Sermon for Christian Aid Sunday – 16th May 2021

What we are going to see today is one of the videos which can be found on the Christian Aid Week website.

For those who are reading this sermon, it can be found at <https://youtu.be/yuiy_l_Hby4> copy this and paste in to your browser.

This video is about transformation. One simple earth dam which transformed dust into productive land. But as with so many transformational things, like faith, one thing leads to another.

Until the dam was built, Florence had to trudge six hours a day to collect water. Now that release of time was transformed into productive effort. The dam transformed Florence’s life. But it did so much more – like all Christian Aid’s projects it showed God’s help through practical help provided by Christian Aid in conjunction with local development partners. It responded to the actual needs of the people of that area and in doing so showed the love of God for all to see. Parched land was arid no more. Dying crops because of draught were brought to life and fruition.

The building of a dam started a chain reaction. Crops which did not wither and die meant new life and health to the people. New crops meant new extra money for the people. There was enough to start new enterprises like the bee farm. This had a double benefit – extra pollenators for the crops and extra income from the sale of honey. One thing leads to another – who we are and what we do today can lead to new possibilities and transformations tomorrow.

There is a metaphor here which we need to recognise. Florence saw God at work in her life in practical ways. We should do so too. We should also see that we bring the love of God into the lives of others in practical ways. In baptism we had living moving water poured over us as a symbol of our new life in Christ. Living water produces new life and possibility. It transforms us.

Stagnant water and fetid pools bring death and disease. It is a shame on all of us that so many in the world still have to trudge for hours each day to collect water which may endanger their lives. So give generously to Christian Aid this year – Day 1 of the May magazine gave all the possible ways in which this can be done. Give generously so that Christian Aid can enable programmes like the one on the video to be rolled out to others.

Next week we will be thinking of another transformation. The day of Pentecost when the disciples moved from existing to thriving in their faith and the church was born. Let us celebrate that by thriving in our faith – but today let us think of others being able to thrive in their lives as we give generously to the work of Christian Aid.

Sit and reflect for a moment or two on what you have seen and heard and ponder on what your response can be ….

Revd Graham Earney