

## Lent Four

### Mothering Sunday

### Discipleship in the Church

## Hymns

- 1986 Light of the World  
(here I am to worship)
- 331 In heavenly love abiding-
- 633 Thank you Jesus
- 89 Come down O Love Divine
- 478 'My song is love unknown'  
(vs. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7)

## Collect

## Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
♦ **therefore can I lack nothing.**
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
♦ **and leads me beside still waters.**
- 3 He shall refresh my soul  
♦ **and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
♦ **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
♦ **you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.**
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
♦ **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

## New Testament Reading I Thessalonians 4:1-12

### A Life Pleasing to God

4.1 Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. **2** For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; **4** that each one of you knows how to control your own body in holiness and honour; **5** not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** that no one wrongs or exploits a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. **7** For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. **8** Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you.

**9** Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; **10** and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, **11** to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, **12** so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one

## Gospel Matthew 6:7-15

The Gospel of Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**6.7** 'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

**9** 'Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

**10** Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us this day our daily bread.

**12** And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**13** And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

**14** For if you forgive others their trespasses,  
your heavenly Father will also forgive you;  
**15** but if you do not forgive others, neither  
will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Lenten Reflection - Wednesdays 1 pm to 1.40 pm in Church

Join us as we follow Bishop Stephen of  
Oxford on the subject of the Eucharist.

18th March The Vine  
25th March The Son of God  
1st April - The Apostle

Open to all.

There will be time for private prayers.

All are welcome to pause, take time, reflect  
& refresh this Lenten time.

## Notices

### Chatterbox

Every Wednesday 10:30 am to 12:30pm.  
All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet & chat.

**Zoom Prayers & Bible Study**  
Friday 2pm Zoom Prayers.

**Community Larder**  
Every Tuesday from 11 - 12:30

**Stantonbury Churches Newsletter**  
Available by email or ask for a hard copy.  
Copy on inside Notice Board.

## Future Sundays

Sunday 22nd - Family Breakfast Club 10 am  
Sunday 29th - Palm Sunday  
Annual Church Meeting  
after the service

## Good Friday

We are inviting people to attend on Good  
Friday our neighbouring Churches.

2pm St Mary Magdalene at 2 pm - Reflections  
led by Mary Moakes

2pm -St Andrews Church Great Linford -  
Reflections led by Revd Peterson Feital &  
Revd Prof John Beaze

Full details of Holy Week services in our  
Stantonbury Partnership will be available  
shortly.

## EASTER

Sunday 5th April 11m Communion

Sunday 15th March 2026

THE

Lent Four  
Mothering Sunday

# CROSS AND STABLE



## Mothering Sunday

At last, in spite of all, a recognition,  
 For those who loved and laboured for so long,  
 Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition  
 To flourish in the place where we belong.  
 A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,  
 Who buckled down and did the work of two,  
 Whom governments have mocked instead of praising,  
 Who hid their heart-break and still struggled through,  
 The single mothers forced onto the edge  
 Whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,  
 Invisible to wealth and privilege,  
 But in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.  
 Now into Christ our mother church we bring them,  
 Who shares with them the birth-pangs of His Kingdom.

*Malcolm Guite*

### Mothering Sunday a note from Sam;

Mothering Sunday: A Historic Tradition in the UK  
 Mothering Sunday, celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent, has deep roots in British Christian tradition. Beginning in the 16th century, it was a day when people returned to their "mother church" — the main church or cathedral of their area — for a special service. This homecoming often became a rare opportunity for families to gather during Lent, and over time it also became a day to honour mothers with small tokens such as flowers or freshly baked simnel cake.

#### How It Differs from American Mother's Day

While the American Mother's Day, established in the early 20th century, by Anna Jarvis, focuses primarily on celebrating motherhood, Mothering Sunday in the UK has a much older and distinctly spiritual origin. Though both now share themes of gratitude and appreciation, the British observance remains tied to the Lenten season and its heritage of returning to one's spiritual "mother."

As we mark Mothering Sunday, we give thanks not only for mothers and carers, but also for the guiding presence of our church family. It is a moment to celebrate love, nurture, and the bonds that shape us in faith and in life

## Contacts

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TODAY	THIS SUNDAY	NEXT SUNDAY:	NEXT SUNDAY
Lent 4 Mothering Sunday Led by Phil	Psalms 23 1 Thess 4:1-12 Matthew 6:7-15	Ezekiel 37.1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8.6-11 John 11.1-45	Lent 5 Passion Sunday Family Breakfast Club 10 am, Service 11 am

Cross and Stable is part of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership  
 Church of England • Baptist Union • Methodist Church • United Reformed Church