

STANGROUND & FARCET C OF E CHURCHES  
**NEWSLETTER**

19<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**READINGS FOR  
SUNDAY**

**19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
2023**

1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 27

Mark 12: 28 - 31

***A HOMILY FROM REVEREND KEVIN FITZGIBBON***

1 Corinthians is a letter from Paul to the church he established in Corinth. Paul wrote it around 53–55 AD after receiving reports that the Christian community there was struggling with the challenge of living as a community of faith and facing the reality of what it meant to be church together.

Paul uses the image of a body to help them understand how everyone, though different, has an important part to play in being

church.

If we want our church to be a place that is safe for all, that values each person equally, we each have a role in making that happen.

Although our church has people with specific responsibilities for safeguarding, we each should contribute to making the environment safer for all.

In verses 22–23 Paul talks about how we treat the parts of the body that are ‘weaker’ and ‘less honourable’. In today’s language we talk about people who are more vulnerable or at risk of harm.

What might this mean in the context of our church community?

It’s important to note here that all of us at some time in our lives may fall into this category, because of our age, or life circumstances.

In verse 25 we read about the need to have equal ‘concern’ or ‘care’ for one another. This is an important Biblical teaching. It means looking out for each other. Being ready not just to spot the signs and indicators of risk and harm, but of being prepared to take action, to speak out, and report any concerns at the right time, and in the right way, to the right people.

Safeguarding is often associated with processes and procedures, background checks, training, policies etc. However, at its heart are the Christian values of loving your neighbour as yourself.

Within our church we have people with specific responsibilities for safeguarding who will follow up any concerns but we each have a responsibility to be the eyes and ears for vulnerable people and support those who may be at risk.

In verse 26 we read about those in ‘the body’ – the church – who have suffered or who are suffering. We just need to look at our headlines to read the cases of those who have suffered abuse both within our churches and in society. How we respond to those who have experienced or suffered abuse is vital in demonstrating our love and unity. How do we align ourselves with those who have suffered and come alongside them as Jesus did, maybe speaking truth to power? Let’s all work hard to make Church a safe and loving place for all.

## For our prayers this week: Those who are sick:

Dennis Chappel, Carol Highe, Joan Pawlak, Kath Davies, Jean Davies, Victoria Puar, Brian Highe, David Spencer, Marie Le-Hair & Karen Quinn

### Saturday Café

12 – 2 pm  
St Michael's Church, Mace Road, Stanground



#### Dates for October

The Saturday Cafe is open on the following Saturday's & all are welcome.

**25<sup>th</sup> November** 12 – 2 pm

**9<sup>th</sup> December**

Cookery Demo 11 – 12 pm

Café 12 – 2 pm

**16<sup>th</sup> December** 12 – 2 pm

## Angel Festival

2<sup>nd</sup> December  
St John's Church  
11 am until 2 pm



Refreshments, Decorating the Christmas Tree, Various Craft Stalls, Angel crafts, Raffle and much more.



## Reflections Cafe

*Time to Talk*  
*With those who have Loved and Lost*

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 2.00 – 4.00pm  
St Michael's Church, Mace Road, Stanground  
Tea, Coffee, Cake and Chat

**All Welcome**

## ANGEL FESTIVAL

The Angel Festival will be holding a Chocolate Tombola, Tombola & Raffle. If anyone is able to donate Chocolate for the Chocolate Tombola, Raffle prizes and Tombola prizes, these would be very gratefully received.

Our next Reflection Café for those who have loved & lost will be Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November & continue on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 2 – 4 pm at St Michael's Church Mace Road. If you have been bereaved and wish to speak to someone, Rev Andrew & Rev Carol will be more than happy to talk with anyone.

### Christmas COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

10 – 12 noon

St Michael's Church Hall  
Mace Road

All Welcome

## HOPE INTO ACTION

The Hope Into Action House is almost finished and we are on the final push to getting a family moved in – hopefully next week.

The house still needs a few items that need to be new – and we need to help pay for these.

If anyone is able to make a monetary donation specifically towards this project please do speak with Heidi or Carol. Thank you

### A.L.M Commissioning

We are so very pleased that Kelly has finished her Children's A.L.M training and we will be having a Commissioning Service for her at St Michael's Church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. This will be a family Service followed by Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall, Mace Road.

**All welcome.**