**Sermon Notes Sunday 27th June – A vision for the Church**

**Read Matthew 5:13-16**

If the church has been commissioned with the task of being salt and light in our society, how do we best achieve that? Jesus said **you are** the *Light of the world*, not you could be or you might be or if you pass this particular course then you will qualify to be. He said **you are**. But we know in all honesty that often the quality of our ‘light’ can be like that of a dimmer switch. There are occasions when the light within us seems quite faint, but other times when it is fully turned up and bright.

* What are the conditions that affect the brightness of your ‘Light’?

Being connected to one another, being part of a community that enjoys fellowship with one another, worships together and supports one another in prayer is so important for keeping us aglow in the Spirit. What does Paul teach us about the importance of being connected and playing our part in the Body in order to fulfil our purpose and calling?

**Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27**

If you were a body part (i.e. a literal part of the human body) in the Church, what would you be and why?

As we remind ourselves of the purpose for the Church we see Paul describe the people of Jesus as interconnected members of one body. Paul mentions a number of practical consequences of this picture such as mutual dependence (v14-20), unity (v25), and sympathy with one another (v26).

* Why do we need one another in the body of Christ? How is this need expressed in practice?
* What does this picture reveal about how the different parts of the body contribute their gifts to enable the body to fully function? How can you apply that to the church?
* What are the consequences for the health of the church if parts of the body are not contributing their gifts?

**Pause for thought**

As we at Holy Trinity emerge from this challenging season, why not ask yourself. ‘What has God given me that I can offer in service so as to play my part in the body and thereby fulfil the purpose for which I have been saved by Jesus?

If you are unsure as to where you would like to serve then contact the church office for some advice.

And finally, consider the ants who all work together for the common good, building their nest and working together to bring in the food. How can we work together to be the church that is ‘All Involved’, everyone playing their part, contributing to the purpose of God in this our generation?

**‘For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do’ Ephesians 2:10**