

## John 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him,<sup>a</sup> God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

<sup>33</sup> "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**When** he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

— — —

As computers were developed after the second world war people quickly became excited at their potential, and the possibility of artificial intelligence. One of the first milestones was playing chess — and now your phone plays chess better than you do. So Alan Turing came up with an intelligence test that strips away the most obvious giveaways about how human the responder is by making conversation happen through a keyboard and screen. He set a goal of the computer fooling two thirds of humans for five minutes.

The test was of course soon criticised — it tests a machine's natural language capability most severely, elevating that above other markers of intelligence. A tacit aspect of this test is for a machine to imitate humanity as closely as possible. Yet under the circumstances of the Turing test just described it would be pretty hard to have a *friendship* with the computer. Love is still within the realms of science fiction.

Now, what would the *Turing test of divinity* look like? What responses would you expect to convince you that your correspondent was more than human — God! That might be a way of seeing the reactions to Jesus we read about in the gospels. Disciples, Pharisees, Samaritan women... each have encounters with God, through his incarnate son. Some remain unconvinced: Jesus is just an imitation in their eyes. Others see that there is something altogether other about the Son of Man.

Their encounters with their God had been through the readings in synagogue, the shared memory of God's intervention in history — the wonderful stories of God's actions — chiefly through the prophets: Abraham, Moses, Elijah. That's nice, but to know the love of God in all parts of their lives they needed him to be more immanent, more present — God in flesh and blood.

The whole of the law had been summarised as "Love God with your whole being, and love your neighbour as yourself".

But now, in the upper room Jesus adds a new commandment, that hadn't been possible until his incarnation — "Love one another as I have loved you". It is a direct command to imitate

the teacher — to be wholly (and holy) 'other' in every aspect of life. It is a commandment that refreshes the parts other commandments cannot reach! And it is a commandment intended to mess up the 'divine Turing test' to such an extent that ultimately it should be difficult to tell the quality of our love apart from the love of God.

If we love with the love Christ has shown us, what love then! How transformative!

*Blessings, Tim.*

*Stan and Gwen are moving away at the end of this month, they have both been stalwarts of our church and community especially Stan on the PCC, editing the Fisherman, as a warden and leading us in God's word.*

*We would like to give them a token of our thanks, if you wish to contribute please give your donations in cash to Jeremy in church or at Pantiles, Mill Street, Westleton IP17 3BD by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May*

*Thank you*

### *Looking to the future*

*May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm our new Prayer and Praise Service*

*Please come and join together in this more relaxed way of worshiping Christ.*

*June 5<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Praise and Worship on the Green*

*Lets start the Jubilee Sunday Celebrations by all gathering on the green to worship God and witness His love on this special day.*

*June 12<sup>th</sup> 9.30am croissants@church*

*Starting with coffee and croissants at 9.30 followed by our service at 10*

*June 19<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Common Worship with Holy Communion*

*June 26<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Praise and Worship*