

Connected

Sunday 19th March 2023

Mothering Sunday

Fourth Sunday Of Lent

Mothering Sunday

Each year, on the fourth Sunday of Lent, countries around the world celebrate Mothering Sunday. This typically involves lavishing Mums with gifts and attention and celebrating the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives.

But with the day becoming increasingly commercialised, how many people are aware of its very different origins?

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many.



Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family-focussed occasion.

This Sunday, churches around the country will be sharing their own traditions - celebrating and giving thanks for the huge impact mothers have on each of our lives.

The church recognises that the day may be difficult for some people and so it is commonplace for services to include prayers for those who do not find the day particularly easy.

Families across the country will be preparing little presents and cards and, in some churches, flowers are blessed and handed out during the service.



Sermon Snippets

Christ Church

Acts 4: 36-37, 11: 21-26

Today we will be looking at one of the Bible's greatest encouragers, who was given the nickname "Son of Encouragement" – Barnabas. There isn't a great amount written about him. No doubt he spurred others along who we hear much more about. Mum's can be much the same; giving strength and encouragement often behind the scenes. On Sunday we'll give thanks for all our Mums – but also see what we can learn from this too!



Emmanuel

Ruth 1: 16-22 + Matthew 13: 31-34

This mid-point in Lent was traditionally the weekend when girls in service were given time off to return to give gifts to their mothers. That world was so different to our world, as was Ruth's world different from Jesus' time... and today!

What is the same is a good loving relationship and Ruth clearly had that with her mother-in-law. She was prepared to leave her homeland and her people (after her husband and his father and brother had all sadly died) and accompany her widowed mother-in-law to her country. Interestingly, she was willing to share her mother-in-law's faith and leave her own.



The consequences of that action led her to Bethlehem and the meeting with her future husband who had been so impressed with her life of care and compassion towards her mother-in-law.

That apparently insignificant caring woman, centuries later, appears in the lineage of Jesus. Incidentally, as a teenager, my grandmother took my sister and I to the church where we both found faith. Ruth and my grandmother had quite an impact on future generations and I often wonder what impact you and I, as Christians in Weston super Mare, will have on future generations in our town.

Prayer Pointers

Thank the Lord for His loving care:

Pray that God's steadfast parental love becomes known by all.

Ask that more people come to praise the Lord each day.

Reflect on practical ways to support those spreading God's 'Good News'.

Thank God that His presence is always with us:

Pray to God to guide the world in ways of truth, justice, and peace.

Ask God that, like a parent, He will draw all His children to His heart.

Reflect on practical ways to develop the courage to share God's love.

Thank God that He is a constant parent to all His children - young and old:

Pray for all who have nurtured and helped us to grow in faith and trust.

Ask God's blessing on midwives, nursery workers, teachers, and tutors.

Reflect on practical ways to show God's love to the children of the world.

Thank God that He transforms people through His amazing grace:

Pray for those experiencing physical pain or past regrets.

Ask the Lord to sustain all parents, fosterers, carers, and befrienders.

Reflect on practical ways to support those who are struggling to cope.

Thank God, our protector in times of need, that He cradles us in His hands:

Pray - entrust to God's care all who are in any kind of need this day.

Ask God to enfold them with His love and keep them within His tender mercy.

Reflect on practical ways to encourage those who are finding daily life a challenge.

Thank God that, from the cross, Jesus commended His mother to the care of another:

Pray that God will hear the cries of all who mourn.

Ask our Heavenly Father to comfort and sustain them in their grief.

Reflect on the joy of rejoicing with them in God's eternal heavenly home.

What's On This Week

Monday 20th March

Ladies Together at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Tuesday 21st March

Parish Prayers at 9:30am at Emmanuel

The Beacon at 12noon at Emmanuel

Wednesday 22nd March

Seedlings Toddler Group at 10:15am at Christ Church

Thursday 23rd March

Craft & Chat at 2:30pm in The Spire Centre

Welcome Group at 2:30pm at Emmanuel

JaM Club at 3:30pm at Christ Church

(pre-registration is required for the above event)

Notices

Finance Appeal Letters

For anyone who hasn't yet been able to collect their Christ Church finance appeal letter, these will be available again at the back of church on Sunday morning.

Verse For The Week

" He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.' "

Matthew 13: 31-32

Watch the Morning Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (Day Off - Tuesday)

t: (01934) 709343

e: vicar@ccwsm.org.uk

Rev. Larissa Trust (Day Off - Tuesday)

t: 07379 754372

e: curate@ccwsm.org.uk

Church Office (09:30-12:30 Mon-Fri)

t: (01934) 641016

e: office@ccwsm.org.uk

w: www.ccwsm.org.uk

Coffee after the Service...

Mothering Sunday at Emmanuel

Posy-Making



As is our custom, Emmanuel will be meeting in the hall this Saturday, March 18th, at 10am to make posies for Mothering Sunday.

If you can help, do come along. It is always a good sociable time. If you can bring flowers/greenery for the posies even better! Or leave bunches of flowers in the kitchen. See you on Saturday!

Meg



Weston super Mare Foodbank is seeking to appoint one or two additional Trustees.

Please see posters displayed for further details regarding this.

Easter Family Fun !

We need a team to help share the most important story of all with our community!

Easter Family Fun
Saturday 1st April
2pm - 4pm
at Christ Church



We'll have crafts, games, activities, an Easter Egg Hunt, and refreshments too!

All team must have current DBS clearance. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of church or let Nicky Boardman know if you can help (email:family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk)

Electoral Roll



In official terms, the Electoral Roll is a list of people who can vote at the Annual Church Meeting. However, being on the Electoral Roll also signifies a spiritual sense of membership, belonging, and commitment to the body of Christ.

To be on the Electoral Roll you will need to be at least 16 years old, be baptised, and either a resident in the parish or have been attending services/engaging regularly with the online services for around six months. You will need to complete a form which you can get from the Church Office or from one of the Church Wardens (*please note - this is not the same form as a Data Consent Form for those who have completed one of these recently*).

Names of those on the Roll are required to be displayed for at least fifteen days prior to the APCM. **The deadline for any new additions to the Electoral Roll are as follows:**

Emmanuel - Sunday 26th March / Christ Church - Friday 31st March

The dates for our Annual Parochial Church Meetings are as follows:

Emmanuel: Sunday 16th April (after the morning service)

Christ Church: Monday 24th April at 7:30pm

If you have any questions please get in touch with Emma in the Church Office.