

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



Who is my neighbour?

The question posed to Jesus in the Gospels is now so well known that could all manage to give an answer. 'We know the story of the Good Samaritan - we know it means anyone, not just someone who lives near to me'.

I was challenged to review my thinking on this command of Jesus to love my neighbour. On Monday 31 August 2026 I attended the memorial service to honour those two men killed in the terrorist attack at the Heaton Park synagogue in October 2025, Melvin Cravitz and Adrian Daulby. They had been killed because the attacker hated Jews.

The Chief Rabbi of the UK, Sir Ephraim Mirvis, challenged the 400 people at the service - most were Jews - for everyone to commit to a positive act of blessing to another person. In Judaism this is termed a mitzva. I was sat next to Steve, a Jewish man, I turned to him and we had a chat about this challenge from the Chief Rabbi who wanted some good to come out of their deaths.

I explained to him that in Lancashire we struggle to find primary-trained Jewish speakers in our primary schools. The Jewish community is small and centred around St Annes and there is a great need for this education service across the County.

He there and then committed to help. The next day he texted me to say he had found someone to start this work. On Tuesday I meet with an experienced Jewish retired primary teacher called Simon to start to plan his work in the County.

My new friend from Heaton Park synagogue is my neighbour, we only met for a few hours and he blessed me and in turn may bless many in Lancashire.

It was me who needed the help and the Good Samaritan was my Jewish friend.

Canon Andrew Pratt MBE, the Bishop of Blackburn's Interfaith Advisor