

## **Thought for the day – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**By Revd John Marshall**

**Jesus our Good Samaritan Catherine Williams**

While preparing for a sermon on the Good Samaritan I was struck by Catherine's thoughts on Jesus.

Jesus is our 'good Samaritan'. It is he who as an outsider, perhaps a stranger to us, comes and rescues us, crossing cultural boundaries, ignoring social norms, risking humiliation and rejection. He binds up our wounds, carries us and then gives all that he has – his very life on the cross to save us -- so that nothing that happens to us will make us drop out of his love. We owe him nothing for that – he gives it as a free gift with no strings attached, and it is for every person whoever they are and whatever they have done.

There is no 'in' or 'out' in God's economy of love. And it's in response to this extravagant free gift that we are capable of giving – taking tough love among friends and strangers – our neighbours. Shining a light into the darkest places to bring about healing and transformation. Engaging with compassion when we would really prefer to walk past on the other side.

Jesus the Word is very near to us, above us, within us, beneath us, beside us, calling us to work together with him and with one another to bring healing and wholeness to our broken world.

Catherine Williams The Canterbury Preachers companion 2022

Thank you for this Catherine.