Mothering Sunday
2014

Celebrate everyone who mothers you

A better childhood. For every child.

www.childrenssociety.org.uk
Introduction

Mothering Sunday was traditionally the day in Lent when people would be encouraged to worship in their mother church, the main church of the parish or the cathedral or minster church.

Many people would make long journeys back ‘home’. This was in the age where people would leave home to work in other houses, and it became tradition that the house owner would give the servants the Sunday off to travel to their home church. This led to people returning home to their families and large family gatherings would happen.

Our modern understanding of celebrating mothers on this day is thought to have come from this tradition, as people returning home would often bring gifts of flowers for their mothers. Much of our association with flowers and family gatherings on Mothering Sunday comes from the traditions of the past. And this is how we’ve come to a place where Mothering Sunday is now almost entirely a celebration of motherhood and mothers.

Why Mothering Sunday?

The Children’s Society works with the most vulnerable children in our society. We work with children whose mothers fight every day to ensure they are looked after, clean, healthy and safe. We work with and for children who are unable to live with their birth parents, for a wide range of reasons. We challenge government to ensure those children living in poverty are given the necessary support. We are working at the moment to try to end the nightmare facing over 3 million families who have to choose between heating and eating. In 2014 this shouldn’t be happening.

The Children’s Society works with children who are facing hardships because their family can’t support them. We offer a lifeline to these children through our workers who ensure the gap between the children’s needs and what they are able to access is narrowed. They share in the ‘mothering’ of the children, wrapping a blanket of care and hope around them.

So, this Mothering Sunday, don’t be afraid to talk about mothers. Don’t focus on those who might struggle with the idea of mothers, those in our groups or congregations who either don’t or can’t have children, have difficult relationships with their mothers, or who are unable to live with their birth mother. Rather, focus on the mothering we can all offer, we can all receive and to which we can all contribute for those in greatest need in our communities. These resources allow you to take and explore the traditional meaning of journey and gathering together as a church, recognising the care we can offer.

Find out how to raise funds for The Children’s Society on our website.
Our resources

Go to www.childrenssociety.org.uk/mothering-sunday to download our free sermon ideas, prayers, interactive all age worship materials, Messy and Sunday school activities for Mothering Sunday.

Links

Messy Church
Most of the Messy resources for Mothering Sunday are in their printed books. You will find additional suggestions on their website.

Home for Good
Home for Good is a national campaign which aims to make fostering and adoption a normal part of church life.

There are 6000 children waiting to be adopted in the UK, and 9000 more foster families are urgently needed. Find out what your church can do to support families who are adopting or fostering children.

ROOTS for Churches lectionary resources
ROOTS for Churches have given us free access to these ideas to use on Mothering Sunday, based around 1 Samuel.

What promises do we make to those we love? Does it matter about keeping them? And, if we make a bargain with someone, how costly is it to keep our end of that bargain?

These questions – and more – are raised by ROOTS in their materials for Mothering Sunday.

• ROOTS Mothering Sunday resources – for use with children
• ROOTS Mothering Sunday resources – for use with young people

What else can I do to support The Children’s Society?

Volunteer
Thousands of volunteers across the country give their time to help tackle the root causes of poverty, neglect and crisis that affect young people’s lives. Find out more about our latest volunteer opportunities to:

• Support children and young people
• Speak about our work at local events
• Volunteer at our retail shops
• Support our fundraising
• Undertake an internship.
**DO Something**
If you would like to do what you love to raise valuable funds to support our work, why not become a do-er and organise a do for us? It could be a sixties style do, a golf do or perhaps a karaoke-do-be-do!

Whatever you want to do, we have everything you need to make your do a success - from invites and games to posters and balloons. Get your free 'DO-ers guide to doing' to get inspired - log on to [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/do](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/do).

Look out for details coming soon about a Summer DO – to celebrate childhood.

**How do I send you any money I raise?**

Have you raised money for The Children’s Society as part of your Mothering Sunday activities? Thank you so much! Your gift means we can reach more disadvantaged children and young people. All you need to do now is send your gift to:

The Children’s Society,
Edward Rudolf House,
Margery Street,
London, WC1X 0JL.

Don’t forget to include the name and address for your church and please do mention that you raised the gift through your Mothering Sunday celebrations.

You can also send us your donation on our website: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/mothering-sunday](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/mothering-sunday).

Thank you,

From the Church Partnerships Team at The Children’s Society.
About us

The most disadvantaged children rarely suffer on just one front. We work directly with these children, many of whom have nowhere else to turn, to ensure that they are loved, valued and listened to. With them we fight childhood poverty, harm and neglect.

Our network of programmes includes drop-in services for runaways, as well as children’s centres and support for young carers. We support children who are refugees from violence, and we give those in care a voice. We transform the lives of many more children by pressurising government and local authorities to change policy and practice to protect them, and we challenge the negative attitudes that perpetuate harm and injustice.

In hard times, children are among the hardest hit.

We don’t just help them survive - we support them to flourish.