



# Mothering Sunday

**10am Holy Communion, Dunsfold  
4pm Funday@4**

## The Collect

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Please remember in your prayers

**The Sick:** Marilyn Bailey, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Ginny Fraser, Jacquie Griffiths, Sheila Jones, Cindy Kennedy, Stacey Medalyer, Christine Miles, Dean Perkins, Jacky Williams and Hazel Wiltshire.

**The Departed:** James Field and Andrew Watson



On Sunday we celebrate Mothering Sunday, and we give thanks to our lovely mum's who inspire, nurture and love us. It is also a time to remember and give thanks for those special mothers who are missed and no longer with us. We look forward to welcoming you.

At 4pm the Funday team will likewise be celebrating Mothering Sunday, and looking at the story of Moses. Expect a joyous celebration, singing and crafts. High tea and happiness will be served following the service. Everyone welcome especially children and families.

## Arrangements for the funeral of Bishop Andrew Watson.

The funeral of Bishop Andrew will be held at Guildford Cathedral on Monday 23rd March at 12pm. Priority seating for the funeral has been given to the family, friends and colleagues of Bishop Andrew. Due to capacity restrictions, It is requested that those from the diocese who wish to celebrate the life of Bishop Andrew, attend a designated church in the deanery which will live stream the service. If you wish to witness the funeral, St Nicholas' church, Cranleigh will be streaming the service.

## Lent Lunches

Please find below the dates for the remaining Lent lunches. Please contact Pam Walker for more information and to book your place: 01483 201140 [pamwalker2020@gmail.com](mailto:pamwalker2020@gmail.com) or speak to the hosts directly. Come along for a simple lunch of soup, cheese and a good chat. **There is availability at both events...**

**Friday 20th March, (Sandy Crowther and Mel Shone, Hascombe Vestry)**

**Friday 27th March, hosts (Jane & Nick St Aubyn)**

# Why Every Mom Needs a Bouquet of Dead Flowers This Mother's Day

By Alicia Bruxvoort

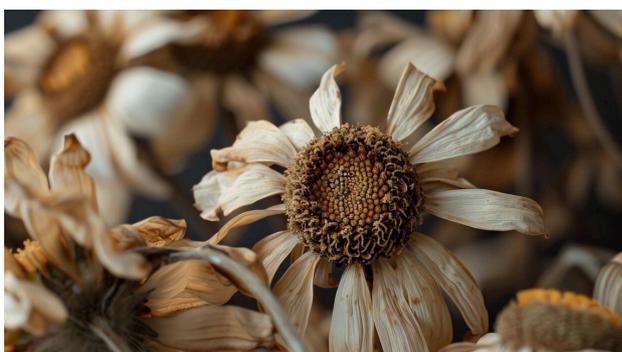
*"We know what true love looks like because of Jesus. He gave His life for us, and He calls us to give our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16*

I'll never forget the Mother's Day my son Lukas gave me a bouquet of dead daisies.

The evening before, I'd watched from the kitchen window as Lukas roamed our overgrown garden and proudly picked a handful of golden blooms. He'd sniffed the silky petals with an appreciative nod, then he'd marched inside and asked me for a shoebox, some tape and a roll of aluminium foil.

The next morning Lukas bounced into my bedroom with giddy Mother's Day excitement. Following an original rendition of "Happy mummy's Day to you", he dropped a foil wrapped present onto my lap.

Lukas watched with excitement as I navigated a parcel buried under an unnecessary mountain of foil and tape. Finally I peeled back the final layer of foil, and I lifted the lid to find a bouquet of brown petals. Lukas eyes landed on his gift, and a bewildered grimace replaced his proud grin. But before his disappointment could morph into tears, I pulled Lukas close and thanked him for his thoughtfulness.



Then I hopped out of bed and stuffed the dead daisies into my fanciest crystal vase. And with a wink, I placed his Mother's Day surprise in the middle of the kitchen table as if it were the perfect centrepiece.

In hindsight, I realise it was.

I may not have understood it then, but years later, I've learned something about motherhood that greeting cards don't acknowledge and brightly coloured daisies can't capture.

While motherhood is a beautiful and priceless gift, it is also a surprising summons to die.

And maybe that's why on some days this high and holy calling feels laborious and lustreless; monotonous and prosaic. Because motherhood (even spiritual motherhood) is more than a mandate to raise the next generation. It is an unending invitation to lay down our lives.

Motherhood is saying no to the clanking cadence of selfishness and yes to the quiet rhythms of love. It's relinquishing pride and persisting in prayer, surrendering greed and growing in grace.

Motherhood is pacing the floor with a crying baby in the dark of night and holding a tearful teen in the depths of disappointment.

It's wiping bottoms, noses and floors countless times a day and listening to the same knock-knock joke over and over again.

Motherhood is chasing toddlers when we'd rather be chasing our own dreams.

Quite simply, motherhood is a daily decision to paint the ordinary moments of our days with the extraordinary love of Christ. This kind of love may not resemble a bouquet of golden blossoms. It may look more like a batch of brown blooms tucked in a shoebox. Or like our Savior hanging from a rugged cross.

John 3:16 reminds us that the beauty of true love is always painted with tenacious tints of sacrifice and humble hues of surrender.

Let's be honest: Whether we're mums or wives, daughters or friends, this kind of love doesn't feel easy or natural. But I'm learning that something surprising happens when we fix our eyes on Jesus and follow His example. Little by little, our lives begin to bloom with a beauty that doesn't wilt or wane, falter or fade.

And somehow, as we pour our lives out in love, our faithful Saviour uses the gift of daily death to grow us into women radiant with His glory and fully alive in His grace (Psalm 34:5).

Sometimes as Mothers we want saving from the monotony of the daily grind, but being a mum is the most rewarding gift, and we should treasure those special moments, and the generosity of a bouquet of dead daisies.

## Thought for the week

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." - Proverbs 31:28

Motherhood is one of God's most beautiful reflections of His love. A mother nurtures, protects, sacrifices, and gives endlessly—often in quiet ways that go unseen. Just as God cares for us with patience and compassion, mothers pour out love that shapes hearts and lives.

This Mother's Day, let us thank God for the women who have guided us with faith, prayed for us in secret, and stood beside and cared for us. Their love reminds us that God's grace often reaches us through the hands of a mother.

May we honor them not only with words, but with gratitude, kindness, and appreciation for the gift they are.

