



St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to: Worship God, Proclaim Jesus, Grow in the Spirit and Serve the World

In Contact

19th July 2026

Genesis 28.10-22

And the LORD stood beside him



In the Bible, Jacob is the son of Isaac and Rebekah and the twin brother of Esau. He was born holding Esau's heel, which is why his name is often interpreted as "heel-holder" or "supplanter".

In the early part of his life Jacob is not a nice person. When compared to his twin brother Jacob is weak and puny, he stays at home and he's a bit of a mummy's boy, and he is also sly and grasping, as his name suggests. He tricks his brother out of his birthright in return for a bowl of lentil stew and then out of their father's blessing by disguising himself as Esau. And yet, God chose Jacob over Esau because Esau did not care about his birthright.

Esau was not happy and threatened to kill Jacob forcing him to flee to his uncle Laban's house in far-off Turkey. On the way Jacob stopped to rest. Unknown to Jacob it was a place where Abraham, his grandfather, had built an altar to the Lord. It was getting dark, so Jacob took a rock for a pillow, and as he slept he dreamed a dream.

Jacob dreamed of a ladder reaching up to heaven with angels going up and down and in his dream the Lord stood beside him and introduced Himself as the Lord, the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac. God often introduces Himself to us through others: perhaps you can remember people who helped you come to know Jesus.

Up to this point Jacob had only known about God through his ancestors, but now in his dream the Lord God is standing beside him. God is always beside us whether we know Him or not, so we can never run away from Him.

God made Jacob some promises: *'All the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and your offspring...'* and *'Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go...'* and *'I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'*

Jacob's descendant Jesus became the blessing for all the families of the earth, and Jesus also promised in his final words in Matthew's gospel: *'I am with you always to the end of the age'*.

There are many more promises in the Bible, and they still apply to us and will help us when times are tough and when we have doubts. Perhaps we could underline these promises when we find them in our Bibles and thank God for them?

Jacob's response to meeting God is described in verses 18-22: first, he took the rock he used for a pillow. He made a pillar and poured oil on it and named it to mark it as a sacred place. Then he vowed that the Lord would be his God and that he would worship and honour Him. And he vowed to give God a tenth of everything God gave him.

Take time to consider what God has done for you and how you will respond.



Bible Verse for 2026: Isaiah 43.19, Philippians 3.14

I am about to do a new thing... Press on towards the goal!

This week- Sunday 19th July 2026:

Holy Communion Service at 10.30am: Peter Miller will be speaking on the theme: **'And the LORD stood beside him.'**

Next Week 26th July 2026:

Morning Worship Service at 10.30am: Matt will be speaking from 1 Jonah on the theme: **'Summer- Whale of a time.'**

CW communion at 3pm

Holiday Special: 27th - 29th July. Any offers of homemade cakes or biscuits would be appreciated for the Holiday Special. Please let Susan Whittaker know if you could make some cakes or biscuits.

July 19th – 25th – Please Pray for:

- People living in Errwood Road (Shawbrook Road to Crossley Road).
- Home Group Leaders meeting on Monday as they review and plan for the future.
- Christians in Pakistan unjustly accused of blasphemy facing imprisonment and violence.
- "Friends of IEM" group to quickly find new Trustees and a treasurer .
- Jo running a "Living with Loss" course in HMP M/c.
- 2026 Motto "Press on towards the goal" – courage to forward the Kingdom of God here.

Looking Ahead:

Kids Holiday Club: Deep sea discovery, **17th to 20th August**, 10am-12.30pm. For ages 5-11yrs. Bible stories, crafts, games and more. Attendance is free.

Answers to prayer: We want to celebrate what God is doing amongst us, however smaller a thing it seems. Please send to revmattburnage@gmail.com or M19stmargarets@gmail.com. Duncan says *"Despite recent sad news, the Falconer Home reports a really good crop of maize at the newly irrigated farm. In addition to feeding the children at the home, some has been sold to the government with the money being ploughed (pardon the pun!) back into the farm"*.

Have you seen something in the building that needs fixing?: Hi, my name is Andrew Foulkes. I am going to be the first point of contact for issues with the buildings, so if you notice a light bulb that needs replacing or a door that's sticking or anything like that, you can find me to tell me, or call me on 07846 089035, email at andrewfoulkes39@gmail.com or in the parish centre there is a little book hanging on the wall near the First Aid box/Defibrillator, you can write in the book what's wrong and I will find someone to sort it. Thanks

Welcome Team: If you can help, see Wardens or Matt. We also need help with new people joining the Easy Worship rota.

Nativity costumes: Matt wants to do a pop up nativity in December. If you have any suitable clothing or props, please see Matt.