

The Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton
Growing as beacons of Christ's light in our communities



Sunday 14 March 2021
What Makes A Good Mother?

**with Rev DAVID PAYNE &
Lay Leader of Worship
Maggie Jeeves**

**Recorded mainly at
St James the Great, Silsoe**

Words of Welcome and Opening Prayers

We gather as a family, young and old together.
We are privileged to come to God our heavenly Father,
to be sheltered, as new born chicks are sheltered,
under the wings of their mother hen.
We come to worship,
to hear God's word,
to pray, to listen,
and to be filled with the abundance of God's love.

For parents, and the love which brought us to birth:

All: We give you our thanks and praise.

For mothers who have loved and looked after us:

All: We give you our thanks and praise.

For fathers who have loved and supported us:

All: We give you our thanks and praise.

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our homes:

All: We give you our thanks and praise.

For children, entrusted to our care as parents:

All: We give you our thanks and praise.

Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to Him in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus only is our refuge -
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do my friends despise, forsaking?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
thou wilt find a solace there.

Prayers of Penitence

Heavenly Father, parent of us all,
we know we don't always treat each other as you want us to.
All: Lord, God, forgive us, and help us to be more loving.

There are times when we insist on getting our own way
despite what others feel.
All: Lord, God, forgive us, and help us to be more loving.

Sometimes we increase the tension when we ought to seek peace,
or say things which hurt one another.
All: Lord, God, forgive us, and help us to be more loving.

God has loved us, sending his Son Jesus
to show us the true meaning of forgiveness.
All: Lord, God, forgive us, and help us to be more loving.

Jesus says, 'If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens,
come to me and I will give you rest.'
So we bring all that we are to Jesus -
all our sins and our failure to love.
**All: Thank you that you died for us
so that we might be forgiven and start a new life
in the power of your Holy Spirit.**

*[Trace the shape of a cross with the index finger across the palm
of the other hand you are holding out].*

**All: Father, we do this as a reminder that it is through the cross
that our sins are forgiven. Amen.**

Bible Reading: Exodus 2:1-10 - The Birth of Moses
Read by Niamh Shattock

During this time a man from the tribe of Levi married a woman of his own tribe,
and she bore him a son. When she saw what a fine baby he was,
she hid him for three months. But when she could not hide him any longer,
she took a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight.
She put the baby in it and then placed it in the tall grass at the edge of the river.
The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him.

The king's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her servants walked along the bank. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the tall grass and sent a slave woman to get it. The princess opened it and saw a baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then his sister asked her, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?" "Please do," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother. The princess told the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So she took the baby and nursed him.

Later, when the child was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses."

Good News Bible

Dramatised Reading:

'And God created mothers' by Irma Bombeck – 'A Fault in the Design?'

Angel: Niamh Shattock, Mother: Rachel Barnes, God: Simon Stranks, Narrator: Maggie Jeeves

When God was creating mothers, he was deep into his 6th day of overtime!!

An angel appeared and said "You are doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

God answered "Look at the requirement on this order and you'll understand why. She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; have over 100 movable parts, each one irreplaceable; run on black coffee and leftovers; have a kiss that can cure anything – from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; and have 6 pairs of hands!!"

The angel shook her head "Have 6 pairs of hands! That's not possible even for you O God."

"It's not the hands that are causing me problems". "It's the having 3 pairs of eyes mothers are supposed to have."

"Are the 3 pairs of eyes supposed to be on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded gravely "One pair that sees thru closed doors when she asks 'What are you kids doing in there?' - even though she already knows. Another pair in the back of her head to see what she's not supposed to see, but what she has to know about. And of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he does something really silly and reflects 'I understand and I love you' – even though she doesn't utter a word."

"Lord" said the angel gently "Get some rest. Tomorrow ... try again."

"I can't". "I am so close to creating something so similar to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick; can feed a family of 6 on 300 g of mince; and get a 9 year old to stay under the shower for an incredible 2 minutes!"

The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly and sighed "It's much too soft, my Lord".

"Soft yes, but tough too" said the Lord excitedly "You can't imagine what a mother can do; or endure."

"Can it think?" asked the angel. "Not only think" said the Creator "it can also reason and compromise."

As the angel took a closer look, the mother ran her fingers across the cheek. "There's a leak!" she

said suddenly "I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model. You can't ignore the stress factor."

The Lord moved in for a closer look at the drop of moisture, which glistened and sparkled in the light. "It's not a leak, it's a tear." The angel looked puzzled. "A tear? What's that for?"

"Its for joy, sadness, disappointment, compassion, pain, loneliness, and pride."

"You are a genius" said the angel rapturously.

The Lord looked sombre and said "I didn't put it there."

Interview

Reverend Payne talks with Alex Field from Flitton, mum of 3 month old Darcey

Address by Reverend Payne

Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, Living Lord

1 Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
You are one with us,
Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin.
Pouring Your love and goodness in.
Jesus our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

3 Lord Jesus Christ
You have come to us
Born as one of us,
Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus help us see
You are Lord.

2 Lord Jesus Christ
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

4 Lord Jesus Christ
I would come to you
Live my life for you,
Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Prayers from Pulloxhill

Reverend Payne with Sue Collier

The Lord's Prayer:

All: **Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be your Name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Final Prayers & Blessing

**All: In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

God of all,
you long to parent us,
and assure us of our place in your family.
Send us from here
filled with the abundance of your love
in the name and power of Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be yours and remain yours this Mothering Sunday
and for ever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen

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Please remember in your prayers Those who have recently
this week:



died, including

Brian Finney,
Bill Firth,
James Kerr,
Bridget Martin,
Martins Ogunbuyi,
Jean Thompson,
Raymond Wells

Those who are ill, including

Des Brazier,
Alice Butler,
Kara De Napoli
(granddaughter of Margaret Butt),
Stella Lawton,
Sally Metianu,
Sue Olney,
Bill Powers,
Joan Preston

and their families and
friends who mourn them

We also remember: Jonah - born at 27 weeks -great-grandson of Anne Stiles
The residents and staff at Taymer Nursing Home



**A THANK YOU card to colour in
'A Recipe for My Mum' craft sheet**

Downloadable pdfs available on
<https://3churches.uk/mothering-sunday-craft-activities/>



Forthcoming Services for Easter

Sunday 21st March

A video service will be made available on the Virtual Vicar page of the benefice website.

Sunday 28th March – Palm Sunday - Flitton 10.00am

A short outdoor service to mark the beginning of Holy Week, held by the three crosses erected in Flitton Churchyard. Palm crosses will be distributed and made available for those who would like one.

A video service for Palm Sunday will also be made available on the Virtual Vicar page of the benefice website.

Thursday 1st April – Maundy Thursday - Silsoe 10.00am

A traditional communion service from the Book of Common Prayer, marking the events of the Last Supper. Places will be limited, please advise the Churchwardens if you would like to attend.

The service will be recorded and made available on the Virtual Vicar page of the benefice website for viewing at 7.30pm.

Friday 2nd April - Good Friday

A recorded service featuring the story of Good Friday as told in the stations of the cross and filmed on location in Pulloxhill and our other parishes will be available on the benefice website.

Saturday 3rd April – Easter Eve - Flitton 6.00pm

A brief Vigil Service reflecting on the Easter message and admiring the transformed cross in Flitton churchyard with its decoration of flowers of all kinds.

* Sunday 4th April – Easter Day

Pulloxhill 7.30am

First Communion of Easter – an outdoor service in the churchyard with its sweeping view to the hills.

Silsoe 9.30am

Easter Communion to greet the risen Christ

Flitton 11.00am

Easter Communion at Flitton to celebrate resurrection hope.

Video material for Easter Day will be available on the benefice website.

*If you are intending to come to any of the Easter Day Services please can you let one of the Churchwardens know:

Flitton: Margaret Butt - 01525 862170 mkatebutt@yahoo.co.uk
Jo Holt – 01525 792777 jo_holt.sky.com

Pulloxhill: Brian Brown – 01525 714256 brianbrown61@btinternet.com
Duncan Robb – 07957 488456

Silsoe: Jill Liddle – 01525 860117 gillian.liddle3@gmail.com
Simon Stranks – 07484 818418 simon.stranks@3churches.uk

All of these are subject to change at short notice depending on lockdown.
Please check the Benefice website for up-to-date information.

<https://3churches.uk/benefice-services/>

#LIVE LENT



God's Story
Our Story

Until Easter Day on 4 April we will be publishing a daily Family Lenten Activities from the Church of England on the Virtual Vicar web page and our Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/ThreeChurchesUBSFP>

<https://www.facebook.com/flittonchurch>

There will also be information about how to access daily reflections for Lent, etc.



Don't forget TEA at THREE

ZOOM time together every Sunday from 3pm to 4pm

– everybody welcome.

A chance to catch up with others, laugh, moan, get things off your chest. .

It's the same code every week, so if you joined us last week you can use the same code this week. Contact Rev David on 01525 864858 or vicar@3churches.uk for the ZOOM access code

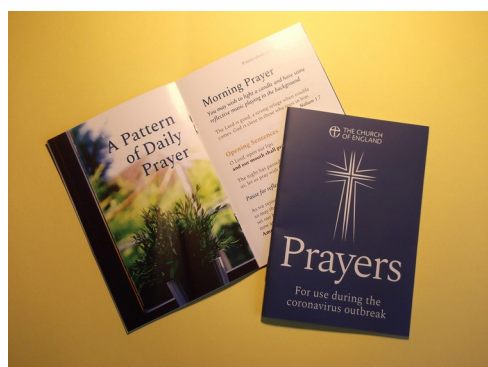
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?
We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Faith in Later Life CONNECTIONS

Daily HOPE - A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers
– 0800 804 8044



The Church of England has produced a booklet of prayers for use during the coronavirus outbreak.

If you would like a **FREE copy**, please contact Rev. David Payne:
Tel: 01525 864858 Email: vicar@3churches.uk

Alternatively, you can download the booklet from tinyurl.com/prayers-coronavirus