

## **Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March this year – but what is it?**

**Do come and join us at St. Faith's on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10:00am and find out! There will be something for everyone at this service. Head of Sunday School, Saffron Ryan has a surprise in store for mum's, as all children attending are welcome to join in at Sunday school will get to make something lovely for their mum's. Lionel School will be bringing a choir to sing some old favourites that children and parents alike will find themselves singing along to.** Diana James of Lionel who will be leading the Lionel School Choir adds "The children in our choir have been really enjoying learning the songs for their performance at St Faith's. They've learnt some actions too, for the old favourite 'He's got the whole world in his hands', which is lots of fun. It's a great opportunity for them to perform in front of a real audience and I hope everyone enjoys it."

**So where does Mothering Sunday come from?** Mothering Sunday is always celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent in the European Christian calendar, not to be confused with "Mother's Day" which is celebrated in other countries, 'tho at different times of the year. Although in secular terms it is a celebration of motherhood, and has thus often been seen as being synonymous with Mother's Day, and hence often known as such! Even before Christianity in Europe, there had been a religious festival celebrating motherhood. Then as the Roman Empire and Europe converted to Christianity, it became part of the church calendar.

There are various theories about its place in our calendar! One of which is that during the sixteenth century, people returned to their mother church for a service on Mothering Sunday. It was often the only time that whole families could gather together, if prevented by conflicting working hours. Later it was often because people worked "in service" and got home infrequently – often only once a year! They would visit their mother, often bringing with them a Simnel cake, which is now often more associated with Easter.

For most of us it's a wonderful opportunity to **officially** say "Thank you" to our mothers, for the love and care attention they have shown to us. And of course to make sure they know we love and appreciate them! I'm sure most of us do that all the time, but none the less it's good to celebrate this day together.

At St. Faith's we have for many years adopted the tradition of giving **all** the ladies in the congregation a posy of flowers to take home on this special day. And this year we will be welcoming Lionel School Choir who be singing for us and with us, they will go into the Sunday Groups and will be making something for Mum!

If you would like to join us with or without children please do – you will most welcome!

[www.parishofbrentford.org.uk/stfaiths.htm](http://www.parishofbrentford.org.uk/stfaiths.htm)

[www.twitter.com/revdurkin](https://www.twitter.com/revdurkin) for all the musings and goings on from the Vicarage of St. Faith's

[www.lionelprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.lionelprimaryschool.co.uk)