

St James News: Thought for the day – Wednesday 7th October 2020

Who is my neighbour - Rev John Ohen

Southwark Diocese have chosen this month of October to celebrate Black History Month (BHM). Some people may ask why while others may say why not? One of the relaxed, quiet training, I attended while in secular employment was in a hotel outside London on Climate Change, (ECO training). I wanted to find out more about Climate change. Why on earth should we shout so much about Climate change, I asked myself? If we do not do something now, the climate will do a lot of damage to many parts of the world, because as Christians, we are supposed to “love your neighbour as yourself”, and care for all God’s children.

I found out that climate change is everybody’s business and not just for young, old, male, or female, let alone black or white, but for everybody. If we do not, there will be a bigger price to pay later. As we are beginning to experience all over the world, mainly in the developing parts of the world. Climate change is not only affecting but devastating many parts of the third world. Yet they are the ones producing less carbon footprint. Maybe that is why it will be more difficult for us in the developed world to agree to a quick change to a climate change. As I Learnt from my weekend course that Climate change is everybody’s business. We all should start to do something about it now. So, “who is my neighbour”?

Luke 10: 25 -37 reminds us about the parable of the Good Samaritan? How did Jesus intend us to grasp it, and apply it to our lives? Some may think that it is charity, love of neighbour, especially towards those one that would not feel naturally drawn to or care about. However, what is more striking about the response to the question is that the neighbour is the one who showed mercy. Finally, who is the one who shows mercy, but “Jesus” who is the Good Samaritan, and it is Jesus the one we are to love, because in loving Jesus we can genuinely love our neighbour.