

2019-03-31 ... 10am Mothering Sunday ... Mrs Jane Rylands

John 19: 25b-27

I wonder what one word you would choose to sum up Jesus?

I would choose **LOVE** ...

Jesus shows us that God loves us

And his one rule is that we should love each other ...

He didn't say: 'just love those who love you' ...

But ... **love everyone.**

In our reading this morning we heard about one group of people who were there at the foot of the cross. In my mind's eye, this little group are standing close together, supporting each other as well as Jesus. And from the cross Jesus encourages a special relationship between his mother and his disciple John.

It is through the special and precious relationships that we are given that we learn about love and which we can then pass on in the way we treat others.

Can you give me some words that describe love? (*we had a few moments to think and suggest ...*)

Gentle, kind, forgiving, unconditional, patient, caring ...

Today and this week I want us to be especially thankful for those who love us.

You should all have a hexagon divided into 6 triangles I hope you're going to go home with the name of someone who loves you in each section.

And this is a prayer spinner when you spin it you can pray for the person the spinner selects - give thanks to God for the person who loves you and ask God to show you how to love them back.

In the first triangle we aren't going to think about a person but about **an animal**. Perhaps you have a pet cat or dog, or you know someone else's. If you don't know a real animal, perhaps you have a cuddly toy that you like to curl up with.

Second – I would like you to name a brother or sister, or a cousin perhaps - someone who knows and understands your family set up

Third – I want you to name a special friend

Fourth – a teacher, a work colleague, a church leader – someone who shares their knowledge with you so that you can make progress

Fifth – a leader or a tutor in a club or hobby group – who helps you to learn and enjoy yourself

Sixth – ok, I wonder if you can hazard a guess who I'm thinking of for triangle number 6? ...

PTO

Mum ... I want to rejoice with all those who have written Mum in their triangle with a flourish of happiness.

But sometimes it works out that Mum is not the person who first shows you how to deal with life, who shows you what unconditional love means.

This is YOUR prayer spinner – so you can choose to put the name of someone different who has mothered you OR you could leave in the name Mum and use this toy to pray through what is perhaps a difficult relationship.

God is love ... He loves us, and he wants us to put into practice the art of love ...

Let us, this week give thanks for our mums and all those others who teach us about what love looks like.

And as a thank you, let us pass on the lesson, and love those that we meet each day ...

Amen.