

Dear Friend

This is the last weekly email I shall be writing for some time, as I am seconded to St George's Waddon for 3 months, and the last one in Black History Month.

There has been a huge amount of coverage of Black History Month this year, mostly due to incidents in the USA but also largely due to our own history and the ways in which we have not only chosen to treat people in the past, but how we choose to celebrate that part of our history. We have seen statues toppled, monuments ruined with graffiti and various other acts that demonstrate that there is some righteous anger in sectors of our society.

And I find myself asking 'What would Jesus do/say?' The Christ I have come to know and love was always on the side of the underdog. He ate with those who were spurned by society and he questioned rules and regulations that were in place because the ruling elite said it should be so. The Christ I know would be on the side of black people (if indeed there are sides), walking this journey towards justice with them. But gently and in a non-violent manner. And the Christ I love would have found a creative solution to the problem of putting history straight, and not simply reporting it from the perspective of the victor – the white people.

I have listened with great interest to the arguments about why statues that commemorate a dubious part of our history should be removed. Personally, I struggle with the idea of simply destroying them, with wiping out great chunks of our history. But I should like the historical record 'put straight' and for the teaching of history to no longer be from the perspective of one part of our now multi-racial society. One of my favourite Bible verses is Galatians 3:28

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

We are all loved equally by God and there is simply no excuse for not recognising the equality of our fellow human beings, whatever the colour of their skin.

May you all have a peaceful and happy few months while I am away at St George's – and may the virus that is keeping us apart begin to slip out of our lives as we approach the last couple of months of 2020.

With every blessing

Linda