



Kempston East Methodist Church Newsletter Issue 151 March 19th 2023

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Mothering Sunday

www.kempstoneastmethodist.org

Mothering Sunday

Canon Paul Hardingham



Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day, but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

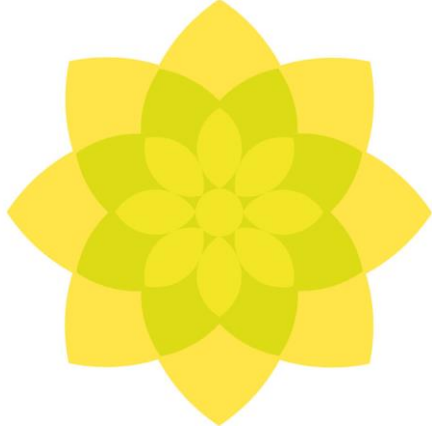
In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honoured Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection: *'When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.'* (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their *'mother'* church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, *'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.'* (Romans 5:5)

The mother of three difficult youngsters was asked whether she'd have children if she had it to do over again. *'Yes,'* she replied. *'But not the same ones.'*

Marie Curie National Day of Reflection & Great Daffodil Appeal – March 23rd 2023



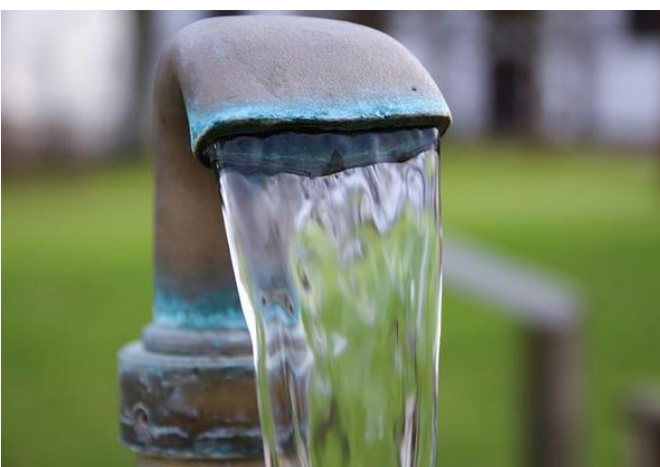
For the third year running, Marie Curie will lead the National Day of Reflection on Thursday 23rd March.

It is a day for everyone to remember loved ones who have died, and to support people who are grieving. There will be a minute's silence at noon, a nationwide network of Walls of Reflection, and a series of grief-themed online events.

Taking place on the third anniversary that the UK went into lockdown, the National Day of Reflection raises awareness of the impact of grief on our lives and of the need for better support. Millions of people across the UK – adults as well as children – are grieving now and need support, whether in the workplace, at home, in schools or across communities.

The National Day of Reflection also ties in with the charity's flagship annual fundraising appeal in March – the Great Daffodil Appeal – with people donating and wearing one of their iconic daffodil pin badges. Every year thousands of supporters from across the UK come together to raise money to support the charity's nurses, doctors, and hospice staff so they can continue to provide expert care to people at end of life, and their families.

More details at: www.mariecurie.org.uk/dayofreflection



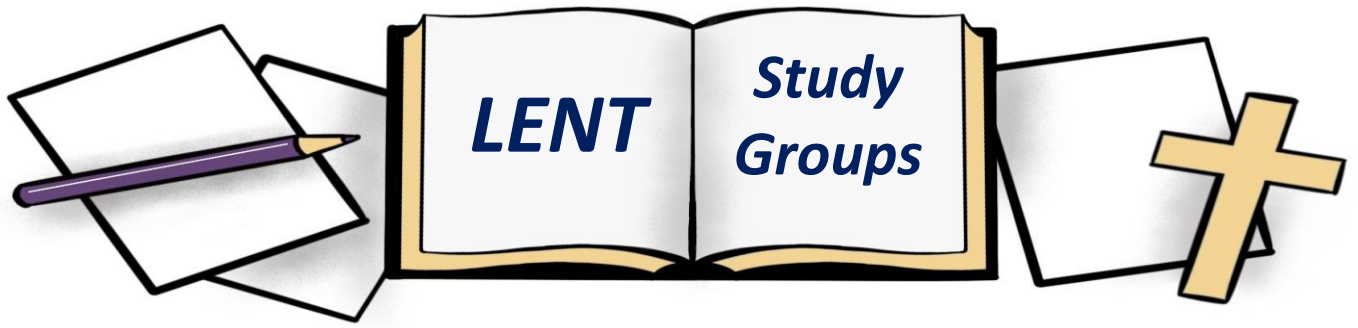
World Water Day is 22nd March

We take clean water for granted. After all, when did you last turn on the tap and expect filthy water to come out?

But sadly, bad water is still a daily reality for billions of people. The United Nations wants

to help them by ensuring that everyone can access clean water by 2030. It is part of the so-called '2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', and it is an enormous challenge.

Meanwhile, this year each one of us can do at least something to help on 22nd March. A donation to Water Aid will help provide safe water to marginalised communities worldwide. Simply go to: www.wateraid.org/uk. There is a box on the radiator shelf in the transept at Kempston East into which you can put all your spare loose change to help Water Aid.



The Lent course house groups continue this week as follows:

Kempston group - Tuesdays 10am-11.30am **in the New School Hall**

Contact Barbara Tipping T: 852101 or email: barbara.tipping@outlook.com

Wootton group - Wednesdays 7.30pm

Contact Rosemary and Stuart Simms T: 766427 or email stuart.simms@ntlworld.com

Time for a Spring Clean?



Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:77)

People used to have an annual 'Spring clean' when they would clean the house from top to bottom. Perhaps it was a way of marking the new season or because the longer days and increasing sunlight rays made the dust stand out. Certainly, the coal fires used all winter before central heating would

have made the houses dusty!

If you do have a clean-up, why not have a clear-out as well? Some of us are not good at throwing things away. Even if we don't use the thing, we can have a sentimental attachment to it, and not want to let it go.

But what do you do with the stuff you no longer want, without simply adding to landfill? There are online places to sell second-hand goods and local online organisations that advertise things people want to get rid of. You could also have a garage sale where you sell stuff, or even go to a car boot sale.

Another way of passing things on is via a charity shop. But charity shops are particular about what they can accept. Many reject items that do not have a safety label, and items that could be potentially dangerous, such as electrical goods.

If you want to raise money for church funds, how about holding a church jumble sale? If you decide to go ahead, just give yourself time to plan it well in advance with rules about what you will accept, how you will publicise it, how you can keep everyone safe, and who will manage the money.

ODDMENTS
THEATRE CO

PRESENTS...

THE ROAD TO THE CROSS



"The light shines in the darkness"

KEMPSTON EAST METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday April 1st at 7.30pm

Tickets: £12 in advance or £14 on the door

(Over-12s only)

Tickets available online or from Stuart

(07816 456008)

Tickets available online or from your church

www.oddments-theatre.co.uk / info@oddments-theatre.co.uk

Holy Week

Services

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.30pm

Service at the Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston

Good Friday 7th April

10.00am

March of Witness from the Church of the Transfiguration to the Saxon Centre, followed by refreshments at Bunyan Road Chapel, Kempston

7.30pm

Kempston East Choir presents 'Jerusalem Joy', a musical by Roger Jones

Easter Sunday 9th April

10.30am

Celebration Service at Kempston East led by Rev Martin Truscott

7/02/2023, 17:04 Spring concert (1).png



KEMPSTON CONCERT BAND'S

Spring Concert

KEMPSTON EAST METHODIST CHURCH
MONDAY 27TH MARCH 2023 7:30PM

ADULTS £8
CONCESSIONS £5

AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR OR AT WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/KCB

RAISING FUNDS FOR
MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION



Kempston Musical Society

and

Ouse Valley Singers

present

a Devotional Concert

on Saturday 25th. March at 7.30pm
in St. Mary's Church, Felmersham



Narrator: Ernest Carwithen

Accompanist: Derrick Robinson

Conductor: Janet Welsh

*There will be a retiring collection in aid
of St. Mary's Restoration Fund.*



Our Church Family



Please remember in your prayers:

- Martin and Margaret T
- Indrani G
- Paul C
- Cilla
- Michael and Jill G
- The people of Turkey and Syria

This Week at Kempston East

Sunday March 19 th	9.45am	Choir practice 'Jerusalem Joy' in the New School Hall
Tuesday March 21 st	10.00am 2.00pm	Lent Course with Barbara in the New School Hall Tibbs Dementia meets in the New School Hall
Wednesday March 22 nd	10.00am 2.30pm 7.30pm	'Warm Space' open in the Beginners Room Guild meets in the New School Hall = Helen Walton will talk about The Leprosy Mission Lent Course with Rosemary and Stuart
Friday March 24 th	9.30am 2.30pm	Parents and Toddlers meet in the Halls Choir practice 'Jerusalem Joy' in the New School Hall
Saturday March 25 th	4.00pm	Soup Kitchen in the Church Garden
Sunday March 26 th	9.45am	Choir practice 'Jerusalem Joy' in the New School Hall

Don't forget that next Saturday night (March 25th) is the time to put your clocks forward one hour in readiness for British Summer Time!

WORSHIP AT EAST

Our service this morning, at 10.30am, will be led by Chris Robinson from Priory Methodist Church. As it's Mothering Sunday, it will also be an all-age service.

Our live-streaming team will also be in action and details of how to join will be in Richard's email. An audio recording will be available for those who normally receive this and will also be loaded on to the church website.

Future Services at Kempston East

Sunday March 26 th	10.30am	Rev David Bown (Holy Communion)
Sunday April 2 nd	10.30am	Katherine Oduro
Sunday April 9 th	10.30am	Easter Celebration led by Rev Martin Truscott



Easter Sunday Breakfast 9th April 2023

8.45am in the Hall

followed by the Easter Celebration
and Communion in the Church at
10.30am.

If you would like to come to
breakfast please write your
name on the list in the church.
See Barbara Tipping for further
information.

The Road to the Cross

You will be aware from previous newsletters about the production of 'The Road to the Cross' that Oddments Theatre company are bringing to Kempston East on Saturday April 1st. If not, take a look at the advert on page 5.

Tickets are now on sale and are available from Rosemary and Stuart Simms. They will have them available for sale each Sunday morning after church so please make sure to get your ticket from them at the advance price of £12.

Members of the theatre company will need overnight bed and breakfast accommodation. If you are able to offer this to one or, maybe, two people please would you have a word with Rosemary or Stuart.

Could you knit a Dementia Muff?

Dementia Muffs are very useful for people with dementia.

If you are able to contribute wool, buttons, ribbon, cord, beads, etc for decoration, or would like instructions to knit them, would you please contact me.

Thank you very much.

Margaret Ibbett

Margaret.ibbett@outlook.com or tel 01234 330880



Easter Flowers and Eggs

The church will be decorated with flowers for Easter and if you would like to make a donation towards the cost of these there are boxes at the front and rear of the church.

We also ask you once again to bring fresh eggs to church on Easter Sunday morning and a table will be set up at the front of the church on which you can place your gift. This year the eggs will be given to the local Food Bank.



If you have any prayer requests, thanks and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into the weekly newsletter then please email these to Geoff Talbot (geofftal@btinternet.com) as soon as possible and ideally by the previous Wednesday.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this emailed newsletter could you please send their email address to richard.ward4@btinternet.com. Equally, if you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please let Richard Ward know.