

Thought for the day – Monday 22nd August 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Compassion Road

When I was preparing to think about the parable of the Good Samaritan, I remembered the song from Youth Praise, by Max Schneider that tells the story.

There's a road

There's a road which leads from Jerusalem,

It's the way down to Jericho,

It's compassion road, steep and tiring road,

Which has danger from thieving foe.

And here on this road is one man

Beaten up and left half dead

Like many in the world around us

Oppressed, in despair or unfed.

Hear him cry out. As he lies on compassion road.

Watch a priest and a levite come down that road

Only giving the man small heed,

They are too caught up with religious thoughts

To give help to a man in need.

Samaritan, walk behind them!

You are not within the same class!

But you are the one who helps him –

You could not see and just pass!

You heard the cry

As you walked on compassion road.

It's a road with us still today.

Many hands are needed to give the help

To those stricken upon the way.

So now will you have compassion?

To the lonely, hungry and worn.

To those without hope or salvation

To fearful and poor and forlorn?

Lord give us grace

To give help on Compassion road.

I have just finished a book by Justin Butcher which tells of an amazing walk of pilgrimage by Amos Trust in solidarity with the Palestinian people 100 years after the Balfour Declaration.

It was an amazing walk through many countries from London to Bethlehem and Jerusalem at one point they are on the Compassion road from Jerusalem to Jericho/

It is a moving book and caused some tears.

So does the good Samaritan.