**A Church without walls gets sent!**

**Questions to accompany the Sunday morning sermon [7<sup>th</sup> April 2013] John 20:19-31**

1. In all the post resurrection accounts of the gospels the disciples are terrified, scared, uncertain and doubtful. They were astounded by Jesus' resurrection and whilst overjoyed unsure of what lay before them. Read John 20:19, 24-27 and Matthew 28:17. Can you emphasise with the disciples reaction? Discuss what type of doubts or fears you might have in being sent into the world by God?

2. Three times in the passage we studied Jesus says "Peace be with you." Peace in this context is much more than a salutation or greeting. Like the word Shalom in the Old Testament it has a wide and rich meaning.

   Peace is reconciliation between God and men and women through Christ Jesus.
   Peace means a right relationship with God.
   Peace means "peace of mind", the freedom from anxiety and worry.

   Think of ways in which you could offer this peace to people in your neighbourhood, office, school, college, retirement village or work place.

3. A sent church is also a church that will share in the fellowship of His sufferings. Read verses 26 and 27. Thomas puts his fingers on the wounds of Jesus. It is both a reminder of his suffering and his victory over death. Being sent in the same way the Father sent the son means to be willing to die to self and accept God's plans and purposes. How do you feel about this?

   It can seem very difficult but verse 22 makes it clear Jesus did not expect them to go through this alone. He promised the Holy Spirit to enable them and strengthen them. Does this offer you any comfort? Discuss why?

4. Every week we say these words together

   **Father Almighty**
   **We offer ourselves to you**
   **As a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord**
   **Send us out into the world**
   **In the power of the Holy Spirit**
   **To live and work**
   **To your praise and Glory**

   Who are we sent by? Discuss why it is important we understand we are sent by all three? Does it make any difference to you and how you understand mission?