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Weekly Letter – 5 July 2026

Genesis 24 – Isaac and Rebekah

We read a story which was told around campfires before it was written down and read in synagogues and churches. It is a story of promises made and fulfilled. A story of an arranged marriage. A story of negotiations and willing agreement. A love story against a backdrop of grief. This is the story of how Isaac got together with Rebekah. It builds up with the telling of the story within the story. It doesn't quite finish 'and they all lived happily ever after' but it has the air of an old story told often.

We have lost the significance of some of the actions: like putting your hand under the person's thigh to solemnise your promise to them, or putting a nose ring on a fiancée. Other elements we have retained in some way, like Laban asking Rebekah if she was willing to go, the sharing of food to bring people together, and the well.

The key meeting happens by a well. It is similar when it comes to the next generation (Genesis 29) and because they were nomads, travelling from well to well was important (Genesis 26).

Enjoy the story, but ponder about how God and God's messenger (angel) help the story unfold. Ponder too about how Christ Well can be a place of meeting, a place of fulfilling God's promises, and a place where the story of God's people will continue. Turn that pondering into prayer.

Simon

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am led by Rev Linda Woollacott

We will celebrate Communion. Bible Readings: Psalm 49.1-9: Mark 5.1-20.

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Christ Well

Prayers for every household – Cecil Street, nos.102-160

Ecommunity with Christ Well invites everyone to a

Book Swap on Saturday 4th July at Brynyfryd Library at 10.30 am - 12 noon.

Donate a book and choose another donated book. Activities for children. Free refreshments.

THE LIGHTNESS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

(Lectionary Readings: Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67: and Psalm 45.10-17: Matthew 11.16-19:, 25-30)

Beloved Jesus, your voice calls, to tell me that the burdens of life with you
are light and easy, that I will find rest and joy.

You call me to leave behind the winter of sorrow and the dull drip of boredom and grief,
to enjoy flowers and singing, vines and figs, the glory of life restored and full again.

You call me beautiful and take my hand. And when I am bowed down, you raise me up.

Beloved Jesus, give me grace to hear your voice.

You have played the flute for me before but I did not dance with you,
and I am sometimes yoked to other things that shape my world and my ways.

But even then, I know that you are close to me blessing me and calling me to hear your tune,
to come away with you, in your desire for me, to call my name.

Beloved Jesus, I will come away and dance to your music.

I leave behind the heavy burdens of my past and welcome the summer of your love.

Your voice is sweet, your face is lovely, and you raise me up to a gentle lightness of being.

Susan Durber (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

