

## Thought for the Week

Mothering Sunday can lead us to think about our own mothering – not so much how, or how well, we were mothered, but how we ourselves mother, whether we're men or women, and whether or not we have human children. Today we can reflect on how we hold on to the things – and people – we give birth to; how we stand by them and how we let them go. And in particular, how we allow God's purposes to affect our holding on and our letting go.

Ask yourself, "What is the thing right now that means the most to me?" It may be something really good you feel you're doing for God. It may be something bad you're pursuing but you know is wrong. Perhaps it's something at work. Perhaps it's a situation in your family. Whatever it is that's getting you excited or eager – take the opportunity of this Mothering Sunday to bring it before the Lord.

As you do this, listen for the voice of his Spirit. Perhaps God is telling you to hold on through a difficult time; perhaps God's telling you to let go and let him have his way. The important thing always is to let God be God. Everything good we birth is a gift from God. Everything bad we birth is the result of our fallen world. In each case we need to offer our lives to the purpose of God. Let's spend a few moments to reflect and pray about that right now.

### Intercessions

**In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them**

Jennifer Lane, Liz Galton, Sue Fisher, Berna, Daphne Carty, Snowy, Joy from Hillrise, Joan Pritchard, Beth Hirst, Lionel Hall, Mark, Lorna Sturney, Becky, Joyce Upward, Joseph, Strat Liddiard, Karen, Lucy, Jenny, Betty Tripp, Derek White, Tracy Nicholls, Alice Pink, Barbara Shearman, Loretta, Paul Hanscombe, Stanley and Gill Gibbons, Ivy Webb, Crawford, Ralph and Zara Toop, Zac, The Lenaerts family, Jasmine, Michael, Alison, Carol and Don Knott.

**We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends**

**especially**

Joyce James and Emma.

## Praying as a Benefice

Please use the following text and prayer in a quiet time; the text is from this Sunday's readings and the prayer is from Bishop Jonathan. Please pray either at noon or 5.55 pm (or both) every day.

### This week's Bible Text

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes! He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1: 3-4)

### The Prayer

Glorious God,  
You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Week Ahead

<b>Tues 13</b>	<b>1.00 pm</b>	<b>Lent Group St M</b>
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Rock Choir rehearsal St M</b>
<b>Weds 14</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts</b>
	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Bellringing AS</b>
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>PCC AS</b>
<b>Thurs 15</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Bellringing St M and AS</b>
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Lent Group in Church AS</b>
<b>Fri 16</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Kneeler Group AS</b>

### Next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March

9.30 am	Holy Communion AS
11.00 am	Holy Communion and coffee St M
11.00 am	Visiting Bellringers AS
6.00pm	Sunday at Six CC

<b>Jeremiah 31. 31-34</b>	<b>GNB OT 752</b>
<b>Hebrews 5. 5-10</b>	<b>GNB NT 267</b>
<b>John 12. 20-33</b>	<b>GNB NT 129</b>

**Lent Course. Beginning Tuesday 20th Feb 1.00  
- 2.00 pm**

Lent Group in Church

1-2 pm on Tuesdays until Easter.

Live Lent: "Let your Light Shine" is the initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

If you wish to do so, please arrive early at 12.30 pm and bring your lunch – coffee provided. Take a flier and bring a friend. *This replaces the Tuesday Evening Home Group which will start again at Whinwood after Easter.*

### **All Saints' Church Minstead.**

Lent Group in Church.

7.30 pm on Thursdays in Lent; not including Maundy Thursday.

Studying a book called: "The Things He Carried." by Stephen Cottrell. Meditations for Lent and Holy Week. Published by SPCK.

Stephen Cottrell brings home, vividly and poignantly, the physical reality of the passion story. This is a book to stimulate thought, provoke discussion and create space for contemplation.

### **Filling Station**

Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> @7.30pm Brockenhurst Village Hall Highwood Road, Brockenhurst SO42 7RY Information or lift see David Heron 07836 278757

### **St Michael's Churchyard Spring Clean**

7th April from 10 am volunteers needed to tidy and clear church grounds and clear the ivy off the Church. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring tools.

### **Training for Open the Book**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 9.30 am in St Michael's. Everyone welcome.

### **Junior Minstead Annual Pantomime**

at Minstead Hall

Friday 16th March at 6.30pm

Saturday 17th March at 6.00pm

Tickets from Acres Down Shop or the Village shop or on the night

### **March/April**

#### **25<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday**

10.30 am Holy Communion CC

10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M

4.15 pm Palm Sunday Service AS

#### **1<sup>st</sup> April Easter Day**

9.30 am Holy Communion AS

10.30 am Holy Communion CC

11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in  
LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD

**Trusting Christ Transforming Church  
Transforming Community**

## **Mothering Sunday**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2018 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Welcome to our gathering today!

If you wish to know more about the activities of our churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us [benefice@newforestparishes.com](mailto:benefice@newforestparishes.com) or look us up on Facebook, or the website ([www.newforestparishes.com](http://www.newforestparishes.com)).

### **Today's Services**

10.30 am Holy Communion CC

10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday St M

10.30 am Mothering Sunday Worship AS

### **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. Amen.**

### **Today's Readings**

**Exodus 2. 1-10** **Pew Bible OT 55**

A cost of motherhood is letting our children go. God shares the experience of this cost in relation to us, as do we all with what and whom we give birth to.

**1 Samuel 1. 20-28** **Pew Bible OT 255**

For Hannah, the process of weaning and releasing was a privilege. She remains an example of gratitude and trust.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-7** **Pew Bible NT 213**

The maternal bond is forged through the suffering and vulnerability of childbirth. Paul too links suffering and comfort in one flow.

**Luke 2. 33-35** **Pew Bible NT 74**

In letting Jesus fulfil his vocation Mary actually participated in it, feeling keenly the pain of God's judgement, which the word "sword" represents.