

News from St Thomas Church: Week commencing the 14th March 2021

Mothering Sunday



Happy Mothering Sunday to *everyone...*

This Sunday comes as a welcome relief during the weeks of Lent. A time to celebrate and give thanks for our Mother God and also all the many people that have mothered us. All the people who have encouraged and nurtured us. Picked us up when we have fallen. This can also be a sad and painful day for many people to. Today I give thanks for all who are mothers, and all who mother in some way and the blessings they bring. I praise God that we were made in His image, with 'mother-like' qualities. May we all know God's mother-like love. Amen.

all my best wishes,

Tracy.x

Bible readings for Sunday the 14th March 2021

1st reading: *Exodus 2.1-10*

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. **3** 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. **4** His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 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. **6** 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. **7** 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?” **8** Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. **9** 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. **10** 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.”

2nd reading: *Luke 2.33-35*

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed **35** so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Collect for Mothering Sunday

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.

Notices...

Our services from Monday to Friday are at 10.00am for Morning Prayer and at 7.00pm for Compline,. Both can be found on our Youtube channel 'Worship from St Thomas'. Below is the URL link to access 'Worship from St Thomas'

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUI_VQEoL1RHcxOIXq8DmhA?view_as=subscriber

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10.00am for a Zoom Worship service Click on the link below and it will take you straight there;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86792362778>

Please do share the zoom link with family, friends, neighbours ...in fact anyone really...

If you don't have a computer, but would value joining in the 10.00am services— you can just pick up the phone and there you are!

Here's how to do it:

Dial **0203 481 5237** and when asked give the log on for the service which is **867 9236 2778#**.

Then when prompted, enter # again in place of password (which is embedded in the above code). That's it! The zoom master will let you in and welcome you.

Our church is open for private prayer and reflection everyday during daylight hours. Maybe light a candle in prayer... or just sit and listen to the music...

Prayer resources are also available in church for you to use at home.

Coming soon...

Details of services during Holy Week see website for details

Prayer booklet specially for Holy Week see website for details. Hard copies will be available in church from the 21st March 2021.

FINDING GOD IN NATURE
Get Outside in Lent
WEEK 1 - TREES



Isaiah 55:12 You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands!

Welcome to "Get Outside in Lent." Each week there will be six ideas for things to do outside and a celebration suggestion - because even in lent Sunday is a celebration day! Pick and choose what you would like to do. Change it and make it your own if you want to, or just do what it says. More than anything, enjoy being outside, take time to connect with nature, with anyone else you might be sharing this with, and with the something outside yourself that Christians would call God.

- 1 Hug a tree. Remind yourself that God made this tree and he loves it just as he loves you.
- 2 Find an evergreen tree. How would you describe the green of this tree? Be imaginative.
- 3 Find a tree with no leaves on it yet. Can you see buds where the leaves will form?
- 4 See if you can find a tree with catkins on it.
- 5 Take a long view and see if you can tell trees apart by their shape and the sort of pattern that their branches make. (You don't need to know what they are, just spot the difference.)
- 6 Take a few minutes (or longer if you like) to sit under the tree. Lean your back against it and see if the experience speaks to you in any way.

Booklets available to read during Lent:

This booklet is free! There are some great ideas to do for all ages. If you would like a pdf copy of this booklet please email Revd Tracy on tracyward6@icloud.com. If you are out for a walk why not pop into church and pick up a copy. There are hard copies printed off for you to collect in church.



Through the Window

Connecting with creation through Lent even when you can't get outside.

Through the Window

At the moment, because of growing awareness of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss society is becoming much more aware of and focused on the natural world. For many people this has included getting outside more, and this is a good thing, but not everyone is able to get outside easily or even at all.

"Through the Window" is a series of ideas for connecting with creation for people who are unable to get outside easily. There is one idea for each week and although they don't actively mention Lent, they are springtime orientated, gently Christian and so hopefully could be used through Lent with people who have no specific connection with the church as well as those who do.

These can be used by people who can get outside, by those who cannot but have a window to look out of, by those who have internet access, and by those who have nothing but the sheet on which these pictures and words are printed.

This booklet is also free! If you find you are unable to get outside for any reason this little booklet is full of ideas to help you connect with creation through your window. If you would like a pdf copy of this booklet please email Revd Tracy on tracyward6@icloud.com. If you are out for a walk why not pop into church and pick up a copy for somebody you know who might like a copy.

Looking ahead ...

Please do join us next Sunday. It is the start of Passiontide and we will be welcoming Revd Steven Benson who will joining us at 10.00am on Zoom will be preaching on the passages listed below.

Readings to ponder over this coming week...

1st reading: *Jeremiah 31.31-34*

2nd reading: *John 12.20-33*

All my best wishes to you and yours,

Revd Tracy