

## For the Communities Surrounding

St John's Charfield

St Giles Hillesley

St Mary's Kingswood

Holy Trinity Rangeworthy

Holy Trinity Wickwar



## Mothering Sunday

Some thoughts, prayers and readings  
to enable us to 'be' church wherever we are.

**Public Worship is suspended for a while but our churches remain open for private prayer and reflection.**

The word church comes from a Greek word: *Ecclesia*, which means a gathering of people. For the Greeks, and us, that gathering is usually a physical one, in one place, and with each other.

During the Corona virus outbreak we need to gather in different ways,

By phone

By social media

By prayer

In conversation,

albeit at a safe distance.



We can't replace the Church service but we can still engage with God, with each other and with our faith story. We hope you find this Sunday sheet helpful.

**We will attempt to produce one each week.**

*You may wish to light a candle or a night light to realise the light of Christ, the light of hope and the light of faith.*

A verse from scripture for Mothering Sunday.

**Jesus said: "How often I have wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings" (Matthew 23:37)**

An opening prayer

**We come to God who gathers us in.**

**We come to God who redeems us from trouble**

**We come to God who heals our distress**

**We come to God who longs to draw near to us.**

**We come to God who sees us as we are, and loves us anyway**

A Song

**Bind us together Lord, bind us together, with chords that cannot be broken.**

**Bind us together Lord, bind us together, O bind us together with love**

There is only one God, there is only one King, there is only one body that is why we sing. **Bind us ...**

You are the family of God, you are the promise divine,  
you are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. **Bind us ...**

## Some readings for Mothering Sunday

**Exodus 2.1-10**

**Birth of Moses**

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.'

**John 19.25-27**

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.

## In prayer we give thanks for mothering and for mothers ...

*Especially for those who have mothered us and are present still in our lives, enthusing us, guiding us, supporting us, or in our memory and thanksgivings.*

**We pray for those who grieve their loss, especially recently.**

**We pray for all those coping with and managing the effects of the Corona virus.**

**We ask for healing and comfort for all.**

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 our Lord, AMEN

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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