

Darlington Methodist Circuit – Autumn 2010

All you need is love!

All you need is love, such was the title of one of The Beatles' great hits. The song may be very dated today and certainly not to the taste of many, but the sentiments of the song are still valid.

When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. (Matt 22:37-39). Jesus calls us to love God with our whole selves - a very tall order and something which I hope we are all working towards each and every day. Then Jesus calls us to love our neighbour - another very tall order! Yet these two commandments should govern our every action, not because we feel we have to, but because we recognise God's great love for us and want to love God and our neighbour in gratitude for God's love for us. Sadly, this is not always the way that we who claim to be Christians live our daily lives. Each time we fail to love our neighbour, we fail to love Christ himself and we stunt the growth of the Kingdom of God.

If we could show our love for God and our love for our neighbour every day, people would see in us something of the love that God has for them. If we can model God's love in our lives, others will perhaps begin to see what they are missing, see that we have something which they want, the love of God in our lives.

I pray that all of us may truly love God with heart and soul and mind and strength and may we love our neighbour as we love ourselves so that God's love will be made known through us to the world around us.

With every blessing,

Gillian Houghton