

Wednesday thoughts

Roast meat and potatoes, two veg, crunchy, crispy home-made Yorkshire pudding with lashings of tasty gravy, all followed by apple pie and lots of creamy custard - ring any bells?

In this land that would not have been an unusual meal for the fortunate among us. And there was always plenty just in case someone unexpected turned up, with plates and cutlery prepared. (I do know of a family where a place was even set at table in case!) As the grand-daughter of a local preacher for me this was not an unknown occurrence and when on duty as a church steward he frequently turned up on a Sunday after chapel with an extra mouth to feed. I was reminded to remember my table manners and to sit up straight etc, etc!



This week our theme comes from Genesis 18:1-8 and is on the theme of offering welcome to any strangers.

It was a very hot day and from the door of his tent Abraham catches sight of three strangers who are approaching in the far distance. He calls to his wife Sarah to prepare to make them welcome and at once she sprang to action. Abraham goes forward to greet the three and as was customary he washes their dusty feet and offers sustenance. (Here imagination must come to the fore as we are well aware that the killing and preparation of a calf would have taken quite a while, but we get the message.)

Having been well fed and watered the four men relax and Abraham relates his life story including the fact that his beloved Sarah is barren, having already passed the age of childbirth. "Not so" says one man. Sarah overhears this and has a good laugh "Just you wait and see" says another and with that they make their departure.

In less time than it takes to tell Sarah becomes pregnant and the rest we know is history – all of which makes it vital to offer your very best possible welcome to any strangers - you could well be entertaining some of God's great multitude of angels.

Blessings everyone.