

# Living water



Georgina Byrne *reflects on* John 4:5-42

It is no accident that a passage about living water is, in itself, one of the most refreshing discussions in scripture. Living water is the free-flowing water of a natural stream – unbounded and uncontrollable. It contrasts with the water of the well, which is tamed and contained.

What we have here is a conversation that bubbles with life as it splashes back and forth. Jesus breaks out from the cultural boundaries by speaking to a woman who is also a Samaritan. She, refreshingly, banters back. The two of them then share such a profound exchange that, when the disciples return (and are duly astonished that Jesus is even speaking with her) the woman abandons her water jar in order to go and tell others about it.

This conversation is tremendously rich and layered, but it can serve simply to remind us that Jesus Christ, the living water, knows no limitations when he meets us. We cannot contain the living God in an ordered, Sunday-shaped well. Jesus can meet us at any time, in any situation – even in ordinary domestic moments.

The challenge is: are we, like the Samaritan woman, ready to be drawn into a deeper faith, even if it isn't neat or convenient? And are we, even at the risk of ridicule, ready to tell others about Jesus, with the joy of the living water overflowing from us? 🍷

**Jesus, living water – cleanse, refresh and heal me. Fill my heart with love and joy that bubbles up and overflows. And may your Church be awash with your life, worshipping you in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

## Three books of law *Part 3 – Deuteronomy*

by Gillian Cooper

Its name means “second law”; a reference to its place in the Old Testament story as a revision and expansion of the laws of Exodus. But the title is misleading. Deuteronomy is a book not about law, but about grace.

The Israelites have nearly made it. They can see their new home across the Jordan. But before they move in, they need to be reminded of who they are and how they got there. It has been a hard journey, and it has been possible only

because of God’s commitment to his promises.

Deuteronomy tells of a deal, a treaty, between God and his people. We call it a “covenant”. God promises to guide and protect the people; Israel promises to be loyal to the rules of the treaty that will make them the people God wants. Everyone wins. There are lots of rules, but they are sensible rules for creating a peaceful and prosperous society. And, importantly, they are only there because, before everything, God rescued his people from slavery. Grace came first: unearned, undeserved salvation. 🍷

“**During these forty days, let me put away all my pride. Let me change my heart and give up all that is not good within me. Let me love God with all that I am and all that I have.”**

David Griffiths (1792-1863), Welsh Christian missionary in Madagascar and translator

## A Lenten Camino

### *Part 4 – signs of promise and hope*

by Sr Janet Fearn

Pilgrims who undertake any one of the Camino routes are guided by signs which point out the way ahead. The seashell and arrow make sure that pilgrims do not follow false tracks and get lost. When the road is straight, some signs are further apart from each other. When the route is more complicated, perhaps at a crossroads, the signs are closer together. Sometimes they appear unexpectedly, perhaps on the side of a building or at the edge of a field.

The stone monuments indicate their distance from Compostela,

signs that the pilgrim’s efforts to reach the city are bearing fruit and the iconic shrine is closer than it was at the previous milestone. The seashell suggests many roads – and many pilgrims – converging towards a single focal point. These milestones are, therefore, signs of promise and hope.

What are some of the important signs of promise and hope in my life? Do I recognise them and, if so, how? Are there special moments when I know that I am heading in the right direction?

Sr Janet’s book, *A Lenten Camino*, is available from Redemptorist Publications as an e-book: [www.rpbooks.co.uk/-a-lenten-camino](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/-a-lenten-camino) 🍷



**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**

**8.30am BCP Communion**

**10am Holy Communion with Junior Church**  
**10am Preacher: Sophie Young from**  
**Cambridgeshire Churches Homelessness Project**

Do come and learn more about CCHP and its evolution since the pandemic.

#### **Collect**

Eternal God,  
give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **READINGS in pew bibles:**

**NT Romans 5: 1-11 (pp.143 in pew bible)**  
**Gospel John 4: 5-42 (p.88-89)**

#### **NEXT WEEK**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**8.30am BCP Communion**

**10am Third Sunday Service; Experience and Explore**

**6.30pm BCP Evening Prayer**

#### **CONTACTS**

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**Do visit our website [www.trumpington.church](http://www.trumpington.church) for links to Sunday services and resources.**

#### **Prayers**

*This week we pray for:*

Women and girls around the world facing oppression.

Pray that they may know kindness and safety, that the minds of oppressors will change, that women will have good opportunities in education, fair employment, accessible healthcare, happy marriage, and a voice, with the freedom to use it.

#### **CHURCH NOTICES**

##### **Bible Study**

Next Session Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March (1.30pm in the Bakehouse) and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March (7.30pm on Zoom). If you want to join a study group, please speak to Mandy or John Pettigrew who hosts a group on Tuesdays.

#### **Funerals in church**

John Smith - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1pm

Audrey Lilian King – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 10.30am

#### **Mother's Union Make a Mother's Day**

This year Mothers' Union is asking for "Gifts of Perseverance" to help empower women around the world and support their families. Our literacy and business skills training enable them to improve their families wellbeing and help pay for their children's education.

These gifts can be ordered online at [www.makeamothersday.org](http://www.makeamothersday.org) or by calling 020 7222 5533. Gifts start at £8 and can be for a family member or in memory of a loved one. A greetings card is sent to give or keep.

#### **Easter Lilies**

If you would like to purchase a Lily in memory of relative or friend for the Easter Day church decorations, please can you give the name of the person you are remembering and £3 to Edmund.

#### **Church & Churchyard Spring Clean**

We are holding a Spring Clean on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 09.30-12.30. There will be jobs for all ages. Please help us prepare our church and churchyard for Easter. A signing up sheet is at the Churchwarden's Desk or speak to Edmund.

#### **APCM**

Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> after the 10am service. Do stay and join us. We will be looking at the proposals for the re-imagining project. Natalie will be providing some activities for young persons in the South Chapel during the meeting.