

Mothering times

**‘To everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven’.** *Ecclesiastes 3.1*

Mothering is about family and nurturing everyone together in love. Mothering Sunday traditionally calls us together to thank ‘Mother Church’ for the love and support it offers us in the Name of God. We respond thankfully for being ‘family’ – the family of God – brothers and sisters in Christ and children of God. Anyone who has been a parent is aware of the challenges and pitfalls of nurturing children. Imagine, if you can, how God must feel with all of us demanding attention!

Mothers’ Union posted a leaflet to us all about Mothering Sunday, which included the following reflective prayer by Catherine Kyte. It bears repeating. It invites us to read one line at a time and pause to think of where we are, and where others might be. What is your response?

In every family there are seasons
of joy and challenges:

Seasons of laughter
and seasons of sadness.

Times of unexpected joy
and times of unwanted trauma.

Circumstances to cherish
and circumstances to overcome.

Seasons of harmony
and seasons of discord.

Times of resilience
and times of weakness.

Moments to look forward, with hope
and moments to look back, with thanksgiving.

God in every circumstance and season:
We bring you our worship and praise. Amen.

**Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks
in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for
you in Christ Jesus.**

1 Thess. 5.16-18



This Wise Owl is carved from the
stump of a tree felled by Storm
Arwen in Wallington in 2021:
a tree surgeon’s parable of how
we can learn and grow through
challenging times and events.