

REFLECTIONS

The bible is full of stories about mothers. Do you know the name of the mother of Moses? She was called Jochebed (Exodus 6 v 20). She hid Moses from the soldiers of Pharaoh at great risk to herself. Who was the mother of Samuel? She was called Hannah (1 Samuel 1 v 20). For a long time she had no children and promised if she had a child she would raise him to do the work of God. And then we have Mary, the mother of Jesus. Without her saying "Yes" to the angel, Jesus would not have been born into the world. In caring for Jesus Mary helped to bring the world a loving saviour

After saying "Yes" to the angel, the sword would pierce her soul many times, especially when his earthly life was ending and she stood at the foot of the cross where she represents the hopes and joys, the fears and sorrows, of mothers down the ages.

These mothers find their image in Mother Church, loving her children, often wounded by the hostility of the world and the unfaithfulness of those whom she has nurtured, sorrowing yet always joyful, servant of the Kingdom of God. Now at the middle point of Lent we stand in awe between joy and sorrow.

Michael Lovegrove

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE

The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and email bulletin.

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church

10.00am Mothering Sunday Family Service
Leader: Tracey Nicholls

St James' Swards End - Zoom

9.30am Simple Service Leader: Chris Bishop

St Botolph's Hadstock - in Church

9.30am Family Service Leader: Paula Griffiths

All Saints Ashdon - in Church

9.30am Mothering Sunday Family Communion
President: Caroline Currer

St Mary's Debden - Zoom

9.15am Sunday Celebration Leader: John Saxon
Talk: Hilary Davey

Cam Villages - Zoom

10.00am Family Communion President: Alex Jeewan
Mothering Sunday Café Church - **YouTube**
Contact Alex Jeewan for the link

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Judith Hasler
Zoom

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Currer
Zoom

See St Mary's Church, SW, website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.



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The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN,
WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK

Welcome to our services today

Mothering Sunday

14th March 2021

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.

First Reading: Exodus 2:1-10

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.'

Gospel: John 19. 25b-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.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In March please pray for: **Abbey Lane & Newport United Reformed Church, incorporating the Methodist Church, Dame Bradbury's School**

The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Gerald Agnew, Wendy Nicolson, Herbert (known as George) Wilson, Malcolm Lee, David Simms

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Today, as I am sure you all know, is Mothering Sunday. Note: "Mothering Sunday" not the Americanism "Mother's Day". Looking back to my childhood, and adolescent days in the Congregational Church, I don't think that the day was marked in any grand way - it may have had an honourable mention in passing, but no more. In the Church of England it is a special day, and may be this has something to do with our different theologies in respect of "Mother Church".

Mothering Sunday is always the mid Sunday in Lent when apprentices and girls in service were allowed to go home. It was a time when Lenten discipline was relaxed, and it was sometimes known as "Refreshment Sunday". Simnel cakes were made (a sort of fruit cake coloured with saffron and marzipan).

In the Book of Common Prayer, the Gospel reading for the day is the feeding of the five thousand, and the epistle reading (BCP) refers to Jerusalem which is "Mother of us all."

Whatever our theology, and from whatever tradition we come, we can all give thanks for our mothers. My mother died at the age of 96 and so I was very fortunate to have her for so long. I know that most of you, like me, have mothers who have joined "the communion of saints". But we can still give prayerful thanks for our mothers who cared for us, fed us, protected us and loved us. For those of you who still have a mother, this day, in particular, is the day when we can express our love for them. Today we give thanks for the care and love, which we have received.

Today we can also give thanks for the care and nourishment we have received from the church.

With love and prayers
Michael Lovegrove

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord Jesus, who came to share our life here on earth and made your home among us at Nazareth; we thank you for our homes and families and especially now for our mothers and for all they mean to us, Bless them, Lord and bless our homes; and help us to find our true happiness in loving and serving one another for your sake, our Master and Friend.

(Frank Colqhoun)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 15th	Morning Psalm 77 & John 9:18-end Evening Psalm 25
Tue 16th	Morning Psalm 79 & John 10:1-10 Evening Psalm 80 & Hebrews 9:15-end
Wed 17th	Morning Psalm 90 & John 10:11-21 Evening Psalm 91
Thurs 18th	Morning Psalm 86 & John 10:22-end Evening Psalm 94
Fri 19th	Morning Psalm 25 & Matthew 13:54-end Evening Psalm 1
Sat 20th	Morning Psalm 32 & John 11:17-27 Evening Psalm 140

NEWS

REOPENING OUR CHURCHES

St Mary's, Saffron Walden and some of the village churches are now open for restricted congregations at Sunday services. Please check the table of services for details. If you wish to attend St Mary's in person, please book your place in advance by telephoning the Parish Office by noon on Friday or by booking online using the bulletin link. (NB. *Family Service this Sunday has been fully booked*)

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's, Saffron Walden is open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm. Ashdon is open every day and Hadstock is open by appointment.

SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE are listed on the back page and in the weekly bulletin. Zoom services can be accessed by telephone - please contact the Parish Office for further details.

A MEETING OF THE PCC will be held on Zoom on **Wednesday 17th March** at 7:45pm. *Lisa Brook (PCC Secretary)*

ELECTORAL ROLL Now would be a very good time to join the electoral roll **if you are not already enrolled**. The roll is being revised between 28th March and 10th April 2021 before the annual meetings on 25th April 2021. As well as a confirmation of your commitment to the church community, membership enables you to vote and stand for election at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Application forms are available from, and should be returned to, electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or the Parish Office or can be downloaded from www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/electoralroll. No additions can be made to the roll between the completion of the revision and the end of the annual meetings. *Clifford Want*

QUINQUA QUIZ Thank you to all who took part in the Quiz this year even though it was on Zoom. Consequently our PCC treasurer has been able to pass on to the Diocese £165 in support of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. *Chris Bishop (Quiz Master)*

STEWARDSHIP Thank you to all who have already responded to our letter on planned giving. You can still email David Birchall treasurer@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or send your response form to the Parish Office. *Denis & Gill*

WEEKEND AWAY - BELSEY BRIDGE Our Weekend Away in July has had to be cancelled as Belsey Bridge is not reopening until August. However, it has been rebooked for **27 - 29 May 2022**. Please go to St Mary's website www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/WA22 or telephone me for more details. *Sarah (01799 584617)*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12 noon. The office is not currently open to personal callers.

All items for the **GRAPEVINE** should be sent to secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com by 9.00am on Wednesday.

MINISTRY TEAM

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Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
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