

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis ch. 25:19-33, 27:1-42

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons - Esau ('Hairy') and Jacob ('grasper'). When the boys were born, God said...

Esau is older but Jacob will be more important.



The boys grew up...

Esau liked to go out to hunt, but Jacob stayed at home.



When Isaac was old and blind he told Esau



I want to give you my special blessing; first catch me some food.

But Rebekah went to find Jacob



You could have that blessing

But Esau is hairy and I am not.



Use goat skin to cover your arms and wear Esau's clothes



Here is your food, Father



Are you really Esau? Come nearer.

Jacob was tricked by the goat skin and Esau's clothes.



Then Esau returned



I'm sorry, I already blessed your brother

You must run away or Esau will kill you. Go to my brother Laban's home.



Jacob!



## May 2017 Spirit in the Community

Triumphant, Christ ascends on high,  
The glorious work complete;  
Sin, death and hell low vanquished lie  
Beneath His awful feet.  
Anne Steele



### This month

- A Word for May
- Christian Aid week
- Meetings
- Soup lunches
- Upper Pont Dinner
- Age UK Big Knit
- Sunday Lunch Service
- Youth group
- Choir
- Communion and a Cuppa
- Taizé for Tynedale
- Wayside stall

The "Spirit in the Community" is published by the Churches in Stamfordham, Ryal, Matfen, Cheeseburn and the surrounding area.

Comments or articles by the 14th of the month to  
Cicely Mortimer 886485 or Michael Lindsey 855446  
Or email both at [spirit@stamfordhamwithmatfen.org.uk](mailto:spirit@stamfordhamwithmatfen.org.uk)

Christians working together in your local area

## A Word for May

This month the churches in our area will be supporting Christian Aid (donation envelopes will be available in St. Mary's Stamfordham, Holy Trinity Matfen and The Church on the Green from Sunday 14th May). Please do take time to read the Christian Aid article in this issue of the Spirit which describes some of the wonderful work of the charity, which celebrates 60 years of Christian Aid Week this year.

We will also be welcoming Jan Simmonds from Christian Aid 28th May to Holy Trinity, Matfen at 9am and St. Mary's, Stamfordham at 10.30am to share in our worship and talk to us about their work. Revd Rachel

### Christian Aid Week 2017

You've been there for refugees since 1945

Seventy years ago, a generation of Christians decided they would not stand by whilst people suffered in refugee camps amidst the aftermath of the Second World War. Inspired by the teaching of Jesus Christ, they could not sit back while their neighbours suffered. They shared Jesus' outrage over injustice and were prepared to do something about it.

That dedication and generosity led to the creation of Christian Aid Week in 1957, which today unites 20,000 churches across the country that come together to achieve incredible things to continue to support our global neighbours in need, who are suffering through no fault of their own.

Today, tens of millions of people - fathers, mothers and children - across the globe are still fleeing their homes, and making dangerous journeys in search of safety. Christian Aid is not turning its back now, and continues to support refugees around the world, who are fleeing their homes due to conflict, war and disaster.

While the majority of today's refugees seek sanctuary in poor countries, in 2015 some one million people crossed into Europe. With borders in Europe now closed, thousands of desperate refugees are finding themselves stranded in countries including Greece and Serbia - and in need of urgent help.

Nejebbar, from Afghanistan, fled her homeland after the Taliban announced they would kill anyone who worked for the government, like her husband Noor. They eventually sought refuge in Greece with their children, after a treacherous journey across the Mediterranean in a small rubber dinghy. The young family have left their home, family and friends behind, and now live with no certainty on their future, especially that of their children.

Thad Cienciala, member of St Mary's, Stamfordham, understands well the value of the support Christian Aid provides for people like Nejebbar and Noor who struggle to find a safe place to call home. In 1948, aged just 13, Thad and his brother fled their home in Poland ahead of the Russian advance, to join their father who had found his way to Britain as a member of the Polish Free Army. Thad finished his education and made his life in the North East where, for the last 30 years, he and his wife Margaret have organised the Christian Aid Week collection in Stamfordham.

'I was so fortunate to escape to England before it was too late,' he told us, 'I didn't suffer nearly as badly as those who left later.'

Thad said his early experiences gave him a deep sympathy with refugees, especially those escaping conflict: 'I am glad that Christian Aid is helping those refugees who are stranded in Greece and other parts of Europe. They need our support.'

You can help to change the lives of refugees fleeing conflict and crisis this Christian Aid Week by supporting your local church collection or fundraising events:

£5 could provide two nutritious meals for a refugee in Europe and £50 could provide a stove for refugees to cook their own food. For more information visit [caweek.org](http://caweek.org).



### The Big Knit

Age UK this year are aiming for 2 million hats. For every be-hatted smoothie that gets sold, Age UK receives 25p to help keep older people warm and well.

It's easy to get involved

Whether you're new to casting on or already know your garter from your stocking stitch, it's easy to get started. Get yourself some needles, wool and your favourite chair and get knitting!

Pick up a pattern from box at St Mary's church Stamfordham then please return knitted/crochet hats before 24th July 2017 so we can send them to The Big Knit Age UK. Or if you prefer you could send direct to The Big Knit, Age UK, Fruit Towers, Canal Building, 342 Ladbroke Grove, London, W10 5BU

Look out for all the hats on smoothie bottles in shops in October 2017



Regretfully there will be no house to house collection in most of the parish this year, but there will be a collection box and gift envelopes in each Parish Church and in the Church on the Green



The 2 parish churches (Stamfordham & Matfen) are open every day and we would be very grateful for any donations placed in the Christian Aid boxes. Christian aid is the only 3<sup>rd</sup> World Charity our villages support and is there, whenever there is a crisis in the world, whether famine, floods, earthquake, war etc. It also supports hundreds of projects through local organisations, to improve the lives of the poorest people in the world.



### CHOIR PRACTICE

Parish Churches' Choir  
Wednesdays 6 pm

May 10th in Stamfordham  
May 24th at 5.30pm (Matfen)

### WAYSIDE STALL

Saturday 20th May 10.30am

Cake stall, Plants and tombola.

Contributions for the stalls gratefully received,  
contact June Crabtree 01661 886961

Peter Lombard 01661886331





Taizé for Tynedale  
*Would you like reflective worship,  
 with space for silence? If so, you  
 may find an hour of Taizé songs,  
 Bible readings and a time of sil-  
 ence just what you want as a  
 chance to connect with God.*

Riding Mill Churches Together welcomes every-  
 one to any or all of the 2017 series of worship  
 times,

All Sundays 5 pm in Riding Mill Methodist  
 Church (NE44 6EG):

23 April, 21 May, and 25 June 2017

(music / singing – practice at 3.30 pm)

**PRAYER  
 MEETING**  
 Contact Pip  
 886431 or  
 Philip



**Brownies\***  
 (7-11 years - girls)  
 Meet every Wed.  
 6-7.15 p.m.

**Soup and Pud-  
 ding Lunches**  
 will be served  
 at the Church on  
 the Green  
 on Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>  
 12noon - 1pm  
 People of all ages are invited  
 to join us for food and  
 friendship



**The Sunday Lunch Service!**

Coffee, juice and biscuits from  
 10.30am followed at 11am by a short  
 and simple service at St. Mary's  
 Stamfordham and lunch in a local pub  
 for those who can stay.

21<sup>st</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 20<sup>th</sup> Aug

Please contact Revd Rachel to book  
 for lunch 01661 886853  
 r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org



Ladies! Thank you so much for all the bras that have been donated in the last  
 month...wonderful! We are going to keep the collection points open for about anoth-  
 er month. Do you have any gently worn bras that you no longer wear. These can be  
 donated to be sent to help women and girls in Africa. The bras are sold in markets  
 so the sellers make a little money and the family can then afford to send their chil-  
 dren to school. Women wearing a bra are cons  
 idered less vulnerable to assault. In addition unwanted bras are not binned here in  
 the UK to end up in landfill so we all win.

If you have any items suitable for this collection please place in a bag in the box at  
 the back of St Mary's church Stamfordham or at Holy Trinity church, Matfen and  
 they will be collected and passed on.

Thank you



You are warmly invited to  
 THE UPPER PONT DINING  
 CLUB DINNER  
 on  
 WEDNESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017  
 AT 6.45 P.M.  
 at  
 THE KEEPER'S LODGE,  
 MATFEN GOLF CLUBHOUSE

GUEST SPEAKER : PRO-  
 FESSOR NEVILLE HARRIS  
 Retired Professor of Northum-  
 bria University, was Head of  
 Post Graduate Business Pro-  
 gramme, Newcastle Business  
 School and, since retirement, has  
 become an accomplished After-  
 Dinner Speaker with Light  
 Hearted and Entertaining Pres-  
 entations

Presents  
 "PETER SELLERS : FAMILY,  
 FILMS AND FORTUNE"  
 An address that promises to be  
 amusing !!

Pre-Ordered, multi-choice 2-  
 Course Meal £20.00 / Head  
 REFUNDS only possible before  
 7.00 pm. on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup>. May  
 2017

OR Better still, pass them on to a  
 Friend !!



**Communion and a  
 Cuppa!**

Come and enjoy a short,  
 informal service of Holy  
 Communion at St.  
 Mary's on **Monday 22nd  
 May 2.30pm** followed by  
 afternoon tea.

**STAMFORDHAM YOUTH CLUB  
 EVERY TUESDAY  
 7.30PM - 9.00PM.  
 CHURCH ON THE GREEN**



**AGES 11 TO 15 YEARS.**

**CONTACT 825669 OR 886431**

**Perspectives Men's Breakfast**

Perspectives' Men's Breakfast, Satur-  
 day 29th April, 8.30-10am at Vallum  
 Farm Tea Room.

Title: 'Changing the world one bite at  
 a time'

Speaker: Larry Bush's experiences  
 include developing snack foods for  
 Walkers Crisps and in Fair Trade inno-  
 vation as Marketing Director for  
 Traidcraft. He will also talk about how  
 his Christian faith has motivated and  
 shaped his work and his perspective  
 on the world.

jonathan@perspectivescvfm.org.uk.



After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.  
Acts 1:9

## Local Services May 2017

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God  
Philippians 4:6

	<b>Cheeseburn Grange St Francis Xavier</b>	<b>Matfen Holy Trinity</b>	<b>Ryal All Saints</b>	<b>Stamfordham St Mary</b>	<b>Stamfordham Church on the Green</b>	<b>Readings</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter 4	8.30 am Mass	9 am HC BCP		10.30 am HC BCP	10 am Mr Estwar Sanichar	Acts 2.42-47, John 10.1-10
14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter 5	8.30 am Mass	9am HC CW		10.30 am HC CW	10 am Mr Geoff Orrock	Acts 7.55-60, John 14.1-14
21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Rogation	8.30 am Mass	9 am HC CW		11 am The Sunday Lunch Service	Dr Ann Sinclair	Philippians 4.4-7, Mark 11.22-24
22 <sup>nd</sup> Monday				2.30 pm Communion and a Cuppa		
25 <sup>th</sup> Thursday Ascension Day			7pm Ascension Day Sung HC CW			Acts 1.1-11, Luke 24.44-53
28 <sup>th</sup> Easter 7	8.30 am Mass	9am HC CW- Christian Aid Preacher		10.30 am HC CW - Christian Aid Preacher	Joint service at St Mary's	Acts 1.6-14, John 17.1-11

EP Evening Prayer, MP Morning Prayer, HC Holy Communion, BCP Book of Common Prayer (traditional lang), CW Common Worship (modern lang), LA (Local Arrangement), AA (All Age)

**If any of the churches can be of help to you, please do not hesitate to contact us (details below) as we are here for the local community.**

**Roman Catholic (St Francis Xavier, Cheeseburn Grange)**

Father Alan Macknight

2 Rose Cottages

Cheeseburn Grange NE18 0PT

Tel: 01661 855098

**Methodist/URC (Church on the Green, Stamfordham)**

Secretary:- Philip Ballard 01661 825669  
email: [philipballard@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:philipballard@yahoo.co.uk)

**Anglican (Holy Trinity Matfen, All Saints Ryal, St Mary Stamfordham)**

Revd Rachel Scheffer, The Vicarage, Stamfordham NE18 0QQ, 01661-886853, email - [r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:r.scheffer@newcastle.anglican.org)

**Churchwardens-**

Stamfordham - June Crabtree, 01661 886961 and Peter Lombard, 01661 886331, email: [pmjlombard@googlemail.com](mailto:pmjlombard@googlemail.com)

Matfen - Carole Alcock, 01434 672302, email: [carole.alcock@btinternet.com](mailto:carole.alcock@btinternet.com) and Struan Wilson 01661 886592, [struan@struan.enterprise-plc.com](mailto:struan@struan.enterprise-plc.com)