Sermon: **You are the salt of the earth** (Matthew 5.13)

Many people need to restrict salt in their diet – too much can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke.

Too little can also be a problem causing muscle cramp, and confusion & irritability.
TEXT – so we can probably say that too much or too little in society can be problems.

If there is too little salt – the whole of society suffers confusion and irritability.

If there is too much salt? Constantine and the Church’s domination which was unhealthy.

*A lady asked a well-known minister if a Christian should always be talking about their faith.*

*“No. Let your speech be seasoned with salt, not a whole mouthful”.* So too much/little what?

Last week we looked briefly at the Beatitudes. Society needs people who are merciful, humble etc.

TEXT is about being an influence in society. But cannot be “salt of the earth” if we are not in society in some way. It is not enough to say the church building is visible.

Obviously many individuals are active in society – Meals on Wheels, Groups, being neighbourly, etc.

But the *You* in the TEXT is plural. So this is not about individuals, but about the church as a whole.

I suspect we are not salt enough in our society.

Floods last week – made me wonder briefly whether we should have opened Lindisfarne up as a Community Emergency Hub? This is an example of about being salt in the world.

TEXT is not about our choice to be so, but about God making us so.

Losing saltiness is about losing touch with God who makes us salty.

The only way for God to make us salty is engaging with who God is, who JC is; this we do as we wrestle with the ancient words of the Bible; through them God speaks and changes us.