



# The HOLY FROG Blog

Honour Others, Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God.

## "Love your neighbour as yourself"

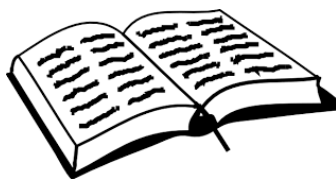
THE NEIGHBOURS, on either side of the house I lived in as a child, were very different and yet both needed love. On one side was a family with three children with whom my brothers and I played constantly; so much so that eventually, the fence panel we used to climb over, was removed to make it easier to get next door. We enjoyed our times together. It was easy to love them.

On the other side however, was Mrs Ferzackerly. An old widow with three dogs; a pug, a Pekinese and a ginger dachshund. No-one went round to her house. The fences stood tall and imposing. An unwelcoming barrier shutting out the world and noisy kids. Defying anyone to go and visit! At least so I thought, until I discovered that my mum had been making regular visits to see our lonely, isolated and frail neighbour, to help her with shopping, housework or just to chat. Mum encouraged me to go with her on subsequent visits to Mrs Ferzackerly's house and although I didn't find it easy to like it, eventually, we became good friends - me and the dogs that was, Mrs F always remained a bit scary to be honest!

**Who knew our neighbours had the same need for love and friendship?**

This half term, we will be exploring Jesus command to "Love your neighbour as yourself" and considering what that actually looks like in practice. I expect we would all rather spend our time "playing with the fun neighbours next door" than giving up time and effort to look after "the old widow and her dogs" however, our school values and Christian ethos point us in a different direction - towards others. **Agape love gives unconditionally.**

In Mark's Gospel, we read that Jesus was confronted by religious leaders, trying to trick him into speaking against the values and commandments of the Torah (The Book of Law) When asked "what is the most important commandment?" Jesus replied **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."** Mark 12:30-31



Jesus spoke about **the importance of living out the law; not just reading it but putting it into practice.** Jesus puts the command to love your neighbour as yourself alongside loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. **Jesus says we need to be right**

**with God, to know his love for us, before we can turn to loving others.** The Bible tells us that God loved us first. He's the source of our love. God loved us even before Jesus gave Himself for us. You can't give away what you don't have.





**So what!?** What does this mean for our School and wider community? We can pray for agape love for others - unconditional, self-sacrificing and genuine love for those in need.



Also, rather than ignoring others, or just talking about helping them, WE CAN DO SOMETHING too by supporting two charities;

**The Well Food Bank** and **Good Shepherd Ministries**

Both exist to help families and single people in our City who are struggling to buy food and other essentials.



**“Loving your neighbour as yourself”** is so important to God that is found eight times in the Bible. Not once. Not twice. Eight times! In fact there are over 80 references in the Bible directing us to look after the poor, the widows, the lonely and forgotten. Loving your neighbour as yourself means looking out for people's wellbeing.

**To deliberately search for them, notice if they need something and then give help.**

As a child I ignored the old lady next door. I didn't want to know about her needs let alone do anything about them. I was too busy having fun with the other neighbours. She wasn't my problem! Yet my mum thought differently and did something about it. **Agape love.**



Carl Ikeme at Good Shepherd

**Carl Ikeme** (former Wolves goalkeeper) did something about it too. *“I knew there was a problem with people not getting enough food but until I actually came and saw it for myself, I didn't understand how big the problem was.”* *“It wasn't just homeless people either, there were people from all walks of life and families with young kids, all who really needed food and that was something which was a real eye-opener for me”.*

**HOW CAN YOU LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURS?**

### Chaplain's Challenge - GET ACTIVE!

- For people on low incomes, a sudden crisis can mean going hungry. **What would YOU do if you...**
  - Were made redundant and couldn't find work?
  - Had to flee your home due to domestic violence?
  - Had difficulty filling in forms so your benefit claim was delayed?
  - Received an unexpected bill and had no savings?
  - Had no family/support network to help you in financial difficulties?
- Make a list** of tins/packets of food and other non-perishable items you can collect as a form and then drop off at the donation stations in year hubs.
- Take a look** at the websites for **The Well** <https://www.thewellwolverhampton.co.uk/> and **Good Shepherd Ministries** <https://gsmwolverhampton.org.uk/about-us/>
- Compare** our school values with those of The Well and Good Shepherd.
- Search out** the stories of people involved in these organisations and pray for them.



**READ and REFLECT** - "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? **Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.**" (1 John 3:17-18)

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we thank you that as you love us, we can love others. As you give to us, we can give to others. As you value us, we can value others. Help us not to ignore people who need our help. "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth". May we show agape love to our neighbours in this school and in this City. **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.

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