

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Mothering Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)
27th March 2022

**Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father through him.**

For many of us, Mothering Sunday is a day of joy and celebration; a time to spoil our mothers or to recall treasured memories of them. It is a time when we honour both our own mothers and our 'Mother Church.' Traditions date back to the Middle Ages when, on the fourth Sunday in Lent, people returned to the church of their baptism, and farm workers and girls in service were given the day off to visit their mothers. It offered a welcome break from the fasting of Lent and is sometimes referred to as 'Refreshment Sunday.'

Sadly, for some, it can also be a day of pain, grief, guilt or regret. And, during these dangerous and uncertain times, we remember families torn apart or separated by war, and the millions of displaced people throughout the world. Some of the most harrowing images of recent days include the bombed maternity hospital in Mariupol and the hundred or so empty pushchairs lined up in the centre of Lviv, each one representing a child killed by the Russian war. It is hard to comprehend the evil that leads to such suffering.

On a more positive note, the clocks go forward next Sunday, as we welcome British Summer Time and we look forward to the longer, warmer days of Spring and the promise of new life that they bring. Unfortunately, we are still in the grip of a pandemic which shows no sign of abating, so please exercise caution despite the lifting of legal restrictions. We have many vulnerable people in the congregation so please don't attend church if you are experiencing any symptoms, and if you have tested positive, please wait until you have two consecutive negative tests before returning. Jane & Brian

Mothering Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent) (27th March 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Reader: Roger Edmonston

9.45 Family Eucharist (in church and online)

Celebrant & Preacher Fr. Stephen Cople; Reader: Jocelyn Bentley; Intercessor: Philip Richings

12.00 Holy Baptism Zara Florence Redfern Howells

1.00 Holy Baptism Arthur Hugh Eustace

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) (in church & online)

Readings: Isaiah 49: 8-15; John 5: 17-30

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) (in church & online)

Readings: Exodus 32: 7-14; John 5: 31-end

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Fourth Sunday of Lent (in church)

Next Sunday: The Fifth Sunday of Lent (3rd April 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Family Eucharist (in church and online)

11.00 Family Praise

6.00 Choral Evensong (in church and online)

For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The Collect for Mothering Sunday of Lent

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Exodus 2: 1-10 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Colossians 3: 12-17 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 19: 25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

A thought

Gentle, Patient God – thank you for your tender care.
 Today we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering across the world.
 Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms.
As one whom a mother comforts, so I will comfort you – Isaiah 66:13.

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.
 Isaiah also wrote that God will never forget us and that he knows each one of us just as a mother knows her own children.

Can a woman forget her baby at her breast, feel no pity for the child she has borne? Even if these were to forget, I shall not forget you. Isaiah 49:15

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.
 David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace, trusting his God like a child safe in its mother's arms.
No I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a child in its mothers' arms. Psalm 131:2

Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.
 Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us like a mother-hen gathering her chicks under her wings.

How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings... Matthew 23:37
 Gentle, patient God – thank you for you for your tender care.

We pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a time of heartache rather than celebration.
 Loving Father, We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died.
 Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children.
 Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives. Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother.
 Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

May they have the comfort of knowing that your love for them is constant, your understanding is perfect, your compassion is never ending.



A Parish Prayer
God of all compassion, your love never fails. Help us to listen to the tranquillity of your presence within our lives, so that we may grow in the knowledge that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us, and your Holy Spirit comforts us at the heart of our being; for you are One God,

Please remember those for whom we pray:
Immediate need: Barbara Booth, John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows , Carol Cox, Martin Packham, Val Thompson , Maureen Prett, Ralph Wilkins
Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, David Davidson, Maureen Griffiths,
Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Keith Thompson,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Fiona Murray
In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 27th Joan Wampach, 28th Peggy Small, Ethel Riddle, Anne Atkinson, 30th Kathleen Turner, Ken Sutton, Stanley Hallett, Mary Williams, Vera Platt, David Bedding, 31st Iris Buttery, Jack Coomber, Joshua Morgan, Peter Burgess, 1st Kit Beattie, Veronica Mayo, Carol Brown, Molly Lawrence, 2nd William Moore