

CHURCH News

July 2026



Newsletter no: 125

Love your Neighbour

Matthew 5, verse 43, says *'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.'*

I was in the doctor's surgery last week and I noticed there among the information posters up by the window was a poster giving instruction about how to behave: *'Rude or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated'* and, when I was at the checkout in Sainsbury's, I saw the staff were wearing body cameras because of the antisocial behaviour being directed at them. When we consider the words given by Jesus to those first followers, it seems pretty straightforward and, I hope to most of you, pretty much common sense, and yet we have this situation where people seem not to be able to behave appropriately. And strangely enough these people are our neighbours.

As I ponder this bad behaviour, I wonder if it is made worse by the use of social media and email. Perhaps we communicate without thinking about who we're speaking with, without hearing

the nuance or the feeling, or seeing the body language of the other. Are we losing the ability to communicate with each other?

In the bible passage (Matthew 5), Jesus goes on to say *'God causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous'*. These are familiar verses and are often misquoted. The whole point is that the sun will rise on everyone regardless of their background or behaviour but the hope is that those who follow the teachings of Jesus will love a bit harder and be generous and tolerant towards others.

That most basic command of *'loving your neighbour'* is actually one of the most radical things we are asked to do as Christians, because it means loving the people who make our life more difficult, the people who don't respect us, and who don't behave in the way we think they should. I think it means living by example, by going out of the way to build relationships and learn about the folks we live among, not in a smug self-righteous way, but one which reflects God's love to all people.

Love, Anna

July church services

Sunday 5th July

11. 00a.m Benefice Morning Worship,
St. Helen's, Burton Joyce
Please note, there is no service at St. Mary's.

Tuesday 7th July

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. John's,
Gunthorpe

Sunday, 12th July

9.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Mary's,
Lowdham

11.00 a.m Morning Worship, St. Helen's,
Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 14th July

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity,
Bulcote

Sunday, 19th July

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's,
Lowdham
11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's,
Burton Joyce.

Tuesday 21st July

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Luke's,
Stoke Bardolph

Sunday 26th July

9.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Mary's, Lowdham
11.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Helen's, Burton
Joyce

Love your neighbour, do good to
those who hate you, bless those
who curse you

Luke 6.27

What's On...

Our churches are living communities at the centre of village life, offering help, fellowship and welcome to everyone. Do come and join us. We'd be delighted to see you.

Coffee Chit Chat

Mondays 9.15a.m—11.30a.m
St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce
Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter!

Parents & Toddlers

Monday 9.30 –11.00a.m. (term time only).
St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce.
Everyone is welcome. With refreshments

The Tea Shop at St. John's

Tuesdays 9.30a.m. –12 noon at St. John's,
Gunthorpe. *Join us for coffee, cake and chat.*

Churches Together' Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesday 9.15 –11.00a.m. (term time only)
Methodist Chapel, Lowdham. Coffee & snacks,
crafts & songs.
£2.50/ family to cover costs.

Home Groups

Come and join us as we share prayers,
explore the bible and grow together in faith and
friendship .
*For more details, please contact Tracey, the
Vicar's P.A.*

Love Thy Neighbour

Turn off the news,
the TV,
your cell phone,
the internet,
feeds,
Twitter,
Instagram,
Snap Chat,
the radio,
Facebook,
gossip

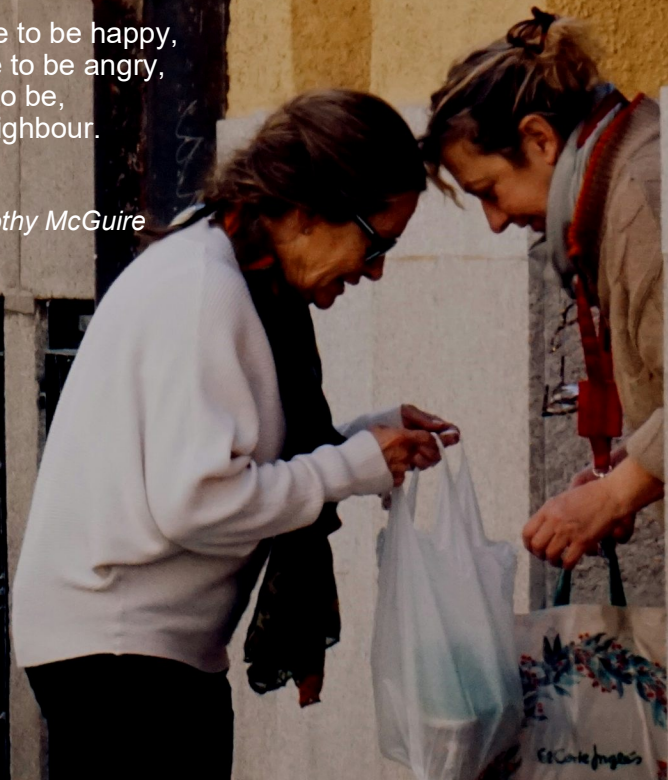
and just love thy neighbour.

Look at a man's heart,
not his skin,
not where he lives,
nor how he votes,
or his wealth,
don't mind his business,
forget politics,
put your guard down,
and just love thy neighbour.

We don't have to be right,
we don't have to be wrong,
to love thy neighbour.

We don't have to be happy,
we don't have to be angry,
we just have to be,
to love thy neighbour.

Timothy McGuire



Contact us...

Revd Anna Clarke

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*For enquiries, including church bookings,
weddings, baptisms and funerals please contact:*

Tracey Akehurst

Vicar's P.A. & Benefice Administrator:

0115 965 2114/ 0780 516 2088

administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk

*We take safeguarding very seriously. If you have
any concerns or questions please contact:*

Heather Brown

BJBSB Parish Safeguarding Officer

sgbj@united-benefice.org

Zena Cameron

LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer

zenabramall@hotmail.com *Mary's Church*

Find us...

Facebook at Revd Anna & Friends or the United
Benefice of Burton Joyce & Lowdham

A Church Near You:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Each church has its own individual web pages
where you can find further information

*I have decided to stick
with love. Hate is too great a
burden to bear.*

Martin Luther King