

14th March 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

She was already aged, though her youngest son, Charlie, was still a young man. In the early 1960s she went to the doctor, unable to sleep. The doctor said he could prescribe some of these new-fangled sleeping tablets if she liked but, on the whole, he thought it better if she took half a pint of cider each night before bed. So that's what she did. It cured her insomnia! ☺ and it was Charlie who, although he lived miles away, for the next fifteen years made sure his old mum always had cider in the house for her nightly draft. He was a big guy, tough as nails, a truck driver, but as soft as putty when it came to "Me dear old mum" as he called her.

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother," said the great American President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865). We'd all say, "Yes, that is as it should be." In this cynical age we're conscious that it isn't always like that; that things can go terribly, tragically wrong, but today we celebrate the best of that unique relationship that is mother and child. This day asks you to think on encouragement, on care, on restoration and forgiveness, on the things of motherhood, and mother-like things, that made you "you."

We celebrate the hope our parents placed in us ☺ and other people too, who have been parent-like to us at different times. In God's economy the remarkable thing is that these vital personal relationships come to us in all sorts of forms ☺ not just those of our natural mothers.

There is a story told in Spain of a father and his teenage son who had a strained relationship. So much so that the son ran away from home. His father, however, began a journey in search of his rebellious child. Finally, in Madrid, in a last desperate effort to find him the father put an ad in the newspaper. The ad read, "Dear

Paco, meet me in front of the newspaper office tomorrow at noon. All is forgiven. I love you. Your Father." The next day at noon in front of the newspaper office, not one, but 800 "Pacos" turned up ☺ all seeking forgiveness and love from their fathers!

When the baby Jesus was presented in the Temple. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus' mother and father were amazed at what was said about him. They were ordinary parents doing what all faithful parents did for their children ☺ how could the old man Simeon say this little one was destined for the falling and rising of many? They were amazed, but they came to know that mysterious quality of life that turns things around beyond our imaginings. This child grew to do the chores, to learn in the synagogue, and to follow Joseph's trade ☺ the stuff of ordinary life ☺ yet he became the extraordinary one, our Saviour.

We celebrate the ordinary things of mothering, ☺ for there began the road that led us to today.

With every blessing,

Christopher.

NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website www.holytrinityblacon.org or our Facebook page (holytrinityblacon) for updates.

LOCKDOWN affects the whole country now, but fortunately we can still continue to meet (socially distanced) in church to worship together, and we will continue meeting at 9.30am each Sunday. The minibus is also running, so do let us know if you would like a lift.

PRAYING FOR BLACON This week, Louise and Tina are joined by Jo Pemberton who is on placement with us, and we are prayerfully putting out chocolates, as we take our exercise. Do join us in praying for the residents of the following: *Rawson Road, Nant Peris, Plas Dinas, Glyn Garth and Sealand Road.*

EVENING PRAYER We meet each Wednesday 5pm for Evening Prayer on Zoom. Do let us know if you would like the link – everyone is welcome to join us.

LENT Each Sunday in Lent, after the 9.30am service, there is a time of silent contemplative prayer in church from 11am. There is also a Lent Course run online on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm 'Transformed by the presence of Jesus' – do let us know if you want the Zoom link.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – The video is now on our website, do go to <https://holytrinityblacon.org/whats-on/events/stations-of-the-cross.php> If you do not have access to the internet, and would instead like a DVD of our stations video, please let Tina or Louise know.

SING FOR FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT – Starting Monday March 1st at 6.30pm is a series of sessions to sing together and learn together about fruits of the Spirit. For a Zoom link and further information, please contact Tricia H.

ELECTORAL ROLL – In preparation for our Annual Meeting on 11th April, we need to update our electoral roll. If you want to check your entry, please contact Sue K or Linda in the Parish Office. They will also be able to get a form to you if you need to add or amend an entry (forms are also available in church). Alterations to be completed by 1st April.

ANNUAL MEETING will be held after the 9.30am service on Sunday 11th April, in church. We will be electing Wardens (Deputy wardens), PCC members and there is one vacancy for Deanery Synod. Please pray about whether you could stand for election, or there is someone you want to nominate.

CONTACTS:

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