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Weekly Letter – 8 March 2026

John 4:1-42

‘we have heard ourselves’

I think the story of Jesus and the Woman at the Well is our signature story as a Christ Well. It's too long to read the whole passage in chapel, but it's worth reading the whole story. In it we overhear conversations between Jesus and a Samaritan woman, between her and her neighbours, and between Jesus and his disciples. As is often the case in John's gospel, there are misunderstandings as the people involved are talking at different levels, but we can see what's happening, because we know who Jesus really is. As is also often the case in John's gospel, Jesus appears in the scene as a man and is revealed to be God.

So the scene opens with Jesus tired and thirsty. He asks for a drink, not hiding his human need, and the early part of the conversation is about the human differences between Jews and Samaritans. The well has a legend about the water rising up so that Jacob could feed his flocks, and Jesus offers the woman the water that gushes up to eternal life – the life giving, refreshing Spirit. The Samaritans relied on the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures – the Torah – so they were hoping for a Prophet like Moses, rather than a King like David. After saying that worshipping in Spirit and in Truth is more important than which mountain you worship on, Jesus says, 'I am he', echoing the name of God revealed to Moses – YHWH – 'I AM'.

The woman goes to tell her neighbours about Jesus, saying, 'Come and see' and Jesus talks to his disciples about the fields being ripe for harvest. The townspeople persuade Jesus to stay a couple of days and listen to his message. Then they say, 'We believe now, not because of what you said, but because we have heard ourselves.'

We could have focused in on other aspects of the story, which would have added a couple of paragraphs, but the thinking about the points we have noted, we see that it's a story about meeting people where they are, including people seen as outsiders, deepening conversations with them and pointing them to the life giving Spirit and worshipping God.

So, ponder where we meet people, how we might deepen conversations, and how we might point them to God revealed in Jesus and giving new life through the Spirit. Then truly the story of Jesus and the woman at the well will be our story too.

Simon

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling.

Bible Readings: John 4.18-26: Exodus 17.1-7.

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton

**Tuesday, 10th - Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – Tea and Chat's big plastic count
Crocheting demonstration**

Lent Connections – Tuesday 10th March, 7pm on Zoom

We will be considering Matthew 13:1-52, the parables of the Kingdom. You don't need to know a lot about the Bible to join the conversation. Sharing our experience of life and faith will help us on the journey through Lent.

Church Meeting – Tuesday 17th March, 7pm in the Lounge

This will be our AGM when we receive the accounts for 2025, give thanks for the work God is doing among us, and seek God's guidance for the future. If there are any issues you would like discussed, then please let Simon or one of the other Elders know.

DEEP AS THE WELL (Lectionary Readings: Exodus 17.1-7: Psalm 95: Romans 5.1-11: John 4.4-42)

God of life, we are thirsty people longing for water,
hungry for ones longing for bread, holding out our hands in prayer,
hoping to find you showering us with blessing and hope.

We come carrying the burden of life, the longing and desires of our bodies,
the thoughts and anxieties of our minds, the bare dry faith of parched souls.

Give us spiritual water from your deep well of love.
Pour out your blessing like rain upon our heads.
Drench us with living springs to fill our days with joy.

As water came from the rock at Horeb, and as living water springs from Jesus your Son,
break open our rocky hearts and quench our deepest thirsts.

God, deep as the well, clear as the water, sparkling as the spring we long for you today

Susan Durber (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

