



## Kindness matters

We have heard a lot about all the kind things people have been doing over the last few weeks whilst we have been in 'Lockdown'. We have seen this for ourselves here in Orton - a family in the village brought us a potted plant - the label said "to make you smile"; someone we do not know well offered to do shopping for us, lots of emails and phone calls to check that we are OK, and other things too.

We are very grateful not only for the NHS workers but also for the police, fire service, the bin men, shop workers - and others too who have continued to do their jobs in spite of the danger to themselves, and those they love, that make our lives easier.

Jesus told a story about a kind act when someone listening to him asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus said there was a man that had to go on a journey from Jerusalem to Jericho. That road was dangerous and robbers would hide so they could attack travellers. That day the man was attacked and beaten, and the robbers took his money and left him to die. There were other travellers passing that way - the first was a priest on his way back from worshipping God, and when he saw the poor beaten man he crossed the road and walked on. Then another man came who served God in the Temple and he did just the same - he pretended he had not seen the injured man and walked on. Then there was another man - a Samaritan. People did not like Samaritans, they thought that Samaritans were dirty and no good to anyone. But this Samaritan saw the injured man and he did not walk away, instead he helped him. He bandaged his wounds and put him on his own donkey and took him to the nearest Inn, and paid for the man to stay there until he was well again. Such a kind thing to do.

Probably none of us will need to help someone set upon by muggers but there are so many ways that we can be kind just as Jesus taught us to be.

You can find this story in your Bible in the New Testament in Luke chapter 10, verses 25 - 37.

