



Link Up!

**‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’
John 13:34-35**

Coming up in February

Then on Sunday 9th February, Ken will return to the series on parables with The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4: 26 – 33)

On Sunday 16th February, we will look at The Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21: 23 – 32)

And on Sunday 23rd February, we will look at The Parable of the Wicked Tenants (Matthew 21: 33 – 45)

Ken is taking some of his Annual Leave from Monday 17th February until Friday 21st February. Please remember this and contact one of the Deacons in his absence.

Our youngest daughter, Carys, was born on Valentine’s Day, February 14th (hence the name Carys; derived from the Welsh word for beloved), therefore Nicky and I always celebrate our Valentine’s Day a few days before or after the 14th. A couple of years ago we were out for a meal at the Crown Inn in Blandford several days after Valentine’s Day and were having a good old natter with the maitre’d. He asked us if it was a special occasion, and we explained that it was our Valentine celebration. About 15 minutes later he returned to our table with a vase of flowers, two free glasses of prosecco and half a dozen or so heart shaped chocolates. He explained that these had been left over from the special Valentine meal the Inn had run earlier that week, and he wanted us to have a special night. Speaking to another waiter later on, it turned out that the maitre’d had actually returned to his house to get the items especially for us. How’s that for service?!

You may be aware of the claim that every religion has the ‘Golden Rule’ – ‘don’t do something to someone else that you wouldn’t want done to yourself’ However, in Christianity Jesus said ‘do for others what you would have them do for you’. It’s an important distinction to make; rather than passively not being nasty to other people, we Christians are called to actively be nice to others. In my first sermon of this New Year, I briefly spoke about the different forms of the word ‘love’ used in the New Testament with ‘agape’ love being an active, deliberate sort of love, which in the King James Version of the Bible is often translated as ‘charity’. When Jesus restored Peter in John 21, he asked Peter three times if he loved him. Each time Peter responded positively Jesus gave him a command - ‘Feed my Lambs’, ‘Take care of my sheep’, ‘Feed my sheep’.

Bournemouth Male Voice Choir Concert for Poole Foodbank

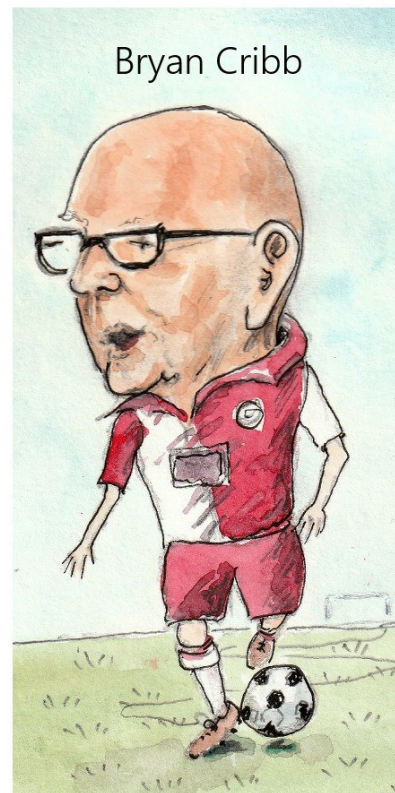
For those of you who enjoyed the concert that we hosted at the end of November in aid of Poole Foodbank which featured the Bournemouth Male Voice Choir, there is another opportunity to hear them and also support the Foodbank on Saturday 15th February starting at 7.30pm at St Ambrose Church, Westbourne, Bournemouth. This will be final farewell concert for Mark Burstow, their musical director of the last 20 years. It also marks the retirement of Rob Dishington their accompanist. If you would like to attend then more information is available at <https://fb.me/e/83vGvsqyG>

For those of you who attended the Unity Service at St George's C of E in January the offering taken there for Poole Foodbank raised £130. Thanks to those who supported us that afternoon.

If we love Jesus, then through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives, that love becomes an active, doing sort of love; not simply just not being nasty to people, but actively seeking ways to be nice to them. It doesn't have to be big, complicated, burdensome acts of love, but something as simple as talking to someone who looks a bit lonely on a Sunday, inviting someone round for a cuppa, offering to get someone a few bits of shopping when you're already out and about – such simple acts of love which let people know that they are loved. Equally, being British, we are really bad at asking for and accepting help from others, yet the Church has a Biblical mandate to be a place where people are loved and helped. So if you need a bit of support, a bit of loving assistance, don't be afraid to make a bit noise about it!

Just as the maitre'd blessed us that evening with a simple act of love, how might we be a loving blessing to others?

Rev Ken Adolphe



*Thinking now of
Hanging up his boots*