



## Mothering Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024



What is the most important thing in/about your house? What did Jesus mean when he said, "My father's house? These two questions were reflected on during the service last Sunday. It is always fascinating to hear responses from each of us. The most important thing about our houses is the people we live with; for some, it is the memories they hold. These memories of joy and laughter, of ups and downs, are what make each family unique. Leon reminded us in

his Sermon that a house is not just for shelter and security. It is a place where stories are made, love is shared, and support, encouragement and comfort are shared in happy and not-so-happy times. The house is a building, and I hope we will bear this in mind as we pray for all people experiencing homelessness in this country and abroad. If you can, I will encourage you to support the work of Renstart, one of our Mission partners working to eradicate homelessness in our local community. More details can be found

here: <https://www.rentstart.org/get-involved>. What Jesus meant when he spoke of his father's house was not just the ordinary building but the temple. It is, as we know, the universal Body of Christ, his Church. It is also where he had gone to prepare a room for each of us: heaven, our heavenly home. This is reassuring for us, especially when we celebrate Mother's Day. This celebration evokes much joy for many of us as we thank God for our earthly mothers. However, for many more, it brings a sense of loss and sadness as we remember those mothers who have been called to "higher glory" into the room that God has prepared for them. There will also be many whose relationship with their earthly mothers is not as loving and acting as it should be. Please, I encourage us all, as we spend time together celebrating and praying, to be mindful of those who might not have a cause for celebration. Whatever we do, let us remember that we have a God who sees, knows, and cares for us. In him, we have not just a Father but also a mother and everything else. We will meet at 8 am for holy Communion and 10 am for Mothering Sunday. There will be a distribution of Posies for all mothers and an opportunity to light a candle for those we love but see no longer. I hope you can join us. As we go this week, let us bear in mind the words from the Book of The Prophet Isaiah 41: 13, ***"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."*** May you and all yours know God's help and presence this week. Amen.

With much love

Revd Folli Olokose vicar@oatlandschurch.org.uk/ 01932840077

**This Week's Bible Readings:** Col 3: 12-17, Exodus 2: 1-10 & John 19: 25b-27.

**We are praying for:** All victims of abuse, violence and discrimination. We remember, in particular, victims of wars and atrocities in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Yemen, South Sudan and the Congo. For all fighting injustice, especially the Postmasters wrongly accused and

prosecuted. And the family of the two-year-old boy who fell into the River in Leicestershire. **Please remember our Mission Partner:** The Bible Society.

**We pray for the sick in our parish:** especially remembering all who suffer from mental ill health and are victims of abuse and discrimination. **From the Memorial Book at their year's mind:** Leonard Bazely, Peggy Gillard, Celia Baynes, Nellie Dyer, Robert White, Betty Burningham, Wally Gadd, John Sawtell, Diana Cresswell, Florence Watts, John Coke-Smyth, Jennifer Willett, Lawrence Jones, Robert Mullins, Emmett Cooper, Fancie McIlwraith, Iris Mason, Joy Archer and Stephen Basham. **We Remember the Recently Departed** David Basham, Alan Ulrick, Vaughan Reading, Douglas Baynes, Paul Richmond and Anne Smith. **Vaughan Reading:** The funeral service of the late Vaughan Reading will take place here at St Mary Oatlands on Wed, 13th March, at 12 noon.

### **Activities and Events at St Mary Oatlands**

**‘Activation Youth’** Term time Fri evenings in St Mary Oatlands Church Hall. School Yr 7-10 aged children 17.30-19.30 & School Yr 10-12 aged children 19.30-21.30. Free of charge. No regular sign up required, just turn up, play games, talk, have fun and make friends. Tuck shop. Tell someone about it! For more details contact Leon 07881 786309 [thepaislad@gmail.com](mailto:thepaislad@gmail.com)

**Holy Week and Easter services** Please collect a flyer from the back of the church.

**Palm Sunday** 24<sup>th</sup> March. 8am & 10am Holy Communion & 6pm Devotional Service. **Maundy Thursday** 28<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Agape Supper (please sign up) in the Church Hall. 8pm Holy Communion service with foot washing. **Good Friday** 29<sup>th</sup> March 10am ‘Walk of Witness’ (from St James’ Church, Weybridge). 1-3pm Music & Readings for Good Friday. 2.30-4pm Free Children’s Good Friday Craft Afternoon in the Church Octagon room. **Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** 8am & 10am Holy Communion. **8.30-9.30am** Parish Breakfast. Everyone is welcome for breakfast and fellowship. Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church. **Church Spring Clean and Garden Tidy** Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March 9am-12noon. Just turn up and help! **Posy Making** Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2.30-4.30pm in Octagon room at St Mary Oatlands. All items provided. Good fun and refreshments. Suitable for all ages. (posy’s are for the 10am Mothering Sunday service on 10<sup>th</sup> Mar). **Wed 20th March** 12.30-2.30 pm. Colouring Club and Knit Wits. Bring your sandwiches, we will provide hot drinks. **Wed 20th March** Film Night in Church Hall with light supper at 6.30 pm Film starts at 7pm. Give it a try.!

**Plant Swap Day** Sat 27th April 9am-12noon on the Church lawn. Browse, swap plants and information. Refreshments will be available. Please contact Rachel Bainbridge if you can help or need more information 07557408085. **Oatlands Village Fayre Sat 11th May 12.30-4.30pm.** We will be there once again with our Cake and Children's Crafts stalls. If you can help on either stall or pledge a cake for the cake stall, please use the signup sheet at the back of the Church or contact the parish office. **Kim & Malcolm Groom's Open Garden** Sat 15th June 2-5pm ‘West Lodge’, 169 Burwood Road, Hersham, Walton-On-Thames, KT12 4AT (near Squires Garden Centre). **Sokkie Night** Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June 6-10pm Join us for a unique experience! We are supporting the work of Leon Chaunga, St Mary Oatlands Pais apprentice, with a Sokkie Night, including a fish and chip supper and wine in the Church hall. Sokkie is a style of dance unique to Southern Africa. It is great fun, easy to learn, and fun to take part in. This will be a ticketed event (£15), and profits will go towards Leon’s Ministry. Tickets will be available after Easter.