Worrying

If worrying was an Olympic sport some of us would at least reach the final, if not get a medal! Understandable - we have lots to worry about. Job, health, family, international politics, UK election.

We know that worrying probably does not help – one more thing to worry about!

Same applies at parish level –Leisure on Wed, Quiet Day. We want more \*\* bums on seats, more money, more children, more leaders, more van drivers.

Early Church had worries – Jesus had left them, Jews were after them, could they carry on the message and ministry of Jesus?

What did Jesus do for them? Sent the Spirit. How did that help? After all their worries had not gone.   
The Spirit was not given to remove these worries, but to help them realise these worries were God’s.

Is not the same true for us? The Spirit is not given to magic away all our worries. Why not?

God uses his power, not to dominate, nor to take over, but to encourage and to show possibilities.

ie. God’s power is the power to love. The ability to love is what the Spirit is given for.

So our role is to be people, who live love by our words, actions and thinking, together & individually.

As for the early Church, our worries are still there! But the Spirit is not given so that we can worry even more, but so that we can give our worries to God. Eg. this congregation could worry about Sunday services but you hand over the worry to me.

Would my garden grow any better for me worrying about it day by day?

Worrying in church is worse; it crushes witness, making newcomers feel uneasy & less likely to join.

Not that we should act as though our church is perfect, but that we act as though worries are not OUR problem. \*\* above is God’s worry in each case. Our role is to love.

In fact by showing love we will demonstrate (and thus witness) to God in a more positive way, showing God’s mercy and love for all. Maybe ‘loving’ should be our Olympic sport!