

This week's reflection is from Angela Richards, one of our deacons.

As we continue to experience the knock on effects of the horrendous public murder of George Floyd (one of many), it's easy for some to try to dismiss this as not our problem - it happened in America, we are not racist like America and it couldn't happen here. Well it does.

Those of us who have been stopped by the Police for no reason and even for just coming out of our church car park after a Sunday morning service will know how dangerous power and control can be when put in the wrong hands.
NO JUSTICE NO PEACE.

To attend a church which is blessed with people from around the world does not mean we do not have racism in the church. In these recent months of 'lockdown' ask yourself when or if ever have you spoken to someone of a different cultural background or do you only make contact when you want some help.

During some of our services we have been asked to move around to welcome others. How many times do you avoid shaking hands or saying hello? - we see you. How many times do you make derogatory remarks, hear and laugh at racist jokes? - we hear you. How many times?
I CAN'T BREATHE

I imagine many have wrestled with the 'Black Lives Matter/All lives matters' argument. God cares for all no matter how much melanin we have. Luke 15:3-7. What is being said at this moment is that -
BLACK LIVES MATTER

Many people may feel upset by the pulling down of a statue of the evil slave trader Edward Colston in Bristol. Eight minutes and 46 seconds was the time a white Policemen had his knee in George Floyd's neck whilst he was draining the life from his body.

I am reminded of Jesus in the temple when He overturned the tables. Matthew 21:12-13. Yes, there are times when action needs to be taken.

Hundreds of years of injustice, hurt, lies, abuse and killings.

With all this taking place amongst the Coronavirus it's easy to say "how awful", "someone should do something". The world has dramatically changed in the past three months and standing still is not an option.

'Words without actions are dead words'.
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.