

With Mothering Sunday on the horizon, our thoughts turn to the remarkable women in our lives. Very often they are

Hidden Figures



Above is a photograph of The Shop window in The Well, kindly and creatively re-dressed by Eunice and Caroline this morning in preparation for mothering Sunday this weekend. As well as an array of (really rather good) paintings of Mums about various tasks, drawn by members of local art and social clubs, an explanation of the original meaning of Mothering Sunday is displayed.

I have to admit I had no idea, so was inspired by their window to look it up when I got home:

THE ORIGINAL "MOTHERING SUNDAY"

*The word "mothering" referred to the "mother church", which is to say the main church or cathedral of the region. It became a tradition that, on the fourth **Sunday** of Lent, people would return to their 'mother church' for a special service.*

Now the idea of 'Mother Earth' or 'Mother God' may be familiar to many - especially as there is a lovely passage in the Bible about God being like a Mother Hen, gathering up her chicks. But how can we relate to the term, 'Mother Church', in our world today; what does it mean within the context of The Well and what - if anything - might we 'return to'?

At the weekend, our family watched the brilliant American Biographical Drama of 2016, "Hidden Figures".

The film portrays the life stories of three brilliant Black American women - mathematicians working for NASA at the height of the Civil Rights Movement in America, together with all the drama of the space-race. Their names are Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson.

Two of them at least are mothers, balancing care of their children with increasing influence on the systems and steps involved in getting the people to the moon. Brings a whole new perspective upon loving to the moon and back!

At points in the film the prejudice depicted is almost unbearable (at one point, Katherine has to run to the only toilet for 'coloured people' some 20 minutes away under pressure to meet an impossibly difficult deadline, only to return to find that her work 'colleagues' have placed a separate coffee pot labelled specifically for her to use as opposed to the common one). Yet these women, motivated by a desire to radiate their gifts for the good of the team, rise above with exceptional grace and tenacity.

Dorothy Vaughan in particular is portrayed as the 'Mother Figure' - not only supervising her team but devoting herself to ensuring that her own brilliance makes them all shine.

I had never, until watching that film, known of those women and their story before - precisely the point of its title.

It may seem like a strange thing to say, but to my mind, these women represent, 'Mother Church'. Not just because of their obvious personal faith but because the three of them together (Trinitarian?!), their message of Good News and their patient love for one another and the whole in the face of adversity speaks loudly of what Church is for and should be. A place for all without exception or prejudice, whether hidden or infamous in our community..

Kibworth is blessed with some welcoming, compassionate churches who understand that Church is about people as much (if not more) than it is about place.

And If Church is about people, to whom will we return this Mothering Sunday?

Whilst not 'a' church in the traditional sense, The Well is full of remarkable and servant-hearted women (and an increasing percentage of male volunteers - yay!) who quietly but brilliantly get on with an array of tasks - using their talents to bless others. It is also full of

Mother-figures of both genders who love and care for people in our community, many of whom want God's love to be shared too. Our new strapline emphasises this:

A welcoming place of community, friendship and support for everyone.

We understand that there are many hidden figures in our community in Kibworth who need to be 'given a break' as the sign reads. And if we can help them get there, we're only too thrilled to! If anyone you know is seeking to return to loving community, and wonders where they will be welcomed, maybe you could point them towards,

"Mother Well".

We hope those with children or Grandchildren have had a good start back to school this week. Here is something for those of you with children, or children living close by who may be in need of a place to shop for Mothering Sunday:

Mother's Day Gifts Available to Buy

The items are all priced at a £1.00. If you wish to make a purchase, please phone 01162796508 (leave to ring for as long as possible) or email 3floydsmith@gmail.com to reserve an item and arrange collection.

Collection will not be from The Well. Your purchase will be put in a rainbow paper bag with a few chocolates and a sticker to seal the bag. You just put your £1.00 in Wendy, the Well piggy bank!

Whilst these are ideal for children to purchase for the female carers in their family, a responsible adult will need to support them in ordering and collecting their purchase.





RE-OPENING!

Monday 12th April: Re-opening of The Charity Shop and Cafe (outdoor seating only). The new times will be Monday - Friday 9.30a.m. - 1p.m (with staff and volunteers present from 9a.m-1.30p.m)where possible or in shifts).

The Food Bank will remain open to the public between 10-12 a.m every week day. As we move forward into into a new pattern of life with the whole of The Well being open, Food Bank operations will be concentrated more on Tuesday to Thursday with a possible afternoon shift for volunteers. This will be confirmed nearer to the time.

The Well Next Door will be closed from Good Friday on 2nd April until Easter Monday on 5th April inclusive.

