

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
LOWESTOFT



MOTHERING SUNDAY



SUNDAY 30TH MARCH

10AM MORNING WORSHIP & PARADE SERVICE



WELCOME & NOTICES

Service Led by Canon Simon & Sarah

Hymn 394 - Tell out my soul

(during which the Choir process and the colours are brought forward)

**1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!**

TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH (b. 1926)

GATHERING (please sit)

Loving God,
you gather us together
as a Mother Hen gathers her chicks.
Hear us as we give thanks
for mothers and for mothering
on this special day.
As a Mother loves her child
so you love us.

We praise you and we thank you.

We thank you for Mothers –
for our own mother, and for mothers everywhere.

All mothers are made in the image of God;

We praise you and we thank you.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Dramatised Reading Exodus 2: 1-10

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." 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."

Hymn 136 - Fathers and mothers

**1 Fathers and mothers,
sisters and brothers,
all those who love us,
for whom we care:
help and befriend them,
keep and defend them,
Jesus our Saviour,
this is our prayer.**

**2 And for those others,
fathers and mothers,
children who hunger,
they must be fed:
we would be caring,
readily sharing,
one with another
our daily bread.**

**3 Sisters and brothers,
fathers and mothers,
we who together
offer our praise:
hear our thanksgiving,
God ever living,
may we walk with you
all of our days.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

ASKING FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS

We have done what was wrong in the Lord's sight
and chosen what displeased him.
Yet as a mother comforts her child,
so shall the Lord himself comfort us.
So let us come to him
who knows our every deed and thought.

Silence for reflection.

For things we should not have said:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For actions we regret:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

For not loving each other as you love us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love

bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins,

and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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.

Reflection Miriam [Moses' sister]

HYMN 656 - He's got the whole world in his hands.

1 He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

He's got the whole wide world in his hand.

He's got the whole world in his hand.

**2 He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.**

**3 He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.**

*** 4 He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.**

**5 He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got everybody here in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.**

**6 He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.
He's got the whole wide world in his hand.
He's got the whole world in his hand.**

African-American traditional song

Reflection Moses' mother

Choir ANTHEM: Be thou my vision - Chilcott

Reflection Pharaoh's Daughter

PRAYER AND DISTRIBUTION OF FLOWERS

O God,
bless these flowers,
bless us and bless those who mother us.
May the flowers remind us
how much those who mother
have done for us;
may they remind them
how much we love them;
and may they remind us all
that God cares for each one of us,
because we are all his children. **Amen.**

Please come forward during the music to collect flowers to give to those who have mothered you.

Following distribution:

HYMN 533 - All things bright and beautiful (Omit * verse v4)

***All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.***

***1 Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.***

***All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.***

***2 The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.***

***All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.***

***3 The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.***

***All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.***

***5 He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.***

***All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.***

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER (1818-1895)

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(please remain standing)*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS (please sit or kneel to pray)

INCLUSIVE MOTHERING SUNDAY PRAYERS Led by Pam

Loving God, we thank you for all the people who have mothered us throughout our lives. For all who have held us and fed us, cared for us and comforted us, challenged and encouraged us.

We pray for new mothers experiencing changes they could not predict. Grant them rest and trust in you.

We pray for girls and women who think about whether to become mothers. Grant them patience and discernment.

We pray for mothers who are raising their children in poverty. Grant them courage and relief.

We pray for mothers who face the demands of single parenthood. Grant them strength, support, and wisdom.

We pray for mothers who are separated from their children. Grant them faith and hope.

We pray for adoptive and foster mothers. Grant them gratitude and insight.

We pray for mothers whose relationships are going through difficult times. Grant them clarity and support.

We pray for women who long to be mothers. Grant them strength, hope, and opportunities to share their love.

We pray for those who have suffered from abusive mothering. Grant them healing and strength.

We pray for step-mothers, godmothers, and all men and women who have assumed a mother's role in a child's life. Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.

We pray for those people present who grieve the loss of a mother, and for mothers who have lost children. Grant them comfort, healing, and the hope of Christ's resurrection.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us now say together the prayer that our Lord taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN 652 - Guide me, O thou great redeemer.

(during which our collection is brought forward and the colours are collected)

***1 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.***

***2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my Strength and Shield,
be thou still my Strength and Shield.***

***3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.***

WILLIAM WILLIAMS (1717-1791) Translated by PETER WILLIAMS (1727-1796)

THE BLESSING

Praise God who loves us.

Praise God who cares.

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless us.

May God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother, bless us.

May God, who broods as a mother over her children, bless us:
and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us and all those we love and
care for this day and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



Church Services:

Each Sunday we have a service here at 10.00am & 6pm

(There is no 6pm Evening Service on the first or fifth Sunday of the month)

Midday Prayer - Monday at 11.30am & Wednesday at 12 noon

Friday Holy Communion Service at 12 noon

The church is also open every Friday
12.30pm - 2.30pm (October – March)
12.30pm - 4pm (April – September)

Rector

Revd. Canon Simon Stokes
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Church Office

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Keep up to date with the latest church events & services at:

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