

Mothering Sunday

Having my three young children at home over lockdown has brought many blessings. We have embraced the quieter and slower pace of life and have found time to do things that we would usually have been too busy to do. Typically, only birthdays or anniversary gave us pause to reflect and ask 'where has that year gone?'

We now face a new anniversary of one year since the pandemic started. Still in its midst we don't get an opportunity to neatly close the chapter off. Whilst we have reason to be hopeful there is still a concerning uncertainty. There is no doubt about it this has been a dreadfully difficult 12 months.

For me personally my mothering attributes have been tested to the limit. With no break in the constant demand for food, the house turned upside down within minutes of people getting up, the endless battle trying to home school; break up arguments all this whilst in a continuous role play of cowboys or dinosaur hunters with my youngest son leaves me collapsing in an exhausted heap by the end of the day. At this point my husband walks in. The house is a disaster zone, I haven't even thought about what's for dinner and in truth I'm probably a bit grumpy.

The pressures on mothers over the past 12 months has been extreme. Whilst some are juggling work, new babies, ill physical or mental health, strained relationships, financial stress and bereavement it is impossible to imagine that they are dealing with all of the above too. They are also unnaturally having to do it alone. Mothers have lost their support network. The African Proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child' grows truer every day. The children need the wisdom and patience of their teachers, the love and joy from their grandparents, they need to play with their friends and cousins and have their own story to tell by the end of their day. They need the different gifts that the Lord has given to us all to truly grow and flourish.

Mothers have done an incredible job during this testing time. They have taken on the role of an entire village and more than ever they deserve our admiration and prayers. As Mother's day approaches, remember to ask our Father to nourish and replenish those who give so much.

by Beth Clarke, Minster Children and Family Worker



Welcome to the Alcester Minster Group of Churches Sunday 14 March 2021

Mothering Sunday, Lent 4 *Purple*

'So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Exodus 2 v 9b - 10

Collect for Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Ministry Team:

Rector: Revd Katie Cross: working remotely during March,
email: rector@alcesterminster.org

Revd Sue Henwood: Kinwarton Rectory, Spermal Lane, Great Alne
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Children & Family Worker:

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Administrator:

Tricia Berry (Monday – Friday 10.00am – 1.30 pm) Tel: 01789 763 246
email: administrator@alcesterminster.org Alcester Minster Office, Church House,
17 Butter Street, Alcester, B49 5AL (Office Opening Hours 10.30 – 12.30pm)

Alcester Minster website: www.alcesterminster.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster

Next week's services and events

Sunday 14 March **Mothering Sunday** *Purple*
Alcester 10.00 am Morning Prayer on Mothering Sunday
with Music

Church services are suspended in all other Minster churches

Tuesday 16 March
Via Zoom 12.00 noon Minster Prayer Gathering

Sunday 21 March **Lent 5** *Purple*
Alcester 10.00 am Morning Prayer

Church services are suspended in all other Minster churches in March

Please remember to reserve a place at ALL Minster services
in advance through the Administrator Tel: 0784 028 4294 or
email: administrator@alcesterminster.org preferably by Friday noon.

Please remember that on-line worship continues to be available every
Sunday on the Welcome page of the Alcester Minster website
www.alcesterminster.org

Reminder: Electoral Roll and attendance at APCMs

If you do not have a copy of last week's Notice Sheet and would like a
reminder of how to join the electoral roll for a parish or attend an
APCM, please contact the Administrator email
administrator@alcesterminster.org
or telephone 07840 284 294.

A link to information relating to services in church, Funeral and
Weddings services during the current pandemic is available on the
Welcome page of the website from this Sunday, 14 March.
www.alcesterminster.org

We are delighted to inform you that the installation of
Katie Cross as Rector of Alcester Minster Churches
will be **Wednesday 28 April 2021**.
No further details are available at the moment but they will be
shared in due course.

Readings for the week

Today	Luke 2 v 13 – 22 2 Corinthians 1 v 3 – 7 Exodus 2 v 1 - 10 Psalm 122 v 1 - 9
Monday	John 9 v 18 – 41
Tuesday	John 10 v 1 – 10
Wednesday	John 10 v 11 – 21
Thursday	John 10 v 22 – 42
Friday	Matthew 13 v 54 - 58
Saturday	John 11 v 17 - 27



Prayer

The Ministry Leadership Team
would like you to pray for
the following topics:

1. *"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you:" (Is. 66v.13). This Mothering Sunday give thanks for all the love, care and comfort that mothers give to their children, and praise God that he loves us like a mother (and a father!).*
2. *Pray for all those who have grown up or who are growing up without a mother's love. Pray that they may find strength and healing in other loving relationships.*

*Please ensure all mobile phones are switched OFF during the service.
Visitors are invited to Gift Aid their offerings in the envelopes provided.*

Contact Tricia Berry (07840 284 294 or administrator@alcesterminster.org) by 6 pm
on Tuesday to add notices of church activities to next week's notice sheet.

*Check out the website calendar for further details on
events/services coming up*



Did you know that you can now 'LIKE' Alcester Minster on Facebook?
Find details and pictures of events at www.facebook.com/AlcesterMinster
If you would like to submit event notices or photos to be published on the
page then please email administrator@alcesterminster.org