Sermon: “**I can’t fight with all this. I’m not used to it**” (1 Samuel 17.39)

Crossword clue – why Philistines? Portrayed as crude and warlike, not cultured. Unfair. Long-term enemies of Israel – caused trouble for Isaac when they stopped up wells Abraham had dug. Samson fought them. While Saul was king the adult David fought *for* them! This story is the classic one remembered.

Stand-off with two armies facing each other. Goliath’s challenge for 40 days.

David saw the fight as a fight against God, not just the Israelites.

We too are in a fight; life is a challenge, Christians are part of this. Who/what is our opponent?

Not Muslims, not even extremists, not drug-pushers, internet/phone scammers. See Ephesians 6.12 **We are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces**.

So I guess the first thing to note: as God’s people we are opposed by evil forces (whether personified by ‘the Devil’ or not). Evil is real, showing itself in many ways. At its heart evil opposes God.

David was given armour to fight Goliath but it was totally impractical and heavy. TEXT.

In the Star Wars films – the evil Emperor wanted Luke to hate, allowing the ‘Dark Side’ to win.

We’re not to play evil at its own game. We oppose it not by greater evil, but good. Different weapons.

TEXT. David trusted God but also his sling which he habitually used.

We are meant to use the skills and abilities God has given us, what we are used to.

In Ephesians 6.14-17 use truth (belt), righteousness (breastplate), faith (shield), salvation (helmet).

Truth about who Jesus is and God’s love for us all, righteousness being morally good, faith – trust in God, salvation – put right with God: ie we are God’s people, with *God’s* authority not our own.

TEXT. What have you been given? Not just God’s goodness, but skills and experience unique to you.

All these are given by God not just for personal pleasure or advancement, but to be used for God.

Surely one reason why we are a church is to support and encourage each other to use the resources God has given each one. It is *God’s* battle we are called to join. And like David we use what God has given us.