

Kippington Cat

14th March 2021



Mothering Sunday – a celebration!

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest Cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the mother church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many.

(Where do you think that our "mother church" would be?)

Making a journey was not commonplace back then, and days off work for those in service was even rarer! So, having a day off and congregating at your mother church with other family member was something to be celebrated with much joy!

Allowing workers – both domestic and outside labourers – to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to go to church and visit their mothers was a move towards a more family-focussed occasion. And, of course, under normal circumstances, the tradition is still alive today as adult children often visit their parents on Mothering Sunday.

It is extraordinary to realise that it was quite common for children to leave home for work when they were ten years old. Can you imagine?

It is thought that it was as they walked along the country lanes, the children would pick flowers – often wild violets or primroses – to take for their mother as a small gift – another tradition still alive today.



Mothering Sunday was also known as *Refreshment Sunday* because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed, and Simnel Cake was often made as a treat for that day.

Simnel cake is the one with marzipan layers both in the middle and on the top, and then violets and eleven balls of marzipan to decorate it – representing the twelve Disciples – but no ball for Judas because of his betrayal of Jesus.

This year, Mothering Sunday will probably be hard for some of us. Restrictions on travel and getting together are still in place, so we might not be able to see our family as we usually would. But that should not stop us from celebrating the special relationship that we have with our mothers, and reflecting on our relationship with our church, too!

The Bible asks followers to honour and love their mothers:

"Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you". – Exodus 20:12.

Here are some beautiful words about mothers in the pages of the Bible:

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." – Proverbs 31:25-28.

And:

"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck." – Proverbs 1:8-9.

Both of those quotes paint such wonderful pictures of mothers, do you agree?

Strong, dignified, wise, kind; a woman whose lessons to us will – if we listen! – enhance and enrich our lives.



I am sure that there are many times when our mothers do not feel as amazing as those bible passages would suggest! Mothers are people like the rest of us – not saints, nor do they have superpowers! And I am sure, just like you, me and anyone else you care to mention, that there are lots of times when they feel stressed, a bit cross, over-worked and under-appreciated.

And that is where Mothering Sunday can be a real blessing ... What can we do to let them see how much we value them?

Well, there are lots and lots of ways! What your mother likes might be different from what another mother likes – but lots of things are pretty universal, like:

... A posy of flowers – truly, they mean more if they have been picked and tied together by you rather than by a florist!

... A box of her favourite chocolates – but try not to spoil the gift by asking to share!

... A thoughtful act – but, if you make her breakfast, remember to clean up the mess in the kitchen afterwards!

Or simply put her first all day long, with cups of tea, a cuddle, being sweet and kind, giving her some peace to read a book, take a long bath, or watch her favourite TV programme without interruptions – she will thank you for any of those!

*Thank you to all our mothers
and why not try to make yours feel
special more often?*

With love, K.C.



Poetry and Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Thank You, God, for mothers
and for their tender care
Thank You for their gentleness
and their love so rare.

Thank You, God, for mothers
for their love that holds so true
Thank You for their love of us
and for their love of You.



Reading with my grandma
is always fun for me.

(It's strange to think she did it
with my mum when she was wee!)

I love to look at photos
and at my family tree

Of aunts and dads and cousins
But – most of all – of me!



I thank You, Father, every day
that You taught me how to pray.
I thank You that You hold me dear
Every day of every year.

I thank You for the grown-ups
- teachers, mums, dads too! -
who care and who support me
and teach me, Lord, of You!

Belonging



We all belong - somewhere!

Adult or child, all of us benefit from belonging.

When we belong to something positive – like our family, our church or school, our town or country – it can strengthen us, giving us a sense of security and making us feel more confident. This type of belonging provides us with a circle of like-minded people who share the same constructive goals and is affirmative and encouraging.

Sadly, there are times when people chose (or are pressured) to belong to a more destructive set – like a gang or clique – whose only real purpose is to act negatively towards another group. This is the type of belonging that can lead to bullying and nastiness, picking on people not in the gang, rather than welcoming differences. It can even turn into violent behaviour and hateful attitudes.

It is a little bit scary how groups can evolve from something with well-meaning aims into something that is discriminatory and intolerant. Take the simple act of being the fan of a football club. What could be less threatening than a group of people who enjoy sport, support the same team, and want to see their side perform well? But then, some fans turn the normal fun of competition with another team into aggression, picking fights on the terraces and behaving with real violence toward one another.

There are other examples of this type of attitude – some among adults who really should know better. It is this *misplaced* “belonging” that can magnify differences (which are – in and of themselves – no bad thing. Differences make the world a much more interesting place!). But the people who belong to these groups use difference to stir up tensions and heighten issues of race, gender, age, faith and even things like body shape and whether or not you wear glasses!











So, we need to be aware of – and careful about – which groups we join in life.

If we are lucky, our families can be one of the strongest, most unbreakable groups we will ever belong to. Our church can be another. After all, the word “congregation” comes from the Latin word *congregationem* meaning “an assembling together, collect in a flock”.



I am sure that you – like me – cannot wait until the church family of St Mary, Kippington can all regularly *assemble together* again! It will be so lovely once more to share in that fellowship of belonging with one another as members of our church and raise our voices together as we worship God.

Here are some collective nouns
for the groups to which different animals belong ...

A shrewdness of apes	A wisdom of wombats
 <p>A skulk of foxes</p>	 <p>A dazzle of zebras</p>
A squadron of manta rays	A pod of dolphins
 <p>An army of frogs</p>	 <p>A committee of vultures</p>
 <p>A bask of crocodiles</p>	 <p>A parliament of owls</p>
An exaltation of larks	A mischief of rats
 <p>A cackle of hyenas</p>	 <p>A drift of pigs or swine</p>
 <p>An ambush of tigers</p>	 <p>A pride of lions</p>
An unkindness of ravens	A bed of oysters

Oh! Aren't some of those just fabulous?!

They are so descriptive of the animal in some cases, do you agree?



What the cat has been laughing
at this week...

... about mothers.

Q: What do you call a mother who cannot draw?

A: Tracy.

Q: What did mummy spider say to baby spider?

A: You spend too much time on the web.

Q: What did the mother broom say to the baby broom?

A: Time to go to sweep!

Q: What do flowers celebrate on Mothering Sunday?

A: Their chrysanthe-mums.

Q: Mummy, what is it like to have the best daughter in the world?

A: I don't know dear, ask your grandmother!



Definition of Motherhood: The amazing ability to hear a baby sneeze itself awake through closed doors, in the middle of the night, three bedrooms away... (While daddy snores away, hearing nothing!)

Q: Why don't they have Mothering Sunday sales?

A: Because Mothers are priceless.



They say silence is golden.
True - but only until you have kids.
Then silence is suspicious.

The Prince whom no-one obeyed – a story about manners.

Once upon a time, there was King, who was much loved by all the people in his Kingdom.

But King Eli was getting older, and it worried him that his son, Crown Prince Alfred, was so deeply unpopular. He was a petulant Prince, high-handed and arrogant. King Eli would watch his son in his dealings with other people, and he would despair. Whether royal staff or the population, they all really hated Alfred – and they largely ignored him, too, which just made him even crosser, nastier and harder to deal with!



Wise old King Eli worried and wondered how to help the Prince see the error of his ways.

He consulted with his advisors, and with other kings of other realms, and he and the Queen talked about almost nothing else. Had they spoiled him too much when he was little? How could they change him now?

But, so far, and despite all his best efforts, the King had not been able to find a solution.

He finally asked for help from his most trusted advisor, the wizard, Merlin. And Merlin watched and witnessed and reported back to King Eli, saying; “The issue, Your Highness, is how the Prince talks to people. He sounds so rude and shows no respect for anyone – yet claims it for himself.

“He does not ask people to do things, he *demands* that they do so. The result is that no matter how many times Alfred tells people to do things, they simply never obey him. Thus he ends up with no authority, and the people do not admire him. They do not think he has what it takes to be a kind, fair and respected ruler.”

“And I regret to inform you, Sire, that he also talks to people about you, the Queen and his sisters, the Royal Princesses! He laughs to his friends that you are old, that his mother is in her dotage and that his sisters are ugly and married to fools.



“The people do not like this talk, Sire. They love you and Queen Bella, and they hold you in the highest esteem. Alfred belittles his family and friends, and yells at the people. There is no hope for him – unless you permit me to use magic?”

King Eli had told Merlin – years ago – that magic potions should no longer be used in the Kingdom, but desperate times call for desperate measures, so he gave Merlin permission to come up with a magic potion which would make his son worthy of respect and affection.

The old wizard cast a thousand spells and made just as many magic potions.

They produced some interesting results, like fighting snails and dancing ants ... but he could not find a way to get people to have any esteem for the Prince.



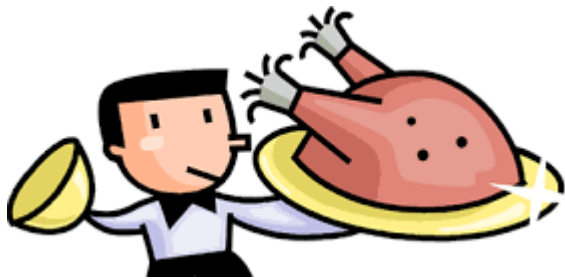
There was a young man passing through the Kingdom, who, hearing about the problem, went to the palace, telling the King that he knew the solution. The King was excited, and the young man gave him two small pieces of parchment, with incredibly colourful writing on them.

"These are the spells that I have prepared, Your Highness. Prince Alfred needs to use the first before telling someone what he wants them to do, and then use the second when they have done it. A smile will indicate that the spell has worked – and if he does this at each and every interaction he has for the next three weeks, the spell will last forever."

Everyone was intrigued, curious to hear the wording of the spells, especially the King! He called Alfred to him and explained that these were the best spells ever – and told him to read them over and over several times to himself, to memorise them before using them.

A few days later, and Prince Alfred was ready to start. Seeing a servant passing by, carrying a large turkey in his arms, the Prince said to him, "Please, my man, come here and let me see that magnificent turkey."

The servant, surprised by the kind tone the Prince was employing (and never having heard him say 'please' before!), approached the Prince. Alfred himself and his father, the King (and everyone else who witnessed it) were surprised by how effective the spell had already proven. Normally, any request made by the Prince was – well – simply ignored!



The Prince, after looking at the turkey (frankly, with little interest!), said, "What is your name man?"

"Antony, Sire," came the reply.

"Well, thank you, Antony, you may go."

And the servant left, smiling.

My goodness - it had worked! And, even better, Antony remained courteous to the Prince, and did as he was asked by Alfred from that day on, just as the young man had said! And with every request the Prince made to anyone, the same results were seen. And in his conversations with his mother, he was deferential and respectful, and he apologised to his sisters for the nasty things he had previously been heard to say about them and their husbands.

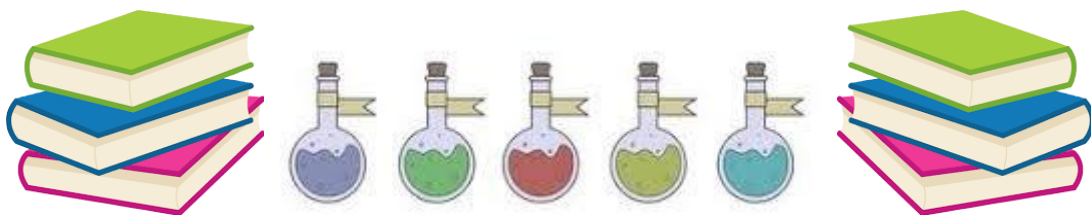
The grateful King festooned the young man with riches, and he set off to continue his journey. But before he left, the old wizard Merlin approached him, to ask where he had learnt his extraordinary magic and begging that he share his secrets.

The young man laughed and told the wizard the truth.

"I am no magician! I am simply a teacher, and my "magic" does not lie in those worthless parchments which I wrote on arriving at the palace!

"I got my magic from school as a child. My teacher constantly repeated that with good manners you could get anything. And he was right. Your Prince only needed good manners and some politeness to get the respect and admiration he wanted."

The wizard, understanding the truth of this, spent that night destroying all his contraptions, and magical junk. He replaced them with a good book on manners, ready to continue educating his blunt and impolite Prince, should the need arise.



BOREDOM BUSTERS... WHY DON'T YOU TRY...

... Making your own Scented Room / Pillow Spray?

On the theme of getting ready for Easter, this spray would make a lovely gift!

You will need:

Distilled water
(which you can buy online – or use unscented ironing water, which some supermarkets stock!)

Witch hazel

A favourite essential oil
(available online or health-food shops)

A see-through spray bottle.



Obviously, the quantities will vary depending on the capacity of your spray bottle (s).

The balance goes as follows:

For each 10ml of witch hazel, use 20 drops of essential oil and 35ml of the distilled water or unscented ironing water.

Literally, all you need to do is mix them together – although you could make things more complicated by blending a couple of essential oils – like jasmine and rose or clary sage and bergamot (in which case it is a total of 20 drops; play with the balance to get the smell you like).

Make a label for the spray with the names of the essential oils, so that the person getting the gift knows what it is – you can make the label as ornate or plain as you like, using glitter, or colours or fancy writing!

Have a bit of fun with it – and personalise it in your own style.



How about ... Making Chocolate Crunch for Easter?

Why not get all the ingredients bought now,
ready to make these the week before Easter?
This is a cross between biscuit and cake – a real chocolate treat!



The ingredients below make 8 – 10 portions.
As ever, please get adult help putting things into / taking things out of the oven!

170g unsalted butter, melted. (plus a little extra for greasing the tin) 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. 170g caster sugar.	225g self-raising flour. 25g cocoa powder. 1 large egg, beaten. 2 tablespoons granulated sugar.
--	--

- Heat the oven to 180c / 160f / gas 4.
- Butter a 20cm square tin and line with baking parchment.
- Stir the melted butter and vanilla in a bowl.
- In another bowl, mix the caster sugar, flour and cocoa powder.
- Pour the wet ingredients into the dry, stirring to mix well.
- Now add the beaten egg and stir thoroughly, until combined.
- Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, right into the corners and pressing down.
- Brush the top with water and sprinkle the granulated sugar all over.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 35 minutes.
- Leave in the tin for five minutes before slicing into squares and transferring onto a wire rack to cool down.
- Once all heat has gone, put the Crunch squares into a transparent plastic bag, knot the top to make it airtight, then finish with coloured tissue paper and a pretty ribbon to make a tasty Easter treat for someone special!



How about ... Making a scrummy Brunch dish of smoked salmon coddled eggs?



This dish is both yum and versatile!
Perfect as breakfast or brunch,
or even as a starter for a celebratory meal.

Serves six

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| •25g butter, melted | •150g hot-smoked salmon, flaked |
| •6 eggs | •75g Gruyere cheese, grated |
| •75ml double cream | •6 slices sourdough |
| •3tsp capers, drained and rinsed | |

Don't forget:

Please ask for adult help with putting things in / taking things out of the oven!

1. Heat the oven to 200c / 180f / gas 6.
2. Brush the insides of six ramekins (or one 25 x 30cm pie dish) with melted butter.
3. Crack one egg into each ramekin (or all into dish).
4. Drizzle over the cream, season with salt and pepper.
5. Scatter capers, salmon and cheese over the top.
6. If using ramekins, put on a baking tray, and bake for ten minutes (12 minutes if all in one bigger dish) until the whites are cooked but the yolks are still a little runny.
7. In the meantime, toast the bread and cut into soldiers for dipping.

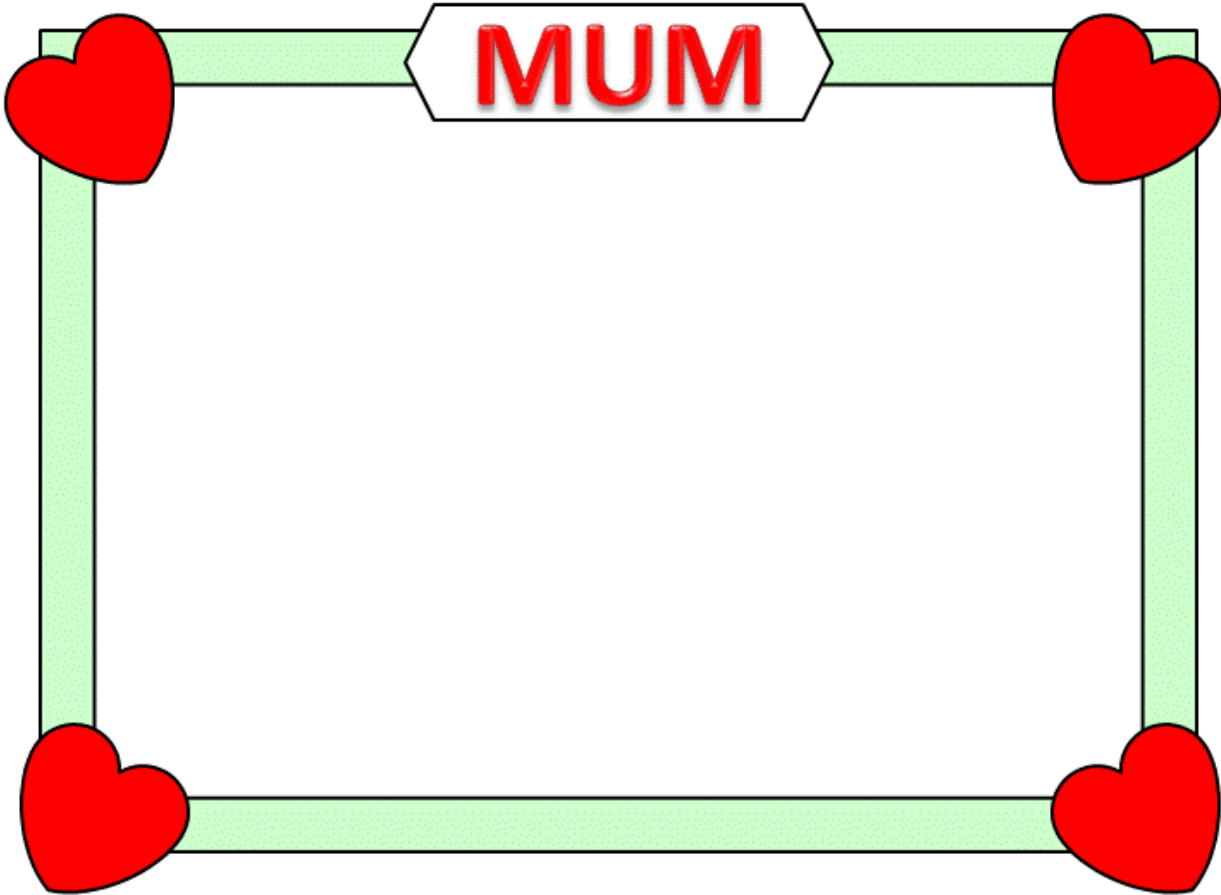
If you are serving this as a brunch dish, a crisp salad of lettuce, cucumber, thinly sliced radishes and halved baby plum tomatoes would make an ideal accompaniment.



Ooo! – makes me feel hungry just thinking about it!

Puzzles

Why not print out this page (get daddy or an older sibling to help)?
Draw a picture of your mummy in the frame and then fill it in to give to her.



My mum's name is _____

I love my mum because _____

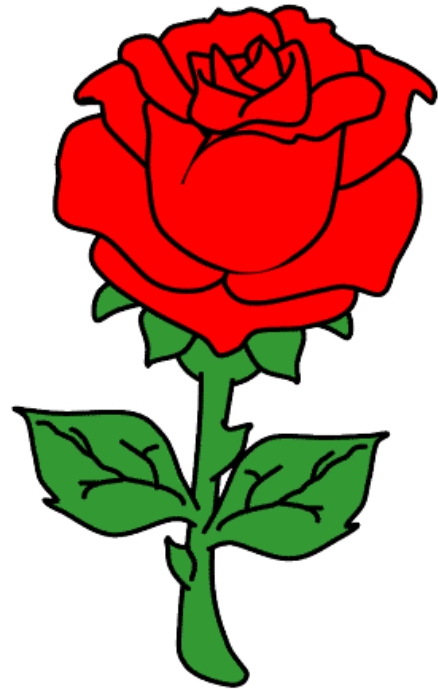
My mum and I like to _____

My mum's favorite thing to do is _____

My mum is special because _____

Mother's Day Word Ladder

Make your way from GIFT to ROSE by changing just one letter on each step to make a new word!



G I F T

Present

Pick up

Existence

A husband's favourite girl!

Smart

Stand up.

R O S E

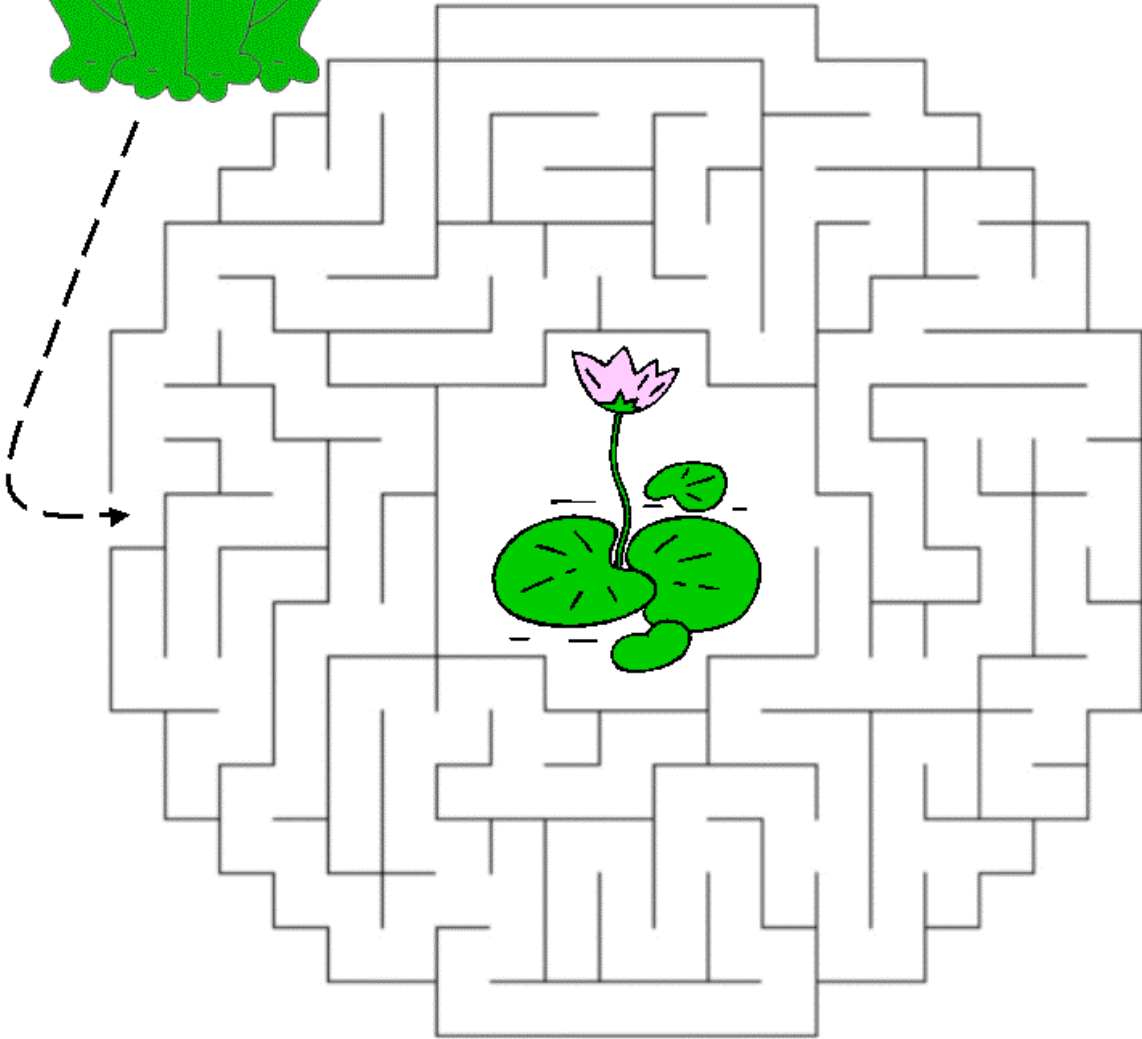
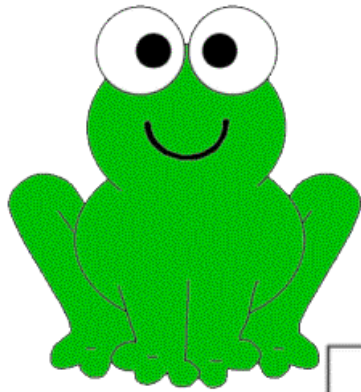
Red bloom.



(Answer at the foot of the back page.)

Frog Maze

Help the frog find his lily pad.



He is probably hoping to meet up with the rest of the **army** of frogs!



Thank You, Lord, for mothers.
Thank You that we can learn from them
about love, life and laughter.

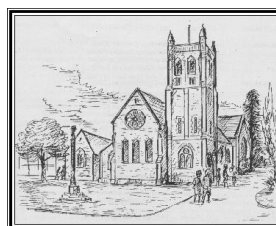
Thank You, Lord, for families.
Thank You that we can look to them for
support, guidance and security.

We ask that You help us, Lord,
to show respect for others at every opportunity.
Help us to recognise the worth of every person we meet,
and to ask for nothing from others
that we are not willing to give in return.

This we ask in Your name.
Amen.



*Although it is rainy today,
the sun is starting to warm up - when it appears!
The other day, I rolled in the garden
in the sunshine ...
and it made me purr with happiness.*



Created by Kippington Cat
of the Church of St Mary, Kippington
Issue 37 / 14th March 2021

TO CONTACT ME:
paula@pweb.me.uk

Word Ladder: Gift, Lift, Life, Wife, Wise, Rise, Rose.