

Some Reflections for Mothers Day

“Another chance to learn how to love”

These are the words of a man who, with his wife, was a ‘foster grandparent’ for many vulnerable babies and young children who were in desperate need of love and care. After yet another night of disturbed sleep, his usual response would be:

Oh well, another chance to learn how to love

This Sunday, Mothering Sunday, or Mothers Day, is an opportunity to remember and be thankful for the love and care we have received from our mothers, our families, and every person who has shown care and concern for us in any way.

This year we come to this special day in strange and unexpected circumstances, that none of us could have foreseen when we began to prepare for the church services, as well as many family gatherings and celebrations, that will now not take place. And we are all aware of the illness and stress, the disruption and confusion, the worries and fears, that we are experiencing and seeing all around us.

But there could be no better time to give thanks for all those who care for us and our village communities – mothers, parents and families, staff in schools, surgeries and hospitals, home carers, and all those who are responding by being ready and willing to offer help and support to their neighbours in so many different ways.

One of the Bible passages suggested for Mothering Sunday is Colossians 3. 12-17, which speaks of the life of those who follow Jesus, and begins with these words:

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

As we face these strange times together, in the light of our faith, perhaps we can respond by seeing it ‘as another chance to learn how to love’, and so be ready to give and receive care as we have the need and opportunity, and learn more deeply what it means to love God as we love our neighbour.

Revd John Waller

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 sorrow
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.