**Bishop’s Isle of Wight Lent Course 2017**

**Living the Marks of Mission**

The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

3. To respond to human need by loving service

4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of

every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew

the life of the earth

**Where are we now?**

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect’”* (1 Peter 3:15)

Do you feel prepared to do this?

How do you feel about proclaiming the Good News?

**Who? Me?**

*Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3Then Moses said, ‘I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.’ 4When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’ 5Then he said, ‘Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ 6He said further, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

*7 Then the Lord said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’ 11But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ 12He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”*

*13 But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ 14God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am.’*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I am has sent me to you.” ’ 15God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The Lord,*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.”  
This is my name for ever,  
and this my title for all generations.   
16Go and assemble the elders of Israel, and say**to them, “The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying: I have given heed to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt. 17I declare that I will bring you up out of the misery of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.” 18* (Exodus 3: 1-17)

How did Moses feel about the task that God had set before him?

In summary, what was God’s answer?

**Where and when.**

*Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’* [*\**](javascript:void(0);)(Matthew 28:18-20)

What challenges you and encourages you about the scope and the possibility of mission?

**Our ministry 1**

*Jesus*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. 3He said to them, ‘Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. 4Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. 5Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.’ 6They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.*  *(*Luke 9:1-6).

How would you view the challenge of verses 1, 2 and 6 today?

Looking at verse 3 – what baggage do you think we carry today that might hold us back from sharing our faith?

Verses 4 and 5 seem to be talking about relationships, knowing when to speak and when to move on. Discuss the relevance of words, deeds and relationships in mission.

**Our ministry 2**

*Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go towards the south*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ 31He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:  
‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
   and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
     so he does not open his mouth.   
33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
   Who can describe his generation?  
     For his life is taken away from the earth.’   
34The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip*[*\**](javascript:void(0);) *baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.* (Acts 8:26-40)

What is the importance of listening in mission?

What is the content of the Good News that we are called to proclaim?

What different ways of proclaiming the kingdom might be used?

* What in the life of our Church shows this Mark matters to us?
* How is this Mark reflected in our worship?
* What more could we do as a Church to live this Mark?
* Who else in our community does this? how can we help them?

**Going on…**

Spend some time reflecting how you might share good news with one person this week – (at work, school, in your family or amongst friends) – and what hindrances there are. In particular ask God to bring to mind one person to pray for.