Time to transform the world

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Mark 5:13 (NRSV).

Over this term our chapel services have centred on the theme of freedom in Christ. We have discussed how the Holy Spirit works in us to bring about change in our lives as a result of this freedom. We have considered what changes may occur within us and how we might demonstrate our freedom to those around us. We concluded by looking at what we should do with our freedom, and in particular, how we take our place in this world when we are free in Christ.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told his followers that they were to be salt and light to the world. Among many uses, salt adds flavour to food, disinfects wounds, keeps water free of contaminates, and softens water. It is used in industry, in agriculture and in our homes. It is a product that has truly transformed the world and how we live in it. Just imagine; no salt means no bacon! What would we do? Light too transforms our world. What looks foreboding in the dark often looks simple in the light. Just think of the sense of relief you get when the power comes back on after a blackout.

Just like salt and light, followers of Jesus are called to transform the world. We are called to add flavour to life, to proclaim God’s forgiveness of sin, to soften the hardened hearts and to shine light into the darkest places of people’s lives. It is an awesome challenge and one that we must take seriously. Jesus warns us that if we lose our saltiness, our willingness to be an agent of transformation, then we lose our usefulness.

It doesn’t have to be a difficult job for us to make a real transformation in other’s lives. It can be as simple as a smile to a stranger or a cheery “Good morning” that reminds them that they are special. It may be opening a door or helping someone with their shopping that makes a difference. We should never discount the simple things that can make a big difference. We should never overlook the opportunity to show love to others. Mahatma Ghandi recognised the importance of love when he said, “Where there is love there is life.”

Let us show love to the world and give it life. Let us transform the world with love.