

Ideas for your service

For Mother's Day 2022 we have compiled a flexible resource package for your church, which you can choose from to shape your service on Sunday 27 March 2022. The package includes a collection of Home for Good short films and a congregational prayer, as well as some additional ideas you may want to include. We hope these resources are helpful, but we encourage you to tailor these suggestions to best fit and serve your own church family.

We know that days like Mother's Day or Father's Day can be difficult for churches to navigate, given there will be huge breadth of experiences and emotions across your congregation. Home for Good wants to equip churches to be welcoming and sensitive places for all individuals and families. We want to acknowledge the huge array of parenting and caring roles that impact the lives of children and young people and affirm all those who are making a difference, while also raising awareness of the need for more people to play their part for vulnerable children to ensure they have the families and supportive communities they need.

Gathering together

Some churches will still have social distancing measures in place this Mother's Day, or may still be gathering virtually or with a combined approach. These things can make a warm welcome seem a little more challenging.

Here are some ways you can make your service a space of welcome at this time when many are feeling particularly isolated:

- Write 'Welcome' in different languages on your screen.
- Have a diverse range of different voices, ages and faces contributing to your service, through readings, worship, prayers etc.
- Allow time for people to connect with one another. In accordance with current local guidance, you might want to schedule some time for discussion in small groups, over tea/coffee, outdoors or in a pre- or post-church video call.

Acknowledge that for many, Mother's Day can be complicated or painful – let those joining you know that whatever their experience, they are welcome and valued.

Sung worship

There are countless hymns and worship songs that worship God and celebrate and reflect on our being part of His family. Here are some of our favourites, which might be a nice addition to your service!

- No Outsiders – Rend Collective
- Nothing Can Separate – Lucy Grimble and Matt Redman
- Familia – Vineyard Worship
- The Blessing – Elevation Worship
- Every Mother Every Father – The Porter's Gate



Stories

Mother's Day provides a great opportunity to give space for those in your congregation to share their own stories of mothers and mother figures who have made a difference in their lives. This can highlight and celebrate women from all walks of life who have made a difference, representing a variety of mothering roles. We think Mother's Day provides a particularly special chance for you to raise awareness and shine a light on the experiences of foster carers, kinship carers, special guardians and mothers through adoption, whose stories are often missing from traditional Mother's Day celebrations.

We at Home for Good have an online library full of beautiful real-life stories, which you may want to use in your service or share with your church family before, after or on your social media platforms.

Read: [Spare room: a foster carer's story](#)

Read: [Through thick and thin: reflections from an adoptive mum](#)

Read: [Ruth and Phil's story](#)

Read: [A ready-made community: Sharon and Rich's story](#)

Read: [Little changes: reflections from a volunteer kids' leader](#)

Watch: [Fostering stories from Northern Ireland](#)

Find more articles, stories and films at homeforgood.org.uk/resources

Bible readings

Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all those in 'mother' roles who make a difference. The Bible is full of examples of women who reflected the heart of God to those around them. Below we share a few examples – you might want to use their stories as readings, to guide moments of reflection, as points for a sermon or for children's and youth ministry.

Sarah (Genesis 21)

Sarah waited for many years before giving birth to her promised son Isaac.

Shiprah and Puah (Exodus 1)

The midwives of Israel risked their own safety to ensure the survival of countless children – including Moses.



**Daughter of Pharoah (Exodus 2)**

Pharoah's daughter welcomed Moses into her family, navigating relationships with his sister and birth mother to ensure he was cared for.

Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 4)

Naomi and Ruth walked together and committed to one another as friends, and when Ruth gave birth to a son Naomi became like a grandmother to him.

Hannah (1 Samuel 2)

For Hannah, loving her son Samuel meant saying goodbye.

Anna (Luke 2)

Much of Anna's life was spent alone, but she found peace, hope and purpose in her service to God.

Lois and Eunice (2 Timothy 1)

The faith of these women changed Timothy's life.

Films

[Today is about you - interview](#)

[Today is about you – animation](#)

[Thinking of you](#)

[What does Mother's Day mean to you?](#)

[Because of you](#)



Congregational prayer

God of Sarah,
Who waited for many years before giving birth to her son, Isaac.
We lift to You this Mother's Day all those who are waiting for family.
Will You hold them in your arms through the waiting, the wondering and the questioning.
Will You help them trust in who You have created them to be.
Will Your voice be louder than voices of doubt, of fear and of society's expectations.
And as You did with Sarah, will You bring joy from unexpected places.

God of Shiprah and Puah,
The midwives of Israel risked their own safety to ensure the survival of countless children.
We thank You this Mother's Day for all those who care for children and young people through their work.
For those who care for our health and wellbeing, and those who care for our education,
Those who help us explore passions of sport, music, art,
And for those who read, write, learn and speak on behalf of children, ensuring their voices are heard and needs met.
Thank you for those who allow children and teenagers to feel seen, known and understood, and who encourage them to grow.

God of Pharaoh's daughter,
Who welcomed Moses into her family, navigating relationships with his sister and birth mother to ensure he was cared for.
We think today of foster carers, kinship carers, special guardians, adoptive parents and supported lodgings hosts.
We ask that You strengthen and uphold each of them, and grant them guidance and grace as they nurture the children in their care.
We ask for more individuals, couples and families who will provide a place of safety, stability, love and encouragement to children and young people who need it.
Show us, Lord, how we, Your Church, can step in and wrap around families with encouragement, prayer and practical support.

God of Naomi and Ruth,
Who walked together, committing to and caring one another as friends,
We think today of those in our community who have stepped into our lives with love, guidance and friendship.
Thank You for the friends, the relatives, the church family members who are consistent with their presence and their care.
Thank You for those who listen and understand.
Thank You for those who bring joy and laughter.





God of Hannah,
For whom loving her son Samuel meant saying goodbye and caring from a distance.
We lift to You this Mother's Day all those whose children are not living with them right now.
Where there is grieving, will You bring comfort.
Where there is pain, will You bring restoration.
Where there is unknowing, will You bring peace.
Where there is loneliness, will You bring love and community.
Where there is hope, will You bring more.

God of Anna,
Who found peace, hope and purpose in her service to You, even though much of her life was lived alone.
We think today of those for whom things haven't turned out exactly as they had hoped.
Thank You, Lord, for hearing our cries, for knowing our heartache, and for catching our tears.
Thank You for Your presence and your peace amid questions.
As we navigate uncertainty and disappointment, will You give us hope in Your promises and help us to see the blessing in the journey You have ahead of us.

God of Lois and Eunice,
Whose faith changed Timothy's life.
We thank You this Mother's Day for the women who have been like spiritual mothers to us.
For the Sunday School leaders, the youth workers, the church leaders, the worship leaders, the prayer warriors.
Thank You for those who have shared with us the good news of Your love for us,
who encourage us along the path You have laid before us,
who help us see You more clearly and who see and are excited about the person You are creating us to be.

Our God,
Who longs for us, fights for us, loves us like a mother,
Who walks with us, cares for us and guides us like a mother.
We praise you this Mother's Day for who You are,
And we thank you for all the mother figures in our lives who reflect to us Your heart.
Amen.



Creative prayer idea

A bouquet of flowers is a beautiful gift to receive, and is often the go-to for a Mother's Day gift! We've taken some inspiration from this gift, often used to express love and thanks, and have created a prayer activity that we hope will be suitable and encouraging for everyone in your church family.

Print or draw and cut out images of flowers, large enough to be written on and light enough in colour that words written or pictures drawn can be seen. You can use the [flower templates](#) we've included in this resource, search for your own online or create your own with whatever craft supplies you have to hand! We encourage you to select a variety of different types, colours and sizes of flowers to illustrate that there are so many different roles and people we can celebrate on Mother's Day.

Give each member of your church family a flower. You may want to hand them out as people enter the building, or leave one on each chair for them to find when they arrive.

Ask everyone to write in each petal the names of individuals who have cared for and helped them. Encourage people to be as creative as they like with words, pictures and colours. As they write the names down, encourage them to thank God for those people.

Have someone at the front with some florist wire, and invite your church family to bring their flower heads to the front of the church. Stick the florist wire to the back of the flower to create a stem, and place the flower in a vase.

Admire the vase full of flowers as church family, and acknowledge the many different roles people can play to allow us to feel loved, cared for and supported. Pray for your church family and for the names on the flowers before you – you may want to use one of our congregational prayers – and give thanks to God.





Kids activity: Because of you cards

We often send cards with those we love on Mother's Day – let's use them to reflect on and thank all the different people who love and help us! Ask each child to choose one person and acknowledge one way that they show them love.

Give each child a card – you may want to allow time for them to create and decorate their own card, or you can print and use our [Because of you templates](#)!

On the inside, ask the children to write or draw about the difference their person has made. For example: 'Because of you I can eat my favourite food. Thank you for your yummy cooking.'

Encourage the children to give the card to the person they've written it for.



It's our privilege to provide our like this Mother's Day resource package free of charge to as many churches as possible in the UK. Perhaps your church can consider making a donation to support the vision and work of Home for Good in finding a home for every child who needs?

Churches across the country support Home for Good either through hosting a special collection during their services or making a monthly or annual donation. This Mother's Day please consider:

1. **Hosting a special collection for Home for Good**
2. **Committing your church to a monthly or annual donation**

There are three ways that you can donate:

By bank transfer

You can make a donation into Home for Good's bank account using these details:

Name on account: Home for Good

Bank: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account No.: 00029458

To help our finance team identify your donation, please also send an email to fundraising@homeforgood.org.uk to let us know the name and address of your church, and the date and amount of your donation.

By cheque

You can send a cheque made out to 'Home for Good' to 8 Angel Court, Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7HP. Please also include the name and address of your church along with the cheque.

Online

You can donate with a debit or credit card online at homeforgood.org.uk/donate. Please ensure that, unless it is your own personal money, you do not tick the Gift Aid declaration.

If you have any questions about how we use donations to facilitate our work, or would like to know more about giving as a church, please contact our Head of Fundraising, Bethan Spencer via fundraising@homeforgood.org.uk.

Thank you. Together we can find a home for every child who needs one.

