

Welcome

Week beginning Sunday 4th May
3rd of Easter 2nd after Easter

This week I learnt about “car park conversions”. I’m not talking about repurposing parking spaces, rather about how real we can be at church. The car park conversion is what people sometimes feel obliged to do: we’ve had a bad morning or week, are feeling frustrated/sad/annoyed (choose adjective). Yet the moment we step out of the car or off the bus, or arrive at church, we’re saying- as we feel expected to do- all’s fine with big smiles. However, I find myself wondering about why we might feel the need to put on a mask sometimes. When we pray, do we not feel we can be honest and open with God about how we are feeling? Isn’t that seen in the Psalms, and doesn’t being “real” mark out a healthy relationship? What do we think the Lord wants us to be? And if we can be honest with him, can we not be honest with his people?

I’m not saying we need to disclose things we don’t want to, nurture a culture of self-obsession or dwell on the past. What I am saying is that I hope our churches can be places where we feel we could say, “I’m feeling really fed up and I lost it with the kids this morning” or “I’m really struggling with x”. That doesn’t validate any particular behaviour, it just opens up a space where grace can be shown and extended.

Sometimes when leading worship I invite us to leave everything behind as we gather in God’s presence. In some senses we need to do this- we do need to put down concerns to focus on the Lord. Nevertheless, we also need to feel we can come with our burdens to receive grace and mercy. The Lord will meet us in the middle of our sins, high emotions and struggles. As we are promised in Hebrews (4:15-16), “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

I encourage us to shun the “car park conversion” as an expectation. Rather, let’s allow Jesus’ grace to create a culture where we can be honest at church- and thereby be best placed to receive the ministry from Jesus we need.

Reverend James Menzies

Welcome

Week beginning Sunday 4th May
3rd of Easter 2nd after Easter

This week I learnt about “car park conversions”. I’m not talking about repurposing parking spaces, rather about how real we can be at church. The car park conversion is what people sometimes feel obliged to do: we’ve had a bad morning or week, are feeling frustrated/sad/annoyed (choose adjective). Yet the moment we step out of the car or off the bus, or arrive at church, we’re saying- as we feel expected to do- all’s fine with big smiles. However, I find myself wondering about why we might feel the need to put on a mask sometimes. When we pray, do we not feel we can be honest and open with God about how we are feeling? Isn’t that seen in the Psalms, and doesn’t being “real” mark out a healthy relationship? What do we think the Lord wants us to be? And if we can be honest with him, can we not be honest with his people?

I’m not saying we need to disclose things we don’t want to, nurture a culture of self-obsession or dwell on the past. What I am saying is that I hope our churches can be places where we feel we could say, “I’m feeling really fed up and I lost it with the kids this morning” or “I’m really struggling with x”. That doesn’t validate any particular behaviour, it just opens up a space where grace can be shown and extended.

Sometimes when leading worship I invite us to leave everything behind as we gather in God’s presence. In some senses we need to do this- we do need to put down concerns to focus on the Lord. Nevertheless, we also need to feel we can come with our burdens to receive grace and mercy. The Lord will meet us in the middle of our sins, high emotions and struggles. As we are promised in Hebrews (4:15-16), “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

I encourage us to shun the “car park conversion” as an expectation. Rather, let’s allow Jesus’ grace to create a culture where we can be honest at church- and thereby be best placed to receive the ministry from Jesus we need.

Reverend James Menzies

Readings

Acts 9. 1-6 John 21. 1-19

Collect

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Please Pray:

-For those burdened and struggling.

-For the Holy Spirit to mould our churches to show Jesus' grace more and more.

-For our church cultures to encourage honesty and ministry to one another.

Readings

Acts 9. 1-6 John 21. 1-19

Collect

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Please Pray:

-For those burdened and struggling.

-For the Holy Spirit to mould our churches to show Jesus' grace more and more.

-For our church cultures to encourage honesty and ministry to one another.

Spring Fayre

St Andrew's Primary School
3pm - 5.30pm Friday 16th May

Could you make a cake for the refreshments table? If so please contact Georgie on georgie.menzies1@outlook.com Nut free please - you can drop them at school on the day or Georgie can collect.

Commemorating the
80th Anniversary of VE Day



The car park by
St Laurence Church, Upwey
2pm to 6pm Saturday 10th May

Entertainment by Louie O'Leary and ice creams, Pimms, cakes, free cream teas and a great community spirit. Do join us!

St Nicholas Church, Broadway
Free Afternoon Tea

2.30pm Saturday 10th May
Scones & cakes with musical entertainment.

Spring Fayre

St Andrew's Primary School
3pm - 5.30pm Friday 16th May

Could you make a cake for the refreshments table? If so please contact Georgie on georgie.menzies1@outlook.com Nut free please - you can drop them at school on the day or Georgie can collect.

Commemorating the
80th Anniversary of VE Day



The car park by
St Laurence Church, Upwey
2pm to 6pm Saturday 10th May

Entertainment by Louie O'Leary and ice creams, Pimms, cakes, free cream teas and a great community spirit. Do join us!

St Nicholas Church, Broadway
Free Afternoon Tea

2.30pm Saturday 10th May
Scones & cakes with musical entertainment.

Quiz Night

7pm Friday 30th May

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston
£7 per person (light supper provided)
Contact: Carole Anders 01305 833431

Quiz Night

7pm Friday 30th May

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston
£7 per person (light supper provided)
Contact: Carole Anders 01305 833431

An Afternoon of Acoustic Music
With Ken Watkins

3pm Sunday 11th May

St Andrew's Church Rooms,
Preston. DT3 6BU
Raising funds for St Andrew's Church
Tickets £15 from 01305 837147
weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com
or Alex Sissons 07801 820722

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)

The meetings will follow after the
9.15am Café Church at St Andrew's Church Rooms on Sunday 4th May
10.30am Communion at St Osmund's Church on Sunday 11th May
10.30am Communion at St Francis' Church on Sunday 18th May

Please come along and support your church

An Afternoon of Acoustic Music
With Ken Watkins

3pm Sunday 11th May

St Andrew's Church Rooms,
Preston. DT3 6BU
Raising funds for St Andrew's Church
Tickets £15 from 01305 837147
weymouth.ridgeway.team.office@gmail.com
or Alex Sissons 07801 820722

Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)

The meetings will follow after the
9.15am Café Church at St Andrew's Church Rooms on Sunday 4th May
10.30am Communion at St Osmund's Church on Sunday 11th May
10.30am Communion at St Francis' Church on Sunday 18th May

Please come along and support your church

If your church has an event or important date it would like advertised on the newsletter please contact:01305 837147 weymouth.ridgeway.team.office @gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

If your church has an event or important date it would like advertised on the newsletter please contact:01305 837147 weymouth.ridgeway.team.office @gmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you!