

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday after Ascension Day

Twelve ordinary men

There is a legend about the Ascension – it goes like this. As Jesus returns to Heaven he meets an angel who asks him what he has done to ensure his work on Earth continues. “I’ve appointed twelve men to take care of it” he says. The angel looks aghast. “Twelve men! They’ll never cope. What is your Plan B?”

Jesus smiles. “There is no Plan B” he says.



Twelve men – and a few redoubtable women of course. Just a handful of people in a far corner of a Pagan empire. What a task! And yet, two thousand years later, the flame is still burning. People still tell. People still hear. We come together to engage with the story and to worship our amazing God. So, with the help of the Holy Spirit, these ordinary men must have done something right.

Of all the books in the Bible, the Acts of the Apostles is my favourite – and I love hearing from this book every Sunday during the period between Easter and Pentecost. The pages of Acts are filled with energy, excitement and growth. Even though the early Christians face constant difficulty and persecution they carry within them a full assurance of faith, an absolute certainty that they are on the way to see Jesus, to see him in all his Glory.

This is the story of the Church. So it is our story too. This is what our Church was like in its young days, and the way it could be now too.

No Plan B? Well, Plan A has been working to a greater or lesser degree for two thousand years. It is up to us, the disciples of today, to keep it working for many years more – no matter how strange the situations in which we find ourselves.

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