



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Mothering Sunday**

### Today's Sunday Services

9.30am Holy Communion (said) - At the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury  
11am Mission Community Morning Prayer - Zoom  
For the Zoom password, email: [rachelbelringer@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com)

11am Mothering Sunday Service - St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen  
4.30pm Refresh, revisit reflect - zoom – see notice sheet for details

**Telephone support/chat following the church services:** Sheila Sheldon is available to speak to following our church services. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

### Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom  
For the Zoom password, email: [rev.andrewdown@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com)

### Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 4pm	Sundays and Wednesdays
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

### Mid-Week Services

Tuesday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	7pm	Compline	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Mary's, Denbury
Thursday	4.30pm	Evening Prayer	- St Mary's, Denbury

### Next Sunday – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30am Mission Community Morning Prayer - Zoom  
For the Zoom password, email: [rachelbelringer@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com)  
11am Holy Communion (said) - At St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

**Census Day 2021** Remember March 21st is Census Day 2021.

### Phoebe: a story by Paula Gooder: Mission Community Lent Book

Phoebe - A story by Paula Gooder. Paula Gooder is a leading New Testament Theologian and is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral. In this she tells the story of Phoebe, the deacon of the church at Cenchreae, who Paul commends in his letter to the Romans (16:1-2). Through the imaginative telling of this story Paula hopes to open up Paul's thinking and theology. If you haven't yet got yourself a copy it is not too late to start: a wonderful read.

#### Questions to ponder as you read

*A key theme throughout the story is regret and forgiveness.*

How do you understand the journey of forgiveness? What is your experience of living this way - to be forgiven, to forgive self and forgive others? Have you ever made a formal confession? Why does this tradition exist in the church? What is its value?

### Reading and reflection in Lent - The Apostles Creed

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians developed short, simple summaries of the faith. These short statements became known as creeds. The word 'creed' comes from the Latin word credo, meaning 'I believe and trust'. Two creeds in particular were developed in the early centuries of the Church, which have remained important to the Church and are regularly used in our worship today. People who were preparing for baptism in the early centuries of the Christian Church learned a short summary of what Christians believe. One version became accepted as the Apostles' Creed, because it was thought to include the essential teaching of the 12 apostles, Jesus' earliest followers. It was into that faith of the apostles that Christians were, and are, baptized. This week spend time reading and reflecting on the Apostles' Creed. Why not try to learn it by heart or do you already?

**Refresh, revisit, and reflect.** 6 sessions exploring the Christian Way of Life – for all and particularly those wanting to prepare for confirmation - starts today 4.30pm via zoom.

**Today:** Jesus summary of the law - Matt 22 37-40  
**Next week:** The Lord's Prayer - Luke 11 1-11  
To join email [office@beaconparishes.co.uk](mailto:office@beaconparishes.co.uk) . Zoom password, email: [rachelbelringer@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com)

**Online Sermon for this Sunday:** This week Rev'd Preb. Rosie Austin shares a sermon for Mothering Sunday, reflecting on the experience of losing her mother and exploring motherhood in the Bible. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

**In memory.** John Minnis

**New Beacon Community Group on Facebook** A place for sharing, discussion and to build community. You can join the new Beacon Community Group on: [www.facebook.com/groups/424938598594105](https://www.facebook.com/groups/424938598594105)

**St Andrew's, Ipplepen - flower donations anytime on Easter Saturday.** A request for donations of flowers/greenery in a container (to be dropped off ready, not to be arranged in the church please) for any window in church, similar to what we did for Harvest.

**Floodlighting sponsors – St Andrew's, Ipplepen.** The new email address for sending floodlighting donations to is [ippleflood@beaconparishes.co.uk](mailto:ippleflood@beaconparishes.co.uk) . For those placing floodlighting messages into the grey letterbox at St Andrew's Church Hall, please write 'Floodlighting' on the front of the envelope.

### Readings

	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b> First Reading	Exodus 2:1-10	Exodus 2:1-10
Psalm	34:11-20	34:11-20
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	2 Corinthians 1:3-7
Gospel	Luke 2:33-35	Luke 2:33-35

Readings for the week ahead:	Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	John 4.43-End
	Tue	16 <sup>th</sup>	John 5.1-3, 5-16
	Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	John 5:17-30
	Thurs	18 <sup>th</sup>	John 5:31-End
	Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 1:18-End
	Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	John 7:40-52

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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## Reflection by Hillarie Griggs

**Mothering Sunday**  
**Luke 2:33-35**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Today is Mothering Sunday, a day when traditionally people went back to their mother church, usually the place where they were baptised. They returned to the place where their journey of faith began, where they were first nurtured and encouraged in their relationship with God. Today we also celebrate Mothers' Day, a day set aside for us to remember and give thanks to our own mothers and others who have mothered us. We remember the important part they have played in our lives. It is usually one of the days in the year when families try to get together, but unfortunately not this year.

One of the readings set for today is the story of Moses' babyhood and the extraordinary love his mother had for him. Pharaoh had decreed that all Hebrew baby boys should be thrown into the River Nile to die but Jochebed managed to keep him hidden for three months. When that was no longer possible, she put him in a waterproof basket and placed him among the reeds. We know what happened next, the daughter of Pharaoh sees the basket and Moses is saved. Jochebed was prepared to let Moses go so that he would survive. Mothers are special people.

In our reading we have two other women who mothered Moses, the daughter of Pharaoh and Miriam, his older sister. So what do we mean by mothering? One definition is it is a person who shows nurturing or protective behaviour that is reminiscent of that performed by a mother. This may be someone who is not even female or a family member, but someone who loves us unconditionally. They are always there to encourage but also to comfort us when life is tough. These people are special people.

The Bible talks frequently about the fatherhood of God, but scripture also describes God in ways consistent with motherhood. Mothering Sunday seems the right place to rediscover these images. They help us to further understand something about the nature of God. The imagery of God as having either typically traditional masculine or feminine characteristics is not saying that God is male or female. God is beyond gender. We must not allow our language to limit our understanding and we must not confuse this imagery or any other metaphors with God's reality.

You may want to look up these verses that show the following:-

- God cares for his people like a mother eagle hovering over her young (Deuteronomy 32:11)
- God remembers his children like a mother (Isaiah 49:15)
- God comforts his people like a mother (Isaiah 66:13)
- God protects his people like a mother bear robbed of her cubs (Hosea 13:8)

Another common image of God is of a mother bird sheltering her young under her wings e.g. "May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!" (Ruth 2:12) Jesus himself uses this metaphor to express the relationship he longs to have with the people of Jerusalem. This is a touching moment when the best analogy at his disposal is one of a mother's care. "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings," (Matthew 23:37)

It is worth remembering that Mothers' Day is a difficult time for some but as we reflect on that image of God as a mother we know that we have a God who cares, remembers, comforts and protects all His children.

