



Connection

Sunday 14th March 2021
Mothering Sunday



View from a Vicarage

Hello and welcome to this week's edition of the Bredon Hill Connection. It is good to be back and writing this message after my recent absence having recently tested positive for Covid. I would like to thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes whilst Bob and I went through this horrible illness and I am pleased to say we are now much improved.

We were so grateful and impressed with all the people of the NHS and Track and Trace System, many of whom were volunteers, who kept in regular contact with us to make sure we were coping, and it was a rare insight into the amazing resources which have been put into tackling this pandemic; For alongside the vaccination program which continues apace, Bob and I witnessed just how much we have to be thankful for in this country, and it is so good that Britain, along with other more affluent countries of the world, are now seeking to ensure poorer countries also have access to vaccines against the Virus, thereby addressing the imbalance of resources across the world.

For we are all brothers and sisters in Christ; And this weekend, many of us will be focusing on our families, especially ladies in our lives who have been a significant support and influence, as we celebrate Mothering Sunday. This will be the second Mothering Sunday which we have celebrated in a Lockdown, as it was at the time of Mothering Sunday last year, although a week later, that we went into the first Lockdown of the pandemic.

And what a twelve months' it has been! Once again, many of us will not be able to celebrate Mothering Sunday with family and those we love; Some of us may sadly have lost our mothers during this time, and some may be mourning the length of time since we have been able to give our mothers, grandmothers, aunties, sisters, and even daughters, a hug to show how much they mean to us. Yet for many of us, we can give thanks that despite not being able to be with those we love, we are able to show them we are thinking of them by sending send cards and gifts through the post, speaking to them via telephones and of course linking up with them visually over Face Time and Zoom, enabling us to see them, albeit over a screen.

Perhaps more than anything this pandemic has shown us that we should never miss an opportunity to tell our family and friends how much we love them, and what a difference they make to our lives. I for one cannot wait to give my mother a hug who I have not seen physically since last July, and like many are now counting the days till restrictions lift and we can meet up.



And I have been reminded this week by the story of the Prodigal Son, who after leaving his father and squandering his inheritance, hits hard times, such that he is forced to work as a hired hand on a farm to pay for enough food to live in. However, such was the pittance he was paid that he decides to go back to his father, cap in hand, and ask for forgiveness and to be allowed to go back home.

Of course, the beauty of this story is that the Father, who as soon as he sees his Son from a distance, runs as fast as he can, and on reaching him embraces him as the long lost child that he is, so grateful that he can once again hold his beloved child in his arms; And we know that just as this may be our reaction when we get to see our families again, how much greater will be the reaction of our Heavenly Father, when we are welcomed into his divine presence and go home.

Mothering Sunday is the mid-point in our journey through Lent, and as we celebrate and give thanks today for those who have loved and nurtured us through our lives, we are aware that our eyes will now start turning towards the ultimate act of love and sacrifice, that of Christ as He submits to death on a cross; And on Good Friday, we shall of course see the Son holding out his arms in obedience to the will of Father.

Yet, three days after Good Friday, we will turn our attentions to an empty tomb, knowing that Jesus had risen; His victory over death will be complete and He too will return to reclaim his rightful place alongside His father in heaven.

The end to our time in Lockdowns is hopefully looming ever closer, and we know that as restrictions start gradually to be lifted, we shall once again be restored to those we love. As such, we look forward to celebrating Easter Sunday, by using this most special of days to return for a day of physical worship in four of our churches across the Hill. To this end it has been agreed that we will hold Holy Communion services on Easter Sunday at 10.30am at St. John the Baptist, Beckford, St. Mary's, Elmley Castle, Holy Trinity in Eckington and St. Giles in Bredon. Anyone wishing to attend these services will need to contact their churchwarden or Alison Khan to book a place and help ensure we can safely accommodate all those who wish to attend.

We also intend to hold a 10.30am Zoom service of Readings, Hymns and Silent Meditation on Good Friday, and many of the local churches will be open for private prayer both on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Further details of all Easter activities will be published in future editions of the Connection and the Elmley Castle Link News.

So, may I wish everyone a very happy Mothering Sunday, and especially to all the ladies within our communities; May you know you much you are loved and valued by not just your family and friends, but most especially, and most beautifully, by God Himself.

May God bless you all in the week ahead.

Allison

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

Service of Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday



Collect

God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ lived in a family in Nazareth:
Grant that in our families on earth
we may so learn to love and to live together that we may rejoice as
one family in your heavenly home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Exodus 2: 1-10

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 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."

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 19: 25-27

Meanwhile, 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.

Post Communion Prayer

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymns

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Over and around us lies

'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r
Sun and Moon and stars of light
Sun and Moon and stars of light

'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love (For the joy of love)
Brother, sister, parent, child (Brother, sister, parent, child)
Friends on earth (Friends on earth) and friends above (And friends above)
For all gentle thoughts and mild (For all gentle thoughts and mild)
For all gentle thoughts and mild

'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn (Our joyful hymn) of praise (Of praise)

For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human (Given) and divine (Human and divine)
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n

'Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our joyful hymn (Our joyful hymn) of praise
(This our joyful hymn) Our hymn of praise





1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could
destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the
day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and
the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of
the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to
embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the
day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is
balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the
day.



1 Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
You are one with us,
Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin.
Pouring Your love and goodness in.
Jesus our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one with us,
Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus help us see
You are Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you
Live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.



Prayers for Sunday 14th March by Lynette Mantle

Hello God,

Today is Mothering Sunday and I would like to ponder on “What is a Mother?” This is a mother and father with their daughter. Of course, most people will not think of chickens so maybe my next picture is more real to everyone.



A mother, father, and grandfather.
Maybe not, how about a mother, father, and child.

I think mothers are everywhere even though they may not have children of their own but many women and men provide a mothering role during their lives.

Thank you God for mothers in all their guises. Thank you God for our mother church where we receive peace, solace, quiet.

Thank you for teachers, male and female, who substitute for our mothers in school and college.

Most of us give thanks for our own mothers who gave us life. If that person is absent we give thanks for the person who filled the role; maybe grandmother, father, aunt, neighbour even great grandmother, perhaps stepmother or older sibling. Thank you God.



Mothers and mother figures nurture and encourage; they care; they educate, feed and clothe us; they are role models and may take the dress of youth or sports leaders; for people who have disabilities the mother figure may be a nurse or carer and later in life, when roles are reversed, our children may become our mother figure providing care and nurture, food and clothing.

The cockerel drives off predators caring for his mate and daughter.

The father provides care for his wife who is disabled.

The grandfather, now great grandfather, makes delightful toys for his great grandchild- next picture.

The parents both provide for their child.

Our mother church provides a peaceful and welcoming place for us all.

We all provide for the welfare of the little chickens.

God we thank you for everyone providing a mothering role. Care for them all as we head into the unknown and may we all have a mother figure to guide us through that great unknown.

All: We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.



Requests for Prayers

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com



Please continue to pray for the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. Please pray for all children everywhere who are subjected to abuse and exploitation, that through the support of organisations like the Children's Society, they might find hope.

We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers, Roy and Margaret Putnam, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Wendy Dufty and Yvonne Seward.

We continue to pray for Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt.

We pray for those who are in residential care Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton and Rita Sheppy.

We pray for those who have died everywhere. For those who we know and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. Eileen Fincher, Michael Connelly, Ronnie Compton, Captain Anthony Greenwood, Betty Kirkpatrick, Margaret Sutton, Pat Hiden and Don Dufty



Mothering Sunday

The Zoom service this Sunday morning is a family friendly service for Mothering Sunday, so it would be lovely to see some of the younger members of the congregations from around Bredon Hill if they are able to join us. The service will be at 10.30am. So, if you would like to join us for worship and fellowship, please contact Alison Khan (email acbhteam@gmail.com or telephone 07984 748059) and she will send you an invitation.

We would like to wish Mums everywhere a very 'Happy Mothering Sunday'

Lent Study Course – Week Three

This week's Lent Study Course will focus on the Church after COVID. Canon Roger will lead the session on Wednesday 17th March at 7pm via Zoom. If you would like to join in; please contact Alison Khan at acbhteam@gmail.com to be sent the Zoom invite.



Palm Sunday

There will be palm crosses available outside the door of the church on Palm Sunday but if you fancy having a go at making your own, type in this link www.mommynippets.com/paper-palm-crosses

Holy Week

On Monday – Thursday of Holy Week there will be a reflection and night prayer compline via Zoom at 7pm, led by Bishop Michael and Rev Allison. Please do join them – as usual Zoom invites are issued by Alison Khan.



Good Friday Service

On Good Friday Reverend Allison will be leading a service of readings, hymns and silent meditation at 10.30am via Zoom. If you would like to attend the service or would like to volunteer to read one of the readings please contact Alison Khan at acbhteam@gmail.com.



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday Services

A 10.30am Holy Communion will take place on Easter Sunday as follows:

St. John the Baptist, Beckford led by Bishop Martin
St. Mary's, Elmley Castle led by Canon Rev. Roger Spiller
Holy Trinity, Eckington led by Bishop Michael
St. Giles, Bredon, led by Rev. Allison

Please book your place with Alison Khan or your local churchwarden – thank you



Easter Gardens

Watch this space for more details of the upcoming Easter Garden competition. We will be asking for photos shortly and there will be chocolatey prizes for the winners of the children and adult entries!

Easter Sunday Songs of Praise

Although some of our churches will be open on Easter Sunday; it is recognised that not everybody will be able to attend a service in person. As a result, Reverend Allison will be leading an Easter Sunday Songs of Praise via Zoom at 4pm on Easter Sunday.

This will be an opportunity for you to nominate your favourite Easter hymn to form part of the service and then share your reason for choosing it with the rest of the online congregation before it is played for all to sing along.

If you have a hymn that you would like included please contact Alison Khan at acbhteam@gmail.com or on 07984 748059.



Bags for NHS Staff – an email to Sara Speed, Co-ordinator

I just wanted to drop you a note to say a massive thank you to you and David and all your other colleagues within the Pershore Benefice of churches and the Bredon Hill Group of Churches for the magnificent care packages!

We have just finished distributing them today and the reaction of the staff has been quite phenomenal! They were astounded at the generosity and genuinely moved by the kindness and thoughtfulness shown by yourselves in thinking of them in these challenging times.

I think it's fair to say they were very very much appreciated – please pass on to all those involved in putting them together – such a wonderful variety of items. I just read the press coverage today as well, it was a great picture and write up – thank you so much to you all and a special thank you to you and David for the co-ordination, I know how much work this will have involved. Please also thank David for helping me with the delivery and all the lifting – I hope he was ok!

Stay safe and well
Warmest wishes to you all
Kind regards
Nicky

*Nicky Langford MInstF(Cert)
Community Fundraising Officer
Worcestershire Royal Hospital*

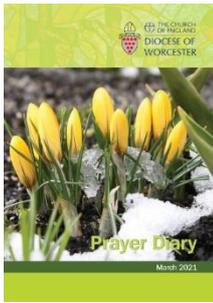
Additional Resources during Lockdown

Even though we are inviting everyone to join our weekly Zoom service at 10.30 on Sunday morning, please be aware that the Freephone Daily Hope programmes of worship services and prayers are still available by ringing 0800 804 8044. This includes a Church of England weekly service (select option 6) and traditional Morning/Evening Prayer (select option 7). This service will not cost the caller anything and provides worship material for those looking for additional services and prayer.



A free phoneline of hymns,
reflections and prayers





News from the Diocese

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Reverend Allison Davies

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

