

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**By Revd Kit Gunasekera**

### **Ministers**

I do shop in other places rather than Sainsbury's, but I am on a bit of a Sainsbury's roll at the moment. I often wear my clergy collar when going in there and so have been called a variety of names! Jon Jon, who sits by the car park ticket machine calls out to me "All right father?". He is always ready to engage in conversation. Inside the shop I have been called Pastor, Vicar, Revd, Love and Darling (!?). I never have long conversations with the staff but a series of short but pleasant interactions. For some reason me and one of the guys who looked after fruit and veg section started nodding at each other, and we carried on doing so until he stopped working there. John, who looked after the trolleys always seemed happy to see me and I, him. I saw a lady wearing a reindeer decoration once on her head (it was Christmas time!) and I asked if they sold it and she said no, and asked what I needed it for, and I told her, and she kindly gave hers to me. Kamal who sells the Big issue always gives me a good send off on my way out.

Someone who stood out was I think called Winston. He had this friendly aura about him, always engaging people in a understated and humorous way. He often told me after serving me at the till "Good bye pastor and see you next time you are hungry!"

All of these encounters, had a positive effect on me. They increased my sense of well being, mental health, inner joy, faith, a little bit each time. Its like those health packs you can collect when playing computer games. If you don't know what I am talking about, ask a teenager! When I think of them, particularly Winston, what comes to my mind is a minister. I have no idea if he was an ordained minister or not but that is irrelevant. Anyone who has a positive impact on someone else, however large or small, is a minister, inspired by God.

I wonder who will minister to us today, and who can we minister to, today.