

Pews News

15th March 2026

Mothering Sunday



Collect

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.

Post Communion

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.

Mothering Sunday: 1 Samuel 16.1-12, Ephesians 5.8-14, John 9
Passion Sunday: Ezekiel 37. 1-14, Romans 8.6-11, John 11. 1-45

For centuries the 4th Sunday of Lent was known as Laetare Sunday. 'Laetare' means "Rejoice!". This was a day of joy amidst the austerity of Lent. Over time it became a day when servants and labourers were given the day off to spend time with their families and to visit their 'mother' church, the one in which they had been baptised and raised. Hence 'Mothering' Sunday.

God has entrusted the task of mothering to his church because 'mothering' is in his very nature. Many times in the bible God is described in 'motherly' language: "I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them." Hosea 11; "You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth" Deut.32; "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you" Isaiah 66 "For a long time I have held my peace, ... now I will cry out like a woman in labour" Isaiah 42; "Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often have I longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" Matthew 23

So many different aspects of 'mothering' are seen in God. And all of us made in his image, the quality of 'mothering' doesn't just belong to those who have given birth. Loving, guiding, feeding, comforting often seen as feminine /maternal traits they are all gifts from God, offered to us all, male and female.

This is a difficult day for folk who may not have known their mothers, or are estranged from them, or whose own children have died young, for women who have hoped for motherhood which hasn't happened. On this day treasured joyous memories are mingled inevitably with sad and painful thoughts. In Luke's gospel, Simeon predicted this experience for Mary as Jesus was presented in the temple, in the same breath saying that her son was destined for great things and yet "a sword would pierce her own soul".

Today we are giving thanks for all the loving and caring and acts of sacrifice we have received in our lives, and giving thanks for all the love we have been able to give, whether as mothers, fathers, friends, or through any other relationship.

May God who gave birth to all creation, bless us. May God who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us. May God who loves and cares for all her children bless us and all whom we love this day and always. Amen.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Among those in special need: Libby, Esther Bird, Jo Weir, Mike & Jenny Ford, Lesley, Gabrielle and Matthew, Fr David Harris, Lesley Harris, Edwin; Rupert; Carol, Paul & Linda Buckingham; Jean Howarth; Helen Lange; Christopher; Katharine; Jonathan Davis; Morag & Robert Curtis; Tessa Bullick; Margaret Morrissey; Jill Smith; Ruth Davis; Pam Revell.

Many thanks to everyone who's helped me to update the list and asked me to retain the names of these people, who continue to need our prayerful support. As always, please contact me at any time to update the list – please phone 01305 268749 or 07800 962672, leaving a message if necessary; or email johnsamwood@me.com

Among those who have recently died: Susan Hobbs, Pamela Brake, Michael Mounce, Geoffrey Stuart Cryer

Remember those whose Year's Mind falls this week Vera Glead, Linda Turner, Margarethe Walpole, Vivienne Ford, George Osborne, David Horsfall

Dorcas MU next meets for prayer, bible study and fellowship on Wednesday 25 March at 10am at 2 Colliton Walk. Newcomers welcome. Contact: Janet 01305 260259.

Thank you for supporting **Tea, Toast and Toddlers** for the past three years. The time has now come for our volunteers to take an extended break. Our **Easter Extravaganza on Monday 23rd March** will be our last session until the autumn. We would like to thank all our cake makers, kitchen crew and playroom volunteers for all they have done to create Tea, Toast and Toddlers. Happy Easter from the Tea, Toast and Toddlers Team.

Night Falls a new Passion play by Paul Birch Tuesday 17th March 7pm at Dorchester Baptist Church. Tickets are available online (www.ridinglights.org/nightfalls) or in person from the office at the Dorford Centre in advance or on the night with cash or card. Adult tickets are £15.00, concessions £10 (over 65, students, those on benefits) and 12-18s pay £5. The play is not suitable for under 12s.

Considering Creation in Lent

Here are five ways in which we could include Creation Care within our Lenten discipleship

1. Join Climate Stewards Carbon Fast. This looks at a different area in which we could challenge our lifestyle each week <https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>
2. Join the Big Plastic Count over one week: thebigplasticcount.com
3. Recognise Earth Hour at 8.30 pm on Saturday 28th March by turning off all lights for an hour, or joining others who will be sharing in this symbolic action at The Quiet Space
4. Helping with the local Litter Pick, meeting at St Mary's Rectory at 10.45 am on Saturday 21st March
5. Arranging a free assessment of how you could reduce your energy use at home <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/home-energy-advice> and <https://dorset.homewise.energy/App/Welcome>

WEDNESDAY EVENING EUCHARIST at ST MARY'S CHURCH

We are going to pilot a quiet weekday evening Holy Communion service on the third Wednesday of each month, starting on

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH at 6pm

This is in response to a request on behalf of those unable to attend morning services, but **ALL ARE WELCOME**

60 Earth Hour 28 March 8.30-9.30pm Join us to share pictures, poems, readings, objects of special places. **The Quiet Space, Woodlands Crescent, Poundbury, DT1 3ST**



Lent Lunch of homemade soup, bread & cheese to be held in **St Mary's Hall on Friday 20 March 12.30pm - 2pm**, donations for Christian Aid. All welcome, just come along.

St Peter's Church

Today is Mothering Sunday and so we welcome all have performed the mothering role in the lives of others.

The church is open **daily from 10am - 4pm during the winter.**

Sundays BCP Eucharist at 9am & Common Worship Eucharist 10.30am.

Mid-week - Morning Prayer at **9.15am** on Monday & Thursday

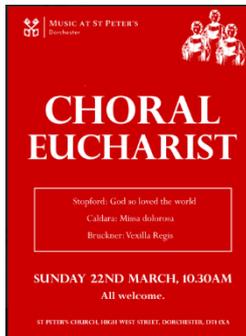
Midweek Eucharist Our Midweek Eucharist is at **10.00 am on Thursday**. This is always followed by refreshments. Please do consider joining us.

Pastoral Visiting - If you would like to receive the Eucharist at home please contact me by phone or email. **Keith**

Storehouse Church Food Larder We are grateful for your donations each week. Please donate items of tinned and packet food, toiletries and sanitary wear. They currently have an excess of dried pasta so this is not needed. Thank you for your generosity.

An invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join the **Bible study group** which meets every Monday at 2.30pm at 30 Grosvenor Road, Dorchester. For further details please phone Rosemary Briggs 01305 757444. (Own transport essential.) We look forward to welcoming you.

Music at St Peter's



As Lent continues, our **Choral Eucharist for Passion Sunday** at 10.30am on **22nd March** will include Caldara's *Missa dolorosa*, along with reflective music by Bruckner and Stopford. As we move into Holy Week, **Choral Evensong**, at 4.30pm on Saturday 28th March, will include Byrd's *Second Service*, Lotti's *Crucifixus* and Elgar's *Light out of darkness*. Please do join us and stay for a glass of wine after the service. This year, there will be a full **Choral Eucharist for Maundy Thursday** at 7pm on 2nd April sung to the *Three Part Mass* by Byrd, along with music by Durufle and Gibbons. Then on Good Friday at 6pm, please join us for a devotional performance of **Stainer's Crucifixion** with Paul Heaslip (tenor), Jonathan Prentice (bass) and Sam Hanson at the organ.

Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent

This year we will be using the Church of England booklet Draw Near during the groups that meet in Lent. Please see back page for details.

St. Mary's Church

www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Dorchester-672844449522662

On Sundays each week Sung Eucharist at 9.45am

On the first Sunday of the month, next is 5th April, there is a Said Eucharist at 8am and Taize Worship at 6pm

Gluten Free Communion is available—please ask the Sidesperson

Morning Prayer on **Tuesdays** at 9am followed by **Said Eucharist** at 9.30am.

The Contemplative Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 5pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Mary's. Come and join us for 20 minutes of silence. The group will meet at 5pm every Wednesday up to and including July 15th EXCEPT the following Wednesdays when there will be no group : 25th March: 1st April: 20th May and 24th June. Everyone from across the Benefice and beyond is welcome.

The Sanctuary Lamp Candle is given by Diana Barber in memory of her whose years mind falls on 21st March

The Bible Study Group will not be meeting during Lent.

Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent

This year we will be using the Church of England booklet Draw Near during the groups that meet in Lent. Please see back page for details.

Stations of the Cross Tuesdays, March 17 & 24th. At 5pm. Please see flyer for Lent & Holy Week activities..

Wednesday Evening Communion

Starting on **18th March** there will be an evening Communion Service on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the Side Chapel. And the next Service after that will be on **15th April**. **Please enter by the priest's door opposite the Rectory in Edward Road.**



Lent Lunch of homemade soup, bread & cheese to be held in **St Mary's Hall on Friday 20 March 12.30pm - 2pm**, donations for Christian Aid. All welcome, just come along.

St Mary's Easter lilies - Lilies will be decorating the church at Easter in memory of loved ones. If you would like the name of a loved one included please add their name to the list at the back of church, and give any money donation towards the cost of the lilies to Jimmy, Janet or Jill. Thank you.

Dorchester Choral Society Concert at St Mary's on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm. Mozart Requiem conducted by Duncan Emerson with works by Stanford, Elgar, Rachmaninov. Tickets £15 and £20 from DorchesterChoralSociety.org

Church Spring Cleaning - Saturday 28 March 10am - 12 noon, please come along and lend a hand if you're able to, all welcome, refreshments available. This will replace the usual church cleaning held on the last Thursday of the month.

The Easter Story

A morning for children and their families
Stories, Drama, Song and Craft

Tuesday 31st March 10.30 am – 12 noon

St Mary's Church, Edward Road, Dorchester DT1 2HL
All welcome, please let us know if you would like to come
dorchesterstmarys@gmail.com Entry free

St George's Church

The church is open every day from 9.00am to 4.00pm for private prayer.

Sunday Services

8.30am Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays

This is a quiet traditional BCP service in the Edward Chapel.

10.30am Holy Communion followed by refreshments in the church hall.

Dragons, our children's group, meets in the church hall during the 10.30 service in term time. All school age children are welcome.

6.30pm Pizza and Praise, first Sunday of the month. A new monthly service for youth and families.

Weekday services:

Wednesday 9.30am Morning Prayer at the back of church.

Thursday 11.00am Holy Communion followed by refreshments.

Other regular activities:

Monday: 9.30-12 Tea, Toast and Toddlers in the hall

Monday: Bible Study group 7.15pm weekly in members' homes.

Details from Rev Cora or Rev Gerry.

Wednesday 12.30-1.30 COMMUNITY LUNCH AND FOOD LARDER. All are welcome for company in a warm space, a soup lunch, or food in times of hardship. **We welcome donations** of store cupboard items, especially microwave rice, cereals, long life milk, tinned meat/fish, tea or coffee. Please bring items at service times, or pop into the hall on Wednesdays from 12.15 - 1.30. Thank you for your support.

During Lent the Monday Bible Study group will follow the Draw Near Lent course material.

Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent. For details please see the back page

Heritage Events Organiser - We are delighted to announce that Maddy Lyons will be joining us as Heritage Events Organiser from the 16th March supporting the community outreach of St George's.

Date for your diaries - St George's Day Fair,

Saturday 25 April, 1 – 4pm If anybody has any leftover Christmas chocolates, biscuits or other goodies or maybe unwanted presents, please consider donating them as prizes for the raffle and tombola at the fair and future church events. Offers of help gratefully received as well. Thank you.

We are currently collecting items for the fair – Prizes for the Raffle and Tombola, Cakes for both the hall teas and the cake stall, Plants, Books, Bric-a-brac, Jewellery. Items can be brought to church but please don't start bringing bric-a-brac until after Easter. We would welcome offers of help on the day, even if you can only manage an hour. Please see sign up list at the back of church. Maggie Carter.

Behold The Coat of Hopes in Dorchester

The Coat of Hopes is an ever growing patchwork garment on a long term pilgrimage through the UK, towards the end of the climate and ecological emergency.

It has been made, worn and walked by many hundreds of people, for a distance of over 2000 miles so far, carrying their hopes for the places they live in the face of climate and ecological breakdown.



The Coat is made up of pieces of blanket into which people have worked their griefs, remembrances, prayers and hopes for the places they call home. It carries a space in which to be present, and remember our shared responsibility as we face this climate and ecological emergency together.

All are welcome to wear the Coat of Hopes!

The Coat of Hopes will be hosted at St George's on Friday night 20th March. Come and find out more at breakfast in the hall, Saturday 21st, 9.00-10.30.

Come and join us for Breakfast to see, wear, hear the stories and the song of the Coat of Hopes and share your hopes for your place at St Georges Church, Dorchester, DT1 1LB on Saturday the 21st of March 9 to 10.30am

See the Coat off on its way west, join the walk for 10 minutes or the whole day to Hillfield Friary. Let us know <https://www.coatofhopes.uk>

Visit our website to find out more: <https://www.coatofhopes.uk/>

St Andrew's Church

MORNING PRAYER

Every Tuesday at 9.45am - all welcome.

PRIVATE PRAYER & REFLECTION

The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm.

HOME COMMUNION

If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home then please contact Revd Cora Yarrien on 262421 or

email revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

Gluten free wafers are available.

March

15th - No Service but all invited to St George's for Mothering Sunday

Holy Communion at 10.30am

22nd - 9am Holy Communion

29th - 5th Sunday so No Service but all invited to St George's for Palm Sunday

Holy Communion at 10.30am

Coffee & Chat - Saturday 14th March 10am to noon. All welcome.

Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent Please see back page for details

Night Falls a new Passion play by Paul Birch Tuesday 17th March 7pm at Dorchester Baptist Church

Vicar - Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421 revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

Secretary - Janet Ranger-Dennis 07752 634773 janet.ranger@yahoo.co.uk



St Simon and St Jude,

Winterborne Monkton

Holy Communion is celebrated

at **11.15am** on the first Sunday

of each month. The church is open

every weekend 10am-4pm

or by arrangement with Judy Norman 01305 262719

Dorchester Strollers:

Monday 16th March

Tuesday 17th March

10.30am Meet behind Poundbury Garden Centre

2.15pm Borough Gardens by the Bandstand



Team Rector & St Peter, High West St:

Revd Keith Magee 07766 645135

Keith.magee@btinternet.com

St George, Fordington Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

St Mary, Edward Road Revd Jimmy Holden 01305 266502

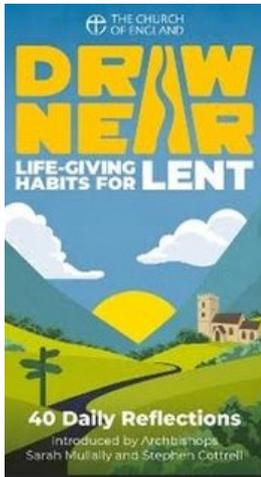
revjimmyholden@gmail.com

St Andrew, West Stafford Revd Cora Yarrien 01305 262421

revd.cora.yarrien@gmail.com

The Winterbournes and Compton Valence Churches Rev Teresa StewartSykes

01305 549242 email revteresa@outlook.com



Lent Course - Draw Near - Life giving Habits for Lent

This year we will be using the Church of England booklet Draw Near during the groups that meet in Lent. We will meet on **Monday evenings at 7.15** at Alex & Suzanne Lyons' house, **Tuesday afternoons at 2.00** at Jimmy's house and **Thursday evenings at 7.30** at St George's Hall. The booklets will be available in each church. You can also download the material through the Church of England Everyday Faith app.

For apple <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/everyday-faith/id1336487241>

For android

- https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.livelent&hl=en_GB

Parish Office: 01305 250719 dorchesterpcc@gmail.com

open 9-1, Tues, Thur, Fri. Looked after by June Jenkins & Gill Hartnett

The Benefice Website: www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk

QR code



<https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/>

Don't forget that, on the Benefice website, you can find service times, news of the latest concerts and events, and recordings of sermons preached across our churches. <https://www.dorchesteranglican.org.uk/>

And, if you have news or an event to contribute, please email: thedorchestermessenger@gmail.com