



Messy Mums

Mothering Sunday is a tradition that goes back to the Middle Ages in Britain. It was originally a time to focus on 'mother church' and was often an occasion to go on a pilgrimage to the largest church in the region, usually the cathedral. This day in turn also became a 'day off' for young girls - particularly those who were 'in service' and living away from home. Tradition has it they would pick wild flowers on the way to give to their own mothers. Growing up in a Baptist Church I honestly didn't know this and just enjoyed Mother's Day - making my mum feel special and then waiting to feel special when I became a mum! But it is easy to become cynical at the way yet another celebration has become so commercialised.

In the Bible, God is described in motherly terms: "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you... (Isaiah 66:13) Also, "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15) And Jesus said : "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing (Matthew 23:37)

Messy Mums seems so appropriate a title for today as being a mum is messy and not just in the clearing up the physical mess! It is often a hard role, difficult choices to make with time, money and commitments to juggle. Some women of course find it hard to even become a mum and as a mum myself I have witnessed the pain of one of my 3 daughters experiencing bereavement because of infertility. Another of my 3 is a single mum and that is also a hard role at times and the 3rd of my girls has a husband who periodically gets very ill and she has had to support her 2 children both financially and emotionally through this.

Then there are those who have not had a mum or whose experience of a mother was a bad one and now have no relationship or a difficult relationship with their mums. And vice versa of course. Then there is the awful loss of your mum - I was close to my mum and was shocked and lost at her sudden death.

So motherhood and being mothered is messy! Then we read the words about God above. As we cannot usually physically feel his love around us maybe we just have to be aware of those who are going through these tough issues mentioned and hold them as God would hold them and show them his compassion. And when we are going through these times allow others to hold us and show us their love and mother-heart.

Liz

What's happening here at St.Mark's

Mothing Sunday March 11th 10 o'clock here at church. Prosecco and flower posies for the ladies. Children to bring a photo of themselves as a baby for a 'spot your baby' game. See leaflet.

New service - Sundays at 4pm Launching on April 22nd for families. It will be from 4 until 5pm and end with a bring and share style tea. There will be singing, storytelling and some simple activities before we eat together. If you would like more information or to be involved speak to Liz or Des

Messy Munchkins Tuesdays 9-10:30 during term time. For pre-schoolers and their carers. Messy sensory play around a Bible story or theme. Held in small hall. £2 per family per week.

Community Cinema: at 7:30 Doors open 7.15 pm. Free but donations to cover cost of hiring films welcomed. Next film is "Breathe" on March 11th but look on website for future film nights.

Fun&Faith We meet once a month on Sunday evening from 5 - 7pm to eat together, discuss our faith and share thoughts as well as time to have fun and play games. Next date is March 25th when we will walk through "Easter Days", an interactive experience local schools have been involved with. Membership is open to those in year 6 and above and those who wish to explore their developing beliefs. There is a small termly fee.

Messy Easter (March 30th) 10am on Good Friday morning. We will be celebrating communion so you will be making the bread and crushing the grapes!!! Other Easter themed activities ending with hot cross buns.

Maundy Thursday (March 29th) 7.30pm. Remembering Jesus' love shown through service. Quiet meditative time.

Good Friday - (March 30th) at 2pm Reflective service for adults

Holy Saturday - (March 31st) at 7pm BBQ and renewing the Easter candle

[May Messy Church](#) Tuesday May 1st celebrating May Day!

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