**Sermon Notes – 26th May 2024**

**The Story of Genesis**

Andrew’s talk touched on several passages in Genesis including:

1. Genesis 1:1-4,26-31 The creation
2. Genesis 3:22-24 The banishment from the Garden of Eden
3. Genesis 12:1-7 The first giving of the promises to Abraham
4. Genesis 32:22-32 God meets with Jacob at the Jabbok river
5. Genesis 50:22-26 The death of Joseph
6. What passages or stories in Genesis do you tend to call to mind? Why? What is significant about them for you?
7. How do you understand the first 11 chapters of Genesis – the 7 days of creation, the Garden of Eden, Noah’s flood, the Tower of Babel? Are they ‘facts’, or stories with a basis in ‘facts’? Are they theological stories (i.e. they primarily explain something about God and his relationship to mankind)? What matters about what we believe about them?
8. God’s promises to Abraham hang on him having descendants. How do we understand the nature of God’s promises and plan in the light of verses such as Matthew 1:1?
9. The story of Jacob at the Jabbok (Genesis 32:22-32) is rich in images relating to a spiritual encounter. What particular words or phrases strike you in Jacob meeting with God ‘face to face’? How might we see the work of the Holy Spirit in this encounter?
10. Genesis ends with a great statement of faith but also a ‘coffin in Egypt’ (50:22-26). What point or points do you think are being made by the book ending in this way?
11. When God first meets with Moses at the burning bush, he describes himself as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob (Exodus 3:6) – in Christian eyes, the God of the father, and of the son and of the work of the Holy Spirit. How do you respond to this mysterious parallel given that it would have been entirely inconceivable when Genesis was written?