

Justice ?

Injustice is at the forefront of news right now. Its shadow is cast across society.

'Bates vs The Post Office' reported 3,500 postmasters wrongly accused of theft. Compensation is still an issue. Our local postmaster still works with the Horizon computer and feels vulnerable. We assured him of our prayers.

Andrew Malkinson, wrongly convicted of rape, served 17 years in prison. He is now campaigning on behalf of other innocents in prison.

The fallout from the Jeffrey Epstein revelations is widespread, and 'guilt by association' attaches to whole families, even royal ones!

Internationally, the unholy events across the Holy Land and Ukraine make peace and justice seem more than ever elusive.

Accountability is two-edged. NHS doctors have to pay substantial indemnity fees to cover legal costs in case they are taken to court. Any accidental slip in a surgical procedure, or misjudgement in treatment, may result in being charged with negligence. Our local GP reckoned that the most useful instrument in the surgery was his retrospect-oscope! Hindsight is what prophets can foretell – but who listens?

We all know the pain of being unjustly vilified in some domestic or community conflict. We all know someone whose voice went unheard or was disregarded. We have all been the cause of someone else's distress. It is too easy to jump to conclusions, to judge another without knowing all the facts, to trust the word of a reputable person over a vulnerable victim; or believe false accusations.

Then – what price forgiveness, reconciliation? We are not so good at that either, not even the church!

Jesus said: **'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'** (Luke 23.34)

'Do to others as you would be done by' is the 'golden rule' of all the faiths.

So let's keep praying: for victims of injustice, for those who make misjudgements, for Judges and jurors, and for ourselves and neighbours in all circumstances. Remember Jesus also said: 'I am with you no matter what' so keep smiling...

And an OBE is a just reward for Charlie Mackesy of 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox & the Horse.

