

## St James News: Monday 20th July 2020

### Thought for the day – Revd John Marshall

Neil Baldwin - Marvellous

Have you seen the amazing, life enhancing film about Neil Baldwin? He has lived his life with confidence and kindness. He has a considerable degree of learning difficulties; but this has not got in his way.

For many years he has supported by students at Keele University. He was a circus clown, Nello, and he was kit man for Stoke City FC and a huge part of that community.

His faith and that of his mother has been fundamental to his life.

As a small boy he wore a large cross around his neck. He said, "You should never be afraid to proclaim your faith, Christ died on the cross for us." "So long as people believe in God and live a good life it doesn't matter which church they belong to."

When he got stuck with his caravan in Scotland. "I went to the local vicar to get some help. It's a good idea to see a vicar because we Christians will always do what we can to help others. It's what Jesus told us to do. I always try to help people who are in difficulties if I can and I know others will do the same for me." He has done this throughout his life.

He started his own football club at Keele, Gary Lineker is currently president. He is friends with Bishops, Archbishops, footballers and he was friends with Ken Dodd.

A friend said of him. "He challenges your Christianity in the nicest possible way, by asking very direct questions"

Bishop Geoff said "Perhaps one of the greatest challenges to a Christian is to fulfill the great commandment of Jesus to love one another. Neil has managed to do this by treating all people exactly the same."

His faith and friendships have sustained him through the ups and downs of life. Do watch Marvellous if you can; it is life enhancing, and Neil Baldwin inspirational.

**Bible Verse:**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. - 1 John 4:7

**Song:** [A new commandment I give unto you](#)

**Prayer:**

Grant us, O Lord, the will to accomplish all that pleases you; the strength to do all that you command and the reverence to respect all that you have made; for your own name's sake. Amen.

*Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)*

O Lord, our living God, we praise and bless your holy name.

Arisen, commanded and commissioned we live for you.

Thank you for redeeming us from a sleep that would have ended in destruction and for offering so much more than we could ever ask for or imagine in our Saviour, Jesus.

Breathe your Spirit's life, love and power into us afresh that we may worthily magnify your holy name, act justly, love boundlessly and humbly walk in step with you. Amen.

*Stephen Lindridge, Newcastle Upon Tyne District Chair - Methodist Church*