**Wednesday 19th August**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Weddings, like lots of other things, have had to change in the past few months. But I’m sure that all of us have heard these famous verses at different weddings over the years. Someone once said that they substituted their name for love, “Christopher is patient...”. Anyone who knows me knows that patience is not one of my virtues... yet! Well, the world could certainly do with more love - just look at the global headlines, the news in our own country and communities. There is already plenty of anger, fear and hatred, and love is in short supply. I may still be working on patience (and everything else) but we have a great model in Jesus, the perfect embodiment of love. No one who met Jesus went away feeling anything other than perfect love, not just an affection or a warm fuzzy feeling, but a transforming, life giving, never ending heavenly love. When Paul wrote these words to the early church in Corinth, they were not just reminders of how awesome Jesus is; they were instructions on how we are to live now! Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ spirit in us, we can also release heaven’s love around all around us. As someone else once said, we are the ones we’ve been waiting for. This is for each one of Jesus’ followers for every part of every day.

*Lord Jesus, please fill us afresh with your Spirit, so that we can release your love in our communities and see the transforming power of your love spread across our nation. Thank you that you promise that we will see your goodness in the land of the living. Amen.*

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Love one another as I have loved you.

John 13:34