



# The \_\_\_\_\_ HOLY FROG Blog

Honour Others, Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God.

## HOW is my NEIGHBOUR?

**WE MADE IT!** After a long journey, with five people squashed into an Avensis Verso, alongside all manner of camping gear stuffed into the boot and under seats, it was quite an achievement to arrive in Italy! Travelling left us feeling exhausted and 'beaten up'!

Unpacking our tent I realised we had no ground sheet! All of the pitches were compressed gravel and without a groundsheet, our tent would get cut and battered. There was nothing we could do. We didn't even speak Italian to know how to ask for help.

There were tears! Other English families saw our dilemma and looked awkwardly away. Even the site manager walked past us and didn't stop and assist.

Then, from across the hedge came an unexpected offer of help from an Italian man - who didn't speak any English. In his hand he held out a large groundsheet which, we finally understood, he was offering to put under our tent. Being English we politely declined his offer but he persisted and came over to put it on the ground himself! What an amazing neighbour!

There was more. He saw we were tired and hungry and brought over a selection of traditional Italian cold meats plus crackers and tomatoes. How incredibly generous of him to share his own food with the 'hopeless foreigners'. He also invited us to rest and relax in his camp, have more of his food and drink and to join his family in singing a few Italian anthems - none of which we understood but thoroughly enjoyed the evening!!

We were so grateful that someone had come to our rescue. Several people might have done something but only the Italian family actually did. **They had compassion**, saw our situation, put themselves out and gave their own time and resources to help complete strangers.



On one occasion, a religious scholar asked Jesus. "Who is my neighbour? How would you define a 'neighbour'?" Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead.

A priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he moved across to the other side. Then a Levite (from the Temple) showed up; he also avoided the injured man. A Samaritan traveling the road came upon him.

When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. He lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'

**Jesus asked, "Which of the three was a neighbour to the man attacked by robbers?"**  
**"The one who treated him kindly (with compassion)" the scholar responded.**  
**Jesus said, "Go and do the same." (Luke 10:25-37)**





**So What?** How can we apply this to our life? In the end, Jesus' story about the good Samaritan tells us that living **God's way is more about asking "HOW is my neighbour" than asking "WHO is my neighbour"!** ANYONE with whom we share life may be seen as a neighbour: The people on our street, those in our school community, others who live in Wolverhampton, the U.K. and across the world. Knowing that doesn't always lead to a response though does it?

The Italian man knew we were his 'neighbours' and knew we needed help. He could have ignored our situation but he didn't leave it there, look away or walk past us. He asked the more important question **HOW are my neighbours?** He saw our difficulty, his heart went out to us and he did something about it. He showed compassion - one of our school values.

The Samaritan in Jesus' story was also moved by what he saw. Despite his own vulnerability to being robbed himself, his compassion for someone in need led to taking action and ignoring the potential danger, he gave from his own resources. More remarkable is that he did this despite the hate and mistrust between Jews and Samaritans.

Rather than asking WHO is My neighbour maybe this week we should be asking **HOW is my neighbour?** What is their need? How do I respond? Loving your neighbour means acting with compassion. Compassion is not simply a warm fuzzy feeling in our hearts but a catalyst to actually do something.

**Jesus says a good neighbour is one who not only has compassion but is moved to action. Go and do the same!**



### Chaplain's Challenge - GET ACTIVE!

1. **Share a story** about a holiday that didn't go quite as planned!
2. **Act out** the Good Samaritan story (Maybe video it!) and discuss its meaning.
3. **What is the difference** between KNOWING the right thing and DOING something about it?
4. **Explain** the word COMPASSION. Where do you see compassion leading to action?
5. **Who are your neighbours** in school. How are your neighbours? What are their needs?
6. **Share** with your form how YOUR faith or belief system encourages charity towards others.

### READ and REFLECT -

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4  
Loving your neighbour as yourself is to look out for other people's wellbeing. To look out for them is to pay attention. You notice if they need something and then you help.

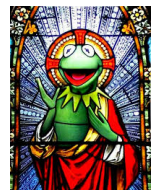
### Prayer:

God our Father, you want us to look after each other and to care about the people around us, our neighbours. Help us to ask "HOW is my neighbour?" When we see others struggling with self image, bullying or anxiety; fearful about life in lockdown; who have experienced disappointment, rejection or isolation; whatever their need, give us compassion that leads to action. Give us courage to not walk away or ignore them but to use what we have to LOVE OUR NEIGHBOURS

**Amen**



**Love your Neighbour** this November!  
Take your food donation to your year hub station.



Take a look at the websites for :

**The Well** <https://www.thewellwolverhampton.co.uk/>

and **Good Shepherd** <https://gsmwolverhampton.org.uk/about-us/>

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