Just finished Pantomime – see it? Mistakes are OK in Pantoland, unlike almost any other shows. What matters is not whether you have any mistakes, but how you handle them.

Same is true of ‘Favourites’(chocolates), music, TV programmes, etc. And also of people.

We cannot help liking & loving some people & tend to treat them well. How about those we do not like?

In Church it is easy to visit those who give back; not so easy to visit those who drain love from us.

Clearly the last 6 of the Ten Commandments are about how we treat others – whether we like them or not.

It might be easy to do bad things to people you do not like. Eg AC/DC drummer, Phil Rudd, ‘charged with threatening to kill’ – someone he loves? It’ll probably be someone he knows but does not like.

Though it is easier to do bad things to people you do not know or like, too easily we do bad things to those we say we love. We may respect parents, but only when it suits; we may not murder, but we might break hearts; we might not steal but might not give time; we might not accuse falsely, but might withhold the truth for fear of hurt; we may not covet, but may publicly knock down the achievements of our partners.

These last 6 commandments should make us think. They are not all-encompassing, so should be seen as examples of a larger principle – “Love your neighbour as you love yourself”.

Empathy is paramount. Put yourself into another’s shoes.

Important part of this we easily forget: We first have to love ourselves! How can we love neighbours if we do not love ourselves? Ditto respect, etc.

This can *only* occur as we receive love that is offered. This could be from close people, strangers, God. Last week I said that obeying God did us good – this is how: receive love from God. For God, whether we are Cherry Ripe or Crunchie, we are all Favourites.