

# **Sermon on Sunday 27 June 2021 at 8.00am Holy Communion by Rev. Bill Church**

*Reading from Luke 6*

There is a short film from 1967 starring Tommy Cooper and Eric Sykes called '*The plank*'.

With almost no dialogue, it traces their attempts to move a plank from a timber yard to a building site. And, of course, everything that could go wrong, does go wrong. It makes you laugh out loud.

I think Jesus' first hearers laughed out loud when they heard his story of the plank: "There was this man and he had a plank in his eye and, look, he was trying to pull a speck of dust out of a friend's eye."

The crowd had a good laugh and then Jesus makes his point. Don't complain about your neighbours' little sins when you are burdened by great big sins. Get rid of your own sins – repent – and only then set the rest of the world to rights.

The crowd laughed but if there were some Pharisees listening in, they would have been stung.

Hypocrisy is an unattractive habit, but it is alive and well and living among us – indeed living in us, because nobody is entirely free of it.

This is not a reason to hide from the world or to avoid any evaluation of right and wrong. It is a call to recognise our own failings, to bring them before God and then go forth into the world as the best witnesses we can be to God's goodness.