

STANGROUND & FARCET C OF E CHURCHES
NEWSLETTER

29th May 2022



**READINGS FOR
SUNDAY**

29TH MAY

Acts 16: 16 - 34

Revelation 22: 12 - 14, 16,

17, 20 - End

Gospel Reading:

John 17: 20 - End

A HOMILY FROM THE REVEREND KEVIN FITZGIBBON

Why did a good number of us gather at St John's on a Thursday evening in May to worship and to let off some rockets? It could be an example of Strange Christian Behaviour Syndrome but not this time. We are celebrating Ascensiontide, a really significant and important festival that has a great amount to teach us and to guide our thoughts and actions. Last Thursday was 40 days after Easter Day and that was the day scripture tells us that Jesus ascended into heaven. After he had risen from the dead, Luke tells us that Jesus appeared to his followers for a period of 40 days proving to them

that he was alive and teaching them. So, what does this mean for us, three 'P's might help us.

First 'P' place. If as we know Jesus is Alive, where is he today? Jesus when he ascended left our world and returned to be with God the father in Heaven. This is the place where we too will join him when he returns to wind up history, or when we die. In Heaven Jesus has been given all Authority and Power and he now reigns as King of all. When he was with his disciples on earth he told them, and us, that we should not let our hearts be troubled because he has gone to heaven to prepare **a place for us**. Not only that but he said he would return to take us to be with him in the glorious heavenly realm for all eternity. As his people, or his sheep to use his metaphor, we do not belong any more to this world with all its problems and troubles. Our destiny is in a much better place with him.

Jesus promises that he is with us always by his spirit, and gives us our purpose in life, to make his love known to all.

Second 'P' Promise. He already promised us a place and that he would come back for us but he made another amazing promise just before he went. He said, 'John baptised with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.' Acts 1:5. In fact it was 11 days later on the Day of Pentecost, that the same power at work in Jesus was poured out on all the believers. He told them to wait until they received the Power of God before doing the work to which he had called them. This promise was not just for those first followers but as Peter made clear on the Day of Pentecost, '**the promise is for you** and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call'. That includes us!

Final 'P' Purpose. This most amazing outpouring of God's power and love for every believer is not something to have but rather power to serve God's Kingdom Purpose. Jesus made it clear to them and us when he said, 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth'. Acts 1:8

So as you can see Ascensiontide assures us of our place in heaven, Jesus promises that he is with us always by his spirit, and gives us our purpose in life, to make his love known to all.

Jubilee Celebration

Our Jubilee Street Party will take place in the grounds of St Michael's Church, Mace Road on Saturday 4th June at 3 pm. Would love you to come along and join the fun! It will be a bring and share picnic, with music, games, quizzes etc.

Please note Choir Practise for Monday 6th June has had to be cancelled.

Special Service of Authorisation

Sunday 5th June

On Sunday 5th June at St Michael's at 11.15, our Service will be made even more special as we welcome Revd Sarah Gower, our Rural Dean, to authorise Heidi as an ALM for Children's & Families Ministry in the Benefice of Stanground & Farcet.

Heidi has not only worked hard over this past 2 years to support our children and families in challenging times, but over the past year has also trained as an Authorised Lay Minister to build skills and confidence in her gifting. Please come along & support Heidi on this special day, where we also celebrate Pentecost.

As Heidi will also exercise her ministry with children at St John's we will have a more informal official welcome there on Sunday 12th June at 9.30 am

Carol & Andrew

Coffee Morning on Saturday 4th June will start at 10 am and there will be a raffle and Cake stall. We would love to welcome you along.

For our Prayers this week

Those who are sick

Carol Highe, Marie Le-Hair,
Joan Pawlak, Kath Davies,
Karen Quinn, Doreen Spires &
Victoria Puar

For the families of those who have died

Margaret Bradley, Brian Cullip
& Janice Davies

Mary's Child

Our parish pantries is being kept busy with a high demand for support. If you are able to donate any tinned or packet food, we would be grateful.

Food & Fun Summer Events

Last summer we ran 4 very successful Food & Fun events during the month of August. This year we would like to do this again. We are looking to do these on a Monday and continue to offer Little Angels but with the addition of offering activities in the Hall for older children & siblings. We can't do this alone! If you are free on a Monday morning and feel you could offer your help to support this event please have a word with Revd Andrew, Revd Carol or Heidi.
Many Thanks

Pray4Schools:

On Friday 17th June we are holding a prayer event for all of the schools in Stanground, Farcet and Fletton, in St John's Church at 2 pm. I have invited a girl and a boy from every class in every school to come to St John's for a prayer event – an afternoon of engaging in 9 prayer activities, having a short act of worship, some refreshments and letting off balloons at the end (hopefully these will be seen from the schools in the town!)

If you are able to help with this event, please speak to Revd Andrew or Revd Carol – we can't do this by ourselves!

Nearer the time we will hold a briefing session, explaining in more detail the activities and structure for the afternoon.

Many thanks – in anticipation! Andrew

This coming week's events:

Monday 30th May

7.30 pm Ladies Bible Study
St Michael's Church

Wednesday 1st June

9 – 2 pm Jubilee Community Café
St Michael's Church

Saturday 4th June

St John's Church will be open until 2 pm. Rev Carol & Rev Andrew will be there from 12 – 2pm.

10 am Monthly Coffee Morning
3 pm onwards Jubilee bring & Share picnic at St Michael's Church Garden & in the Parish Hall

Sunday 5th June

9.30 am St John's Church
Stanground
9.30 am St Margaret's
Church, Fletton
11 am St Mary's Church
Farcet
11.15 am St Michael's Church
Stanground

There will be a quiet, contemplative Service with a time for prayers of healing on Sunday 12th June at 6 pm at St John's Church. This will then be on the 2nd Sunday of each month.