

St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold,  
Sunday, March 14th, 2021

# ePEWS NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Lent

MOTHERING SUNDAY



10am Live Holy Communion service from St Mary and All Saints, Dunsfold via Zoom.  
Celebrant: Reverend Ian Maslin

Click on the link below to join our service.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2746581498?  
pwd=WjllcHBjdjOOEEzZ2tBVDNyMFBaZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2746581498?pwd=WjllcHBjdjOOEEzZ2tBVDNyMFBaZz09)

Readings and collect for Mothering Sunday.

OT: Exodus 2: 1-10  
NT: Colossians 3: 12-17  
GOSPEL: John 19: 25b-27

Collect for Mothering Sunday: 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.

**IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP WITH THE UNION...  
DON'T PANIC, IT'S THE MOTHERS' UNION**

It's fitting on Mothering Sunday that we focus on the splendid work of the Mothers' Union.

As Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "Mothers' Union are the heart and love of the Church."

The MU is a Christian organisation that has been supporting families world-wide for over 140 years. Founded by Mary Sumner in 1876, the MU has grown into a global charity with over four million members in 84 countries.

It is a Christian membership charity so the challenge is to demonstrate their faith in action. They work around the world to stop poverty, inequality and injustice. Members of the Mothers' Union work at grassroots level to bring hope and practical support to millions of people through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

While the MU is a Christian organisation they also reach out to help people of other faiths or no faith. As they make clear in their mission statement: "We aim to show our Christian faith by helping the sustainable transformation of communities worldwide. We do this by helping to nurture strong relationships at all levels, promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally."

The Mothers' Union's stated aims are to encourage parents in their role to develop children; maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service; promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; to help those whose family life has met with adversity and promote and support married life.

They have ongoing projects in the UK. These include providing "Away from it All" short breaks for families and individuals facing difficulties in their lives. Providing toiletries for women who arrive in refuges with nothing. Running parent and toddler groups. Working with prisoners and their families in 85 prisons.

They also knit materials and teddies for refugee children; support students and single parent families; make sensory accessories such as muffs and blankets for those who suffer from Alzheimers.

Despite their name they are an inclusive organisation and are proud to have a growing number of men in their ranks. Unfortunately there is no MU branch in Dunsfold. The nearest is at St Nicolas, Cranleigh where you will receive a warm welcome. Susie Maslin (200048) and Pam Walker (201140) are members there so give them a call if you wish to know more.

## **SAFEGUARDING IN YOUR CHURCH**

We take safeguarding seriously in Dunsfold Church. If you have any concerns or information you wish to pass on please contact our safeguarding officer, Hazel Wiltshire on 01403 753847 or email her at [hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net](mailto:hazelwiltshire@talktalk.net)



## REVEREND IAN MASLIN'S REFLECTIONS ON JESUS' GIFT TO US OF FAMILY LIFE

**Today is Mothering Sunday; a really beautiful festival for us to celebrate and, coming as it does during Lent, it is appropriate this morning to link Mothering Sunday with the crucifixion of Christ. Because here, in John 19:25-27, the two events are brought together: the creative pain of motherhood and the creative pain of the crucifixion where salvation was won for us all.**

And, as we turn to this Gospel reading, we are first confronted by the sheer pain of this moment. A dying son. A bewildered disciple. A mother whose heart is breaking.

Mary knew what it was to suffer. Mary suffered when she gave birth in a filthy stable, far from home.

Mary suffered when she heard that Herod wanted to kill her baby. Mary suffered when she was forced to become a refugee in Egypt. Mary suffered as she watched a whole nation misunderstand and taunt her son.

And here, at the foot of the cross, Mary suffers again as she watches her beautiful baby boy being crucified for a crime he didn't commit.

We can't even begin to imagine the pain in her heart - how her soul was being torn apart that day.

As parents, we experience anguish over our children many times throughout our lives. For some who have lost their own children, Mary can be an important figure of compassion and solidarity as one who identifies with that deep pain.

And, as Mary thinks about her son, so Jesus thinks about his mother. Jesus knew her agony and he was aware that, after his own death, there would be no-one to care for his mother.

*Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, 'He is your son'. Then he said to the disciple, 'She is your mother'.*

A new family is created in the shadow of the cross.

Through the blood of Christ shed for us, a new home, a new community comes to life. A new family is born.

It is here that the church is formed!

As we take bread and wine on behalf of the parishes this morning, we are proclaiming the same truth that was acted out that first Good Friday.

Here, in Dunsfold and Hascombe, is a new community.

Here, in Dunsfold and Hascombe, is a new family.

Here, in Dunsfold and Hascombe, is a new fellowship.

We are blood relatives; not through our blood but through His, shed on the cross for us all.

So, we see that Mothering Sunday is so much deeper than we might at first imagine.

Yes, it is a time to celebrate the love of our Mothers. It is a time to celebrate the love of our carers throughout the years.

But it is also a time to give thanks for Mother Church, formed in the blood of Christ at the foot of the cross.

Let's remember the care that Mother Church has for all its members but, above all, let's remember the love and the care that Jesus has for us today, and every day.

Amen.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**CHURCH:** We pray for our ecumenical partners, for the Bishop of Guildford's interfaith adviser, Reverend Phil Simpson, and for the interfaith team in their work with the different faith communities that they may develop understanding in all their relationships.

**WORLD:** The breakthrough development of The One House in Berlin where on the site of an old church destroyed by the former communist government of East Germany a new place of worship is being built to house in union a church, synagogue and mosque.

**THE SICK:** Amanda and Hugh, Tim Bailey, Michael Burt, Sarah Godwin, Jan and Mark Knott, Sally Rivett, Sue Simper, Jacky Williams, Alli, Judy Bolt, Sue and Dennis Evans, Sami Bennewith, Lizzy Laverty.

**THE DEPARTED:** John Davies

## DUNSFOLD CHURCH IN ACTION

**Our commitment to Dunsfold Church in Action has never wavered and while life has become a little easier than in the first lockdown members of the church community are still helping the less mobile around the parish.**

**But we have been asked to reproduce the list of first responders you can call on for assistance. It might be for shopping or to help you fulfil a medical appointment. It may even be that someone feels lonely and isolated. We are here to help.**

**If you need help don't hesitate to call:  
Rev Ian Maslin (priest in charge) 200048  
Susie Maslin 200048  
Sheila Jones (churchwarden) 200204  
Jan Richardson (churchwarden) 200519  
Pam and David Walker 201140**

## THE LAST WORD...

**MARY SUMNER (1828-1921)  
Founder of the Mothers' Union**



"Together, by the Grace of God, we can calm each other when we are afraid; strengthen one another when we are weak; and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength."

