

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

26<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**READINGS FOR  
SUNDAY**

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

Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16, 20 - 24

Ephesians 1: 15 - End

Matthew 25: 31 - End

***A HOMILY FROM REVEREND CAROL AVERY***

Another church year draws to a close – next weekend we will celebrate Advent and start getting excited about Christmas! Already some houses are lit up with Christmas lights and decorations and in these dark winter nights we all need brightening up. Personally, in our home we will start to think about Christmas after Advent Sunday and if I speak very nicely to Andrew, he might let me start thinking about decorations and trees after that.

For those of my age you might remember the song ‘I wish it could be Christmas everyday’ – it was sung by Wizard (who came to the old Granada cinema in Kettering when I was a teenager). It’s all a bit of fun as a song but it ends with the line **‘Why don’t you give your love for Christmas?’**

And what more can we do than share God’s love at every time of the year – not just at Christmas. But who do we share that love with?

Our bible reading this weekend makes it very clear who we should share love with – we are to show love and practical care to those around us who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, needing clothes, sick or in prison – all states of ‘being’ that make people vulnerable.

It’s unusual for Jesus to be as direct as he is in this passage about what it means to be a Christian, but here in Matthews Gospel Jesus says that those who care for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, and those who are sick or in prison will all be welcomed into God’s everlasting Kingdom.

But those who don’t will not be welcomed into God’s Kingdom

Each of us can read this passage from Matthews gospel and can choose how we view it – we can ignore this imperative if we like..... or we can ask God to reveal to us how we are to follow this essential teaching.

We have a few weeks yet to prepare ourselves to celebrate once again the birth of Jesus - we will sing our Carols, make Angels and Christingles, write cards and buy and give gifts for friends and family – all wonderful. But let’s also make time to think about the reasons why Jesus came to us as a servant king, ready to love and serve others. As a more traditional Christmas song says ‘Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart’.

## 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.



## 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.

## 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**

Our next Reflection Café for those who have loved & lost will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December & 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

A huge thank you to those who donated to our Hope Into Action House. The family are settling in and enjoying their new home.

### 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.**

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER

2PM – 4PM



## "CHRISTMAS ISLANDS NUCLEAR TESTS"

A TALK BY MR COLIN WOOD

LISTEN TO COLIN TALK ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES DURING HIS TIME IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE.

TEA, COFFEE AND CAKES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

FOLLOWING THE TALK THE REVEREND CAROL AVERY WILL PRESENT COLIN WITH HIS HIS "MEDAL OF SERVICE".