

Sermon 17th September 2023

“ Were you not bound then to have pity on your fellow servant
just as I had pity on you”

The servant forgiven the most can be the frightened soul who
finds it harder to forgive.
Those who live with love
Those who practice kindness
Act eventually from custom
It is a learned part of what they are
What they have become.

Kindness
Forgiveness
Care
Hospitality

These are all learned virtues
Which develop
Building upon example
Choice
And indeed
Good fortune.

They are talents that in our faith we are encouraged to work
Upon
Not simply to expect by arrogant right.

If you ask
Do they not know who I am
The chances are you do not know who you are

” Where you not bound then to have pity on your fellow servant
Just as I had pity on you”.

God has been very kind to me
There is food on my table to eat
In my life I have rarely experienced hunger
I have earned very little of this
And have lived with those who tilled the soil for so much less
comfort
God has been very kind to me
My body has not been broken by physical labour

What pains I feel come at an age that most of my ancestors
Did not reach
I am no more entitle to this level of physical dignity, than
Were the labourers who built this church
Or the victims of the first and second war
God has been very kind to me.

Am I not obliged to be good to all the children of my
Father
To celebrate the gifts
To develop the vision
To recognise the goodness
To allow it to become a part of me
God has been very kind to me
My mother and Father loved me
They worked hard for me
I earned none of this
I have lived with those who did not have this love
God has been very kind to me
Different generations have called me Father
They have trusted me, and on occasions shared deep emotions
None of which I am entitled to
All of which have blessed me
God has been very kind to me
I have nephews and nieces who love me
They love me
Its wonderful

Am I not then obliged to be good to all the children of my
Father
To celebrate the gifts
To develop the vision
To recognise the goodness
To allow it to become a part of me
God has been very kind to you
You have values that sustain you
Those values were not your creation
They were given to you
God has been very kind to you
You live in a democracy which is not perfect
But has a place for you
That place was made for you by others

God has been very kind to you
You arose from your bed this morning
Most of you had breakfast
Most of you will have a good meal today
Then turn on the TV news
God has been very kind to you

So many gifts
So many gifts
Are you then not obliged to be good to all the children of our
Father
To celebrate the gifts
To develop the vision
To recognise the goodness
To allow it to become a part of you

To be grateful
Is to transform what we are
By celebrating the gifts that have been given
Otherwise I can assure you
You will be tortured
By greed
Bitterness
Indifference
And loneliness

And if you ask
What has God ever given me
Then you truly do not know who you are.