

Can you believe that March is on our doorstep already?? For me these past few years, the beginning of March has always been marked by the attendance at the Guildford Welsh Society lunch meeting to celebrate the life of St David – the patron saint of Wales, supporting those Welsh friends who still hold their mother-country close to their hearts. St David was an inspiration to the people of Wales, establishing a monastery, proclaiming the Gospel and its message to live simply and to be kind to each other – his last words were something along the lines of ‘Be joyful, and keep your faith ... Do little things that you have seen me do and heard about.’

Understanding that the little things we say and do in life count – and that special days and times of the year make up the rhythm of life that connects the past and the present is a significant thing for us to hold on to during this month of March and on into April with the church-time of Lent beginning on Wednesday 6 March – the day after Shrove Tuesday, known of course, as Pancake Day. (Please see the article about Lent further on...)

We use the time of Lent to think about our attitudes and the way we go about our daily lives and the little things of life that we do and say to make others feel good and ourselves feel good in the doing of them. We also think about the ways we share – our food, our gifts, our time, our love – or indeed, the ways where we could do more..

Whether you go to church or not, the idea of giving up something for Lent is well-known – chocolate, alcohol, coffee, cake – you name it, it’s given up in some degree or another and a wonderful opportunity to get on that long-awaited diet! But the idea of *taking up* something for Lent – like thinking about how we can share more love and goodwill, or give a little bit more to charity – or even take up a new hobby – can have a really positive effect for our wellbeing as we take time to reflect on ourselves and our lifestyle.

Mothering Sunday – 31st March

One of the lovely opportunities of doing just that – showing love and thankfulness to others during Lent - is Mothering Sunday, of course.

The secular celebration is known as Mother’s Day – the shops are packed with cards and goodies galore to give to Mums to show we care. This is right and lovely for sure, but not so lovely if you perhaps longed to be a mother but couldn’t for one reason or another – or if you didn’t know your mother – or if your mother is no longer around...

One of the things the church does really well is that it honours the Third Sunday of Lent as MOTHERING Sunday – a day to celebrate not only our maternal mothers, but all those SPECIAL MOTHERLY PEOPLE in our lives – women, men and children who themselves live out many little acts of love and kindness and who care for us, nurture us and help us to grow, and on whom we depend whether we are five or fifty five.

So during this time of Lent, I pray that you will take heart from the little things of life that matter – that you find nourishment in reflecting on your lifestyle and perhaps making some little changes that could make big and positive differences – and that, of course, you find someone special to give thanks for on this coming Mothering Sunday 2019.

St Peter’s Church – your church - is here to help you engage in the whole Lent and Easter experience – from Ash Wednesday through the forty days of Lent including

Mothering Sunday – Palm Sunday – Maundy Thursday - Good Friday – and of course, Easter Sunday – phew, what a journey!

There will be information re dates and times in this and the forthcoming April magazine, on the notice board in church and on posters dotted around the parish. Please join us and journey through Lent and Eastertide St Peter's-style – you will be so very welcome....

Blessings,
Jacqueline



A prayer of thanksgiving for those who give motherly love to us:

Dear God, we give thanks to our Mothers and all who care for us like a Mother.

We thank them for caring for us even when you are weary and worn-out
for challenging us even when we don't want it
for playing with us, even when you want to get on
for giving us comfort and encouragement when we are lost
for helping us to become the best that we can be.

Amen