



# Benefice of Atworth with Shaw and Whitley

## The Disciples of Jesus: Introduction

19<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Isaiah 48: 12 - 17

Matthew 10: 1 - 8

### In essence:

- Jesus told the disciples to proclaim this message, this good news, to people: *'The Kingdom of Heaven has come near'. Heal those who are ill, that is cure the sick; Raise the dead; Cleanse those who have leprosy; Cast out demons.'*  
Not only are they to do these things but they are to do so without charge; Jesus reminds them that they received without payment, so they must give without payment.
- The disciples did not consider it an impossible mission because they knew the difference Jesus made to their lives and they wanted to share that with others. As a result of their actions there are 2.1 billion Christians in the world today.
- We are the current generation of disciples and that mission has become our mission.
- What marked those first disciples out was that they started living radically different lives as a result of knowing Jesus. If we are not living distinctive lives as Christians then people are not going to want to explore the Christian faith for themselves.
- Being different did not mean that all that the disciples had previously been was of no use or purpose but rather that it was shaped and honed for a life of witness. By their actions as much as their words they became people set apart for and because of Christ.
- When Jesus sent out the disciples he sent them first to those who were right there in their own community. We can do that too. Start where you are. Don't make it more complicated than it needs to be. Start by praying for those who live near you. Make sure you live a life that looks worthwhile.
- It really does not matter who we are. We are all able to be ordinary men, women, girls and boys who with God can do the most extraordinary things.

### For Reflection:

- Does it seem an impossible task to do as Jesus asked his disciples?
- How might you be a disciple on a mission here today?
- Does the way you live your life look different because you know Jesus?
- Look up Nick Vujicic on the internet and see the transforming power of God at work in his life.