

## **Notices**

I very much hope that you will be able to join us for our Mothering Sunday service this Sunday at 10:30am on Zoom. If you would like me to add a few short words or a poem about your mother, please do get in touch.

To join the Zoom meeting, click the link below and enter the passcode when requested:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82326205297?pwd=WTdWYTBD5W9oS0dISW0yWlUzUk8wQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 2620 5297      Passcode: vJa0hW (NB it's a zero not the letter O!)

Further details of other resources for Lent and other church services online can be found on the Leam Valley Benefice website [www.leamvalleychurches.co.uk](http://www.leamvalleychurches.co.uk)

Please do ring me anytime if I can provide any support or help; 01788 810372, 07808 137550 or [barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk](mailto:barbaraclutton@gilberthouse.co.uk)

With my love and prayers for you all,  
Barbara

### *John ch. 19 vv. 25-26*

*Jesus' mother stood near the cross. So did his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.*

*Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby.*

*Jesus said to his mother. "Dear woman, here is your son."*

*He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."*

*From that time the disciple took her into his home.*

## **Mothering Sunday**

This Sunday (the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent) in the church's calendar when we celebrate Mothering Sunday which has its origins in the 18<sup>th</sup>. Century.

So it's far older than "Mother's Day" which has its roots in America, when in 1907 a lady called Anna Jarvis held a memorial service for her mother. Since then Mother's Day has been celebrated in America on the second Sunday in May.

Traditionally in the 18<sup>th</sup>. Century in England domestic servants were given the fourth Sunday of Lent off so they could go home to visit their mothers and families. When they went back to their homes they would also visit the parish church where they lived which became known as their "mother church"

So it was these annual visits to the mother church that brought families together, so originally Mothering Sunday was a day of religious observance.

These days however it is often seen as a commercial opportunity – I have even seen cards from pets to their “mothers”

The bible reading from John tells us just how much Jesus cared for his mother – almost his last words on the cross were to ensure his mother would be taken care of by his loyal friend.

Not all of us can be birth mothers, but each one of us has had a mother.

Mothering comes in many different ways for instance; Step mother, God mother, Adoptive mother, Foster mother, Surrogate mother. Mother in law, and many more.

We also need to be aware of those who can find Mothering Sunday a difficult day, those who have lost children, those who are unable to bear children, those who have difficult memories of their mother.

We ask God to care for each one of them.

Mothering is a gift from God – to some extent we are all mothered by somebody who cares for us, and each one of us (male or female) can act as a mother to somebody when we care for and pray for them.

*A prayer for Mothering Sunday*

*Thank you Lord, for our mothers. We remember today their loving care and their ceaseless love for us. May we show them by our words and our actions that we love them and care for them.*

*Father we thank you for the family of the church. May they know your blessing and strength as they care for others.*

*Barbara Clutton*

*March 2021*