

CORNER



MARCH 2020

STONE



MAGAZINE OF CENTRAL CHURCH

Ministers: Revd Peter Williamson & Revd Jerry Cook



FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION

ON CENTRAL CHURCH

YOUR CONTACT IS

Margaret Newman
Church Life Coordinator.

Email: h.m.newman123@btinternet.com

PETER WILLIAMSON WRITES.

In spite of the woes and ills of the world our annual reminder that, ultimately, all will be well, is given us as we follow, in pilgrimage, Jesus, the man from Nazareth, as he *“steadfastly sets his face towards Jersualem.”* Even the most destructive of situations can lead to new life when those situations are placed in the hands of God.

As the season of Lent is now upon us – the time of renewal and hope - we celebrate the symbols of transformation – even though the transforming experiences themselves may be difficult. Birth and rebirth are painful times. Little wonder, then, that we search for some other way to bring a fuller life to ourselves; for an approach to life that makes us less vulnerable; that will leave us admired but not exposed. We erect the hedges around ourselves – the front that people see and think is the real us. So we are protected. The person is a fool who tosses the hedge aside without carefully weighing up the consequences. Surely it is better not to be beholden to anyone because no one then has a claim on us? Yet there is a strange emptiness inside if this is our approach to life. The truth is we need to be loved – and to love.

But to love and be loved is to be vulnerable. It means leaving the safety of the hedge – and the moment we do we become sitting targets. The more we love or open ourselves up to being loved the greater the danger we are in. People who are warm and open in their dealings, who are generous of spirit, are the most likely to be hurt. Love is a messy business. An act of kindness thrown back in our face, a confidence betrayed, that’s all it takes to suffer the shock of rejection. And that is crucifixion.

God dared to let go of his self-sufficiency when he created the world. Jesus did too when he became man and his whole life was spent in this attitude of openness, acceptance and compassion. How did it all work out? Well, we know the answer to that! Love was denied, love was crucified. But love did not give way to bitterness, it endured. What had

to give way was crucifixion. Crucifixion had to give way to resurrection. For love was, and is, undefeated.

The transformation of Lent into Easter is out of this world. Ugliness, pain, and humiliation; tears, turmoil and death become beauty; mourning becomes rejoicing, defeat becomes victory.

The modern term for all this is “there’s no gain without pain” but I much prefer the words of Jesus – *“If any man would come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. But whoever loses his life for my sake and for the gospel will save it.”*

The message and challenge for Lent is, as always, the acceptance of the risk of crucifixion, (which comes to each of us in its own unique way) and is the key to the door which leads to resurrection. But by being prepared for our love to be nailed to a cross we find that there is more love in this world than we ever thought possible. And love’s redeeming work is done. Fought that fight, the battle won!

PETER



B.G.E.A. BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION.

Coming in 2020 , an eight city tour to share the hope of Jesus across the U.K. Franklin Graham and his team will be in the U.K from May 30th to June 17th then on October 4th at the O2 in London.

The nearest venue in the South West is Cardiff on June 14th at ICC venue.

If there is any interest in going to this one day event then please have a word with me.

Paul Wescott

FAMILY & FRIENDS

THANKS

- I would like to thank all those who so kindly sent me cards or messages of sympathy, after the recent death of my sister Anne. Your kind thoughts and prayers are very much appreciated, and helps me to carry on with life, knowing that I am without another member of my family. Once again, my grateful thanks from Barbara G

CONGRATULATIONS

- I feel I must show my appreciation to Linda Duckworth, for all she has done in the completion of the blankets for Factory Row. I have really enjoyed mixing and matching colours to produce knitted squares for the blankets, but the thought of sewing them all together fills me with horror! For me, it would be a tedious and boring task, but Linda has completed it so tastefully and with great thoughts of colour matching. They looked fabulous, as she displayed them on the stage, so thank you Linda for all your hard work and WELL DONE! BG



BARNABAS CHARITY....working for persecuted Christians.

In Pakistan Alia's husband died and she had to take her children out of school because she could no longer afford the fees. She works as a maid which is a dangerous job for a Christian women in Pakistan. She earns under £30 a month. Now, thankfully, she is receiving monthly food packages, help with rent and fees for school, from the Barnabas Fund.

"I cried when I could not send the children to school and I prayed to God for help. My prayers were answered," said Alia, when the children were readmitted to school.

Please pray for Christian widows in Pakistan where they are despised, and for the work that is done through Barnabas Charity. ML

REFLECTION ONE.

March this year takes up most of the Season of Lent. The 1st March is the first Sunday of Lent and the last Sunday in March is Passion Sunday.

We enter April with Palm Sunday.

Lent is the time when we examine ourselves and consider how we conduct ourselves as Christians. We ask ourselves whether, as we interact with so many people each day, whether we speak and act as Jesus would.

That is quite a question isn't it? We can count ourselves good followers of Jesus as we worship each Sunday, but when we leave the Service, when we get outside the Church, when we do interact with our neighbours and friends, would Jesus be glad with how we are with our fellow human beings? Lent gives us six weeks in which to repent and resolve to become true disciples of Jesus.

Loving one another is a good starting place when we begin to examine our lives. Encouraging one another in their spiritual journey, or when things are hard for them. Nourishing ourselves with the Holy Scriptures. Psalm 51 is a thought provoking chapter to read. Talking to Jesus, more than in our normal prayer time, keeps us close to Him.

If you noticed those last four sentences begin with the four letters of the word LENT.

If we all were to put those sentences into practice during this month of March, we would become closer to God, and feel at one with Him.

So,

L is for Love, E is for Encourage, N is for Nourish, and T is for Talk.

Let's try it.

Margaret Newman.



Friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief

YEMEN ON ITS KNEES

For the people of Yemen, life and death goes on. More than 24 million people need urgent aid, including clean water, food and sanitation. Tragically, more than 85,000 children have already died from hunger or disease since 2015.

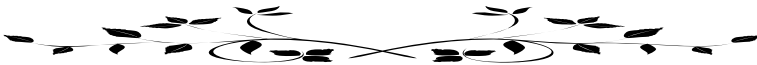
It continues to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis. With our Yemeni partners, we are still responding. Thank you to all of you who have given to support our vital work in Yemen.

We have been helping protect people from diseases such as cholera, as well as providing safe water, food and seeds and tools to enable people to grow their own vegetables.

"The needs are huge in Yemen" says Karen Soerenson. "Our partners in Yemen are running a big risk by reaching out to the most vulnerable with food, and agriculture kits as well as providing psycho-social support. Thank you for staying behind them with support. It means a lot to them knowing that they are not alone in the struggle to help people in need"

The need remains great. Please keep praying for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The ongoing conflict means Yemenis continue to face dangers on several fronts-from potential famine and cholera, to the impact of the destruction of transport systems and health facilities.

Taken from Tear Times spring 2020



THE LEPROSY MISSION

The retiring offering taken on Sunday 2 February in aid of The Leprosy Mission "Hospital Heroes" raised £348.60. Grateful thanks are due to all who gave so willingly and generously. *Linda Duckworth*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY– January 2020

It was suggested at one of our recent Church Meetings that it would be helpful for people to have regular updates on our financial situation so here is the first of those mini reports. Unfortunately, due to printing deadlines, it will always be slightly out of date in that we are reporting on January for the March Cornerstone but hopefully it will give an idea as to where we are.

January was a good month overall for Central financially.

We received offertory of £3,722.90 but incurred expenditure of £5081.03. Of the expenditure, we only spent £317.00 on repairs and maintenance and the remainder was spent on bills and caretaking.

Fortunately, we had a good month on lettings which incorporates room hire and the Quinta Road manse earning £4390. Room hire fluctuates from month to month as some clients pay quarterly and some bi-annually for the rooms they have used during that period.

With other income from coffee, community lunch and the tea dance, we made a profit in January of £4,301.75.

The bad news is that February is not looking quite so good on the lettings front and so next month's figures may not be quite so positive but watch this space....

Paul and Jan



A SHORT NOTE FROM BUSY BEES.

The three blankets that were recently on display on the stage have now been taken to Factory Row. They were so pleased to receive them and were keen that their appreciation should be passed on to all concerned.

Please keep knitting!

GOING ABROAD THIS YEAR?

If anyone is going abroad this year to Europe, Canada or Poland, the offertory stewards would be pleased to sell you:

- 12 Euros and 25 cents
- 1 Polish Zloty
- 10 Canadian cents

Also, there are 2 and a half French francs if a French bank is willing to take them!

Please pop in to Room 1 where the collection is being counted after a morning service.





QUIZ

Wednesday 4th March 7.30pm

FURROUGH CROSS

Fun, Fellowship and Food!
Everyone welcome.

Entry fee £3.00. Profits for Charity



ONWARDS AND UPWARD – *more news from Peter Williamson*

Last month I promised to keep you appraised as to our developments with regard to the development of Central. I also said that some months there will be more talk than action! I leave it to you to decide into which category what follows should belong!!

- The Profile for our new minister is now being proceeded with – again. The Reverend Phil Nevard who had been appointed to lead us in preparing this suffered a heart condition earlier in the year and is cutting back on his workload. We wish Phil well as he slowly recovers his health. He has been replaced by Mr Dick Gray who has been appointed by the URC SW Synod. We have arranged for Mr Gray to meet with the Church Council at his earliest convenience. Please pass on to me and other Council members your own hopes and aspirations as to what you are looking for in our new minister. Remember our Church meeting in October when we first asked for those ideas? Now is the time to remind us of what you are looking for in the new person..
- A working party has been formed to tackle small but important practical jobs around the church. So if you are handy with brooms or brushes (paint or otherwise) or DIY then please contact either Jan Newman or John Tibbetts and they will be delighted to receive your offer of help.
- Two dates for your diary

Sunday 8th March at 10.30am. A Service of Reception into Membership will form part of the service which is to be led by Rev Jerry Cook. New members for Central!

Sunday 19th April at 6.30pm. A Gospel Choir has been booked. An alternative to the usual evening service. More news next month.

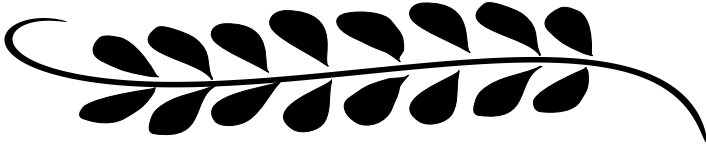
So you see we are moving forward on a number of different fronts. Keep praying – or as someone here at Central says ‘Keep Looking Up’.

PETER

CENTRAL'S FELLOWSHIP

We welcome back Barbara Vond to our first meeting on 2nd and look forward to 'Films of Beauty' with Eric Walkom on the 9th. Our own Sheila will give us an afternoon of 'Anniversaries' on 16th and on 23rd we look forward to 'An Afternoon' with the Rev Doug Rix. Our final meeting on 30th will be an 'Afternoon of Music' with Margaret Newman.

Barbara Lawton



A SOCIABLE AFTERNOON FOR ALL THOSE WHO
WISH TO SPEND TIME WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS
Admission £4.00 including tea

MARCH 2020. CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	DETAIL
Sun	1 st		SEE SEPARATE PAGE FOR ALL SERVICES
Mon	2 nd	2.30	Central's Fellowship –An Afternoon with Barbara Vond
		6.30	Flexercise Fun
Tues	3 rd	9.30	Midweek Prayers – Barbara Lawton
		10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		10.00	Busy Bees
Wed	4 th	7.30	Quiz Evening at Furrough Cross
Thurs	5 th	9.30	Central Tots
		7.00	Council – Church Profile
Fri	6 th	10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		10.30	World Day of Prayer
		7.00	Choir
Sun	8 th		SEE SEPARATE PAGE FOR ALL SERVICES
Mon	9 th	2.30	Central's Fellowship – Films of Beauty Eric Walkom
		6.30	Flexercise Fun
Tues	10 th	9.30	Midweek Service – Margaret Newman
		10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		10.00	Busy Bees
		7.00	New Life Housegroup
Wed	11 th	10.00	Faith Matters
		7.00	Council
		7.30	Riviera Concert Brass for Cancer Research
Thurs	12 th	9.30	Central Tots
Fri	13 th	10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		11.00	Belleplates
		7.00	Choir
Sun	15 th		SEE SEPARATE PAGE FOR ALL SERVICES
Mon	16 th	2.30	Central's Fellowship: Anniversaries - Sheila
		6.30	Flexercise Fun

Tues	17 th	9.30	Midweek Prayers – Philip Kay
		10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
Tues	17 th	10.00	Busy Bees
Wed	18 th	10.00	Faith Matters
Thurs	19 th	9.30	Central Tots
Fri	20 th	10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		11.00	Belleplates
		7.00	Choir
Sat	21 st	2.30	Tea Dance
		7.30	Big Noise Choir Concert
Sun	22 nd		SEE SEPARATE PAGE FOR ALL SERVICES
Mon	23 rd	2.30	Central's Fellowship: An Afternoon with Revd Doug Rix
		6.30	Flexercise Fun
Tues	24 th	9.30	Midweek Communion – Revd Jerry Cook
		10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		10.00	Busy Bees
		7.00	New Life Housegroup
Wed	25 th	10.00	Faith Matters
		7.30	Moors Housegroup
Thurs	26 th	9.30	Central Tots
		7.00	Finance & Property
Fri	27 th	10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		11.00	Belleplates
		7.00	Choir
Sun	29 th		SEE SEPARATE PAGE FOR ALL SERVICES
Mon	30 th	2.30	Central's Fellowship: Music with Margaret Newman
		6.30	Flexercise Fun
Tues	31 st	9.30	Prayers – Barbara Lawton
		10.00	Coffee & Fellowship
		10.00	Busy Bees

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MARCH 2020.
(HC) = Sacrament of Holy Communion

DATE	TIME	MORNING	EVENING. 6.30
1 st	10.30	Revd Peter Williamson	Revd Valerie Price
8 th	9.00	Rise & Shine	
	10.30	Revd Jerry Cook (HC) Reception of new members	Major Denise Brine
15 th	10.30	Revd Valerie Price	Revd Adrian Phippen
22 nd	10.30	Mrs Margaret Newman (AAW) Mothering Sunday	Revd Peter Williamson(HC)
29 th	10.30	Revd Jerry Cook (HC)	Revd Doug Rix



MARCH 2020 WELCOME ROTA

DATE	10.30 am	6.30am
1 st	Heather Bellingham & Cynthia Arscott	Paul Sherriff
8 th	Paul & Christine Sherriff	Philip Kay
15 th	Barbara Lawton & Sue Coatham	Sue Coatham
22 nd	Heather Bellingham & Paula Bastin	Barbara Lawton
29 th	Monica Lansley & Philip Kay	Sue Coatham

CENTRAL'S



COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Due to the ToWNS Project on
Saturday eve, February 29th,
& the unavailability of Tessa, there will be no
Community Lunch in March

The next one will be on Sun 5th April.

Please put your name on the list
by the hatch if you wish to attend.

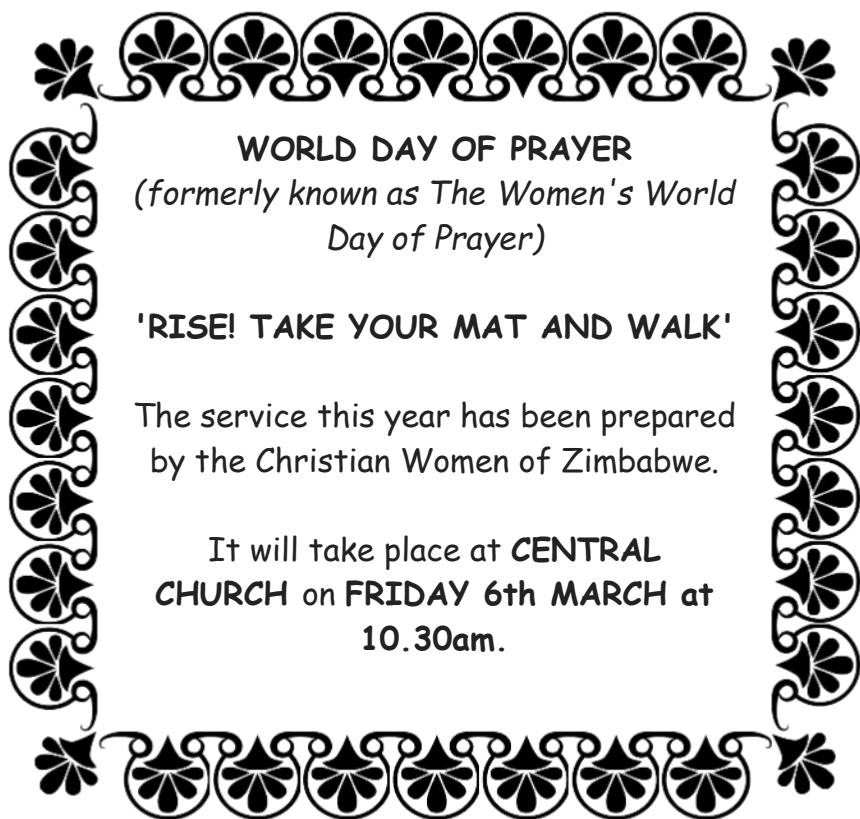
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Tel: 01803 329 735

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- Lovely Safe Gardens
- Trips Out
- Day Centre open 7 days a week for non residents



Contact the Manager: Sharon Mewis at Didsbury Court
Tel: 01803 329 735 or website www.didsburycourt.co.uk



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

*(formerly known as The Women's World
Day of Prayer)*

'RISE! TAKE YOUR MAT AND WALK'

The service this year has been prepared
by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe.

It will take place at **CENTRAL
CHURCH** on **FRIDAY 6th MARCH** at
10.30am.

Your Local
FOOTCLINIC

PODIATRY/CHIROPODY

Dr Sam Glasser PhD, BSc (Hons), MChS

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Degree qualified, HCPC registered professional foot care



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REFLECTION – TWO.

Since the beginning of the year, and the final decisions were made that Central should go all out to get our roofs repaired once and for all, I have sensed a good atmosphere amongst us all. There seems to be positive attitudes and a real enthusiasm to make our decisions come to fruition. And that is really good.

How are you getting on with your personal fund-raising for our Roof Appeal? I would be interested to know what you have decided to do - whether it's knitting, sewing, cake making, DIY or seed-sowing.

By the time you read this Magazine, we shall have officially launched our Fund Raising. It will be a busy time, but an exciting one, as we repair God's House.

But we are not just keen to raise money. We want to make Central a place that is buzzing for God. And we are beginning with spreading the Gospel throughout Torquay. To do that we are having Callington Gospel Choir to visit us on 19th April, and we are circulating as many homes as we possibly can to promote this. Torquay needs Jesus. And, we at Central, want to introduce its inhabitants to Him.

Look out for more exciting things about to happen.

Margaret Newman.



CALLING ALL CHURCH GROUPS "THIS IS CENTRAL"

You will all have received from Barbara Lawton a request for your annual reports to be in by the end of April - but why wait until then ?? You're already reading the March magazine!

You will, I hope, also have noted that they're to come to me, because I'm doing the collating. So PLEASE - let me have them as soon as possible.

PHILIP KAY

Q CENTRAL'S PICTURE QUIZ NUMBER 83



Dec / Jan 2020 *In my shopping bag

I don't know if it is because of the excitement of Christmas and New Year, or because this quiz was a bit of a tricky one, but I had only 7 returned answer sheets. It was probably the latter reason, as I did get a few 'complaints'! And as a result, only one was correct with the same answers as me!! That belonged to Sue & Steph Lees. They are regular competitors, so have been rewarded again this month for their efforts and support. Congratulations to you both.

SO - here are the answers.....

1. SELF RAISING FLOUR 2. TEA BAG 3. COFFEE
4. BUTTER 5. KITCHEN ROLL 6. SULTANA 7. CEREAL
8. SOUP 9. JAM 10. SWEDE 11. POTATO 12. HANKIE
13. PARSNIP 14. PEN 15. HONEY 16. SPINACH
17. CURRANTS 18. RICE 19. LETTERS 20. MARROW
21. MOBILE 22. TURNIP 23. GLASSES 24. OVALTINE
25. CABBAGE

If you know someone who might like to sit and puzzle over an amusing quiz by themselves or with a friend, then get them to buy one!! Quiz 85 will be available by the time you read this.



Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

Theodore D Roosevelt

A FEW RANDOM THOUGHTS

Greatest joy

Giving

Greatest shot in the arm

Encouragement

Most effective sleeping pill

Peace of mind

Most prized possession

Integrity

Worst thing to be without

Hope

\deadliest weapon

Tongue



Callington Community Gospel Choir

**An adult choir from
St. Mary's Church,
Callington, Cornwall,
will be coming to Central
on Sunday 19th April
at 6.30pm.**



EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

OPEN DOORS.....*Faith & Danger*

World Watch List 2020

Top 10 countries

1 North Korea Where leaders are worshipped like gods

No freedom, 50-70,000 Christians imprisoned. **But** in prisons and safe houses, Koreans are coming to /Christ.

2 Afghanistan Where Christians have to hide Even after death

Christians must hide, even being buried as Muslims in case their family is punished. **But** people meet Christ in dreams.

3 Somalia Where Christians can be killed on the spot

Following Christ shames your family and can lead to death

But Christians meet in secret and many Muslims seek Jesus.

4 Libya Where there are only some 150 Christians

Churches for Libyans are forbidden. Christian migrants risk execution by militants. **But** Libyans are coming to Christ.

5 Pakistan Churches are bombed. Christians are jailed on false charges.

But Pakistani Christians are determined to meet.

6 Eritrea Where Christians are locked in shipping containers

‘Christians are seen as Western agents’ and jailed in horrific prisons. **But** a generation of brave Christians is rising up.

7 Sudan Where churches can be confiscated or demolished

Converting from Islam is punishable by death. Pastors can be imprisoned. **But** Christians are eager to share the gospel.

8 Yemen Where extremists flourish in the chaos of war

Evangelism is prohibited. Believers face death threats from militant Islamists. **But** even in the chaos, the church is alive.

9 Iran Where Christians are hunted and arrested, house churches are raided. Church leaders are locked in horrific prisons. **But** disillusioned Iranians are finding truth in Christ.

10 India Where nationalists believe all Indians should be Hindu persecution is rising. Converts are pressured to give up. **But** brave Christians share Jesus and stand up for their rights.



WHEN SPRING COMES

‘See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.’ Song of Songs 2:11-12

March is the month that I associate with the coming of Spring, my favourite time of the year, and such a relief after the darkness and gloom of Winter. This verse beautifully describes the joy that most of us feel as the days begin to brighten, and Nature starts to awaken once again.

These words also speak to us about a new season in life, one that is filled with hope and expectation. Sometimes we experience the darkness of winter in our lives – maybe in the form of depression, bereavement, chronic illness, family difficulties, financial problems and so on. These long winter months of the soul may seem to last forever. Our joy disappears, our energy dissipates, a black cloud hangs over us and it seems as if the sun will never shine again.

Then we have this reminder ever. The cold grip of Winter way to warmer days. The temperature rises. Birds sing rises. Love is in the air.



that no season lasts for gradually thaws and gives sun does shine again, and the and flowers blossom. The sap

And in the spiritual realm the same happens. Eventually we will enter a new season of the soul. Joy returns and life gets back to something like normality. No darkness lasts for ever. We experience our own awakening, a kind of mini resurrection. We start to feel alive again, to see possibilities and to dream again.

HUNGER FOR GOD

Forty days of prayer and fasting
Forty days of hunger and thirst;
Forty days to put self behind us
Forty days in Jesus immersed!
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
Come to know that Jesus comes first.

May our hunger not be for manna
May we thirst, instead, to be blessed.
May our hunger be for justice -
Justice for the poor and oppressed.
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
Come to know that Jesus knows best.

May we come through Lent's forty trials
To a truly God-centred place!
May we cease obsession with mirrors
Come to look, instead, on Your face
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
May we all encounter Your grace.
By Nigel Beeton



MOTHERING SUNDAY....22 March – 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of ‘Mothering Sunday’ – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as ‘live-in’ servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families – which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers’ Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



PASTORAL CARE

The young clergyman was walking through the village when he met one of his elderly parishioners. “How’s you cold?” he asked. “Very obstinate” came the bleak reply.

“I’m sorry” The clergyman decided to try again.

“Well, how is our arthritis?” “ Very obstinate.” Came the reply. “Oh dear, I am sorry,” soothed the clergyman.

He tried a third time. “And how is your wife.?”

“About the same.”

LENT

Fasting *Works of Love*

Prayer



40 Days