**The Ven Dr Amanda Bloor, Archdeacon of Cleveland, reflects on John 16.12-15 for Trinity Sunday, 15th June.**

I really like Rowan Williams’s description of the Christian Church as ‘God in company’. God calls us into a community of faith where we might all be different, but we all have something to offer; something individual and valuable to God and to that community, the Church. That speaks very powerfully to me. We are stronger together than we are apart, even though, perhaps because, it's not always easy to love and value each other as much as we trust that God loves and values each one of us.

No matter how self-reliant we might be, we're better together. I know perfectly well that there are things that others are better at than me, and that there are times when I need reminding of my own limitations. There are other times when I need a bit of encouragement and support. The community of faith can help with that. And of course, if the Church is God in company, then we have God with us to guide and nurture and love us too.

We are not alone. But what's astounding to remember is that we worship a God who demonstrates community in God's own being. We believe in one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons so intimately entwined that they are one. And on this Trinity Sunday, we have a gospel reading that takes us to the heart of that mysterious, wonderful, active, and love-filled relationship.

Jesus is with his disciples, teaching about what is to come, reminding them that he is close to God, so close that he can say, ‘All the Father has is mine,’ and promising that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, will come to guide them. One in three and three in one: God in and as community. We know what God is like by looking at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We experience God in the here and now by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Post Communion Prayer set for Trinity Sunday refers to the perfect unity of love shown to us in three persons of the Trinity. It's a good reminder to us, too, to try and live in a perfect unity of love as members of the Church, God in company. I'd like to pray that prayer now.

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love. Hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory. Who are three persons, yet one God, now and forever. Amen.