

The Church in Warden Hill

Letter from Revd Iain McLaren

'Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'"

Luke 2: 34-35

This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, better known to us as Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday is one of those observances that is more recent than most people think. Though the origins of Mothering Sunday can be traced to the Medieval custom of making a pilgrimage to your mother church at this time of year, the modern revival of Mothering Sunday dates only from the 1920's and was largely the work of two women: Constance Penswick Smith, who was in turn influenced by Anna Jarvis, who had successfully campaigned for a Mothers' Day in America (in May rather than during Lent). Ironically, neither Constance Smith nor Anna Jarvis were mothers themselves. Their desire was to celebrate motherhood in its widest sense, rather than restrict it to those who had physically given birth. It is helpful to remember this so as to avoid Mothering Sunday causing unnecessary distress to women who might have experienced difficulty with pregnancy.

Being a mother, unfortunately, is not always about receiving flowers and chocolates and cards. Being a mother can be hard. Simeon's warning to Mary that a sword would pierce her soul is a reminder that motherhood can bring sorrow as well as joy. Mary experienced the pain of witnessing her first-born son put to death. She stands for every mother who has endured the nightmare of seeing their child die before them.

Motherhood is associated with the nurture of children. This is not the sole preserve of biological mothers. The Bible includes several stories of children who were brought up by people they were not genetically related to. Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, for example, and the young Samuel was placed by his mother Hannah in the care of the household of Eli the priest. Women who adopt or foster children are also mothers. Single dads play a similar role in the life of their children.

Mothering Sunday is therefore best observed as a celebration of the ministry of caring. It is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have nurtured us, whoever they might be, and to offer affirmation and support to all who are currently exercising the ministry of care.

Yours in Christ,

Iain

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with Revd Gary Grady.

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to: grapevine@tcivh.org.uk by midday on Wednesday or call Brian Miles on 01242 862142.

Website: www.tciwh.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 14th MARCH 2021
MOTHERING SUNDAY

The Collect

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

This Sunday

10am Holy Communion at St Peter's with Revd Gary and Revd Jacqueline

You can join the live stream here:

www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1.3–7; John 19.25b–27

4pm Teatime Church with Revd Nick Davies

Please email nickduffdavies@gmail.com for joining details

Daily Devotional Readings

Morning Prayer will continue to be live-streamed at 9am during the week from:

www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

Monday

Psalm 70
Jeremiah 17.5–18
John 9.18–end

Wednesday

Psalm 63
Jeremiah 18.13–end
John 10.11–21

Friday

Psalm 25
Isaiah 11.1–10
Matthew 13.54–end

Tuesday

Psalm 54
Jeremiah 18.1–12
John 10.1–10

Thursday

Psalm 53
Jeremiah 19.1–13
John 10.22–end

Saturday

Psalm 32
Jeremiah 20.7–end
John 11.17–27

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SUNDAY LIVESTREAM SERVICES

The following services will be live-streamed from one of our church buildings over the coming weeks:

21st Mar	8am	BCP Holy Communion	St. Peter's	Revd Gary
	10am	Morning Worship	Emmanuel	Revd Nick
28th Mar	10am	Holy Communion	St. Stephen's	Revd Nick

All services and service sheets are available via www.stpetersleck.org or www.pipandjims.org.uk/online.

REOPENING FOR WORSHIP

Good news: Worship will recommence in-person on **Easter Sunday** (4th April). Face coverings and social distancing will still be needed. Please book in with the Church Office: tcihwhsec@gmail.com if you would like to be in attendance. There will be more details of our 'roadmap' to reopening in the coming weeks.

MOTHERING SUNDAY. Our Diocese is involved in two national services: at 9am Bishop Rachel together with Alexandra Dyer (Reader) and Margaret Edwards (Mothers' Union) will be taking part: available through the CofE website or their YouTube channel

The service on local radio at 8am will be led by Archdeacon Hilary of Gloucester, with Dr. Sandra Millar (formerly of St. Peter's, now Head of Life Events for the national church)

LENT COURSE

The South Cheltenham Team Lent course is running on a Wednesday at 7.30pm. To join please email: info@pipandjims.org.uk

LANTERN - APRIL ISSUE

Alison Neale says that she is intending to produce a printed copy of April Lantern - to be available at St Christopher's on Easter Sunday 4th April. The final deadline for articles will be Friday 26th March but please send any items as soon as possible. She looks forward to receiving some Spring pictures, stories etc.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR those we know who are sick in body, mind or spirit that they might know God's comfort; those who have died, and those mourning the loss of loved ones.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR anyone in the area affected by the fact that the Cheltenham Festival is happening "behind closed doors" resulting in loss of income.

GIVE THANKS FOR anyone in our lives who has acted in a 'mothering' role.

R.I.P. Revd. Ken Shill, husband of Celia, died Thursday morning 11th March peacefully at home. Ken was a vicar in the South Cheltenham Team.

WEEKLY PRAYER

14th	Readers Pam, Roy & Rachel	18th	S. Cheltenham team clergy
15th	The bereaved	19th	Gardeners & Litterpickers
16th	Churchwardens & Elders	20th	Local hospitals & surgeries
17th	Church halls & users	21st	Musicians & singers

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS let's celebrate together: If you have a birthday this week—happy birthday and have a happy day. Please let me know of any future birthdays that we can celebrate together.

Brian Miles.