

Gospel Reading (Continued)

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. ³⁸I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.' ³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I've ever done.' ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴²They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.'

Notices**Lent Course**

It is not too late if you are interested in attending the Lent Study Group this year. Please speak to Revd. David. The course we are following is one from 'Embrace the Middle East', a Christian charity with over 160 years' experience helping people of all faiths, and none, to free themselves from a life of poverty and injustice. Together with local Christian communities they are bringing lasting change to the Middle East through healthcare, education and community development projects.

The Lent Course is called "Journey to the cross".

There are six sessions on Monday evenings during Lent. The second one is tomorrow evening, March 16th, then 23rd, 30th, and then both Monday 6th April and Wednesday 8th April in Holy Week. The sessions look at the people Jesus met during his ministry, the stories of those who live in the Middle East today and the challenges they face, and our own lives and the people we encounter. It is being held at the Vicarage and the sessions will run from 7 - 9pm.

Dates for Your Diary

Mon 16th March	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Sun 22nd March		Mothering Sunday
Mon 23rd March	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Mon 30th March	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Fri 3rd April	7.30pm	APCM, Church Hall
Sat. 4th April	7.30pm	Easter Beetle Drive
Mon 6th April	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Weds 8th April	7pm	Lent Course at The Vicarage
Friday 10th April		Good Friday
Sat. 11th April	4pm	Messy Church at Southway
Sunday 12th April		Easter Sunday
Saturday 25th April		Church Yard Tidy Up Day
Wed 6th May	6pm	Carnival Concert in church
Sat 9th May	2 – 4pm	Church Open with Stewards
Sat 9th May		May Carnival
Sun 10th May	10am	Carnival Service

Gospel Reading **John 4: 5 – 42**

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?' ¹³ Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶ He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.' ¹⁷ 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.' ¹⁹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ 'Woman,' Jesus replied, 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.' ²⁵ The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.' ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.' ²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?' ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?' ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way towards him. ³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?' ³⁴ 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"?'

(Continued overleaf)