

SOUTHSIDE METHODIST CHURCH
**CHRISTMAS
COFFEE MORNING**

**SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER
10am–12noon**

COME AND JOIN US FOR
COFFEE & CAKE
RAFFLE BRING & BUY



cook the Best Turkey'!!!! I often think, 'if I can't cook a turkey now.... I never will!!

At the heart of Christmas is a child—born not in a palace, but in a stable. Not wrapped in silk, but in swaddling cloth. Not greeted by royalty, but by

THANK YOU

Just a little message to say a very big thank you all for your generous support for our Christmas charity appeals this year...

A big box of lovely gifts for the **elderly in homes around Peterborough**

31 Advent calendars and 4 selection packs for the **Foodbank**

and

Coffee collections for **Children in Need** (total to be announced later)

Yet again, well done Southside!

Sue

Wednesday Friends

Next meeting:

3rd December 2-4 pm

Seasonal Refreshments

Everyone welcome

Please note there is no meeting 17th December.

Sylvia

t other churches in the Peterborough Circuit.



A Christmas Reflection: Christ the King and the Heart of the Season

Christmas is just around the corner. We are busy writing shopping lists, food lists, looking for different Christmas recipes, and if you are anything like me, watch the same Christmas food programmes on 'How to

CHRISTMAS POSTBOX



The post box for your Christmas cards for church friends will be in the entrance foyer from Sunday 7th December.

Please ensure that the recipients are current church attendees and you add full names on the envelopes.

The final collection will be at 10.25 am on Sunday 21st December, with cards available for collection after the service.

Any questions please see Sue

Thank you

A belated 'thankyou' for all the cards I received for my birthday in October – so lovely to be remembered.

Thank you also for the prayers, phone call, enquiries and good wishes following my accident. So much kindness and so much appreciated by us both.

Sylvia

shepherds. And yet, this child is Christ the King—God with us. Emmanuel.

His birth was heaven touching earth. A quiet revolution of love, humility, and hope. No fanfare, no flashing lights—just the steady glow of a star and the warmth of a mother’s arms.

We remember Christmases of old—when the pace was slower, the lights softer, and the joy simpler. When cards were handwritten, not digital. When gifts were thoughtful, not extravagant. When families gathered not just to exchange presents, but to share presence. Laughter around the table. Crackers pulled. Stories told. Roast potatoes slightly burnt. And hearts full.

Today, Christmas can feel louder. Brighter. Busier. The adverts start earlier, the pressure grows heavier, and sometimes the sacred gets lost in the sparkle.

But maybe this year, we can pause. Maybe we can reclaim the stillness of that holy night. Maybe we can gather not around the tree, but around the table. Not to impress, but to embrace. Not to consume, but to connect.

Because Christ still comes—not in the noise, but in the quiet. Not in the shopping, but in the sharing. Not in the perfect, but in the present.

So let us celebrate—not just with tinsel and turkey, but with tenderness and truth. Let us laugh, eat, sing, and remember: the King has come. And love is born again.

I’d like to wish everyone a very joyful Christmas, and wish to ‘thank’ you all for your support and all you do at Southside. I feel truly blessed to work with some amazing people and you are all a blessing.

Merry Christmas

Love Suzanne - Lay Pastoral Assistant

Over recent months we have heard so much about illegal immigrants entering our country and there have been demonstrations, even in our own city, against these people. It set me thinking and I was reminded of the WWJD acronym, popular in the 1990s. What would Jesus do if he were here today and what should our response as Christians be?

The following information may help you to decide what your response should be and was shared by Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church. **Sue B**

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS – SOME FACTS

Here are 10 common misconceptions about asylum seekers and refugees. Below, we set the record straight with accurate information you can share – *Community Information and Advocacy Centre*

1. “Asylum seekers are illegal immigrants.”

- ✗** Seeking asylum is not illegal and this includes any person seeking sanctuary who may arrive in a small boat. Seeking asylum is a legal right under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

2. “They’re just here to claim benefits.”

✗ Asylum seekers cannot access normal benefits. They receive only minimal financial support and usually cannot work.

3. **“The UK takes in more asylum seekers than anyone else.”**

✗ The UK receives fewer asylum seekers than many countries, including Germany, France, even Lebanon.

4. **“Most asylum claims are fake.”**

✗ Almost half of claims are granted at the first stage, and many appeals are successful, showing the system recognises genuine cases.

5. **“Asylum seekers are a burden.”**

✗ Refugees contribute skills, resilience, and cultural diversity. Once allowed to work, they support local economies and communities.

6. **“They should just apply from abroad.”**

✗ Safe legal routes are extremely limited. International law allows people to apply once they reach the UK.

7. **“They’re all young men.”**

✗ Women, children, and families also seek asylum. Young men often travel first because the journey is too dangerous for vulnerable family members.

8. **“They get housing ahead of locals.”**

✗ Asylum seekers cannot choose where they live. They are housed in temporary accommodation and do not take priority over council housing lists.

9. **“They must stay in the first safe country.”**

✗ International law does not require this. Many seek safety in the UK because of family, language, or community connections.

10. **“We need to protect our women and children from asylum seekers.”**

✗ There is NO evidence that asylum seekers are more likely to commit crimes than the general population. People seeking sanctuary are often women and children fleeing violence, seeking the same protection and safety we want for our own families.

The truth is that people seeking sanctuary are people fleeing war and persecution. By challenging myths with facts, we help build understanding and compassion.