

How to get at the water?

As I write this article, we have just experienced a week of very high temperatures, and the sun has been out in a cloudless sky for many days. Many people like this, but there are some that find it too much and need to find shade. Many animals do the same, they get warm and then they find the shade to cool down or stay cool. We are also given advice to keep hydrated, drink lots of water.

There is a time in the bible when Jesus is walking through a town, in the heat of the day and he is in need of a drink. Most people in the town, have retreated to a shady place to keep cool. Jesus doesn't he sits down by the well (no taps in those days) and is very thirsty. A woman comes up to the well to draw water for her household, she is by herself. At this time it was customary for the women of the village to go to the well first thing in the morning, not in the middle of the day. The women would have had a good chat about things while they were at the well.

This woman is a Samaritan woman, not accepted by the other women in the town and also she was not married to the man she was living with, this was against the teaching and expected behaviour of the day. She is surprised when Jesus speaks to her, asking for some water. Jesus was a Jew, and Jew's did not speak to Samaritan people. Also, Jesus went on to tell her about her life and how she needed to change her ways.

Jesus refers to water that is available that is living water, this is not the physical water that is drawn from the well to be drunk or used for washing. This water is the very special life-giving Holy Water that comes from God, the Holy Spirit. This water does not quench the physical thirst that we have as humans, but it does quench the spiritual thirst that we have as Christians.

As humans, we need to look after our earthly bodies and as Christians we need to make sure that we are regularly topped up with the Holy Spirit, the life-giving waters from God. We do this by meeting with other Christians, by worshiping together, by asking questions and by praying.

The account that I referred to in this article can be found in the bible in John's gospel, chapter 4 starting at verse 1. If you would like to know more about the life-giving water that is available from God, we will be pleased to welcome you to our services and events at Stanground Baptist Church. We are at the corner of South Street and Chapel Street, please see our website for more details www.stangroundbaptistchurch.org.uk

