Sermon:

Who here understands Trinity? 1 + 1 + 1 = not 3, but 1, and each one is whole and complete.

Trinity is a complex idea that slowly developed over the first four centuries of the church.

We struggle to make any sense of it, without making it too simplistic.

Rather than struggle, accept. Creator, Jesus, Spirit are all God, but not three gods.

God is

[1] Mystery – which can never be fully understood

Mysteries: Why does music move us? Why do some people love us? Why some colours look good together?

God is a mystery – never fully understood. This links with holiness – see Moses & burning bush (Exodus 3).

Some try to simplify God, but this is not possible.

And this is good. If we *could* understand God, we would be greater than God.

[2] Abundance – which can never be fully emptied

Early Church ran out of money, which is why Paul had to arrange a collection for the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. Most today live on a budget, often tight, weighing options, balancing wishes.

But in God there is an abundance which never runs out.

As a preacher since 17 I have preached many sermons, often on the same passage (eg Christmas/Easter), but never run out of things to say. Why? God is behind the stories, and God is abundant.

And this is good. If preachers ran out then we will have exhausted God, and this is not possible.

[3] Diversity – which can never be fully explored

Troubles in USA – the nation has never come to terms with black & whites being equal in law & before God.

True around the world, not just racial tension, but tension between rural and urban, between democracies and dictatorships, between rich and poor, between male and female, between young and old….

Humans struggle with diversity. Yet God is Creator, human, influence. What could be more diverse?

And this is good. This diversity means we cannot fully explore God, there is always more to learn.

It is Trinity which underlines these - this is what Trinity truly means. These are characteristic of church too.

The people in our fellowship are a mystery, we have an abundance and diversity, yet we are one!

God is a treasure, so is the church – go and mine the depths of both!