

St James News: Thought for the day – Thursday 2nd July 2020

Washing up can be fun – Revd John Marshall

My brother used to listen to ‘Beyond our Ken’ or the ‘Navy Lark’, while doing the washing up from Sunday lunch. I nowadays listen to Five Live while washing up – there is often a reaction to the covid crisis; in the good old days, it was probably sport.

At camps and house parties washing up was a good opportunity for groups to bond, or sing (we learnt Be Bold from a group at Pinewood; other washing up songs are available.) The same applied during ordination training at Wychcroft. If you were really lucky you could use an industrial dishwasher. My most extreme washing up was when I was working in the kitchens at Fulbourn hospital; where I had to be rescued as the huge cooking pots were piling up and the cooks were needing them.

Sometimes Maggie reminds me I really do need to clean the inside of our cups.

Jesus spoke about this, “Who are you, you hypocrites you clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence; first clean the inside of the cup and dish and then the outside will also be clean.” Matthew 23.25-26

Let’s give thanks for washing up and washers up. Give thanks we have hot water and clean kitchens. Give thanks for all the love that is shown through washing up and household tasks. And let us not forget those who work in hospital kitchens – I know I was grateful for their efforts.

Song: [Purify my heart by Brian Doerksen](#)

Prayers:

Be to us at all times, O Lord, our unending joy, our eternal bliss and our enduring comfort. Be to us light in the darkness, strength in temptation and refreshment in the desert. Being penitent for our sins may we never be separated from you and longing for your face may we behold you in heaven. Amen.

Margery Kempe (c.1373-c.1438)

God of unimaginable love, we give you thanks and praise.
For the love that welcomes the unlovely,
for the love that pardons the unworthy,
for the love that knows no limit,
we give you thanks and praise.

In the love that inspires our worship,
in the love of which we would learn more,
in the love we share in our caring,
we give you thanks and praise.

As your love in us serves our neighbour,
as your love tells its story through us,
as your love calls us your people,
we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

Jonathan Hustler, Secretary, British Methodist Conference