

Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday 22nd March 2020



Welcome to our first weekly bulletin!

Our new way of keeping in touch with all that is happening in and around the Church of St Francis Heartsease

This bulletin may have come to you by email or through your letterbox, if you received it on paper but are happy to receive an email in future please email deborah.lechmere@ntlworld.com If you know anybody else who would like this delivered or emailed please let Deborah or Revd Janet know.

Whilst most of our activities are closed we are still able at present to run the community fridge and this is working successfully.

We are also in the process of setting up a printing service where we can print worksheets and booklets for children who are learning at home, where they do not have access to a printer. We are doing an initial print free of charge and then charging only cost price.

We are liaising with the local community through Facebook, letting them know what is happening and inviting people to contact us to find needs which we may be able to assist with. If you or anyone you know is in need of a listening ear or some practical support with shopping or picking up prescriptions etc. please contact Revd Janet on 07990 576118

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in acute need of prayer at this time

Isaac, Paula, Gill, Karen, Maegan, John R, Sonia & Lola, Colin, Lynn and Pete and others whom we mention in the silence of our own thoughts.

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Alma, Rosemary, Sheila, John, Joy, Molly, Shirley.

We remember with love all those who have died in recent days and pray for their family and friends

The Church of St Francis Heartsease



LIGHT A CANDLE OF HOPE
A SIGN OF LOVE AND PRAYER

PLEASE JOIN THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION ON SUNDAY 22ND MARCH
TO REMEMBER ESPECIALLY :
THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR ANXIOUS, ALL INVOLVED IN OUR HEALTH SERVICE, AND ALL WHO ARE WORKING HARD TO BRING US THE THINGS THAT WE NEED.

PLACE A LIGHTED CANDLE IN YOUR WINDOW AT 7PM



Website: www.stfrancisheartsease.co.uk
Facebook: [@stfrancischurchheartsease](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancischurchheartsease)
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 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Norwich

PRAYERS 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

EXODUS 2:1-10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him.

‘This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,’ she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, ‘Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?’

Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Yes.’ So the girl went and called the child’s mother.

Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, ‘Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.’

So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, ‘because’, she said, ‘I drew him out of the water.’



‘His sister stood at a distance’

Sometimes in life, and especially in times of adversity it seems that there is nothing we can do other than to wait and see what happens.

Moses mother placed her precious son into God’s hands. There was nothing else that she could do – all seemed hopeless

Her faith was rewarded. Moses was held in arms of love, his sister speaking from a safe distance was able to ensure his safety and wellbeing, and he grew up healthy and strong.

A lesson in learning to keep our distance and having faith..

PSALM 34: 11 – 20

¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

¹² Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?

¹³ Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶ The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from
the earth.

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help,
the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to the broken hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all.

²⁰ He keeps all their bones;

*The psalmists knew what it was to be human
– there is no emotion or life experience that
they do not lift to God.*

*How wonderful it is that in every joy, in every
lament, in every word of thanks or pleading
for help, the psalmists always rejoice in the
steadfast love and faithfulness of God.*

We too should rejoice and thankful.

*'I come to the end – I am still with you'
Psalm 139*

2 CORINTHIANS 1: 3 - 7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the
God of all consolation, who consoles us in all
our affliction, so that we may be able to
console those who are in any affliction with
the consolation with which we ourselves are
consoled by God.

For just as the sufferings of Christ are
abundant for us, so also our consolation is
abundant through Christ.

If we are being afflicted, it is for your
consolation and salvation; if we are being
consoled, it is for your consolation, which you
experience when you patiently endure the
same sufferings that we are also suffering.

Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know
that as you share in our sufferings, so also
you share in our consolation.

*Paul was no stranger to suffering, but more
importantly he was no stranger to God.*

*In every adversity, trial and tribulation he
turned to prayer and relationship with God.*

*And he encouraged others in living that way
too.*

*Even though he was oftentimes miles away
from the people he loved and cared for,
through his letters he brought God to them,
and them to God.*

John 19:25b-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his
mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife
of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple
whom he loved standing beside her, he said
to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'

Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your
mother.'

And from that hour the disciple took her into
his own home.

And in that moment the church was born.

*Born of the love of the Son for his mother –
and of his love for all those he came to bring
closer to God the Father.*

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people
to you; you are gentle with us as a mother
with her children.

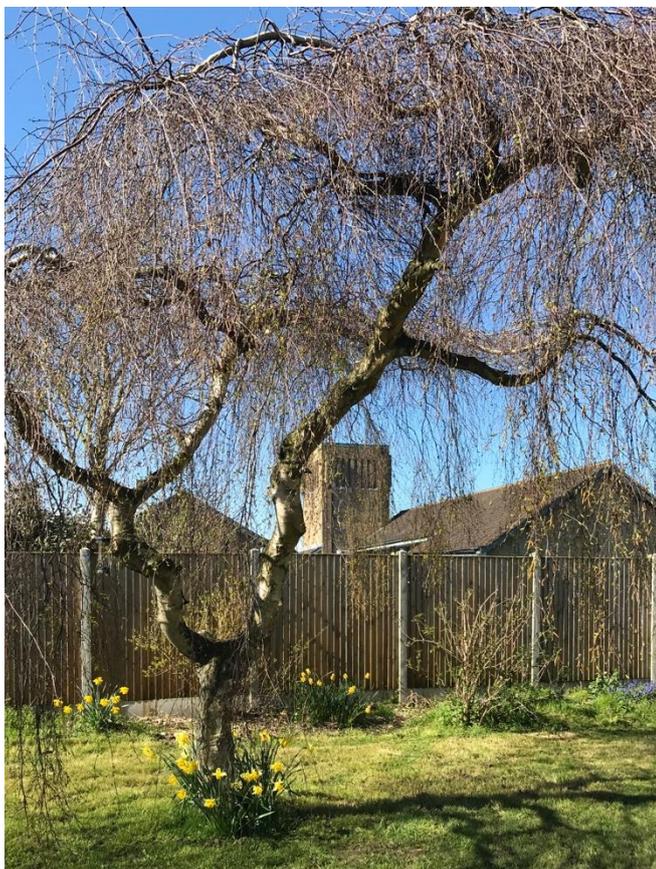
Despair turns to hope through your sweet
goodness; through your gentleness we find
comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and
forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may
your love prepare us

Anselm (1109)



The Vicarage Garden – 21st March 2020

Today we begin a new way of being church.

Usually on Mothering Sunday we make our daffodil posies and gather together for worship in a building we know and love, the building we call St Francis Church.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind ourselves that in reality the building is just a building – and that it is we, the people, who are the Church of St Francis.

Although we find ourselves unable to gather together, we are still the Church of St Francis – part of the family of God. Related to one another through shared love of God and love of one another

The times we find ourselves amidst are alien and worrying. So much uncertainty, so much to think about, a time when just like Moses' sister we are being forced to stand at a distance and watch what is happening.

At the present time it may well seem that there are huge fences between us and all that we love – but that is not true.

Whilst there may be distance between us, there is nothing that can separate us from one another or from God.

If we turn to God in prayer and faithfulness and hold one another in love then we remain exactly as we were before – a beloved part of God's family, God's church, doing exactly what Jesus taught us to do.

Loving God, loving one another, loving the world God gave us.

We may not get a posy of daffodils today, but what we have been given is the opportunity to look at ourselves, God's church, the world we serve – and daffodils, in a different way.

Be assured that you, my beloved brothers and sisters of the Church of St Francis, and those whom you love and care for, are held in my prayers.

God bless you and keep you always in his love and his peace.

Janet

*The Revd Janet Wyer
Vicar, The Church of St Francis*

**The Church of St Francis
Heartsease**



**THROUGHOUT THIS TIME OF
UNCERTAINTY PRAYER WILL
HAPPEN EVERY DAY IN CHURCH AT
THE FOLLOWING TIMES:**

**Morning Prayer - 9.00 am
Midday Prayer - 12.00 pm
Evening Prayer - 5.00 pm
Night Prayer - 9.00 pm**

**The church bell will be rung to signal the
start of prayers and to remind the
community they are being held in prayer
and that God's love is with them**

**The church of St Francis is here to pray for the
Heartsease community – if you or someone you
know would like to be added to the prayer list
please call or text Revd Janet: 07990 576118**