

Thoughts from the Rectory – March 2024

I wonder if you are old enough to remember the wonderful comedy sketch that the two Ronnies and John Cleese performed on the Frost Report show back in 1966 – their interpretation of the Class system?

If you haven't got a clue what I am talking about or are just too young (as of course I am!), you can watch it on YouTube by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ksmxJ656v0>



Of course, the world has changed greatly since that sketch was first aired in 1966. In the intervening years society has wrestled with how we have in the past addressed and treated others. Our world in the 21st century is much more conscious of equality and discrimination and actively works towards respect and dignity for all (with varying degrees of success). We are becoming more 'woke' but there is still work to do.

Just as the 1966 sketch explored the concept of one class looking up or down to another, it doesn't hurt for us, once in a while, to reflect on who we look up to or, indeed look down on. After all, how we live and interact with others is all about relationship and relationships are important to us as humans. It is difficult to live a whole life without any, although some that we have might be challenging or almost impossible for us to negotiate, but relationships ground us in history through families and place, they help to shape the present in the friends we choose and how we interact with others in everyday life. They affect our wellbeing and happiness and often bring us great joy.

The relationships we choose affect our future too. If you were to reflect on those you currently interact with and those who influence your life and choices, I wonder where those relationships are taking you? Are they life-changing and life-giving?

As a Christian, the most important relationship I have is with God. We have a God who doesn't look down on us or expect us to look up to Him but treats us as equals. The Christian season of Lent (from Ash Wednesday to Easter) reminds us that God came to us as Jesus, to live alongside us, to build lasting relationship with us, to demonstrate a way to live with a set of values that give dignity and respect to all, loving us even when we feel we are unlovable, dying for us so that we can find forgiveness when we disappoint and helping us thereafter to make a fresh start. Jesus came as our equal to bring joy and peace of mind to each new day through His Spirit and to bring, through faith, hope for the future when this life is done.

'So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus.'

Galatians 3:8

So, how is your relationship with God? If you haven't yet got to know Jesus then perhaps this is the time to explore who He is- because whether you look up, or look

down, or look beside you, he promises to be there for you through thick and thin – even prepared to die for you. If you truly want to know your place in life, it is with God.

May your relationships be a blessing to you this March,

Revd Ruth