**Sermon Notes – Sunday 17th October**

**‘Expressing God’s love to one another’**

Can you recall an occasion when you have been touched by an act of love that a member of our church family has shown you? (It may be time, a gift, a thoughtful gesture).

Read the account of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet John 13:1-17.

* What strikes you about this event in which Jesus ‘shows them the full extent of his love’?
* Why did Jesus feel the need to do this? Was it just because no one else had volunteered to do what was customary on entering a house, or was there some greater intention?
* How might we apply the teaching opportunity that Jesus was enacting to ourselves today?
* Read verses 34-35. Have you ever fully considered Jesus’s instruction to love one another **as a command rather than something optional?** What difference does that make?
* Given how diverse the church is (made up of different cultures, ages, backgrounds etc) how much of a challenge is it to put this command into practise?
* Whilst we celebrate expressions of love demonstrated within the church for one another, how and in what ways could this be improved?
* Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and consider how the apostle Paul defines love and then replace the word, ‘love’ with your own name. How far do you get before you recognise there is more work to be done?
* Discuss the benefits of obedience to this command (John 13:17 and John 13:35) for ourselves and for the witness of the church. To what extent does the church have a reputation for being full of people who love one another? What can we do to improve this?

**Pray for one another**. Perhaps we need to confess where we have fallen short and not demonstrated love to one another. Ask the Holy Spirit to show us ways in which we can demonstrate his love to others this week.