

Issue No 117 Sunday 31st March 2019

Services & events this week

Sunday 31st Mothering Sunday services as follows

9.30 am Hurstbourne

10.00 am Charlton, Hatherden, Penton & Smannell

10.30 am Weyhill

11.00 am Vernham

6.00 pm Linkenholt

Wednesday 3rd Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT & 10 am Tangley

Friday 5th Holy Communion 1.30 pm Weyhill and 2.30 pm Charlton

Services & events next week

Wednesday 10th

Holy Communion 9.30 am HBT & 10 am Tangley

Friendship Group 7.30 pm Charlton all welcome call Jude to find out more information

Holy Week – see the separate list attached for all events across the benefice.

Readings This Week

Exod 2 1 – 10

Ps 34 11 – 20

2 Cor 1 3 – 7

Luke 2 33 - 35

Next Week

Colossians 1 15 – 23

Luke 9 18 - 22

In your Prayers please pray for.....

All our Mothers, weather near or far remember to share our love with them as God does with us every moment of our lives

Those who work in the emergency services, may they always support us all when we need to call upon them

Our benefice family, may we continue to grow, share our faith and open our doors wide to welcome those who are tentative to come in

Pastrow & Community Diary Dates

Monday 15th April Amazing Grace Retreat at The Old Dairy Hatherden, please book as places are limited, call Jude 07999 352585

Tuesday 16th April

Passover Meal Vernham Village Hall 5 pm Call Tammy 737269 to book

Messy Church Easter Special 11 am Charlton to book call Karen 07766 945118

Thursday 18th April Passover meal 6.30 pm Charlton to book please call Jude 07999 352585

Notes from Pastrow Admin

Mothering Sunday blessings to all mums 😊

Words of Encouragement

By Terry Milne

Mothers' Day or Mothering Sunday?

In the world today we seem to have rampant commercialism taking over from any religious connotations surrounding festivals or special days in the Christian calendar. Just think of All Hallows Eve, Wintervals instead of Christmas and of course the ubiquitous Easter Bunny. And the same is true of what the secular world now calls Mothers' Day. Even that seems to have spawned other days perhaps seeking equality. We have Fathers' Day and Grandparents' Day and no doubt there will be an aunties' day, an uncles' day and in due course a third cousin, twice removed, day. Only joking but a lot of the real significance of days is being lost. It is thought that the idea of Mothering Sunday (as it should be called) was for whole families to get together and visit their mother church. This could be the church they were baptised in, married in, the parish church or, if nearby, the cathedral (the mother church of a diocese). Traditionally it was held on Laetare Sunday (the 4th Sunday of Lent).

It is the concept of the family that is important here; not just the nuclear family (mother, father, children) but the whole church family. Mothering Sunday should be about that wider family as well as honouring our earthy mothers. Coming together as a family shows a strength that can overcome many difficulties but of course not all families are harmonious and that is true of the church family as well. This Mothering Sunday perhaps we can think of how we can bring harmony to all we do in church – seek the common goal of growing the Kingdom here in the Pastrow benefice and put aside our own and sometimes very parochial views on life and let us live the Mission of Jesus.