



This week's service

Sunday 10th March 2024

This week's reading



Today's Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday is led by Sean O'Toole



Genesis 27:1-10

A thought from Sean

Today is one of mixed emotions for many. The commercial elements of selling cards, flowers, chocolates and gifts are far removed from the starting point of this special day when most children would have picked wild or garden flowers for their mums in order to show their love. For some, today is one on which to remember happy times and to give thanks, for others it may be a time to forget or to grieve. Whatever your feelings are today, remember to give thanks for the women in your life, mums, sisters, nieces, aunts, Grandmas and Godmothers, and all those that are part of our congregation of worshippers. Pray for God's blessings on each one.



Prayer for the week

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.
Amen

Mothering Sunday, what are its origins in the Church?

Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, countries around the world celebrate Mothering Sunday. This typically involves lavishing Mums with gifts and attention and celebrating the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives.

But with the day becoming increasingly commercialised, how many people are aware of its very different origins?

Here are some of the traditions that have shaped Mothering Sunday into the celebration recognised today:

The Journey to the Mother Church

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many.

A day off to visit Mother

Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family focussed occasion. Before the days of cars and roads, family get-togethers were far more rare, (and facetime was still a long way off). In some ways this tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on mothering Sunday.

Continued overleaf . . .

Church diary for the next month

Thursday 14th March

10:30 Coffee and Conversation
at Goseley Community Centre

Sunday 17th March

10:00 Minster Service
at Emmanuel Church

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

10:45 Morning Worship
with Debbie Patrick

Wednesday 27th March

6.45pm PCC meeting
at Emmanuel Church Hall

Good Friday 29th March

Swadlincote Walk of Witness

Sunday 31st March

6am Easter Dawn Service
in Gresley Church's Churchyard
10:45 Easter Sunday Service
with Rev Patrick Douglas

Cleaning Rota

Please clean the church before the date marked.

Please swap with someone else on the rota if you cannot clean during your week.

The toilets will be cleaned weekly by Sean & Sandra

17 th Mar	Christine
24 th Mar	Deb P
31 st Mar	Jane
7 th Apr	Bill
14 th Apr	Brian Redfern
21 st Apr	Val & Andrew
28 th Apr	Christine

Refreshments Rota

It's a real blessing to be able to spend time chatting with one another after the service. We have a rota for serving tea & coffee.

Please swap with someone if you cannot do a particular date.

Please bring the milk. Thank you

10 th Mar	Maxine & Jane
17 th Mar	Christine
24 th Mar	Deb W & Alicia
31 st Mar	Carol
7 th Apr	James
14 th Apr	Maxine & Jane
21 st Apr	Christine
28 th Apr	Deb W & Alicia

Simnel Cake

Simnel cake has a strong affiliation to Mothering Sunday as it is usually associated with spring and Easter. It resembles a Christmas fruit cake but should be slightly lighter in texture. The other difference is the two layers of marzipan. Simnel cake should have a layer of marzipan running through the middle like a victoria sponge and then another layer of marzipan on the top. Traditionally, you should also roll some marzipan into eleven eggs and place these on the top. The eggs are supposed to symbolise the disciples who followed Jesus – note that Judas is excluded. Mothering Sunday falls in the middle of Lent and it was traditional for people to relax their fasting on this day - hence making the cake.

Traditions today

This Sunday, churches around the country will be sharing their own traditions, celebrating and giving thanks to the huge impact mothers have on each of our lives. The main service on Mothering Sunday in churches across the country is central to the life of the church.

The church recognises that the day may be difficult for some people and so it is common place for services to include prayers for those who don't find the day particularly easy.

Families across the country will be preparing little presents and cards and in some churches flowers are blessed and handed out during the main service.

Spring clean and recycle for Alzheimer's Society

If you're having a spring clean, please remember that Gwen is collecting a range of items to send off to raise funds for Alzheimer's Society. These include:

- **Gadgets - mobile phones, iPods, satnavs, games consoles, games, tablets, cameras and video cameras**
- **Jewellery - gold, silver, costume jewellery, watches, broken and damaged items (like odd earrings or snapped chains)**
- **Unwanted currency - old and new, UK and foreign banknotes & coins; including all the pre Euro notes which are now worthless**
- **Stamps - loose/single used stamps, albums, first day covers/presentation packs, collections**

Have a word with Gwen if you can help.

Thank you

