



# **The Box River Benefice**

*Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton,  
Little Waldingfield and Newton*

## **Welcome**



**to a Special Eucharist for  
Mothering Sunday**

# We are a church who welcomes everyone, old and young!

If you are elderly and feel the cold, please do try and find a seat near a radiator. None of our younger members will mind moving if you ask them nicely. They are a very friendly bunch! Most of our seats are padded, but should you desire an extra cushion, then please do ask one of our congregation to pass you one. There are a whole number of opportunities for you to become more involved in this church community which sits at the centre of our village; including coffee mornings, lunches, fellowship groups, and helping with the running of the church itself. To find out more please go to our website.

If you are a parent with a toddler, then please do not feel anxious about bringing your little one to church. And you must not worry about your little one making noise. We try our best to be a child friendly church because we believe passionately in Jesus' words when he says 'the kingdom of God belongs to such as these'. Because we are all followers of Jesus, we also believe that this is their church as much as ours. If they are to grow-up truly believing that, then they need to feel safe and at home here. We have a children's area where there are plenty of soft toys and activities for their enjoyment. There are also many opportunities for you and your little one to get more involved. Please check out our website for more information.

If you are a youngster at Primary School, then this is a church for you too. You are most welcome to participate in any service of your choice. We also have a very fine Sunday School that is fun and informative – please do ask one of our leaders or go to our website for more information.

If you are a young person at Secondary School or older, feel free to engage with the service on whatever level you feel comfortable. If it is your desire, we would love you to begin helping in the service and we have a whole host of roles open to you from serving at the Altar to singing in the Choir or simply helping with the coffee. There is also a very active and lively Youth Group that meets at other times. Their outings are the talk of the Village! You would be most welcome to join them. If you would like to find out more about any of these opportunities please go to our website.

If you are in your twenties, thirties, forties, fifties, sixties or seventies then you are most welcome too. There are a whole host of ways that you can become involved in this lively church at the centre of this beautiful village community. We are always on the lookout for people who would like to help with roles in services, in the community or in helping our church to function and flourish. To find our more please go to our website.

Whatever your stage in life we offer everything you need for whatever life may present. If you need us to help with spiritual guidance, council, confession, sick ministry, ministry at the time of death (last rites), teaching, baptism, marriage, funerals. If you find yourself in a pickle and need some practical help to see you through or simply want someone to talk to. Or if there is someone you are concerned about: Then please go to our website and fill out the relevant forms and we will ensure that your query is passed on to the appropriate person who will try their best to help you.

Above all we are thrilled that you are here with us and we hope to see you again soon.

**Hymn:**

**Please Stand**

**586 – Sing we of the blessed Mother**

*During this hymn all the ministers, adult leaders and children enter in from the porch carrying boxes of posies, and lit candles.*

**Greeting**

**Remain Standing**

Praise God who loves us.

**All Praise God who cares.**

**Words of welcome**

**Praising and thanking God**

*The candles are lit.*

We light this candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

**Confession**

**Please Sit**

Let us call to mind our sin, our failure to value the love of others and our failure to love as Christ has loved us.

**Silence for reflection**

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception.  
We fail to live as your children.  
Lord have mercy.

**All Lord have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries  
of others.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord have mercy.**

***Absolution (blessing of God's forgiveness)***

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse *you* from *your* sins,  
and restore *you* in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

***The Collect Prayer***

*led by Robert*

Praise God who loves us.

**All Praise God who cares.**

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family to  
himself  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

***First Reading***

***Hymn:***

***Please Stand***

***Gospel Reading***

## **Sermon**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**Please Sit**

Praise God who loves us.

**All Praise God who cares.**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

### **Prayers**

**Please kneel or sit**

As children of a loving God who always listens to our cries, let us pray to our Father in heaven.

God of love,

**All hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Amidst the current turmoil and fear associated with the Coronavirus, help us to show your love in our homes and communities that they may be places of love, security and truth.

God of love,

**All hear our prayer.**

Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found. We especially pray for those families who will find it most difficult over the

coming months due to the social distancing, isolation and threat of unemployment brought by the current pandemic.

God of love,  
**All** hear our prayer.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalized, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus. We pray that at this time, as public worship is cancelled and the community is unable to physically gather, that you would prosper her with your blessings and help her to reach out to a society desperately in need of the compassion, care and spiritual home she brings.

God of love,  
**All** hear our prayer.

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for the many victims of the Coronavirus, the thousands who are extremely sick, for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; for hope where there is fear, for faith where there is apathy, that your love may bring peace to all your children.

God of love,  
**All** hear our prayer.

Loving God, we also pray for the eternal repose of all those who have died recently and among them those who have died as a result of the Coronavirus. Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Father God, accept the cries of our hearts as we offer you prayers; through them transform us and all creation until you are in all and through all.

We ask these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus.

**All** Amen.

***The Peace***

***Please Stand***

Praise God who loves us.  
**All** Praise God who cares.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says,  
'As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

***During the next hymn a collection will be taken. Please give generously towards the life and work of the church.***

***Offertory Hymn:***

***Please Stand!***

**Jesus, remember me  
When you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, Remember me  
When you come into your kingdom**

*Taize Community 1991*

***Eucharistic Prayer***

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

We give you thanks and praise  
that the Virgin Mary heard with faith the message of the angel,  
and by the power of your Holy Spirit  
conceived and bore the Word made flesh.

From the warmth of her womb  
to the stillness of the grave  
he shared our life in human form.  
In him new light has dawned upon the world  
and you have become one with us  
that we might become one with you  
in your glorious kingdom.

Therefore earth unites with heaven  
to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with angels and archangels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**All Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was, and is, and is to come.  
Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord.** (Colin Hand)

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As God's children, and heirs with Christ  
we cry in the Spirit, 'Abba', Father.

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **Agnus Dei**

**All Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was, and is, and is to come.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

(Colin Hand)

## **Giving of Communion**

*The president says the invitation to communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant  
replies*

**Amen.**

## **Prayer for Mothers and Distribution of Flowers**

*Mothers and anyone who has nurtured a child at any time are asked  
to remain standing whilst everyone else sits. These are then handed  
flowers by the children.*

**All Sing:** *Taize Magnificat (Sing out my soul)*

**Sing out my soul. Sing out my soul.  
Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.**

**Sing out my soul. Sing out my soul.  
Sing out and glo-ri-fy the Lord God.** *Taize Community 1991*

*At the end of the distribution of flowers we all say the following  
prayer.*

**All Thank you God for the love of our mothers:  
thank you God for their care and concern;  
thank you God for the joys they have shared with  
us;  
thank you God for the pains they have borne for  
us;  
thank you God for all that they give us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Praise God who loves us.

**All Praise God who cares.**

### ***Responsory***

For the care of mothers;  
**All Thanks be to God.**

For their patience when tested;  
**All Thanks be to God.**

For their love when tired;  
**All Thanks be to God.**

For their hope when despairing;  
**All Thanks be to God.**

For their service without limit;  
**All Thanks be to God.**

### ***The Blessing***

### ***Remain Standing***

Praise God who loves us.  
**All Praise God who cares.**

May God, who gave birth to all creation, bless *us*:  
may God, who became incarnate by an earthly mother,  
bless *us*:  
may God, who broods as a mother over her children,  
bless *us*.  
May almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
God bless *us* now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

### ***The Dismissal***

*led by a child from the congregation*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Please do join us for tea, coffee and (lots of) cake after the service. We wish you all a very happy and joyful Mothering Sunday...



...and please do come back again very soon!