

- He promises to **watch over Jacob** personally
- He promises to **bring Jacob back** to his own land that he has left behind

- He promises **never to leave Jacob**

Now look at Jacob. How is he responding to God’s word and how is he responding to God’s claim on his life? Read **verses 16 to 22** to see the first signs of a different Jacob. This new Jacob will be severely tested and will sometimes fail, but Jacob has put his life into God’s hands, and he does not look back. More next week!

Love Cathy



*Five loaves and two fish
are never enough
until you start
giving it away.*

Dear God,
Remind me to
share whatever
is in my basket today.
You will do the rest.
Amen.

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THE BENEFICE OF WESTFIELD AND GUESTLING

A letter from Rev Joy 2 August 2020

I am writing this on Friday, having just sent Pauline Filsell-Page my copy for the WCA newsletter which she will be sending out by email. I’ll send a copy to Westfield folk who I don’t think are on her mailing list which is mainly groups and societies. My apologies if you get two but in these days of GDPR we aren’t allowed to share our lists with each other.

I had a lovely time on Thursday this week listening to a professional violinist play an impromptu Bach concerto in St Laurence’s. I sat in the porch working on the re-opening plan whilst he moved around the church looking for the ‘sweet spots.’ The sun was pouring in the open door and it was wonderful. He’s testing out some local churches for their acoustics before deciding on one to do a recording in in September. He moved down to St Leonards in March and is getting to know the local area and making connections on the local music scene. He hadn’t banked on the Covid 19 crisis and the lockdown but he’s discovered sea swimming and has been surprised by the beautiful countryside so close. We’ll have to wait and see if Guestling meets his needs. He has offered to play for us after a Sunday service later in the year as a thank you so we have that to look forward to.

Hetty and Miru are very subdued in this heat and there’s a lot of sighing and flopping down when they try to find a cooler place to sleep. Even the noise of the pigeons raiding the bird feeder in the garden isn’t enough to rouse them. Usually the sound of their wings flapping and the noises they make taking off and landing is enough to send the dogs skittering down the hall as they scramble to be the first to

reach the back door and scare the invaders off.

The garden is very green at the moment as we are between flowers but fortunately our neighbour's wisteria, which I've told you about before, is in bloom again. Missing lots of colour, I added a £5 bunch of agapanthus to our Sainsbury delivery which came this morning and their gorgeous blue blooms are elegantly gracing a corner of our sitting room. I must plant some for the garden next Spring.



As anxiety levels rise again (I've just watched the 6pm news) please remember to be kind and gentle with yourself. Eat well, get some fresh air every day, try and get plenty of sleep, do something creative and have some fun with it. If you don't take care of yourself you won't be able to take care of those who depend on you.

This comes with my love and prayers for you all, Joy

Westfield Church Services

Sunday	2nd August 10am	Holy Communion
Wednesday	5th August 10am-12	Private Prayer
Sunday	9th August 10am	Morning Praise
Wednesday	12th August 9.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	10am-12noon	Private Prayer

Guestling Church Services

Sunday	9th August 11am	Holy Communion
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This once happy family has become riven with internal strife, thoroughly dysfunctional. Esau is so angry with his brother that he vows to kill him as soon as their father dies. Rebekah has to urge her favourite son to leave home and seek refuge in the home of her brother Laban many days journey away. She tells Isaac that she wants Jacob to seek a wife among her own extended family and so Jacob leaves home to travel alone to the home of family members he has probably never met.

At this point Jacob does not seem like a very likely person for God to be interested in. He has lied, cheated and deceived his own father and brother and caused strife and sorrow for his whole family. But God is about to start work in Jacob's life. As Jacob lies down on the ground to sleep on the first night of his journey, he has the most vivid and startling dream.

Read Genesis chapter 28 verses 10 to 20: Jacob's ladder.

This is as far as we will take Jacob this week but see how God is dealing with Jacob.

In **verse 13** God speaks personally to Jacob in a dream.

- He reminds Jacob of who He is; He is the **Lord**, the God of his father and grandfather
- He makes Jacob and his descendants a **promise of a land** to call their own
- He promises that Jacob will have **many descendants**
- He promises that Jacob's descendants will bring a **blessing to all peoples**

CV19 Homegroup

We are back home this week after spending time with some of our grandchildren in the Lake District. It's a long way, but free-flowing motorways thanks to Covid made the journey easier than usual and cheerful children and beautiful scenery made it an enjoyable time. When we got home it was lovely to return to church on Sunday and to see some of you there.

My *Scripture Union* notes have returned to the Genesis story this week and the interesting character of Jacob. Jacob was the younger twin born to Isaac and Rebekah. His elder twin was Esau and his grandparents were Abraham and Sarah.

Neither of the twins make a promising start. You can read about it in **Genesis 25 verses 19 to 34**. Jacob plotted to steal his brother's birth-right from him, and Esau thought so little of it that he sold it to his brother for a hearty meal! It was as if Prince Harry were to offer Prince William a tasty takeaway in return for the right to sit on the throne of England and William were to accept the deal with hardly a thought!

Not satisfied with 'buying' Esau's inherited privileges, Jacob is determined to secure Esau's spiritual blessings as well. This is surely Jacob's lowest point, and he is aided and abetted by his mother because Jacob was her favourite child. Read about their shameless deceit in exploiting the weakness of an elderly man, Rebekah's husband and Jacob's father, Isaac. **Genesis chapter 27 verses 1 to 40** spares us no sordid detail of their deceitful plan.

Eighth Sunday after Trinity 2nd August 2020

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern
both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the
works of your commandments; that through your most
mighty protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Westfield

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 55:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

BCP Readings: for Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Romans 8:12-17 Matthew 7:15-21

Guestling

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 55:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

Please check the website on Sunday for services for

Westfield <http://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-westfield-church/>

Guestling . <https://www.westfieldchurch.co.uk/online-services-for-guestling-church/>

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from
pride, when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Here is part of a letter from Kristin Stevenson, our Bible Society connection who came to talk to us many months ago.



“.....As the Church at home (in the UK) has adapted well by going online and is now beginning to open up again, around the world many are struggling and are still severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Bible Society teams in as many as 88 nations are feeling the devastating economic effects of the pandemic. Plummeting income has meant that people there face the prospect of no Bible distribution, no vital translation work, no Scripture-based literacy classes, no Bible-based trauma healing. Bible Society work may have to close down permanently in these countries.

A Rescue and Recovery Fund has been set up to support these Bible Societies. Please do get in touch or look online if you would like to find out more about this project.
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/philanthropy/bible-society-rescue-and-recovery-fund/>

There are also some great ideas if this is the year that you have to Holiday at Home. I'm certainly going to be using some of them myself. Joy



<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/latest/news/holiday-at-home/>



A Rocha UK (ARUK) is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to mobi-

lising Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. Do have a look at their web-site and their activities. I discovered them when I was writing up my research project at the end of my training . I was exploring how the church could heal what I perceived as a disconnect between the land and the village in Westfield. <https://arocha.org.uk/>

The **Partners in Action** are a collaborative network of Christian land managers demonstrating active care for the natural world. Ashburnham Place which many of you know is one of their Partners in Action



Eco Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.

A Rocha UK's **Wild Christian** scheme is a community of families and individuals exploring the connections between our Christian faith, the natural environment, and how we live.