

St James', Elstead and St Michael & All Angels, Thursley Sunday 22nd March Mothering Sunday

This edition of the weekly pew sheet is designed to keep you in touch and to give us all some common prayers to use at home. The simple service on the next page may be used on our own or with others at any time during the day, but why not do it at 8am or 10am when we would usually meet, as a gesture of solidarity and fellowship?

A thought for this Mothering Sunday

This is unlike any other Mothering Sunday I have known: some of us are mothers, but all of us are called to mothering in the sense of caring, nurturing, protecting and providing for others. Our present crisis goes to the heart of everyday mothering: food, homes, livelihood, community, safety. Praying for mothers and mothering today has a poignant tone. It makes us all the more aware of our need for God and of the joy of human love, and our responsibility to each other, both to offer and, where we need it, to ask for care.

Everyday Faith Daily Reflections.

The Church of England is publishing Daily Reflections and Prayer to help us find and follow God in our daily lives. To sign up go to:

www.churchofengland.org/everydayfaith

Other Prayer resources

www.lords-prayer-words.com

www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayers-people-affected-new-coronavirus

Keeping in touch

A reminder that in accordance with the Archbishops' instruction, public worship is suspended until further notice. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Considering the guidance from the Archbishops we are endeavouring to keep the churches open during the day and to offer them as places of peace and calm in these uncertain times. I intend to pop into the churches whenever possible to sit quietly and pray. As I live next door to St James, I will do this regularly at 8.30am each morning except Friday's. When visiting the churches please observe the good hygiene practices that have been recommended, using hand sanitizer on entering and leaving and refraining from touching rails and pews. If anyone else is in the church at the same time as you, please maintain social distancing.

Please see below a link to the letter from Bishop Andrew:

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/whats-on/news/detail/2020/03/18/covid-19---a-message-from-the-bishop-of-guildford>

In view of the pandemic, all other church meetings and gatherings are cancelled.

As we gradually come to terms with the constraints of our situation, a reminder of the opportunities which we already have

- * There is a weekly service on Radio 4 on Sundays at 8.15am
- * And a daily service on Radio 4 Long wave at 9.45am
- * The Diocese of Guildford has information about what is going on, and not only about the virus! <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk>
- * The Church of England website includes access to services, under the heading of Prayer and Worship. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgic-and-prayer-resources>

An encouragement to all of us to keep in contact and watch out for those friends and neighbours who may be in need of help

Prayer Pointers

Our concerns:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Christians far and wide :

- ◆ Pray for our Discipleship, Vocations and Ministry team and also those who at national level and in our parishes encourage those seeking God's calling
- ◆ Anglican Cycle of Prayer
- ◆ Pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
The Most Revd Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island

Muslim Religious Holiday: - Lailat al Miraj

◆ Our nation and our world:

• Those fighting the Coronavirus in our own country, in Italy and throughout the world, those suffering, those grieving, and those working to contain the virus. We pray for doctors and scientists seeking a cure. We pray for those we know who are feeling vulnerable.

- Climate concerns across the world.

Our neighbours:

- The Good Companions [now CAMEO]; Elstead Royal British Legion, Our own particular friends.
- All who live in High Button & Hurt Hill, Thursley and Thursley Road (west side) from Copse Edge to Kingsmead Park. Elstead.
- Those who are housebound.
- Appreciation of the wants and needs of our necessities.

For those who are unwell, including Peter Ball, Helen Watkins, Hannah Pannias, Sir Alan Traill, Revd Andrew Williams, Sally & Jo Streatfield-James and Teresa recovering from her operation.

+ **In Loving Memory:** John Fford, Rodney Babcock, Ruth Bush, John Allen, Marjorie Noble, Irene Abbott.



Prayer and Action this Sunday

The Bishop of Guildford is joining the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in calling for a national day of prayer and action this Sunday, as the measures against the Coronavirus pandemic impact the lives of everyone.

In a joint article published today (Tuesday 17 March) Archbishops Justin and Sentamu urged 'honesty, compassion and care' in the face of the virus, and for everyone to look after one another. The leaders asked people to pray for those they love, for friends and for neighbours as well as themselves. To show support for all those affected by the virus and those working hard to keep us all safe, Bishop Andrew joined the Archbishops in asking us all to light a candle at 7pm on Sunday and put it in a window.

<https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/whats-on/news/detail/2020/03/17/prayer-and-action-this-sunday>

Revd Hannah writes - These are confusing times for us all. I know I am feeling bereft as I am unable to meet with family and friends and unable to meet to share Communion and worship God together. I was also looking forward to getting out and about in the communities and getting to know people and I will do this as soon as the situation changes. I am also conscious that at the moment our national efforts are about slowing the infection rates of this disease but as this crisis develops we will need to respond in our communities to families who are facing financial hardships because of this virus. In the meantime, stay safe and well by following the advice which is being given to us.

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Simple service at home for Mothering Sunday

Praise God who loves us.
Praise God who cares.

A candle may be lit.

This candle reminds us of the love of God, like a light in our darkness.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy

Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Collect

Reading

The Lord's Prayer

For the care of mothers

Thanks be to God.

For their patience when tested;

Thanks be to God.

For their love when tired;

Thanks be to God.

For their hope when despairing;

Thanks be to God.

For their service without limit;

Thanks be to God.

Thank you God for the love of our mothers:

thank you God for their care and concern;

thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;

thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;

thank you God for all that they give us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us:

may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us:

may God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us.

May almighty God bless us, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Sunday 22nd March readings -

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20- end

Hannah had been unable to conceive, but she prayed for a son, promising that she would dedicate him to God if her prayers were answered.

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Paul encourages Christians, despite their different backgrounds, to love and forgive one another.

Gospel Luke 2:33-35

A holy man named Simeon has some incredible things to say to Mary and Joseph about baby Jesus when they meet him in the Temple.

Collect for Mothering Sunday

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.

Prayer for Hope and Strength

(for those in despair or in great need)

Almighty God, You reach into the darkness with hope, truth and light. Stretch out your strong hand in this situation, hold and rescue those who have suffered. Let your almighty love move mountains, cross seas and breathe life into the darkest places.

Light that redeems. Light that restores. Light that heals.
Light that protects. Light that saves.

There is nothing higher, stronger or greater than your love.
We trust in you.

Amen