**2018-03-11 Sue Diggory**

**Mothering Sunday**

**Talk**

Today is of course Mothering Sunday – a day when in theory mum’s have a day off as the family spoil them

Do we have any mums here today who have already been spoilt today?

Breakfast in bed? Bunches of flowers?

Boxes of chocolates? – no calories inside on Mothering Sunday

Going out to lunch?

Having lunch cooked for them? – and the clearing up done?

For many of us today is a very happy day, and it is good for us to come and celebrate today, as we thank God for our mums, but for others it can be a very sad and difficult day, for those of us who no longer have our mums with us, for all those who like Hannah prayed for a baby, a baby that never came, and of course for those who no longer have our children with us.

Maybe you have a neighbour who will be on their own today because family live a long way away – why not take home a posy of flowers for them from our service today?

In our quiz earlier in the service we have already discovered some ‘mother’s day’ facts

We discovered there are at least 2 mother’s days – today and in May. Today is a day when we are encouraged to show our mums how much we appreciate them, how much we love them, but that is of course something we can do every day, sadly I know I didn’t remember to do that.

We heard about a lady in Wales who had a baby when she was 18 or 19 and then another one 41 years later when she was 60! That’s a good reminder to us that mum’s come in all ages, as do brothers and sisters!

And we heard about a very large family!

Can you imagine what it must be like to be in a family like Mrs Feodor Vassilyev the lady we heard about in the quiz who had 69 children!

But, can you imagine the amount of washing, the amount of cooking, the amount of shopping how many trolleys would you need each week in Waitrose?

And what about the mum’s we heard about in our readings, Hannah a mother in waiting and Mary a mother in anguish?

We don’t know how old Hannah was, but we do know she waited a long time for her son Samuel to be born, and we do know that Mary’s Jesus’ mother was very young, possibly only 13 or 14 when he was born, and we are also reminded that as a mum whether our children are infants, or grown up, whether they are still at school or retired, being a mum is a job for life, a God-given job for life, a job that means you never stops caring for your children, you never stop loving and you never stop being concerned, but sometimes you have to let them go …. And sometimes there is a lot of anguish

Hannah had to let go of Samuel when she took him to live with old Eli in the Temple

And Mary had to let go of Jesus that day when she stood at the foot of the cross and watched him die

Being a mother can be a difficult job, there’s no perfect ‘how to do it’ guide and I suspect all of us who are parents have made mistakes,

but something we do we do know is, that God will forgive us when we get things wrong, and we also know that we must also be willing to forgive others, that is why we will ask God in our prayers later in this service as we do every time we say the Lord’s Prayer to *forgive us our sins as we forgive those that sin against us.*

We also learned in our quiz that the mother Sockeye Salmon’s body changes so that her eggs can feed off her – she gives up her life for her young, a reminder to us that mum’s often give up a lot for their children – time, energy, love, sleep, and for some their freedom!

Being a mum is a wonderful gift from God, and as we have heard today there are many challenges that mum’s must face.

Today as we celebrate Mothering Sunday and remember all our mum’s, let those of us who are mums be willing like Hannah to dedicate our children to God, and like Mary be willing to always be there for them no matter what it takes.

Amen.