**LOVE MY NEIGHBOUR – Care Home Service Plan**

**Introduction**

This winter Faith in Later Life are encouraging us to “Love my Neighbour”. It’s something that Jesus encouraged us to do in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

**Bible Reading:** Luke 10:25-37

**Song:** When I needed a neighbour were you there

**Sensory:** Pass round some sprigs of lavender or rosemary (one for each person) – I’m not sure if these would have been used by the Good Samaritan to help wound healing, but herbs like this certainly have healing properties and they are a good reminder to be spread the aroma of Christ.

**Talk:** Who is our neighbour in a care home?

Look around you – the people you are living with are your neighbours and the staff caring for you.

How can we love our neighbours? The Good Samaritan did three things:

1. He NOTICED – the priest and the Levite noticed too, but they chose to pass by on the other side.

2. He came NEAR – When the Samaritan noticed he came near, and Jesus tells us that he took pity on him.

3. He met a NEED – He didn’t just notice, and come near to be nosy, but it led to action – he met a need. He bandaged his wounds, and took him away from the roadside to a place where he would be well cared for.

So, how can we love our neighbour? Let’s NOTICE the people around us, let’s come near, even when we’re tempted to ignore and let’s meet a need where we can. The Good Samaritan didn’t meet all his needs, but he did what he could, and brought him to others who were able to look after him. So let’s do what we can – we can listen, we can pray, we can be kind. They are good places to start.

**PRAYER:**

Jesus, help us to notice those around us, and draw near. Give us the wisdom and love to listen kindly, to pray and get others involved where needed. We pray for our neighbours next door. Please bless them, and keep them; shine your face on them and be gracious to them; turn your face towards them and give them peace. Amen

**CLOSING SONG:**

What a friend we have in Jesus