

### Phil's Picture Posts 3: Water of life



Somerset, 2007

The Holy Well at Charlecombe, which I visited during a sabbatical break, is situated next to the Norman Church. The significance of the well as a holy place probably predates the building of the church. The stone depicts the baptism of Christ and the water is still used in the conduct of baptisms.

Paris, 2007

Despite the backdrop of the Louvre, and the association of fountains with neo-classical design and landscaping, the 'Fountain of the Pyramid' is a surprisingly recent (late twentieth century) addition to the architecture of Paris. There is a fascination which draws eye and ear to the sounds and movements of the dancing waters. As a feature of city life, fountains add a vibrancy and attraction to the urban scene – consider the fountains in the City Park in Bradford. The words 'font' and 'fountain' are closely related, both are symbolic of the gift of life: 'For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light' (Psalm 36.9).





Malham, 2009

Water has played a key role in shaping the limestone landscape of Malhamdale over millions of years. There is no longer a waterfall at Malham Cove – the river has long ago sunk under the ground - but the much smaller falls of Janet’s Foss still show the power of the flowing water as it journeys on downstream. Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4) resulted in a conversation about ‘living’ water, which would not only have brought to mind the refreshing quality of the moving waters of a stream, but also the life-giving quality of the Good News that Jesus sought to share with those he met.

South Island, New Zealand, 2017

'He leads me beside still waters' (Psalm 23.2).

We came across this scene whilst walking around the glaciers of the West Coast. The still waters of Peter's Pool offer a peaceful reflection of the majestic, snow-capped, Southern Alps.



**To think about:** What does the phrase 'water of life' say to you? What is the connection between our physical and spiritual needs?

**Next time:** Flora