Sermon: (based on Matthew 14.13-21)

Sometimes what seems ordinary to us seems amazing to others. Graeme & leaping on deer from helicopters

solving Sudoku puzzles, being able to knit.

Jesus did ordinary things but sometimes what he probably thought was ordinary, to us is amazing.

Eg feeding the 5000 (men, not including the women and children).

In 2014 I shared this story, mentioning various ‘explanations’: all received a tiny amount, generosity was encouraged, numbers exaggerated. It is a bit like explaining deer-leaping, Sudoku, knitting.

One interesting aspect of our story often overlooked: in our story Jesus twice connects with God.

V13: **When Jesus heard the news about John, he left there in a boat and went to a lonely place by himself.**

Story in all four gospels but only Matthew has Jesus reacting to John’s death – NB Matthew does not mention any family connection with John. So why is Jesus bothered?
Is this a crisis for JC? If the forerunner was so treated, how will Jesus be treated? Reflection with God.

Did it change what Jesus later did? No, though might have made him more determined.

Do we use crises as opportunities to reflect with God?

V19: **he took the five loves and the two fish, looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God.**

Just before sharing the bread and fish Jesus prayed – is it that connection which led to the extraordinary?

It is as if Jesus needed a regular connection with God, not merely to do the extraordinary, but to orientate himself, to become aligned with God.

Tuning a guitar, even when you think it is OK needs aligning to a piano. Compare with our lives, we too need realigning.

Feeding 5000 was like a communion service, but with fish not wine. On its own it is quite ordinary; the amount of food is trivial. What makes it special is how through it we become realigned with God.