

STANGROUND & FARCET C OF E CHURCHES  
**NEWSLETTER**  
January 28<sup>th</sup> 2024



**READINGS FOR  
SUNDAY**

**28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

Deuteronomy 18: 15 - 20

Revelation 12: 1 - 5

Gospel Reading:

Mark 1: 21 - 28

***A HOMILY FROM REVEREND ANDREW AVERY***

Have you ever wondered what the Collect is all about and why it is so called? My guess is that some reading this will know, whilst some may be saying, 'I've got no idea!'. In short, the Collect is a prayer that enables us to gain an understanding of some of the quality of God, upon which the prayer is built. The word Collect comes from the Latin phrase *ecclesia collecta*, which means that it is a public prayer prayed by and for the assembled church. It is generally a very short and thematic prayer, that follows a particular structure, and that structure can sometimes be helpful to us when we pray.

There are five key elements:

**Address, Attributive phrase, Petition, Result, Termination.**

To help understand this week's Collect I have highlighted each element in the matching colours:

**God our Creator** to whom we are addressing our prayer

**Who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness** placing God in the beginning of time and in creation – let there be light ...

**We pray that the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief** our prayer request seeks the power of God to reflect his glory and light through Jesus to shine in the dark places of the world (and our lives)

**Shine into the hearts of all your people and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your son our Lord** and as a result of our request that the light of Christ may be revealed to all people

**Who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God now and forever.** A signing off giving Jesus a place in the Trinity – Father Son and Holy Spirit

Amen.

Whilst it may seem a complicated structure, or some may even say unnecessary, why can't we just pray for ourselves?, the Collect is reflective of the readings of the lectionary for the day and helps us all to focus on God's message.

When you pray, who do you pray to? Dear Lord, or Heavenly Father, God of Grace, Almighty God and so on? You may not necessarily think that when we pray and start our prayers we are addressing God in many different ways. Sometimes it is helpful to think of why we are praying and address our prayer accordingly.

So next time you pray, maybe shape your prayer into a collect, using the five elements; it may take a little time, but it may just help you focus on exactly to whom you are praying and why and what you would like the result of your prayer to be.

**Saturday Café Volunteers**

For our Saturday Café to be able to keep running, we are in desperate need of volunteers. We only need a couple of volunteers a week to help serve & make drinks. We appreciate time is precious but this is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community. If you would be willing to take a turn then please contact Rev Andrew, Rev Carol or Heidi.

## For our Prayers this Week

**Those who are sick:**

**Brian Rush, Rene Skells,  
Dennis Chappel, Carol Highe,  
Joan Pawlak, Brian Highe,  
Marie Le-Hair, Karen Quinn,  
Jean Davies, Kath Davies &  
Victoria Puar**

**For the families of those who  
have died:**

**Derek Matthews**

## Emmaus Course

We will be starting an Emmaus Course on Monday evenings from 7 until 9 pm at St Michael's Church initially for 6 weeks. This will start on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

You do NOT need a degree in Theology to attend – it is a course that will help everyone to explore the Christian Faith, whether you are simply exploring Christianity, new to the faith or have been a Christian a long time. Each session will be interactive involving some teaching, some discussion and some reflection and of course will involve coffee & Cake!

## Events in February:

Coffee morning Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 10 – 12 noon

Mary's Child Fundraising Pudding & Quiz night Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Traditional Bingo Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 7.45 pm for 8pm start

**For more details contact Heidi on 07552 060078**

## CONFIRMATION

We hope to have a deanery confirmation Service in the Spring. If anyone is interested in being confirmed this year, please speak to Revd Andrew or Revd Carol.

## Reflections Cafe Spring 2024 opening



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

**A space for those who have lost loved ones to come and talk with others who have loved and lost.**

## Saturday Café Spring 2024 opening

Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup>

Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>

Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup>

Saturday February 24<sup>th</sup>

Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>

Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

All welcome

## CANDLEMAS 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY AT 7 PM

We will be celebrating Candlemas with a Service of Holy Communion on the evening of Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 7 pm at St John's Church. This marks the end of Christmas and Epiphany season, and the 'Candlemas bells'(Snowdrops) will be blooming as a sign of the coming Spring.

There will be refreshments after the Service, and all are welcome.