



Sunday 27th March 2022

Mothering Sunday

In Memory: Andy Vickerstaff, Michael Dow and Edith Mortimore and Penelope Kittow.
Points for Prayer. We hold in prayer the ongoing conflict in Ukraine praying for peace. We particularly pray for those families who are facing separation due to the conflict. We also give thanks for the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, now reunited with her husband and daughter. We pray for those who were baptised on 13th March: Charlie Hooker and Mabel Freeborn.

Ippleplanet Launch Event on Monday 28th March at 7pm at Ipplepen Village Hall. Guest Speaker Professor Dave Griggs. Come and hear ideas about how we can care for our local environment and share your thoughts and ideas.

Giving to Ukraine:

We will be holding special collections at our services over the coming weeks. Additionally...

A number of charities have specific appeals to help people in Ukraine. They include [Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/), [Unicef](https://www.unicef.org.uk), the [British Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org.uk) and [Christian Response 2 Eastern Europe](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cr2ee/)

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Opportunities for prayer and study during Lent:

Lent Course 2022: 'Surprised by Generosity' This weeks theme 'The Penguin'. Come and see what it is all about 5pm Sunday evening St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen.

Lent Compline 2022: 'Cross Encounters' - come and reflect on the meetings people had with Jesus and his cross. Tuesday evening 7pm, St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2022: 'Embracing Justice'. Author Isabelle Hamley invites you to journey with her through 'Embracing Justice'.

Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2022 with an app, daily email and printed book of reflections for each day all available.

Faith, gifts and calling beyond lent:

Foundations in Christian Ministry - September 2022 - June 2023 Would you like to deepen your faith, develop your gifts and explore God's calling for your life? The Diocese of Exeter offers a free one year course which runs over seven Saturdays. It includes teaching on the Bible, Spirituality, Theology and Pastoral Care. Contact Programmes Coordinator & Administrator, the Rev'd Belinda Speed-Andrews: admin@swmtc.org.uk, 01392 272544 or have a conversation with Hillarie Griggs (1803 812197). Application need to be submitted by 17th April 2022 to

<https://swmtc.org.uk/study/foundations-in-christian-ministry/>

Readings	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
1st Reading	Exodus 2: 1-10	Isaiah 43: 16-21
Psalm	34:11-20	126
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 1:3-7	Philippians 3:4b-14
Gospel	Luke 2: 33-35	John 12: 1-18
Readings for the week ahead:		
Mon 28 th	John 4:43-End	Thurs 31 st John 5:31-End
Tue 29 th	John 5:1-3, 5-16	Fri 1 st John 7:1-2, 20, 25-30
Wed 30 th	John 5:17-30	Sat 2 nd John 7:40-52

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www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/

Today's Sunday Services

9.30 am	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Mothering Sunday Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Churches Together –	
	Mothering Sunday Family Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
5.00 pm	Lent Course 'Surprised by Generosity'	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen

Morning Prayer

This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Tuesday	9.15 am	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am	- Online Via Zoom
(for the zoom password email rev.andrewdown@gmail.com)		
Thursday	9.15 am	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
(A time of silent prayer and meditation)		

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	Daily
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily
St John the Baptist, Woodland	9am to 5pm	Daily

Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down day off Monday

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	7pm	Compline	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	2.00 pm	Funeral & Burial Service of	
		Edith Mortimore	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	12 noon	Funeral of Michael Dow	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
	4.30 pm	Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Saturday	10am-12pm	Coffee Morning	- Parish Rooms, Woodland

Next Sunday 3rd April 2022 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.30 pm	Reflective Evening Prayer -	
	St George	- Holy Trinity, Torbryan
6.00 pm	Lent Course 'Surprised by Generosity'	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen



Surprised by Generosity Reflection for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

**The Rev'd John Roles – Team Rector
of Holy Trinity and St Peter Ilfracombe with St Peter Bittadon**

Today we celebrate the joy, the generosity, and the excitement of love.

The story of the prodigal son is one of the most famous and familiar of the parables, but what is it about? Is it about the wayward son? Is it about the forgiving father? Is it even, perhaps, about the jealous brother? Or is it about the generosity of love?

The truth is that it is all of these things, and more. The exciting thing about the parables is that they have the power to speak to us in our own situation.

Today, on this Mothering Sunday, the story must speak to us through the image of parenthood. It is the story of a father and his children.

Our story is about a rich, generous and loving father who wishes only the best for his sons. He is prepared to give to each all he has, in equal measure.

For Christians, the image of a father encourages us to think of God; so, is this parable about good parenting or is it about God?

For me it is about both those things. In the details, we can see the challenges of parenthood; but in the whole story we can see joy in the generosity of God the Father.

Being a parent is a privilege but it is also an awesome responsibility. Parents choose to create a new life but, at birth, that life immediately takes on an independent character.

A new parent is about to embark on the most important and responsible task of his or her life – and it's frightening. There are no manuals, no training; only a deep rooted desire to get it right and a deep rooted fear of getting it wrong.

It is difficult to strike a balance between creative encouragement and the deepest desire to protect. And it is often the conflict of a child who wishes to become independent, to be herself, with the parent's need to care, that causes stress in a family; especially in the teenage years!

Life as a parent is often about living on the edge of fear.

The father in today's parable is brave enough to let both his sons have their head; "he divided his property between them."

When the younger son asks for his share, it is given. Is the father naïve? Does he not recognise that the boy has a tendency to waywardness?

Like any loving parent, the father accepts the risk of love.

The story is familiar; the younger son is eager to experience life and ends up squandering away his inheritance, whilst the elder brother continues to work on the family farm. Soon, the younger son is having the worst possible life for a Jew; he has lost everything and is looking after the pigs of a gentile. In desperation, he is even jealous of the meagre food of the pigs, for he has nothing of his own.

He decides to return home, not, in fairness, expecting anything other than to be treated as a hired hand – a manual worker. He realises he has been profligate, that he's had his chance and blown it. We have to imagine that he believes his father to be generous enough to at least give him a job.

But let us look at this father. When the son "was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion." Notice this, "while he was still far off" his father saw him. This conjures images of a father who is always on the lookout for his son, a parent who can never be at ease when one of his sons is in danger. The father has compassion for him, and we see him running towards his son, embracing him and kissing him. There is clearly joy in the father's heart and actions. I love the detail that the old man runs towards his son; he cannot wait!

At this point he has had no requests or explanations; he is simply overwhelmed at the return of the son he loves.

The son wishes to explain, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father is not listening; already he is instructing his slaves to bring the finest robe and prepare the finest food. The rejoicing begins even before the older brother has left the fields.

There is, one might say, something irrational about the father's reaction; it is immediate and, for that time, entirely focussed on the younger son – we can, perhaps, understand the older brother's resentment – but it is the overwhelming and unconditional love of a parent for a child who is out of danger, "let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!"

Overwhelming and unconditional! Joyful and generous!

If you know Rembrandt's painting of The Return of the Prodigal Son, you will recognise the tattered kneeling figure of the younger son being blessed by a grateful father; the light captures both. But notice also, the shadowy background figure of the elder brother, well dressed and brooding; the light hardly touches him.

This week, Dave Hopwood has encouraged us to look at two contrasting figures.

The rich fool, who gathers the fruits of the earth, which could have enhanced the lives of others, into his enormous and expensive barn, where, after his death it will rot away. A man who has no joy in life with others; "and I will say to my soul" (Lk 29): he has no one else to talk to.

Contrast this with the unworthy Zacchaeus, touched by the generosity and urgency of Jesus' love – "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today" (Lk 19:5) – and who expresses his joy in sacrificial giving; "Half of my possessions I will give to the poor; and, if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much" (19:8).

In these stories we see the contrast of selfishness and selflessness. The shadowy brother for whom the fatted calf will taste like gall; the acquisitive farmer, lonely and unloved in his echoing barn. The joyful, generous father who, ever watchful, runs towards his son; the cheat who is so touched by the unaccountable call of Jesus that it spills out in generous recompense.

The common message is in the joy of generous love; that joy of a parent which can overcome times of pain and regret; that joy in accepting forgiveness and changing as a result.

What Jesus is telling us about in this parable is not about our earthly fathers and mothers but about our heavenly Father who created us all, who is parent (with the dual nature of a mother and a father) to us all. He, like the father in the parable, will rejoice at our own home-coming.

God created us in His own image; He gave us that same capacity to love. Today we remember and give thanks for our mothers, and for those who have demonstrated a mother's care for us. In that selfless, unconditional, joyful, generous love we come closest to understanding the love of our creator God, who is ever joyful at our coming home to Him.