# St James’ C of E Primary School

At St. James’ Church of England Primary School we value our opportunity to contribute to the local community in a positive way. The phrase “Love your neighbour as yourself” underpins everything that we do.

We believe that people who love their neighbours as they do themselves are rich in confidence, resilience, empathy and heart. They are positive people who wish want to make the world a better place, trying to understand others and respecting who they are: their neighbours, who share their human nature and many of their hopes, dreams and aspirations. They believe that everyone is a small, yet vitally important, part of a bigger picture.

St James’ has a unique opportunity to shape our community, which is a privilege. It is our hope that everyone who comes in to contact with us is able to help us learn to love our neighbour as we would ourselves. In turn, we hope that they will learn to do the same.

*Gavin Shortall – Headteacher*

It has been said that as human beings we need to remember that there is – in every situation and scene of life – more that unites us than divides us. We need to recognise each other and rejoice that we are indeed all neighbours. We live in the same area, we have many of the same preoccupations. Whatever our cultural, linguistic, faith or heritage background we need to remember that we are all God’s beloved children.

Jesus’ call to ‘love our neighbour as we love ourself’ reminds each of us that we are valued and owe ourselves care and esteem. That sense of being loved should in turn inspire us to love others. In day to day forgiveness, in living and learning as a community, in acknowledging that what is the same about us should always overcome difference, we are answering that call. Kindness, generosity of spirit, good humour, forbearance, self-control – fruits of the spirit that help us to grow and learn, be curious, creative, enjoy and achieve of our best.

This ethos expresses itself in the everyday life of the school, in the links to the wider community and in the relationship with the parish in which it lies. In thoughtfulness, prayer or silence, in assemblies and worship, all are invited and encouraged to be themselves and to support others through the challenges and changes of their years at St James’ School.

*Hilary Jones – School Governor and Holy Innocents Churchwarden*