

# HANDS



In 1958, Max Bygraves recorded a song that he had written called 'You Need Hands'. He was very popular, and the lyrics stated that: Hands should be warm, so that you can feel the life blood flowing through the body of the person that you touch.

Whenever I feel cold, the first thing that I notice is my nose goes red and invariably starts to run – but the worse thing is always my hands. They first just start to tingle, gradually turning dark pink and then red. After this, most of the feeling leaves my fingers. Depending on how cold the weather is, it's not long before I can no longer feel anything at all. As I go out and about in this wintery weather, I notice people walking hand in hand with either friends or family. Most of them are

warmly wrapped up in thick coats, nice woollen hats and scarves - and of course the ubiquitous gloves!

We all pass homeless people, sometimes stopping to speak to them, maybe to give them something. Either food or money. They are almost always sitting on the cold ground, possibly wrapped in a blanket to keep warm. Some have a hot drink in their hands that may have been bought for them.

But who has actually looked at them, or asked them their names? Moreover, even touched them! How many people, as they dropped a coin or two in an old hat, noticed their hands? Invariably they have no gloves on and their fingers are blue with the cold!

A few years ago, I started talking to Tom, a young homeless man, and when I asked if there was anything that I could do to help, he said that he had been given food and drink, but his hands were freezing (he said that hot drinks helped as you can wrap your hands around them until the drink goes cold). Whilst he was talking, I thought of my own hands – all snug inside my woolly gloves. So, I took them off and gave them to him. After much protesting from Tom, he gladly put them on.

I saw Tom several times over the following weeks, and gave him another pair after he told me that he had given them to his friend - also living on the street but in a worse position than himself.

The price of the gloves was less than a cup of tea or coffee. But the effect on Tom lasted a lot longer.

When we pass the homeless, please try and see the person beyond the tatty blanket. Stop and ask them their name. We are All God's Children, and just because circumstances have made some of them homeless, it does Not make them invisible.

I try to live by Luke 6.31 and have tried to bring up my two children the same way. They give it a different slant, but it more or less means the same: "Do unto others as you would like done unto you". Either way, it seems to work!

So, as we all go out and about, especially with the New Year upon us, be it after Church, going shopping, maybe visiting friends - anything - if we see someone who maybe looks a bit down and out, or lonely, just say 'Hello'.

Touch their hands. Feel the life blood. And see the light shine in their eyes as you do. 2020 © BabsIn 1958, Max Bygraves recorded a song that he had written called 'You need Hands'. He was very popular, and the lyrics stated that: Hands should be warm, so that you can feel the life blood flowing through the body of the person that you touch.

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