

Tony Thinking Aloud xlviii

Mothering Sunday (March 14th) often brings a number of questions. It is always three Sundays before Easter, the middle Sunday of Lent, when customarily some people have one day rest in their Lent Rule. For this reason it is often called Refreshment Sunday.

So, what about Mother's Day? It is in essence the day when Mothers are remembered in America, the second Sunday in May. Over the years Mothering Sunday has been called Mother's Day by some people, just transatlantic influence! American Mother's Day goes back about a hundred years.

Mothering Sunday can be traced back at least to the 16th Century! A day when people went back to their Mother Church, where they had probably been baptised. Families would go there together. Those who had left home to work, probably in the local 'Dunstall Hall' or similar would be permitted to visit their families, their Mothers for the day.

In this area Saint Michael and All Angels Tatenhill is still the Mother Church. Barton and other local parishes were part of Tatenhill Parish until July 22nd 1881. In 1981` Barton Church had a special centenary walk and service with the Mother Church in Tatenhill on Mothering Sunday. We took a Simmel Cake which has connections with Mothering Sunday and Easter Sunday. We will think about that in the Musing in three weeks.

It is different this year, flowers cannot so easily come from the Florist, restaurants unable to serve a Mothering Sunday meal for the family on the premises. There can be no 'family together' Sunday lunch, because of lockdown.

What has not changed is that we are here because of our mothers! We can offer love, thanks and support in our own particular way. Many of us will no longer

have a mother with us, so perhaps as a sign of recognition we could put a picture or a photo of her in a prominent place that day.

It is all to do with saying 'thank you', there is need for family thanks, to be grateful even in a pandemic. Mindful of everyone we can support at this time but to have in our hearts overwhelming thanks to our mother for all she has done for us over the years. We perhaps do not always realise how much our mother and families have done to bring us to where we are in our lives just now.