

Welcome

Week beginning Sunday 11th May
4th of Easter 3rd after Easter

In the middle of a wood was a beautiful pond. It has lily-pads floating on top of it, and in the pond lived lots of frogs. There were red frogs, green frogs, blue frogs and yellow frogs. They all swam happily together until one day, a green frog jumped on to one of the lily-pads. He thought it was very nice. It was so nice that he thought it was a good idea that his friends should know about it, so he invited one of his green frog friends to join him. One of the blue frogs saw this and thought, he would like to join the green frogs on the lily-pad. As he jumped on the green frogs angrily chased him away, "This is OUR lily-pad, get your own." So the blue frog found his own lily-pad and invited his blue frog friends to join him. When a red frog tried to join the blue frog lily-pad he was told to clear-off. So the pond ended up with lots of lily-pads covered in frogs of different colours, each one independent of the other and just looking after and caring about those like themselves. Sadly, because there were no frogs in the pond any more moving the water about, the pond became covered in algae.

In our news we hear reports of wars, Russia/Ukraine, Israel/Gaza, The Sudan civil war, and now India and Pakistan. It seems the world has gone mad. Why are these wars being fought? Well there are lots of reasons, some of them historic and deeply complex. For the most part though, difference has a lot to do with it. "I don't like you because you are different to me" "I am better than you so I can control you." We see this though not just in war but in our society too.

We are suspicious of people who are different. Different races, different genders, people from different countries. When I worked with asylum seekers and refugees, I quite often heard them referred to as 'Those People'. Which people? You mean those people made in the image and likeness of God?

In my Bible study group, Martin has been leading us through Romans. At our last session we looked at community and the importance of our being part of it. We need as Christians to be part of what's going on in the world around us. Of course we can't end wars, but we can pray about it, we can't change race, but we can support people of different races. We can be active in are part of Weymouth to support those who need our help. There is an old saying, 'How do you eat and elephant'? 'One bite at a time'! How can we change the world, by one small act at a time.

The pond lost its beauty because the frogs segregated, God's world and our communities lose their beauty when they fragment, when we don't honour one another as people made in the image and likeness of God. Let's all work together to try and make this world a better place.

Captain Paul McDonough CA LLM.

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Readings

Acts 9. 36-end John 10. 22-30

Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Request for help.

A host family is currently being sought by Oleksii Lytovka to temporarily house someone from Ukraine and her two children. They are still living in an area under constant threat, the hope is to help them find a safe place to stay here in the UK, ideally in or near Dorchester or Weymouth so Oleksii can personally support them.

Contact: Oleksii Lytovka on litovkaoleksij658@gmail.com

Life Cycle

Cycling For A Heathier Future

10am - 2pm

Saturday 7th June

Weymouth Bay Methodist Church

All you need to know about cycling.

Free of Charge weybaymc@yahoo.com

Church Cleaning day

7th June

St Osmund's Church, Osmington

All volunteers welcome.

Coffee & cake will be provided!



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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.

Quiz Night

7pm Friday 30th May

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston

£7 per person (light supper provided)

Contact: Carole Anders 01305 833431

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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 Alex Sissons 07801 820722



Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)

The meetings will follow after the

**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

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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!

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