Sermon: **This plan, which God will complete when the time is right,**

 **is to bring all creation together with Christ as head.** (Ephesians 1.10)

Janus (from which we get January) was a Roman god with two heads! At the start of January it is common to look back and look forward.
Made New Year resolutions? Or plans? For some it is enough to resolve to keep alive (fires in Australia).

Of course we cannot always keep these resolutions/plans – life gets in the way, temptations, weakness, lack of money, etc. True of Church and family, as well as individuals.

God makes plans. Some believe all our lives are mapped out by God, others less certain that God makes such detail. But I am sure God has a more general plan for us, for this church. Half the fun of being human is discovering what this is. Who would have believed 50 years ago (1970) that all Methodist churches in Invercargill would combine on a new site with such a great atmosphere?

Who would have believed that God’s call to NZ would lead me to Lindisfarne?

Trouble is whatever plans God has for us we do not know what they are. But there is still Good News - God has already decided and told us about his ‘big plan’, involving whole of creation! TEXT.

[1] God will complete the plan

We might not see completion in our lifetime, but maybe progress towards it.

If God is God, then when God makes a plan he will keep it, guaranteed.

No great detail but enough to whet our appetite and give us hope. But what is the plan? TEXT.

[2] All creation in harmony

See Isaiah 11.6-9. NB there are still wolves, sheep, leopards, goats, etc, but they are working together.

Vision of a world in harmony – which does not mean sameness. Did you know Cornerstone is now XO!?

Lindisfarne is not meant to be like XO or First Church, but to continue to be itself in better ways.

I am not meant to be like Margaret and vice versa. Harmony is about recognising and celebrating differences while working together for God. TEXT.

[3] Christ will be head

In ICC the humblest clerk need not worry about any ICC grand plan, but just to do their bit.

If Christ is CEO then this plan is God’s not ours, in the sense that we are helping but it is ultimately God’s responsibility. So we need not worry over the detail, but just do our bit. TEXT.

Finally, there may be times when some aspect of that grand plan is revealed to someone here. Let us know!

Let us pray for 20/20 vision in 2020!