

**The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice
of**

**St Saviour
Mortimer West End**

**St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer**

**St John the Baptist
Padworth**

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



**You are warmly invited to the Mothering Sunday Service 2025
30th March at 10.00 a.m. at St John's church, Mortimer**

As we approach Mothering Sunday 2025 it's high time to remind everyone that you, your family and friends are all warmly invited to join in the annual service at which we celebrate these special gifts called 'Mums.'

Mothering Sunday is the day when we take a moment to give thanks for, give honour where honour is due, and pay tribute to those important people in our lives whose love knows no bounds, whose impact on our lives is immeasurable, who are the first to comfort us when we hurt, who are the first to encourage us when we are discouraged, and who are the first to celebrate our successes with us. They are our teachers, our role models, and our confidantes. Their selflessness and sacrifice know no limits.

Of course, those who mother us should be honoured always and yet it's a simple joy to take time on this special day to show our appreciation and thankfulness for those who have given so much in so many ways.

Mothering Sunday - whether it's joyful, complicated or touched with sadness - is a day when we are called upon to make time and space to remember with thanks - and sometimes loss and difficulty - all the mothering we have received and all those who have done mothering things for us.

Flower posies will, of course, be prepared, blessed and distributed so that after the Mothering Sunday Eucharist we can take them to give to our mothers or someone who has cared for us as a mother.

And for those who might find the day painful, whether through bereavement or separation or regret, the service offers space for us all to reflect, pray and find strength together.

And, of course the church will be open all day so that people can find space perhaps to be still, perhaps to pray, perhaps to light a candle.

God bless,
Your priest and friend,
Paul Chaplin