



I am sure many of you have seen the horrifying TV adverts showing areas of the world where there is only filthy contaminated water to drink and cook with. At St Mark's we have been giving to Water Aid for a couple of years now. You may have seen the Toilet Twinning pictures in our toilets.



I can't bear dirty loos and as I get older and frequent them more I increasingly appreciate living in the affluent West!!!! Gill Keens has challenged us to join WaterAid for their Lent giving scheme 'Jars of Change' and so we are talking about it today and will do in church on Sunday 10th.

Jesus talked about water and used it as a metaphor - indeed images of water pervade the Bible and especially the Gospel stories, water symbolising chaos, rebirth, and new life. Jesus himself was baptized in water, calmed a storm, walked on water, and turned water into wine. He even said he could give "living water gushing up to eternal life." Brought up in church, I would often sing:

I'm feeding on the living bread, I am drinking at the fountain head,
and whoso drinketh, Jesus said, Shall never, never thirst again.
What, never thirst again? No, never thirst again,
What never thirst again? No, never thirst again,
And whoso drinketh, Jesus said, Shall never, never thirst again.

As a child, I didn't understand it at all, but it had a good tune! I will leave the bread image for now and stick to the water metaphor. Living water is running water, likely to be fresh and clean, bringing life. Not stale, stagnant water breeding all sorts of nasties (like we see on those TV adverts!) But Jesus was using an earthly image to talk about something heavenly, eternal, spiritual. He, as the world's Saviour or rescuer, can wash away all the stagnant mess in our lives that is actually killing us, or rather, not allowing us to be the best that we can be and he can bubble up a new fresh way of being. Jesus came to tell them, and us, that God wants to recreate a whole new world, the one we sometimes describe as the kingdom of God. And our world needs to be washed clean!!! We may not be in the same kind of mess that the Samaritan woman was in, but we are all in a mess for a variety of reasons, and at different times/seasons of our lives this becomes more or less obvious to us. Jesus is saying, "Come to me, and I can wash that mess away and give you fresh life giving water".

These things are hard to write and explain. Here at St. Mark's we do not profess to have all the answers to life's questions or struggles but many of us have found that faith in this life-giving God is the way we want to live. Please feel free to talk to us about anything we say, write or do that puzzles or confuses you. We have likely been puzzled or challenged by it too!

Diary dates

Sundays at St. Mark's: We now offer a crèche for small children and a very short teaching class for school age children whilst the service is on. We encourage parents to be in the service whilst we care for the children. Please speak to me or email me if you are interested and want to know more. Liz T

Mothering Sunday March 31st - join us here at 10 for a special service to celebrate mums. There will be cake on sale too!

Tattenhams Market - April 6th from 10 until 1pm.

There are a variety of stalls selling crafts and gifts, or just come and enjoy the community atmosphere whilst eating and drinking in a great coffee shop!

Community Cinema Sunday March 10th and 24th at 7.30 pm. We are not allowed to advertise the name of the films so email cinema@stmarkschurch.me.uk to find out more.

Messy Munchkins continues to be great fun each Tuesday morning from 9 until 10:30. It is for pre-schoolers and their carers and involves some mess! It is £2 a session. Speak or email me if you want to know more (Liz)

Please check our website stmarkschurch.me.uk for all other events especially as we enter Lent and approach Easter

Next **Messy Church**

Tuesday April 2nd at 3.30 pm

and on **Good Friday** morning **April 19th** : 10am-12

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk> Please bring back your 'Jar of change' to May's Messy Church. Thank you

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