

NOTICES FROM REVD LIZ -

NO SUNDAY SERVICES TODAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE but the church is still here, open and praying for you!! **MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES** are available in church porches of Ockley and Capel Churches for any to collect who would like one or know someone who might appreciate today. A huge thank you to Rosemary, Joy, Betty, Sally and others for organising and delivering x

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

St Johns and St Margarets are open daily for personal prayer and reflection. Revd Liz is praying twice a day the Church of England's Daily Office so be assured you are being prayed for. This news sheet will be delivered to you or if we have your email address you will receive it online which is easier for us so do let us know if we don't have your address. Services of Public Worship are postponed until further notice so we are looking at how we can do church in a different way

so watch this space and there will be prayer resources and other ideas placed in church so do pop in and see what's there. It would be really nice if we could get some children's resources in our churches too so if anyone feels called to organise this please let me know!! Please contact me an any of the usual team if you need to know anything and we will try our best to help. There are various phone lines up and awaiting calls for those who are self isolating and need assistance. Ockley Parish Council is organising a help line as are Capel Parish Council.

ONLINE WORSHIP

There will be worship broadcast through the BBC on radio and other channels plus live streaming from St Paul's Church Dorking stpaulsdorking.org.uk 9am HC and 10.30am informal worship service. Bishop Jo has recorded a short sermon for Mothering Sunday cofeguildford.org.uk and follow links. The Archbishop of Canterbury is leading CofE's first virtual Sunday Service and will be broadcast across 39 local BBC radio stations at 8am this weekend. In the meantime please continue to pray for all those who have asked for our prayers plus those matters we feel led to pray for locally and through our media. God bless and have a good week, keep well and keep safe.

We pray particularly for Nick Ward, Jennifer Morshead, Eileen Steeden, Anne, Neville, Sally Calvert, Nicky, Sandy, Ron Backhouse, Douglas James, Paula Salton, Finley Relf and all who are very vulnerable and self isolating at this time. We remember all those who have died especially Peter Ede, Neville Clifford Jones, Honor Johnson. Please note that Honor's memorial service has been postponed.

The Parish of Capel & Ockley

Sunday 22nd March 2020 Lent 4

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Welcome to your church



In our readings for today we first read from the book of Exodus which tells us the story of how a Hebrew baby was placed in a specially prepared papyrus basket and placed among the reeds on the river bank deliberately placed so that he would be rescued by the Egyptians. Discovered by Pharaoh's daughter she named him Moses. A story of a mother's sacrifice to save her child. There is an alternate reading from the Old Testament as well because it is Mothering Sunday. From the Book of Samuel it tells of Hannah giving her son Samuel into the Lord's service in the Temple. Another sacrifice. Our second readings, again a choice, gives us more of Paul's letters, firstly his second letter to the Corinthians who speaks of God as loving parent who is a God of all consolation, who consoles us in our afflictions so that we may console others in just the same way. In Paul's letter to the church at Colossiae we are called to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Forgive one another and most importantly Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with love which is the thing that binds everything together. How true. Then in our Gospel for today we have a very short reading from Luke retelling what happened when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to be presented as was the custom of the day. We celebrate this at the end of January at Candlemas when we have traditionally held our Christingle service. Wonderful things are said to his parents about the infant Jesus but already tinged with sadness the prophet predicts that metaphorically a sword will pierce Mary's soul. (At this time it feels as if a sword has pierced our world..) Here will be the ultimate sacrifice as Mary will lose her son. An alternative gospel text for today can be this poignant text from John's gospel; the ultimate sacrifice itself, as Jesus dying on the cross gives his mother to his best friend and his best friend to his mother. Jesus dies for us all - the ultimate sacrifice for the sin of the whole world but an act which shows just how much God loves the world that he gave us his only son. Plenty here to think about on this Mothering Sunday and in the week ahead. We know that parents make many sacrifices for their children in often difficult circumstances. We will be reminded of our own mothers today and indeed anyone who was a mothering influence in our lives. I know I have more than one! Thanks be for mothers and mothering.

Happy Mothering Sunday! With my love and prayers - Revd Liz

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