



From The Rectory

I love the Spring Season when again we see the wonders of nature bursting into new life. The word "Lent" derives from the Old English word "*lencten*" meaning *the spring* – the time of lengthening days.

As the Spring moves on so does the Church Calendar. Mothering Sunday is on the 15th March a real homely family day which we will celebrate at 10.30 am at St Bertoline's.

A week later we will be holding our Annual General Meeting in church following the 10.30 service. Following on is Palm Sunday on the 29th March – with the Blessing of Palm Crosses – also this day British Summer Time begins.

Maundy Thursday – the day we celebrate the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples there will be Holy Communion at 7 pm. The next day is GOOD FRIDAY with a special service for the day at 2pm.

The month of March moves into April and the GREAT FESTIVAL OF EASTER on Sunday 5th April when we will celebrate the Resurrection Of Christ.

So we will proclaim again that Jesus is not dead. He is alive. Our Christian Faith is founded on what we celebrate at Easter. The joy of Easter fills the earth. And this is the joy of Easter that death has been conquered – for Easter is the victory. Easter is that GOOD NEWS which the Apostles were sent to preach to the ends of the earth. Easter Day is about Love – Easter Day is about life. It is a glorious day. DO COME AND SHARE IT WITH US

EASTER BLESSINGS
PETER

THANK YOU TO VERA BENNION

For many years Vera and her daughter Peta have kept the Children's Corner in Barthomley Church looking very seasonal and inviting. Now they have decided to pass on the responsibility. From the many children who have benefited from their "corner" and the congregation who have admired Vera and Peta's work a very big THANK YOU.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

This year the local World Day of Prayer will be held on **FRIDAY 6th MARCH** and will be hosted by the UNITED REFORMED CHURCH in Brookhouse Lane Alsager at **1.30pm**.

The service has been prepared by Christian Women from **NIGERIA**. All are very welcome to attend. If you need a lift please contact Chris Bailey 01270 873253

MOTHERING SUNDAY

In the 14th century, Mothering Sunday or Mid-Lent Sunday was a purely religious festival, the original Mother being Mary, Mother of Jesus. By the 18th century, servants and apprentices had adopted a custom of visiting their homes at Mid-Lent and taking with them gifts of food (often a cake given by their employer) and Mothering Sunday had a different and more secular meaning.

The Simnel cake is thought to have derived from a legend about two old people Simon and Nelly, who had an argument about the ingredients of their Easter Cake and so evolved a new recipe known as a Simon-Nelly cake later shortened to Simnel cake.

Mothering Sunday has morphed into Mother's Day, a highly commercialised occasion when tills ring out abundantly. Perhaps the simplicity of the original Mothering Sunday giving youngsters a chance to show love and gratitude to their beloved Mums was best. However you wish to celebrate do join us in Church at 10.30am on MARCH 15th for the MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

A vacancy exists on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Council, contact Mark Bailey in the first instance - mbailey87@hotmail.com or call 07854445636.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE for BARTHOMLEY VILLAGE FAIR

Organisation is well under way for our 2026 Village Fair. We would love to hear from anyone that can offer any help . Whether you can volunteer a couple of hours on the day or like to be more involved and attend our next meeting (02/03/2026 at 7.15pm) please get in touch .

Please send me a message or contact - Sally Walsh on 07379 866279

Don't forget to get your thinking caps on for the scarecrow competition . Last years scarecrows were fantastic



An entry from the 2025 Barthomley Village day.