



The HOLY FROG Blog

WHO NEEDS PEOPLE !

I have often thought that living in a community might be quite a nice idea. Wake up every morning to the sound of bird song, as the sun gently warms my environmentally friendly, off-grid rustic log cabin; make my way outside to pick a few grapes and berries from the allotment for breakfast; then, full of encouragement and support from others, I would amble through the day, eternally grateful for them and for being in such a wonderful paradise of community. **How awesome!**

Sadly, the expectation might not live up to the reality. In real life, I'd more likely be woken as the sheet of plastic I'd strung up as a 'roof' over my pallets, ripped and water had soaked me; the rain lashing at my allotment all night ruined my crops; and I'd slipped and fallen headlong into the mud - much to the amusement of others in the community! Where's the encouragement and support now?

People are so difficult to live with!!



The expectation of living in community and the reality of it can be quite different and disappointing if we are honest. Sometimes it's too much effort! People who sign up for that kind of thing need to be committed to the cause; considerate towards others; willing to give and take; actually want to learn together and even agree to follow direction and rules. Who would do such a thing?



Well, the truth is, by deciding to come to S.Peters Collegiate School you did! That word 'collegiate' is all about 'belonging', being a member of the community: you are part of **St Peter's "BELONGING" school**. It's a great environment in which to grow up physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually but it can't happen without YOU and other people.

Just like the old advice of "if you want to be successful, surround yourself with successful people" goes, if you want to be encouraged on your spiritual journey, it's best to surround yourself with people on that same journey. That's why we encourage shared times of worship and reflection in this school so that we might 'spur each other on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as Jesus will return'. Hebrews 10:24-25

As a Church School we follow the values and teachings of the Christian Faith. Jesus himself spoke about living in community but more than just 'talking a good game' he demonstrated what that looked like through his life on earth. The perfect example.





Jesus was constantly involved with other people in His community. “As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36). He associated with people in all levels of society and in all aspects of life: With tax collectors and sinners (Matthew 9:9-11) with the Pharisees (Luke 7:36; 11:37) and a Samaritan woman (John 4:1-30) who was shunned by society but not by Jesus. He met people’s needs: Healed the sick, blind, lame, deaf, demon possessed, and people with every other sickness, were completely cured.

Jesus said these words: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save people (Luke 4: 18-19). **This is the example we have to follow - good intention or words are not enough.** We actually have to get on with people! Jesus came to bring a new hope to all people who would follow Him. **Living real life together in faith, in christian community,** as God intended, makes the gospel connect with us on a deeper level. Community like this is not to be feared but welcomed.



SO WHAT does that mean for us this week?

Community is God’s desire for us! It’s how we mature. With God’s help, we need to trust, rely, and depend on one another. God gave us each other to walk alongside, encourage and spur each other on in love. Life is so much better when we do it with others! We **need** others for encouragement, help, and support in all ways: physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. **Living in community will test our self-respect and attitude towards others; encourage us to be responsible for our actions: give opportunities to learn from others and for them to learn from us; help us to reflect on how our actions impact on others. Living in community will take courage and perseverance as it’s not always easy!**

CHAPLAIN’S CHALLENGE:

1. What’s your IDEAL community?
2. What ‘rules’ if any, would you have in your community? Explain your reasons.
3. What are the ‘Keys to Learning’ for our school community? (See orange text above)
4. “School is the ideal place to grow spiritually” - why would you agree or disagree?
5. **Galatians 6:10** – “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,” What good could YOU do to people this week? Why would this be difficult at times?
6. Is there a Bible verse about community that stands out to you? Share it with others.

Read and Reflect:

God’s love should pour through us and into school, our families and communities.

•**Ephesians 4:2-6** – “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the peace through unity of the Spirit.”



PRAYER: We thank you Lord God for S.Peters Collegiate School. We ask that through your strength we will make this place a faithful community in which to grow and flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually, as a child of God. We thank you for other people in our school community, may we treat them as we would want to be treated. For your name’s sake. Amen.

Happy to chat about the blog, Christian faith, prayer requests and everything else!
May we know real life lived out in faith, as individuals and as a community.

Joe the Chaplain - jmaggs@speters.org.uk