

STANGROUND & FARCET C OF E CHURCHES  
**NEWSLETTER**  
March 17<sup>th</sup> 2024



**READINGS FOR  
SUNDAY**

**17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34

Hebrews 5: 5 - 10

Gospel Reading:

John 12: 20 - 33

**Homily based on Genesis 27: 1 – 41 Jacob Steals a Blessing  
by Revd Kevin Fitzgibbon**

I wonder what you have been making of the controversy surrounding The Wales's Mother's Day Family Picture? Major news networks summoning up experts to tell us how fake it is and that this represents some serious kind of deception. I can't believe this social media outrage and anti-royal vitriol being directed at William and Kate. What a perverse society we are living in today. As a keen photographer, I can tell you that nearly all my pictures are edited to some extent, and that would be true for professional photographers

too. Even our phones have sophisticated editing abilities built in and now come with AI programmes. I wish these outraged people would get a life. It was just a family picture.

That said there are many unscrupulous people out there all over the world who are out to scam us in order to steal our personal data and our money. We must be aware and heed the warnings.

How staggeringly up-to-date is the Story of Jacob in Genesis. It may have happened 4,000 years ago but, as we saw in part one of his story, Jacob is a real nasty piece of work. Having been born grasping his twin brother's heel, he has already conned his brother Esau into giving him his Birthright in exchange for a bowl of lentil stew. Where did he get this grasping duplicity and disregard for what is right? It seems his Mother Rebekah has plans for him to usurp his brother.

Jacob's Father Isaac is old, blind, and soon to die and so he calls his elder son Esau and tells him to go and hunt some nice game that he likes and prepare it for him, so he can eat and give him his Blessing. This Blessing is a kind of Prophetic pronouncement conferring all the family wealth, leadership and spiritual heritage upon his eldest son. It's a bit like you are the eldest royal prince and you are about to be proclaimed King.

Rebekah is listening at the door and quickly hatches a plan with Jacob to get the Blessing for him. She prepares tasty food, puts Esau's best clothes on Jacob and covers his hands and neck with goat's skin because Esau is hairy and Jacob is not. Jacob proceeds to con his father who, despite some suspicions, pronounces his Blessing upon Jacob.

When Esau returns and discovers what has happened he is absolutely furious and implores his Father to bless him too. Isaac says this cannot be done the blessing is already given to Jacob. Esau vows to kill his brother after his father dies.

The really surprising thing is that God will honour this blessing and will shape Jacob into the founding father of his people Israel. God has great plans for each of us too. Plans for good, plans to bless and plans to transform us into the likeness of Christ. For ***I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".*** Jeremiah 29:11.

## For our Prayers this Week

### Those who are sick:

**Rita Rush, Dennis Chappel,  
Carol Highe, Brian Highe,  
Marie Le-Hair, Karen Quinn,  
Jean Davies & Kath Davies**

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

**Joan Pawlak , Victoria Puar,  
Darren Nicholls & Brian Cope**

## Emmaus Course

The Emmaus Course has now paused for Easter and will resume again starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April from 7 until 9 pm at St Michael's Church. We would love to see you join us. 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!

## Together Mum's Group

We have relocated the Mum's Together meeting that meets on a Monday morning at 9 am from St Michael's Church, Stanground to The Rectory, Fletton.

## Diary plan for March:

Tuesday morning **prayer meeting** is at 10 am every Tuesday at St Michael's Church, all are welcome.

**Reflection Café** – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

2 – 4 pm at St Michael's Church

**Saturday Café** – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

12 – 2 pm at St Michael's Church

**Please see attached PDF with our Service plan for Easter**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – COMMUNITY CAFÉ WILL BE CLOSED

**Coffee Morning** – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April

10 – 12 noon at St Michael's Parish Hall

## Wednesday Café Volunteers

We have a wonderful core group of Volunteers on a Wednesday at the Community Café, however, we could really do with a few more people who would be able to help. We are in need of those who can help serve tables, make drinks, and clear tables. If you have even an hour or 2 free on a Wednesday it would be so much appreciated. The Café has a wonderful atmosphere & we would love to chat with you about this opportunity.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Rev Andrew, Rev Carol or Heidi.

## Community Café

To give all our Volunteers a well-deserved break for all the hard work they put into the Community Café. We will be CLOSED on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

## A.P.C.M

Our A.P.C.M meeting will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30 pm at St Michael's Church, Stanground. If you would like to stand for PCC please see one of the Churchwardens for a nomination form.

If you wish to stand for Warden please speak with Revd Andrew or Revd Carol.

# HOLY WEEK



THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

ALL WELCOME

### **St John's**

**Palm Sunday**

**24<sup>th</sup> March**

**9.30 am**

Family Holy  
Communion

**Tuesday**

**26<sup>th</sup> March**

**7 pm**

Service of Healing

**Thursday**

**28<sup>th</sup> March**

**7 pm**

Holy Communion &  
Foot washing

**Good Friday**

**29<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30 am**

Stations of the Cross

**2 – 3 pm**

Passion reading &  
Silence

**Easter Day**

**31<sup>st</sup> March**

**9.30 am**

Holy Communion

### **St Margaret's**

**Palm Sunday**

**24<sup>th</sup> March**

**9.30 am**

Holy Communion

**Wednesday**

**27<sup>th</sup> March**

**7 pm**

Service of Tenebrae

**Good Friday**

**29<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30 am**

Stations of the Cross

**Easter Day**

**31<sup>st</sup> March**

**9.30 am**

Holy Communion

### **St Mary's**

**Palm Sunday**

**24<sup>th</sup> March**

**11 am**

Holy Communion

**Easter Day**

**31<sup>st</sup> March**

**11 am**

Holy Communion

### **St Michael's**

**Palm Sunday**

**24<sup>th</sup> March**

**11.15 am**

Family Holy  
Communion

**Good Friday**

**29<sup>th</sup> March**

**10.30 am**

Service of Reflection

**Saturday**

**30<sup>th</sup> March**

**11 – 2 pm**

Easter Family Day

**Easter Day**

**31<sup>st</sup> March**

**6.37 am**

Sunrise Service

**11.15 am**

Holy Communion

