

SELBY ABBEY

Welcome Worship Witness



Mothering Sunday 10th March 2024

Reflection by the Revd Dan Thomas (curate)

When we return home to visit my family, once everyone has arrived and the kettle has boiled, my mum says “oooh, I’m glad to have everyone gathered in.” Every time, without fail. This process of gathering is important to her, it gives her an opportunity to show love and to look after those she cares for. To catch up and find out what we’ve been up to and what’s on our mind. The process of growing up and leaving home has been important to me and the shifts in our relationship significant for us both but she will always be my mum and I enjoy being gathered in. Every time, without fail.

“Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children” begins the Song of Anselm, one of the Canticles we are given in Common Worship. I wonder how God feels about gathering us in? Is God glad to gather us in, even as our relationship with God develops and changes? Is that excitement still there in seeing what we have done now, in hearing what is on our minds? I like to think so. Every time, without fail.

Much of our tradition focuses on God as Father and Son, but we should not miss the references to God as Mother. The image of God as mother is just as important as that of God as Father because the maternal relationship is as significant to us as the paternal. We need to recognise that any imagery we use can never picture the entirety of who God is. This makes it important to use all the images in scripture and the Christian tradition. I wonder when the last time you thought of God as mother was?

Mothering Sunday can be an occasion of great joy for some, and great pain for others. As we gather together there may be new mothers in our midst, expecting mothers, mothers estranged from their child or mothers whose children have died. There may be those among us who have decided not to bear children, or who can’t. Whoever you are, know that God loves you, like the best mum you could ever have. God is so excited to welcome you home, whether today is a day of pain or a day of happiness.

There may also be those amongst us who have a challenging relationship with our own mother. For whom the idea of seeing God as mother is really unhelpful. To those in that boat I say, God loves you, but maybe you would prefer different language. God loves you in the best way a member of your chosen family could. God is gentle, and wants to gather you in too.

Happy mother’s day, let’s get the kettle on!

A Prayer 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.

Psalm 34v.11-20: Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is there who delights in life and longs for days to enjoy good things?

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.

He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken.

Exodus 2v.1-10: 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.'

Colossians 3v.12-17: As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 19v.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.

Final prayer: Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A video reflection on this Sunday's bible readings is available at <https://vimeo.com/dioceseofyork> or on the York Diocesan website. This week it is by the Revd Dr Ian Mackintosh, Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry and is looking at John 3v.14-21, the alternative gospel reading for Lent 4.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS: For all involved in the life and worship of the Abbey, especially the Churchwardens, Treasurer, Administrator and PCC members.

For local churches and especially for the Deanery Synod and Leadership Team.

For Schools and Colleges in the parish, especially Barlby Bridge Primary School and Pre-School at Selby Abbey School.

Those who are sick or in need: Alan Bogie, Stephen Bower, Margaret Carder, Audrey Clark, Sharon Cooper, Fiona Farman, Sheila Harris, Pam and Kevin Hopkins, Sheila Mason, Roy Matthews, Alda Postles, Tony Rock, Lynne Tebbet, Audrey Thompson, Claire Tingle, Chris Upton, Marlene Ward, Fraser, Martin, Nicola, Sean

The departed: Paul Taylor, Edward Smith, David Pollitt, baby Iris Clementine Cross, Martin Ramsey, Tony Parker, Peter Pearson, James Beeston, Caroline Hodge

THIS WEEK IN THE ABBEY

Sat	09.00	Men's Breakfast at Wetherspoons
Sun	08.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Sung Eucharist
	18.30	Choral Evensong
Mon	12.00	Holy Communion
Tue	10.30	Funeral
Wed	12.00	Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion and Lent Lunch
	13.30	Lent Course (Wistow Methodist Church)
	14.00	Selby Together (St Nicholas Centre)
Thu	10.30	Holy Communion
	11.45	Funeral
	13.30	Wedding
	19.15	Churches Together Lent Course (at the Salvation Army Church)

Sun 08.00 Holy Communion
 10.00 Sung Eucharist
 12.15 Baptism
 1.00 Baptism
 15.00 Family Funtime
 18.30 Requiem by Faure (Abbey Choir)

The Abbey is open 10.00 – 16.00 daily. The Coffee & Gift Shop is open 10.30–15.30 (13.30–15.30 Sunday)

FOLLOW THE SUNDAY SERVICE AT HOME

For those not able to join us in the Abbey, the 10.00am Sunday Service is available to view online. Contact the Office for the Youtube link.

SUNDAY MORNING TEA/COFFEE ROTA: we need more people to join the rota for serving tea/coffee after the 10 o'clock service on Sundays. Please see one of the churchwardens (Sue or Elaine) if you might be able to help.

ABBEY MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST GATHERING: **Saturday 9th March at 9.00am**

At Wetherspoons (The Giant Bellflower) on Gowthorpe. Contact Stewart Skilbeck to 'book'.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT SCHOOL: Tuesday 12th March 9.30am. Children from the Abbey School have been looking at the Stations of the cross and writing their own meditations. They would love to lead some members of the Abbey congregation through them in the school on Tuesday morning. If you have half an hour spare and would like to join us, please let the vicar know.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & HOLY COMMUNION
 12.00 Wednesdays in Lent, followed by Lent Lunch (soup & roll) at 12.30pm

PARISH LENT COURSE: 'Prayers in the Bible'
 Wednesdays at 1.30pm at Wistow Methodist Church, led by John Weetman. Lifts available.

SELBY TOGETHER: Wednesday 13th March at 2pm
 In the St. Nicholas Centre. Come and join us as we "Dobble". Not sure what that means - well join us to discover! We offer friendship and fun in a social atmosphere. Gail and Hazel

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT COURSE:
'Act on Poverty' (five sessions from Christian Aid)
 Thursday evenings at 7.15pm
 14th March The Church at the Crossroads*
 21st March Selby Abbey
**on Petre Ave opposite Barwic Parade School*

FAMILY FUNTIME: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 3.00pm
 Fun crafts, trails, activities, bible stories & songs followed by free party food tea for ages 0-11 (accompanied by adults). **Next: 17th March**

ABBEY TOTS (NEW DAY – THURSDAYS): every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month from 10.00-11.00 in the St Nicholas Room in the Abbey. **Next 21st March**

BANK HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: Monday 1st April
 Donations of tombola prizes, cakes for the refreshments stall and prizes for the bag stall all gratefully received, plus any help setting up on the Sunday, on the day itself and clearing away.

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY: Speak to Lin Brown or Hazel Horsman if you are interested in joining a Bible study/discussion group in St. Nicholas Centre on 1st Friday of each month at 10.30am starting on 5th April.

SELBY ABBEY JUNIOR CHOIR: Saturdays 9.00am
 For any aged 6-10years who love singing to come and develop their vocal talents as part of a group.

EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP: We meet in people's homes about once a fortnight on a midweek evening (usually Wednesday) for light refreshments, a "warm-up" activity (e.g. game or quiz), then about an hour of study of a bible passage and/or Christian topic. If you are interested in attending contact Chris Bywell at chrisbywell@yahoo.co.uk or on 01757 241723.

FLOWERS: As Easter approaches you may wish to think about donating towards decorating the Abbey for Easter. Hand your donation in a marked envelope "Easter Flowers" into the Church office or to any of the clergy or via the collection plate or to Lin Brown. Please think about gift aiding your donation if you are eligible. Also, pedestal flowers can be arranged for a special occasion, an anniversary or birthday for you or for a loved one. Please speak to Lin Brown. Donations towards the weekly altar flowers are also welcome throughout the year.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER 2.00-2.30pm Mondays
 in the South Choir Aisle. An ecumenical group, we share any joys or concerns followed by 20min of silence. All welcome. *Janet Lawrence & Linda Courage*

YOUTH GROUPS:

'THE MEET' at the St Richard's Centre on Mondays from 4.00-5.00pm for age 9-12.

'IGNITE & ALIVE' Hawdon Institute on Tuesdays from 5.30-7.00pm for Y6+. Contact Rebecca or John Watkins (07895216171/07725183732)

ECO CHURCH GROUP: We meet monthly to look at how we can improve our care of creation in our worship/mission. Dan Thomas for more info.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SHOP ASSISTANTS, SERVERS (10am Sundays), WELCOMERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL. Contact the vicar/office for more info.

ABBEY CHOIR: Any treble, soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers (adults/children 8+). If you are interested in joining a friendly community & making music in our great building with the famous Abbey organ, contact Oliver Waterer.

SELBY FOODBANK: Items can be left in the Abbey. Current needs are tinned meat/fish, tinned fruit, tea bags (80s)/coffee, jam, UHT milk (1litre). No soup, beans, pasta, cereal or rice please.

ONLINE DONATIONS: There is a 'Donate' button on our website so people can give online.

ABBEY OFFICE:

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YORK DIOCESE www.dioceseofyork.org.uk

For a variety of news and resources.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND www.churchofengland.org

A range of resources inc. an online Sunday service