Chris: In today's world, it is so easy to become cynical. Every time we read the newspaper or watch the news, there seems to be so much evil in the world. They seem to hone in on doom and gloom and any good news is hidden in the inside pages at the bottom in a small column. It gives the impression that Jesus' teaching of loving God and loving one another has long been forgotten. Our Family service today is concentrating on 'compassion', showing sorrow for others suffering, in the form of kindness and sympathy.

Let's see if our resident 'muppet' Pete - has got any wisdom on this subject shall we? Are you there Pete?

Pete: Yes Chris, here I am.

Chris: Oh Hi Pete, how you doing?

Pete: Well I was fine...until I heard you call me a muppet just then! In front of all these people too! Really Chris...that's very unfair. I'm a hand made, professional, theatrical puppet with the highest quality stitching you know

Chris: Oh sorry Pete, I thought that was a compliment really...when I was a boy the muppets were big stars on TV – the kings of puppet theatre!

Pete: (said sulkily) well the word has changed in meaning a bit in the time since you were a kid Chris – all those years ago.

Chris: Hey, a bit less of the 'all those years ago' you cheeky...muppet

Pete: You started it

Chris: No I didn't...   (PETE; YES YOU DID) now come on...let's stop this nonsense. So what's been happening in the muppet world...sorry I mean puppet world this month?

Pete: (said gruffly) Well Chris, I've started a new campaign

Chris: Really?...that's a very creditable thing to do I must say...what's the campaign about?

Pete: 'Save the Church Puppets' (get's out a placard with 'Save the Puppets' written on and waves around)

Chris: 'Save the Church Puppets??' Why on earth have you started a 'Save the Church Puppets' campaign? Puppets aren't an endangered species.

Pete: Well, I considered they might be if you carry on the way you are going young Chris ... or should it be old Chris. I have reason to believe

you have something against Church puppets. In fact I believe you are 'puppet-ist'

Chris: Pete, what on earth are you talking about? That's a preposterous suggestion.

Pete: Well Chris, I believe that you have very badly misrepresented puppets at church this year. Last month there was all that stuff about puppets not being able to cope when tested, and the month before that saying that puppets weren't humble enough! And the month before that saying that puppets were lazy and teachers worked harder than them, and if that wasn't enough the month before you said that I was always sleeping. If you carry on this way Chris, there won't be any willing Church puppets left and I've got to stop you.

Chris: Hang on Pete; I think you're getting a little bit carried away here. Your not being very kind and compassionate towards me today…in fact I've got absolutely nothing against puppets at all. I think puppets are really quite clever...don't you remember those stars of the puppet world like Basil Brush, Orville, Sooty and Sweep, and Peter Rabbit was really clever.

Pete: There you go again Chris…you just said I'm not very kind and compassionate towards you. I'm breaking my heart here for you Chris. Here I am every month, up at the crack of dawn, helping you out. I'm one of the most kind and sympathetic puppets you would ever wish to meet. I've even learnt this month's memory verse.

Chris: Look Pete I think we've got off on the wrong foot here today. We're hear to learn about Jesus and we ought to remember that Jesus was the most kind and compassionate person who ever lived, and as you have spent time learning the memory verse, I think we should teach it to everyone else. How about it? Just you and me.

Pete: OK Great idea Chris now you're showing a bit of kindness and compassion towards a deeply wronged puppet

(memory verse comes up on the screen)

Chris Go on then Pete you sing it, and I'll get the children out at the front to learn the actions then we'll all do it together.

(Pete sings it and Chris does the actions)

(Video played and all sing together)