

**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY  
PARISH CHURCH & ST MARY &  
ALL SAINTS CHURCH,  
FILLONGLEY WITH FILLONGLEY  
METHODIST CHURCH**

*Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.*



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to say that we are going to return to in-person worship in our churches this week. It had been painful for many of us not to be able to worship in person over this time of lockdown, but our worshipping community has carried on through the wonders of technology, through our e-bulletin, YouTube and Zoom.

Whilst we have done everything in our power to eliminate the risks of returning to in-person worship, we cannot guarantee a risk-free environment. So everyone must make their own personal risk assessment before returning to church. We must all adhere to the Government's advice on social distancing, mask wearing and hand hygiene to continue keeping ourselves and each other safe. One of the great temptations in being back in church is to catch up with those that we haven't seen for a long time. But PLEASE, PLEASE, I know how tempting it is, but I implore you to resist the temptation to mix outside your household bubble in church. We are sociable and hospitable people and want to share our joy in being together again, but safety must be our number one priority. We can show our love for each other by still keeping our distance until this pandemic is truly under control.

As there are some people who feel unable to return to church at the moment, we will continue to meet for a Zoom Service of the Word each Sunday at 5pm. It has been wonderful to be able to meet and worship this way during lockdown so we will continue to meet until at least the summer.

It feels really appropriate to return to church this Sunday, as it is Mothering Sunday. Traditionally, the fourth Sunday in Lent is a day when people were encouraged to return to their 'mother church'. Mothering Sunday was also a time to return to the family home, a time to visit and give thanks for our mothers or those who have mothered us.

But it can also be a difficult day for some who didn't have a good relationship with their mother or whose Mother has died or is struggling with illness. It can also be painful for those who long for the gift of children but have been unable to have them. It can bring up difficult emotions in unexpected quarters and at unexpected times. If that is the case for you, then please do not hesitate to give me a call if that would be helpful.

I really look forward to seeing some of you again in church on Sunday morning, or at the Zoom service on Sunday evening. In the meantime, take good care of yourself and each other and may God our heavenly Father and Mother to us all bless you and keep you.

Love and prayers for you and yours

Ali

## Your invitation to our Service of the Word Sunday at 5pm on ZOOM

Ali Massey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Service of the Word

Time: Feb 28, 2021 05:00 PM London

Every week on Sun, until Mar 21, 2021, 4 occurrence(s)

Feb 28, 2021 05:00 PM

Mar 7, 2021 05:00 PM

Mar 14, 2021 05:00 PM

Mar 21, 2021 05:00 PM



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85475380558?pwd=WUhUQ1ZyOEhhSzhhUVlWeXAxQU9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

0203 481 5237 United Kingdom

0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558

Passcode: 572740

### Readings and Prayers for Sunday 14th March 2021

#### The Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ Mothering Sunday

##### Collects for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

##### Collects for Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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. **Amen**

## Readings

### ***For Mothering Sunday***

Exodus 2: vs 1-10

Psalm 34 vs 11-20

2 Corinthians 1 vs 3-7

John 19: vs 25b – 27

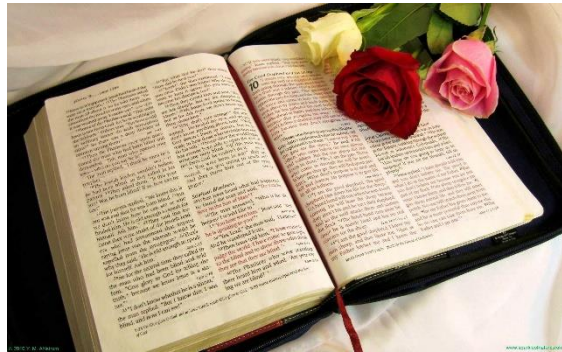
### ***For the Fourth Sunday of Lent***

Numbers 21: vs 4-9

Psalm 107

Ephesians 2: vs 1-10

John 3: vs 14-21



## Reflection

You will find Reflections from both Revd Ali and Revd Jane for this Sunday attached to this bulletin.

## **HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS**

*Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church this Sunday:-*

[Holy, holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! \(StF11\)](#)

[Speak, O Lord, as we come to you \(StF161\)](#)

*Here is the link to this modern worship song, the words of which are especially appropriate to our current situation ~*

[Speak, O Lord - Keith and Kristyn Getty - YouTube](#)

[King of kings, majesty. \(StF331\)](#)

[Master, speak! Thy servant heareth \(StF666\)](#)

*Here is the link to this traditional hymn, composed and written in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which may be new to some of you ~*

[Master, Speak! Thy Servant Heareth \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

## PRAYERS

*We continue to pray for all those affected by the global pandemic in any way.*



### **A Prayer from the Bible Reading Fellowship**

Dear Lord, strengthen us to serve you in response to your love, by giving freely to others without keeping a record, by working hard for others without counting the cost and by being a blessing to others without knowing it, eager to do your will for your name's sake. **Amen**

### **A Sonnet for Mothering Sunday**

At last, in spite of all, a recognition,  
For those who loved and laboured for so long,  
Who brought us, through that labour, to fruition  
To flourish in the place where we belong.  
A thanks to those who stayed and did the raising,  
Who buckled down and did the work of two,  
Whom governments have mocked instead of praising,  
Who hid their heart-break and still struggled through,  
The single mothers forced onto the edge  
Whose work the world has overlooked, neglected,  
Invisible to wealth and privilege,  
But in whose lives the kingdom is reflected.  
Now into Christ our mother church we bring them,  
Who shares with them the birth-pangs of His Kingdom.

*Malcolm Guite*

### **Prayers from St Patrick's Breastplate      *The Feast of St Patrick is March 17<sup>th</sup>.***

As I rise today, may the strength of God pilot me, may the power of God uphold me,  
may the wisdom of God guide me, may the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me,  
the word of God speak for me. May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before me,  
the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me. May God Shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

**Amen.**



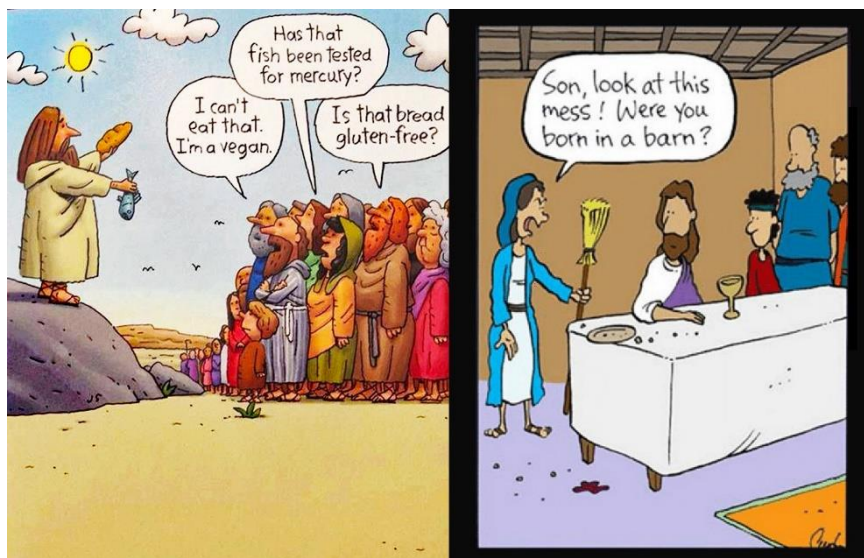
And, musing on the bridge there, I thought of that other young boy who “chose him five smooth stones from out of the brook and put them in his shepherd’s bag”, that he might do a mighty deed with them. And it seemed to me that our village children, with their brightly painted pebbles, were, in their own way, slaying another Goliath, the giant Despair, defeating him on our behalf.

*Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter. He is a Chaplain of Girton College and Associate Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and is the author of many anthologies of poetry. He is a weekly columnist in the Church Times where he writes the very popular ‘Poet’s Corner’ which is now included here each week for you to enjoy.*

## RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- ✚ Reflection from Revd Ali for the Fourth Sunday of Lent
- ✚ Reflection from Revd Jane for Mothering Sunday
- ✚ Order of Service for Evening Prayer (Sunday at 5pm on Zoom)
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion ~ Corley Church Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- ✚ Order of Service for Holy Communion ~ St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- ✚ *When God created Mothers by Erma Bombeck.*



## AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET .....

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. <sup>i</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> *Contact Details:*

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