himself. But his colleagues on the committee were more concerned about him being late and accuse him of shirking! So wrapped up in their own thoughts and ideas they were missing the whole point of reaching out to the community. John had seen someone in need and helped. Not rocket science, nothing complicated, nothing outside most people’s ability. John showed his love for his neighbour by being practical and offering help. It gave rise to a conversation about God to a non- believer.

And this is what we are called to do. Reach out to those who do not yet know or hear the good news that God has for all people by being practical, and honest about who we are. But we don’t half find that a challenge!!

Trinity Sunday. To understand the true nature of God, and what the Trinity really means, is in one sense always beyond our scope as humans. God is never going to be quantifiable in human terms because he far surpasses what it is to be human. But in another sense, we are able to understand his nature as we experience a relationship with him, and feel his love, nurturing and committed care.

To this end I am giving us all a challenge. Sky diving, or bungee jumping – No! Something within everyone’s reach. I have here some invitations which I would like you to take away with you and pass on to a family member, friend of neighbour or leave it on a bus or in a shop somewhere. It’s inviting them to join us for either the 1st Sunday service in July, the” evening with the band” on 24TH or Criss Cross on 25th June. We can show we are a caring and outreaching church, not just a cosy club on a Sunday.

The great commission which Matthew records send his disciples out into the whole world to baptise people in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – the one God is all his completeness and community. It is the relationship with this God which transforms his people, rather than an impossible definitive explanation of it. Expressed in the last line ‘I will be with you always, to the end of time.’ Amen