

STANGROUND & FARCET C OF E CHURCHES
NEWSLETTER

12th July 2020



**READINGS FOR
SUNDAY 12TH JULY**

Genesis 25: 19 - End

Psalms 119: 105 - 112

Romans 8: 1 - 11

Gospel Reading for today:

Matthew 13: 1 - 9, 18 - 23



A NOTE FROM THE REVEREND ANDREW AVERY

Nearly every day in the Christian calendar there is a saint or a martyr or some famous theologian that the Church celebrates. Some of them have a whole festival dedicated to them like Thomas the Apostle on 3rd July, whilst others are just names on a list that we remember.

Yesterday, 11th July the Church remembered Benedict of Nursia, born in the 5th century in Italy. He studied in Rome and was appalled by the corruption in society. He decided to live life as a hermit. Like many hermits, he attracted people who became his disciples and he began to establish small monasteries in the area.

When Carol and I trained for ordained ministry, we were encouraged to have a Rule of Life – a pattern of prayer, study, service, and a time for ‘being’.

He had a band of loyal followers for whom he wrote a Rule of Life, encouraging them and others to live out the gospel. His ‘rule’ was so good that it was disseminated and widely followed and is still followed today.

Throughout England there are 10 Benedictine Monasteries/Abbey’s/houses where monks live in community and continue to live a life following Benedict’s Rule of Life. Whilst these communities follow a simple way of life, it is a life of dedication to God through service, prayer, and commitment.

When Carol and I trained for ordained ministry we were encouraged to have a Rule of Life – a pattern of prayer, study, service, and a time for ‘being’. Carol is a Third Order Franciscan and will no doubt share more of what this means at a later stage and follows a rule of the Franciscans – a life of Love, Joy and Humility.

Maybe you have your own rule of life, whereby you set aside time for being, a time for prayer and study, and a time for service. I have often mentioned our prayer times throughout the day – a deliberate time set aside during the business of life to spend just a few minutes in prayer and to listen to God. If you have never really thought about it, or like so many people thought you never had the time, it is so simple. Look at your day. at what you do, when and set aside just a few minutes, once, twice or three times when you deliberately spend time with God. Sometimes just sitting in silence is a great way to start, or you may read the daily lectionary readings (which Heidi sends out each month) or you may want to explore other forms of readings.

May I encourage you all to consider a ‘rule’ for your life which sets aside time for God, so that like Benedict we may put God’s love before everything and seek with joy the way of his commandments.

More information about the Benedictine way of life can be found at <https://www.benedictines.org.uk>

For our Prayers this week

Those who are sick:

Mick Lock, Carol Highe, Bev Kitchen, Jack Cumberworth, Colin Wise, Marie Le-Hair, Lorraine Highe, Jean Everett, Rodney Cullingford & Darren Burgess



Mary's Child and parish pantry.

We are so grateful for all the ongoing gifts of food and money that you have been giving so faithfully over the past weeks. We are so pleased that the number of people needing support is now reducing. We have worked with other agencies to resolve situations for some of these families. Can you imagine the future for vulnerable families if they end up in the hands of Loan Sharks when their benefits are stopped by no fault of their own? Loan Sharks prey on the vulnerable and those who have no other means of raising money. Then families find themselves owing thousands of pounds before they know it because of compound interest. But what else do you do if you have no family and no other way of feeding your family? These are serious issues in our society and issues that we as Churches need to address and try to change. Thank you all on behalf of those whose lives are so much better because of your kindness!

Rev Carol Avery



Reg Charity No.1187206



Parish Nursing
Ministries UK

Parish Nurse

When 'normal' life resumes the Parish Nurse will be back!



Next Sunday 19th July will be a YouTube Service. This will be going live on our YouTube channel at 11 am. We will follow this with a Coffee and chat zoom.



I have met with the Churchwardens and A letter is being sent Out to explain our thoughts on re-opening and to ask a couple of questions of all our congregations. Please contact the church office if you do not receive this letter this next week.

Contact Us: Stanground & Farcet C of E Churches

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