



GODALMING UNITED CHURCH
(Methodist & United Reformed)

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY MARCH 31st 2019 and notices for the coming week

Today is Mothering Sunday. Over the years I have written of its origin in the Church (always the 4th Sunday in Lent, exactly 3 weeks before Easter Sunday) and of its difference from Mothers Day (the secular holiday in America which has grown into today's commercial giant). By the 1920's, in Ireland and continental Europe, Mothering Sunday had tended to lapse. However, in 1914, inspired by Anna Jarvis's efforts in the USA, Constance Penswick-Smith, in Coddington, created The Society for the Observance of Mothering Sunday and in 1921 wrote a book advocating the revival of the Festival. In her view the American proposals for a Mothers Day Festival would not have any of the Christian values which made Mothering Sunday so special. She began to devote her life to re-establishing the true Christian celebration of Mothering Sunday in a campaign which was to last for 30 years.

As part of her campaign she set up headquarters in 15 Regent Street, designed Mothering Sunday Cards for school children to give to their mothers, wrote plays and articles to promote interest and made a collection of appropriate hymns for use on the day. She approached the Mothers Union for support but as much as they approved of the idea they thought that the custom had been dead for so long that its revival was virtually impossible. But Constance was not to be discouraged. At first her movement was rejected by many established religious societies but gradually the clergy did become interested and Mothering Sunday was resurrected.

Mothering Sunday does have a number of names and I have found a reference to it being called Pudding Pie Sunday in Surrey. This is new to me - does anyone have any knowledge on this? Godstone claims to celebrate Pudding Pie Sunday each year.

Alan

9.00-10.15am eMerge (Fairtrade Sunday breakfast)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Mothering Sunday British Summer Time begins

Thank God for mother's caring concerns, for her warm heart and kind thoughts about what I should eat and wear. Thank God for a devoted industrious mother whose tender hands scrubbed the floor and laundered my clothes. Thank God for a thankful mother who deserves the thankfulness of her thankful child; for those tender hands, though now coarse and stiff with age her kind thoughts still grow kinder and kinder and her warm heart daily grows fonder and fonder.

Today's stewards are

Vestry Steward Alison Briscoe

Duty Steward Sue Weighton

(stewards are the people to ask, if you need help before, during or after a service)

Our CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM requires hearing aids to be switched to the telephone or T programme. Recordings of our services are available through the church website, or a CD copy can be provided on request – please ask a Steward.

The Church operates a system of covenanted, planned giving (details of which may be obtained from Nicola Garriock).

There is a children's area available at the rear of the Church which parents and their young children may use during the service.

10.30am MORNING WORSHIP – MOTHERING SUNDAY

Led by Rev Paul Hulme

Organist: Keith Nye

Hosts: Shirley Williams & Sylvia Kelley

Sound System: Malcolm Keene

Projection steward: Julie Rowling

Call to Worship

HYMN (StF) 88 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Responsive Psalm 793 Magnificat The Song of Mary

Prayer

A Thought for Mother's Day

Music Kids 'My Mum'

HYMN (StF) 102 For the beauty of the earth

LESSONS

Deuteronomy Ch.32 v.8-12 (p.221) read by Muriel Clark

Matthew Ch.23 v.35-39 (p.993) read by Alison Briscoe

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN (StF) 509 Safe in the shadow of the Lord

SERMON

Music for Reflection

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Collection and dedication of the Offering (*congregation please stand*)

HYMN (StF) 81 Now thank we all our God
(*Beaumont Tune*)

The Blessing

Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee or tea or a drink
of squash in the River Room after the service.

The flowers today have been given by Margaret and Barry Stafford
to celebrate five family birthdays this week.

Arranged by Wendy Weston.

The April edition of SPAN is available this morning.

There will be a congregational (church) meeting following
the morning service on Sunday 7th April.

**The Lent Appeal is for Maternity Services through Medicines Sans
Frontieres.** There is a display on the board in the foyer and letters are
available for you to take.

