

All Saints' Marcham with St. Luke's Garford

All of us, every day are mixed up in the problems of human relationships. We have difficulties in getting along with people. There are those who irritate us, those who rub us up the wrong way, and those whose personalities clash with ours. There are those who are constantly sabotaging our plans by their thoughtless actions, and we react to them, everyone does. The world is giving a great deal of thought these days on how to deal with what the psychologists call "inter-personal relationships". They are trying as hard as they can, to get people to sit down and talk things out, try to understand one another, and create a spirit of understanding and sympathy. But the Bible always goes deeper; always goes to the heart of a matter.

The place to begin in solving our human relationships is not with other people but with our relationship to God. Our relationship with the people around us will reflect our relationship to God. It always does. Here is a good place to start, with God.

And do not grieve (make sad) the Holy Spirit, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4

Forgiveness is one of the greatest powers on earth for change, and freedom to move on, while bitterness can only lead to paralysis and depression. Is there someone you need to forgive today?

Neil Rowe

Being forgiven is a wonderful experience—a touch of the divine! We are all human and we all make mistakes, fail, offend or cause hurt to others. The act of true forgiveness allows our errors to be put away and enable us to make a new beginning. For forgiveness to be real it requires repentance from the offender and forgiveness from the victim and this can be a hard challenge for both. When this is done Jesus reminds us that the sin is dismissed and both sinner and victim are healed and renewed. In much of Jesus' teaching in parable and miracle forgiveness comes first and this enables healing to follow.

Charles Cottell

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us", familiar words to us all. I have always believed that sometimes, the biggest part of asking for forgiveness is recognising that it is required. As a parent, this is the part of the Lord's Prayer that I have found hardest to teach my daughters, and there have been times when I have wondered if God has the same feelings of frustration with us. My new year's resolution this year is to teach by example, and to persevere in my efforts, just like him.

Julia Davies

True or false; many of my generation grew up under the impression they were failures. A great deal of parental correcting went on. So much so that "sorry" was the most common word I said. Having failed for so many years to match up to the required standards it has taken a long time to forgive myself. Little by little, with the example of one special friend, I have learned that God forgives my faults, even forgets my wrongs and amazingly delights in my company and in what I do. Deep, deep down inside a bubble, called joy, starts to grow ...

Jenny Allan

Sunday Worship

8am, 10am, 6pm
6 February, 6 March
10 30am St. Luke's, Garford

10am 27 February
Issues for today
'Death, is it right
to hasten it?'
followed by discussion.

Mothering Sunday

10am 6 March
All Age Worship

Wednesdays

10am Holy Communion
at Duffield Place
Café
10 30 onwards for coffee
lunch starting from 12 noon
Sports, Scouts & Social Club
not 16 February

Ash Wednesday

9 February
10am, 8pm Holy Communion

Friday Club

5 30pm Manor Farm
for primary age children
not 18 February

Saturday

8 30am Men's Breakfast
5 February, 5 March

Contacts

Eddie and Pamela Shirras
391319
shirras@ukgateway.net
Youth & Children
Nikki Gibbins 391553
Churchwardens
James Allan 391373
Neil Rowe 390885
Secretary
Janey Cumber 391327
Treasurer
Eric Dunford 391439
Prayer Coordinator
Jane Jack 864900