

The Lighthouse



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday, 14 March 2021
Issue 50

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 1 v 3–7.

‘Mama Mia.’ – ABBA

Dear Friends, The Fourth Sunday in Lent is Mothering Sunday. A time of celebration within Lent. Today we thank God and in a reflective way we thank our mothers for our nurturing, for our upbringing and for the chances in life which they have given us, often sacrificially. It is also a day to learn from the example of their love. As Christians, we believe that we can understand what God’s love is like, because Jesus shows us God in human form. When we look at Jesus and his life, we see the very best demonstration of the qualities we need to be good parents. One thing we see very clearly in the life of Jesus is that God loves his children.

Can you remember Jasmine Mirza? As a young child she had a double transplant. She was the first child in Britain to receive a double transplant from both parents. Her father gave his liver and her mother gave a kidney. Self-giving love is at the heart of the Gospel, shown clearly in Jesus and his death on the cross. Caring mothers show self-giving love day in and day out – we have so much to be thankful for. Caring parents seek out and strive for the very best for their children.

I was reading in *The Times* last week about Churchill, who doted on his girls. When Diana, his eldest, was born, David Lloyd George asked Churchill if she was a pretty child. “The prettiest I have ever seen,” Churchill said. “Like her mother, I suppose,” Lloyd George suggested. “No, she is the image of me,” Churchill bragged. “But all babies look like you,” Lloyd George replied. Good parenting is to look for the strengths in each child and to be an encourager.

My sons have arranged for mother to watch Tranmere Rovers on the tele. as they play Sunderland at Wembley on Mothering Sunday, with a personalized virtual ticket. They have obviously been brought up to make thoughtful and meaningful choices. I am very proud of them!

On this 50th edition of *The Lighthouse*, church news continues to beam out brightly to us in our homes. I am sure we all value the skills of Catherine who produced the earlier editions, and Lois who now puts together the various contributions week by week. Thank you for encouraging us and your editorial skills.

It would have been my mother’s birthday this weekend. She was born in 1912.

With every blessing, Derek the Cleric.



Jesus as a childhood friend, a painting by Marie Ellenreider, 1845

Public domain

Remember, you can now meet up and walk outdoors with one other person from outside your bubble, maintaining the two-metre ruling, and even have coffee together from a flask. What joy!

Please continue to remember the ‘Hands, face, space’ ruling at all times.

A Prayer

Lord God, thank you that You first loved us.

Help me to love You with all my heart, soul,
mind and strength.

Help me to love others as You love me.

Help me to communicate Your love to others
this week.

By my actions, by my words.

In Jesus name,

Amen

This is one of the prayers offered by the Church of England's website for use in Secondary Schools and at home. It is part of the Bishops' invitation to pray daily for our nation.

We give thanks for:

- + Lent and time to reflect on God's presence in our lives
- + our church community and our families and friendships
- + progress being made in treating coronavirus
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + God's word and help for our own situations
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of the Holy Spirit
- + that we can take our worries to Jesus in prayer
- + spring and time spent outside in nature
- + our mums, grans and all who care for us
- + the continuing success of the vaccines rollout



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

CHINA

Population 1.4 billion. 97.2 million Christians (6.8%).

The Church in China continues to see extraordinary growth. However, life for Christians is anything but straightforward, and in recent years there has been an increase in persecution. The Communist Party of China aims to control all religions in the name of national unity. Children under 18 are forbidden to attend Church.

Prayer points

- Ask God to comfort and protect believers from Muslim or Buddhist backgrounds.
- Pray that the love of Christ will transform leaders of the Communist Party.
- Pray for protection for those sharing the gospel with children.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in China, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - China - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

A prayer for China from Open Doors

Heavenly Father, we are astounded at the remarkable growth of the church in China, despite years of opposition and hostility. We praise You for the power of the gospel. Fill believers with wisdom, discernment and courage as they seek to serve You in an increasingly monitored environment. Empower their witness and continue to build Your church. Strengthen and sustain Your children through all challenges. Amen.

Thanks to Revd Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

Dersingham Guides & Scouts in Lockdown

Thanks to Dersingham Guides & Scouts for this update.

Guiding and Scouting has continued virtually in Dersingham during lockdown and we are now looking forward to returning to face-to-face meetings very soon.

The Rainbows and Brownies have been receiving weekly emails full of different activities to enjoy. The Rainbows have been planting seeds and watching them grow, having a name scavenger hunt (can they find different items for each letter of their name, e.g. a giraffe toy for G), celebrating Chinese New Year and making crafts. The Brownies have been creating flowers using recycling, finding out about endangered animals, designing a code and sending secret messages and badges.

The Guides and Scouts have been having weekly Zoom meetings. The Scouts have taken part in Escape Rooms, tied knots and lashings, enjoyed scavenger hunts and badgework, while the Guides have also completed Badges, created confused sandwiches (sandwich making Beetle game), made butter, played virtual games, learnt some sign language and celebrated Thinking day.

Thinking Day is celebrated by Guides across the world on the 22nd February and is when Guides celebrate that they are part of a worldwide family. In the past, when Thinking Day has fallen on a school day, the girls have been able to wear their uniform to school. This year, the girls were challenged to wear their uniform while completing their Home Schooling. In the evening, the girls were able to meet with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from across North West Norfolk for a renewal of Promises via Zoom. The renewal of Promises has always been a feature of our local Thinking Day celebrations and is a way of joining together, as everyone in Guiding makes the Promise when they join.

—Lynne & Elizabeth



All images on this page are courtesy of Dersingham Girlguiding

Wordsearch – The God of all comforts

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in 2 Corinthians chapter 1 verses 3 to 7.

S	W	R	I	T	O	E	C	H	C	C	S	S	I
S	E	F	U	D	E	S	G	R	N	O	G	E	A
T	D	W	F	A	S	I	O	R	E	M	N	A	H
A	I	O	O	S	H	A	O	T	E	P	I	H	R
C	S	A	O	E	D	R	E	R	N	A	R	T	B
S	T	H	O	R	F	P	R	O	D	S	E	H	O
C	R	T	S	E	R	F	O	U	U	S	F	N	V
C	E	N	T	S	P	E	F	B	R	I	F	F	E
T	S	E	S	R	H	O	N	L	A	O	U	A	R
B	S	I	E	F	O	A	H	E	N	N	S	T	F
L	E	T	P	F	N	F	R	S	C	E	H	H	L
I	D	A	S	F	B	B	M	E	E	G	O	E	O
A	E	P	C	D	F	V	O	O	I	A	E	R	W
U	F	T	R	A	H	C	R	P	C	G	F	E	S

SHARE
PRAISE
PATIENT
TROUBLES
COMPASSION
HOPE
COMFORT
DISTRESSED
ENDURANCE
SUFFERINGS
OVERFLOWS
FATHER

A poem for Mothering Sunday

While looking through Facebook recently, I came across some words about how our mothers are a part of us and remain with us throughout our lives. It is a poem written by Deborah R Culver called "Always with you..." following her mother's death and contains the following evocative lines which seemed so appropriate for Mothering Sunday:

She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street, she's the smell of certain foods you remember... she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not feeling well... She is the sound of the rain that lulls you to sleep... She's your first love... even your first enemy, but nothing on earth can separate you.

If you would like to read the whole poem, it can be found at:

[Always with you... Poem \(scrapbook.com\)](http://Always with you... Poem (scrapbook.com))

Thanks to Jackie S. for sending us this piece.

Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest's annual Easter Break festival goes online again this year. It runs from 4th to 8th April.

To find out more and to subscribe for access, visit their website at [Spring Harvest | Homepage](#).

–Rev Mark

Online Church Magazine

Thanks to everyone who has produced the March digital edition.

You can find it at the Dersingham Online Worship main page – just scroll down to find the link, or click through from here:

[Church magazine – March 2021 – Dersingham online worship](#)

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by the coronavirus
- + our NHS workers and those in care homes
- + key workers and those in essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and rolling out the new vaccines
- + people waiting to be called for the vaccine and those going for their jabs
- + our teachers and school staff, and for safety in the return of everyone to the classroom
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience in dealing with the many changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members

Mothering Sunday

The Benefice has a Mothering Sunday tradition of celebrating the life of each woman in the congregation by giving her a flower. Current lockdown restrictions mean that we can't meet and hand out flowers. But we still send you our love and we hope you'll enjoy these virtual spring flowers.



Thanks to Alan C. for the photo

Stopwatch: how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

QUIET SAIL

THERMOS

RACING

TEN SPAR

TURNED SAND

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, last page.)

Daily Walks – 10

Thanks to Allan Coleby for this walk through our local trees. Part 2 next week.

Last summer, when I recommended various local walking routes that people might use for their daily outdoor exercise, I did not include one of the most popular, that is, through 'Life Wood' to the northwest of the village. The wood occupies the area between the original A149, Hunstanton Road, and the southern part of the bypass.

It is privately owned, but there are two entrances, designated as public rights of way. One is along the old railway track, starting opposite the present Semba building supply yard at the end of Station Road. The other continues from the end of Woodside Close, which is a turning to the right halfway down Woodside Avenue. There are 'Private' notices there, but they apply only to the area which is not part of the right of way. Walkers need to bear to the right as they leave the end of Woodside Close, and stay on the well-trodden path. It is best to ignore the network of other, smaller paths and follow the well-used one until you come to a small beck. If you cross the level bridge over this beck, and turn right, you will be joining the path of the old railway track. Do not turn right before the small bridge, because the track gets very soft and muddy and goes past the rear entrances of some properties.

Soon, you will come to an open gate and a gravel path, possibly with some vehicles. This is Sandy lane, off the A149. It is a residential road leading to the main road, and you can go along and turn right back towards Dersingham if you wish, or you can continue towards Ingoldisthorpe. You have now left the wood.

Walking in woodland is clearly different from walking in any other kind of terrain. It is a bit darker in general, but shafts of sunlight can be strikingly beautiful, depending on the angle of the sunlight and the density of the trees. Walk on the inside of Dersingham open common at dusk and you will see some spectacular sunsets through the sparse trees. Especially in winter, and sometimes in autumn, there is a warmth and comfort about being in woodland – 'lovely, dark and deep,' as the poet Robert Frost said. Obviously, there is some shelter from the wind and in summer there is a coolness because of being shielded from the direct sunlight by the overhead canopy, depending on the types of tree and the nature of their leaves.



There is an average difference of two degrees warmer in woods compared to the temperatures in fields or on the shoreline. The warmth spreads upwards from the woodland floor. Generations of leaf-litter have fallen and lain mostly undisturbed, and as the litter decomposes, it is a rich source of food for invertebrates and insects. Activity generates heat, and another tiny world with its own microclimate covers the woodland floor. This world in turn feeds a host of small mammals and insect-eating birds – robins, wrens, thrushes, starlings – that inhabit all woods of any size. Many insects also live in the bark of trees, especially birch and oak, and these feed treecreepers, nuthatches, green and greater-spotted woodpeckers. The insects living in the growing foliage of the taller trees feed all sorts of warblers in the spring and summer, and we humans benefit from the most wonderful birdsong. The beauty of hills and shores is obvious: you can't miss it. The beauty of the woods has to be looked for closely and listened to carefully.

–Allan Coleby

Mothering Sunday thoughts

The Mothers Union provides many kinds of support for parents and families. The following prayers are available online as part of an array of free materials and activities for Mothering Sunday.

[Mothering Sunday Faith Resources | Mothers' Union](#)

Thankful prayers

Today we thank God for the gift of mothers and mothering across the world. Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms. 'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.' – Isaiah 66:13
Gentle, patient God – thank you for your tender care.



Dear Jesus,
We thank you for all mothers and carers around the world, and for all they do for their children.
We thank you for their patience when we don't get things right. We thank you for their encouragement when we find life hard. We pray that mums would feel really special today and that you would remind us every day to show them as much love and help as they give to us. Amen

Prayers for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a difficult time

We pray for anyone who needs the care of a mother:
For any for whom this has been a hard day;
For any who are suffering as a result of broken relationships;
For anyone feeling lost, lonely, fragile, or afraid.
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you', says the Lord.
May it be so for us. Amen

Loving God,
Thank you for mums and children, and for all the joy of family life.
Be with those who are grieving because they have no mother;
Be close to those who are struggling because they have no children;
Be near to those who are sad because they are far apart from those they love.
Let your love be present in every home,
And help your church to have eyes to see and ears to hear the needs of all who come.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

–Church of England



*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
compassion and the God of all comfort.*

– 2 Corinthians 1:3

Fifty!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed items for *The Lighthouse* during the past year, helping us to keep in touch and reach Issue 50 this week.

Your news, stories, articles, poems, recipes, photos and snippets are all very much appreciated.

For fun, here are some other half-centuries:

It's 50 years since the UK's currency went decimal on 15 February 1971

In a referendum held on 7 February 1971, women in Switzerland were granted the right to vote in federal elections and to stand for parliament

On 9 February 1971 it was a successful splashdown for the Apollo 14 astronauts after a 9-day mission to the moon

Fifty years ago, Dersingham's population was 2,597. –lw



NASA, public domain

Ideas for prayer

- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, their jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + all who are homeless
- + all who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + anyone facing illness or medical treatment
- + all who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + that people will respond to the call by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray daily for the nation and those who have died
- + all who make our worship services possible and all who attend, in church or online
- + all who are visiting the church via our Facebook pages
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + hope, encouragement and peace during this time of continuing restrictions

Anagrams: qualities, mothers, caring, parents, understand

With help from: anagrammaker.com



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

