

ONE CAN TRUST

We are pleased to confirm that Caroline has reinstated the One Can donation box outside the Church so that we can resume making our gifts to this worthy cause. Caroline will continue to take what has been collected on our behalf and deliver it to the main collection centre. Thanks very much to everyone who continues to support this cause.

This Week you are Asked to Pray For:

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King, Jenny King, Beryl Palmer and Sally Zeybek.
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. And for their families at this difficult time.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For our own country where infection rates are still high, and the health services as they work to cope with the large number of hospital cases.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

ST. MARY'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Don't forget the Lent challenge to read the daily thoughts which are published by St Mary's every day except Sunday on their Facebook page. Written by clergy and members of the leadership team, the reflections are inspirational and thought provoking. To access the thoughts, click on the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysrisborough/>.

Scroll down for previous days' thoughts. Alternatively, the thoughts can be seen on the righthand side of the St Mary's website (stmarysrisborough.org.uk) home page under 'Thought for the Day'. You can also click on the blue f symbol at the top of the home page to access the Facebook page.

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 14th March 2021
MOTHERING SUNDAY

FOCUS ON... MOTHERING SUNDAY

In our Church calendar the Fourth Sunday of Lent is also known as "Mothering Sunday". In contrast, in the USA, "Mothers Day" takes place on the second Sunday of May. In the early part of the 20th Century an American woman called Anna Jarvis, following the death of her own Mother in 1906, successfully lobbied the President of the USA for a national special day for Mothers. Mothering Sunday in this country has entirely different and much more ancient origins; and celebrates the concept of Mothering in a much wider sense. Originally, in fact, Mothering Sunday referred to the Church, and indirectly to God as Mother of us all. And by long tradition, it has long been a day to think of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. On Mothering Sunday, as a Lenten observance, Christians were required to worship at their "mother" Church, the place of their Baptism. This custom was especially significant at a time when children were sent away to work, perhaps in service, or as maidservants, or as farm labourers. For Mothering Sunday, they were allowed home to spend the day with their families. On their journey home, they would pick wild spring flowers to present to their Mothers. So here we have the origins of the long-standing Church custom of children presenting flowers to their Mothers. In fact, inspired by Anna Jarvis's efforts, Constance Adelaide Smith revived and reinvigorated the observance of Mothering Sunday in this country in 1913 in order to honour "Mother Church, mothers of earthly homes, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Mother Nature". On Mothering Sunday, then, we give thanks for the parental care of a loving God. And we commit ourselves once again to sharing that love with others, within our own circle of family and friends, and beyond. In this we fulfil the Law of Christ: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength; Love your neighbour as yourself..

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY

9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

England remains in a third National Lockdown. Fresh Guidance issued by the Bishop of Oxford is that it is expected, providing the progressive reduction in lockdown measures over the next few months continues as planned, that there can be a return to in-person public worship in step 3 of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. Unless the government guidance changes, this is due to be from 17th May onwards. We will need to wait to see if anything further comes in the next week or so. The previous PCC decision that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present continues and the other churches in the Risborough Team are following suit.

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the present). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

COLLECT FOR THE MOTHERING SUNDAY

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.



READINGS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Exodus Ch. 2 VV. 1 – 10
Colossians Ch. 3 VV. 12 – 17

Luke Ch. 2 VV. 33 – 35

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK (THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY GRAHAM KING)



Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous. Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us, Amen.

[A prayer from Anselm (1109)]

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

MORNING WORSHIP ON MOTHERING SUNDAY / THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be broadcast from St. John's. It will be led by Canon Tony with assistance from Graham King. The service will start at 10:00 am GMT. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: Mothering Sunday from St. John's
Time: Mar 14, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86205650105?pwd=TFY0aDZLcKpVaStTL2JHQmxYdjdMUT09>

Meeting ID: 862 0565 0105
Passcode: 402334

(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes.)



THE ST. JOHN'S LENTEN FRONTAL

This Sunday we move clockwise around the Lenten Array Altar Frontal and look at the second group of symbols relating to Jesus' journey to the Cross. This is rather more gruesome than the first, a pair of crossed multi corded whips. If you look carefully, each cord has knots tied in it, which were aimed to make the damage caused by the flogging worse.

The pair of whips is the second of the five groups sequentially in the Passion Storey and relate to when Jesus was brought before Pilate and he offered to release either Jesus or the criminal Barabbas. After the crowd called for Jesus to be crucified, Pilate ordered that Jesus should be flogged before being handed over to be crucified (Mark Ch. 15 VV. 15).

