

# Punky mamas

Does parenthood make you want to scream and shout – or just sing? That's what these mums do

'I'd just had the twins and was feeling a bit hemmed in and claustrophobic, so I'd go round to Beth's and play the drums for relief. I thought it would be a good idea to set up a band all about motherhood. As soon as I mentioned my idea, there was a lot of interest and we started discussing what we'd do and how we'd do it.' **Izzy Drury, 33, drummer and mum to Floyd, five and twins Frances and Louis, three**

'We all knew each other before we formed The Mothers. A few of us used to work together at an environmental centre, and Claire and I had previously met at a Buddhist meeting.' **Nicci Wilson, 36, singer and guitarist, and mum to Elvin, two, and stepmum to Tallissa, 12**

'We're part of a network of mums who meet up regularly. When we have ideas, we tend to bounce them off each other.' **Claire Armstrong, 38, singer, and mum to Callum, seven**

'I didn't really know Beth very well before we started playing music together, but we've certainly got to know each

other a lot better since forming the band!' **Henry Hinds, 33, bass player, and mum to Jasmine, three**

'Izzy rang me and asked if I'd be interested in joining the band. I played guitar at school, but this was new to me.' **Beth de Lange, 37, guitarist, and mum to Olly, 12**

'It's a funny idea – most punk bands rant about male things, so it's nice to sing about stuff that's relevant to women.' **Izzy**

'We got together for the first time in 2003 and practised in Beth's cellar. I was in the early stages of pregnancy at the time, and

gave birth the following July. So we practised for nine months, and had our first gig just before I gave birth!' **Nicci**

'We wanted to play together and find a way of putting our feelings into songs. But pretty soon, people started asking when they could come and see us play.' **Claire**

'We received such a great reception at our first gig. Then newspapers and TV stations started contacting us. And to top it off, Richard

& Judy phoned us up! It was so surreal.' **Henry**

'We were asked to play at the Mamapalooza festival (mamapalooza.com) in the US, which celebrates motherhood. It was a great experience and they might pay for us to go over and play again next year.' **Nicci**

'Our band is like a baby that we share; we all have a say in what happens to it.' **Beth**

'Now we all pass children's clothes on, and sometimes half of our practice sessions are taken up discussing what's happened that week.' **Henry**

'Our children get on well. We even played a gig at the children's school. We had such a good time and the kids loved it.' **Izzy**

'If the band splits, we'll always have a connection. We'll probably be sat in an old people's home one day, talking about all the fun we had!' **Claire M&B**

(from left) Claire; Nicci and Elvin; Louis, Frances and Izzy; Henry and Jasmine; Beth



## About The Mothers

The Mothers is the UK's only all-mother punk band, playing original songs about the trials, tribulations and joys of motherhood. They've been together since 2003 and are based in Derby. To find out more about the band, and to download their album *Ovulation*, check out [themothers.co.uk](http://themothers.co.uk)

