**ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH**

**Sunday 11.00am Family Church Service/Communion monthly**

**Curling after Sunday service (twice monthly)**

**Monday 9.45am U3A Bridge Class**

**1.30pm U3A Scottish Dancing**

**2.00pm Monday Fellowship (twice monthly)**

**6.30pm St John’s Ambulance**

**Tuesday 9.00am Warm Welcomes -3rd of the month**

**10.00am Zumba Gold exercise class**

**12.30pm Pulmonary Rehab Clinic**

**1.45pm Sequence Dance**

**2.00pm HopeafterStroke (2nd in month)**

**7.30pm Huddersfield Miniatures (2nd in month)**

**6.00pm Huddersfield Choral Society (rehearsals)**

**Wednesday 9.00am Tumble Tots**

**10.00am Drop-In Coffee morning/dominoes**

**10.00am Knit & Natter - Lunch 12noon**

**7.30pm Friendship Club Dance**

**Thursday 10.00am U3A Mahjong**

**12.30pm Pulmonary Rehab Clinic**

**12.30pm Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group**

**(1st in the month)**

**2.00pm U3A Social Bridge**

**Friday 10.30am Living Well with Dementia (weekly)**

**1.30pm Latin Class**

**2.00pm Shared Harmonies**

**Saturday 10.00am-11.30am Coffee Morning**

**9.00am Tumble Tots**

**Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement.**

**Contact: Church Office 01484 430556 email - office@moldgreenurc.org.uk**

**Enquiries for room hire – email -** [**bookingsformurc@outlook.com**](mailto:bookingsformurc@outlook.com)

**Activities are weekly unless otherwise stated.**

***UNITED REFORMED CHURCH***

***MOLDGREEN HUDDERSFIELD***

***WORKING FOR CHRIST AND THE COMMUNITY***

***APRIL 2025***

***Moldgreen is part of the Huddersfield.***

***Pastorate of United Reformed Churches***

A stained glass window with a cross and a crown of thorns

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**Mission Statement**

**“WORKING FOR CHRIST AND**

**THE COMMUNITY”**

**What we believe**

**We believe in God, source, and sustainer of creation.**

**We believe in God, revealed in Jesus Christ, the eternal**

**Word of God made flesh.**

**We believe in God, ever present in the Holy Spirit who**

**Brings the Gospel to fruition.**

**How we achieve our mission**

**We are a fellowship of people who seek to worship God**

**through our lives and witness to other people.**

**We take seriously our responsibility to share our faith and**

**Love with others and are seeking avenues of service and mission in our church, homes, community, and places of work.**

**We seek to prepare ourselves for this mission to others**

**through our prayers and obedience to God’s will.**



**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**MOLDGREEN**

[**www.moldgreenurc.org.uk**](http://www.moldgreenurc.org.uk)

**Church office: tel. 01484 430556**

**Email:** [**office@moldgreenurc.org.uk**](mailto:office@moldgreenurc.org.uk)

[**bookingsformurc@outlook.com**](mailto:bookingsformurc@outlook.com)

**Old Wakefield Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield HD5 8AA**

***“WORKING FOR CHRIST AND THE COMMUNITY”***

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***and Sacrament***  *Helen Snashall*

*Revd Sarah Fitton helensnashall21@gmail.com*

[*revsarahfitton20@yahoo.com*](mailto:revsarahfitton20@yahoo.com)

***Community Worker***

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*Sue@s2r.org.uk*

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**page 1**

**APRIL** **2025**

Dear Friends,

As I write, our pastorate is still on our Easter Pilgrimage of Lent, reflecting on the experiences Jesus had in his ministry before the events of Holy Week. Lent offers us time of reflection and understanding as we once again bring ourselves and our faith to God. Lent is a chance to firmly set our feet upon the stories of Jesus, the greatest story ever told. A story that many Christians the world over live by and give their lives to. I am of course talking about the ministry, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. A story of love and truth. Good News that never changes no matter what. In our Lent sessions ‘Sounds of Lent’ we retold the Gospel Stories, using sounds, recordings and music to bring to life the Events of this festival season. We witnessed the lives that Jesus touched. How these people felt the harsh realities of their limited faithfulness and then an overwhelming transformation of their lives with the fullness of God at work. I hope that this gave us an opportunity to see when faith and life gets hard – we can take heart that we are not alone, and God has a purpose for our freedom and life together. I am excited for our Holy week and Easter Celebrations as we come together to offer gratitude for Christ’s sacrifice and the salvation it brings to Moldgreen and God’s Children across the world. May God’s great divine grace this Easter bring love, new hope, happiness, salvation and overwhelming joy to you and those you love. The Lord be with all of you. Amen

A sun shining through a hole in the ground

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Join with me in saying on Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia Amen Rev Sarah Fitton

**Sounds of Lent:** We will be meeting for a time of listening and reflection. The Lent Sessions will be split into 4 parts and here are the dates below, it will be hosted in person by Moldgreen.

**Wednesday afternoon April 2nd will be the last session:**

**Theme ‘the Crowd and Palm Sunday’ 1.00pm-1.40pm**

**Meeting together in the Gathering Place.**

**The sessions will always follow the same format every week.**

We will meet, open in prayer, listening to the sounds of Lent, including various voices retelling the scriptures – bringing the events to life.

**Pastoral Care**

If you would like to have a visit from the minister to ask questions, any pastoral issues, faith discussions or further prayer, you are most welcome to contact me, and we can arrange a time to meet. I look forward to seeing you all and hoping this will be a time of togetherness and support. Blessings, Rev. Sarah Fitton

**News of the church family**

We hope you are all keeping well, it is lovely to see our regular congregation on a Sunday and those from our pastorate who join us and not forgetting our ‘zoomers’ at home, plus new people who we have welcomed as well. We also welcome our regular groups and new groups who hire space during the week.

We do hope you will continue to pray for all our church fellowship, friends and family, our local community, and the wider world.

Please continue to remember our members and friends, Margaret

Hines and Audrey Greenwood who are both in residential homes and living nearer to their families. We also remember those who live at home and are not able to come to church. If you are able, please do keep in touch with people, a telephone call and a chat is always

We send our love and prayers to Alan and June Atkinson, and they send their regards to everyone at church.

Please continue to remember many others in our fellowship who are going through difficult health problems, and we send our love and prayers to them all. We ask you to remember and pray for all these people mentioned and others known to you who are unwell or

experiencing difficulties. As well as those who are caring for their loved ones and those of our fellowship, pastorate, family, and friends who have been bereaved.

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**\*\*\*\*\*\* 30th March \*\*\*\*\*\***

**What happened at the AGM?**

Well, lots of things which will be covered in the minutes but several events were decided upon so here’s a chance to get them in your diary.

**Wednesdays 26th March and 2nd April -1.00 - 1.40 pm**

Sounds of Lent Sessions - follow the Lent Journey in these short reflective sessions. Led by Revd Sarah Fitton

**17th April** – Maundy Thursday Service 7.00pm at Waverley URC

All invited.

**18th April** – Good Friday Service 3.00pm at Castle Hill. Led by Revd Sarah Fitton and Waverley URC. All invited.

**20th April** – **EASTER DAY** – Coffee and Hot Cross Buns at Moldgreen from **10.00am** followed by morning worship with Communion, then dressing of the cross in the church garden. You are invited to bring a few flowers to church on this day to place on the cross at the end of the service.

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**Sunday 27th April** – Morning worship followed by Sunday lunch. Proceeds in aid of our local hospice – **The Kirkwood**. The Kirkwood needs to reduce its annual costs by £1.7million to ensure its finances remain on a secure

footing. The Kirkwood plays an important role in the local healthcare system offering compassionate expert care for those affected by life limiting illnesses. We hope you will be able to support our lunch event.

**Sunday 8th June – Annual Gift Day –** following requests for a Spring or Summer event we have landed on this date. There will be an opportunity to give a monetary gift as an annual donation to cover our membership of the national body of the URC, missional work and the upkeep of our building. The church service will be followed by a lunch of homemade soup and dessert.

**Saturday 28th June –** As part of the Kirklees ‘Woven Festival’ there will be a Community Celebration Day at Church. Woven is is a bi- annual month long festival celebrating the textile heritage of Kirklees. Woven will take place throughout June with many colourful events throughout Kirklees. This year, Moldgreen will play a big part in the festival.

Unite Respect Connect, and HD5 Community Hub are working on a super sized mission to create the longest bunting Kirklees has ever seen. Be prepared for colourful displays in the church garden and throughout the village. **Also on 28th June** there will be willow weaving, a barbecue and much much more! Don’t miss this one!

**Sunday 29th June** - Joint service at Waverley URC. After the service, you are invited to visit Ravensknowle Gala, in the park, just up the road from Moldgreen URC. The bunting made by groups who use our churches and bunting made by other local community groups will be on display.

**We hope you will be able to join us for each of these events.**

**Watch out for more details or talk to your Elder to find out more.**

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN APRIL**

April 2nd Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon

April 4th Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

April 5th Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

April 6th Family Church Service 11.00am

Curling after the service – last session

April 9th Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon + Cinema

April 10th Easter Family Crafts 1.00pm-3.00pm

Bookings required.

April 11th Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

April 12th Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

April 13th Palm Sunday Service 11.00am

April 14th Monday Fellowship 2.00pm

April 16th Wednesday Drop In 10.00am-12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon

April 17th Maundy Thursday Service at Waverley URC 7.00pm

April 18th Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

April 18th Good Friday Service at Castle Hill 3.00pm

Hosted by Waverley URC

April 19th Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

April 20th Easter Sunday Service 11.00am

April 23rd Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon

April 25th Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

April 26th Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

April 27th Family Church Service 11.00am

April 28th Warm Welcomes drop in anytime 9.00am-11.30am

April 28th Monday Fellowship 2.00pm

April 29th Moldgreen Planters 10.00am-12noon

April 30th Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon

**Church meeting dates for your diary in 2025**

June 22nd, September 14th, December 14th

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**Check the back of the magazine for more information of what’s happening in the church** **and on the notice** **board. Please make a note of the dates in your diary.**

**SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL**

All services start at **11.00am** unless otherwise indicated.

April 6th Family Church Service – Worship Group

April 13th Palm Sunday Service – Rev Sarah Fitton

April 20th Easter Sunday Service – Worship Group/Communion

April 27th Family Church Service – Rev Sarah Fitton

**DUTY ELDERS IN APRIL AND MAY**

April 6th  Christine Hall

April13th  Janet Straughan

April 20th Jo Mawdsley

April 27th John North

May 4th Kevan Shuttleworth

May 11th Mark Binns

May 18th Jean Whitehead

May 25th  Julie Johnston

**FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR APRIL AND MAY**

The flowers in church on Sundays are taken out to those who are ill or in need of pastoral care. We are grateful to all in our fellowship who give money for flowers throughout the year. If you are not

already on our ‘flower list’ but would like give flowers, please speak to Jean Whitehead, call 01484 430556 or email to

[office@moldgreenurc.org.uk](mailto:office@moldgreenurc.org.uk) to arrange this.

April 6th Julie Lindley

April 13th Margaret Ellis

April 20th  Jean & John North

April 27th Ian & Jean Whitehead

May 4th In Memory of Maureen Thomson

May 11th Barbara Brook

May 18th Julie Lindley

May 25th Julie Johnston **page 7**

**Warm Welcomes -** Come and join us every month for some friendly faces and a place to connect. There will be FREE warm drinks and biscuits, crafty and creative activities to take part in, and advice and support available too. Everyone is welcome! No need to book, just drop in. For more information, email: [contact@s2r.org.uk](mailto:contact@s2r.org.uk). Children are welcome but anyone under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Next session **Monday 28th April** and will be **3rd Monday in the month**. Drop in any time between 9am and 11.30am at Moldgreen URC, Old Wakefield Road, HD5 8AA.

**Community Food Cupboard**

If you look left as you enter church, you may have noticed some changes in the food cupboard area. We have kindly been donated two new smaller cupboards, which are in much better condition than the old cupboard. We will be completing the area with a noticeboard which will go above the cupboards. This will give people information on where they can get additional help if they need it.

Thank you to everyone who has donated tea, coffee and milk during February. As we approach the start of Lent, why not consider giving something instead of, or as well as, giving something up. Each week we will be suggesting an item you could purchase, but all donations are welcome. When you are doing your weekly shop, why not buy a couple of extra items for the food cupboard. **Thank you.**

**IT WASN’T GLASTONBURY IT WAS ALMONDBURY**

During June last year, Mark Binns arranged a concert in Almondbury with Maichael Ball being the star attraction and this was attended by 2,300 people. On 31st March, next Monday in fact, Mark will attend our Fellowship meeting to tell us all about the problems and difficulties that he faced handling so many people in a small village cricket field, also most unexpectedly, coping with a biblical downpour two hours before the gates opened, it was so bad that he tried to contact Noah for help, but he wasn’t available that day. His talk, probably with a

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little bit of music will, I am sure, be most revealing. Two weeks later we have

another visit from historian, David Glover who comes to us to talk about the mystery of Grand Duchess Anastasia and whether or not a lady called Anna Anderson who later claimed to be Anastasia, was in fact her or not – most intriguing. At the end of April Dennis Goude will once more lead us hilariously through his Beetle Drive.

So much for the coming months meeting just a little bit about what talk place at the Fellowship during March. At the beginning of the month Julie Johnston and Carolyn Binns told us quite a lot about what life is like in Peru and of their enjoyment of two weeks travelling up and down, literally, Machu Pichu, most enjoyable. Later during the month, the well anticipated Mobile Police Museum made its way to Moldgreen with a host of memorabilia items dating back to the formation of the police force many moons ago with the opportunity to handle them all. David Hargreaves, now retired as a policeman, spoke at length about the history of the force and the care with which we had to handle many of the exhibits, particularly handcuffs – if we tried to put some of them on it would take a couple of hours to remove them so we had to take care. The whole afternoon, some hour and a half talk was fascinating. One or two new people made the effort to attend this meeting, and we hope that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will come along again.

The meeting schedule of the coming months is as follows: -

May 31st - Mark Binns – “It’s not Glastonbury – this is Almondbury”

April 14th – David Glover – “A Mystery. Grand Duchess Anastasia or Anna Anderson?”

April 28th “ Dennis Goude – Beetle Drive.

May 12th - John Startin

May 26th “ No meeting. Spring Bank Holiday.

All meetings, fortnightly, in the small meeting room, 2.00pm with coffee, tea and biscuits to follow.

**George Binns**

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**World Day of Prayer 2025**

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, Christian initiative. It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together people of various races, cultures and traditions in worldwide prayer and Christian worship. A different country is chosen each year and a committee of women from that country will prepare and publish a service for distribution worldwide.

Moldgreen hosted the service on 7th March, which was focussed on the Cook Islands. The service was well attended, and we hope everyone enjoyed the wonderful service. **The Worship Group**

**9th April - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr**

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin’s oppression. Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tubingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National

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Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler’s attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: “I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people.”

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: “This is the end - for me, the beginning of life.”

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison,* have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

SOURCE: THE PARISH PUMP

**A letter to God**

A Sunday School teacher invited her children to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish You could have been there."

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A crossword puzzle with black squares

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**ACROSS**

1 Relating to the whole universe (6)

4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)

8 ‘Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it’

(John 20:25) (2,3)

9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah’s message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)

10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America’s

Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

11 ‘Look, here is — . Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ (Acts 8:36) (5)

12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome

(Acts 27:3–4) (5)

19 ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’ (Exodus 34:29) (7)

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21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)

22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

23 ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so, he was added to the — apostles’

(Acts 1:26) (6)

24 ‘I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

**DOWN**

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)

2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)

3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)

5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)

6 11 Across is certainly this (5)

7 He reps (anag.) (6)

9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)

13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of

all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)

14 They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in

much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)

15 The human mind or soul (6)

16 ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is —’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)

18 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not —’

(Matthew 11: 17) (5)

20 Bared (anag.) (5)

**ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD ON PAGE 23**

**DON’T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AN HOUR FORWARD ON SATURDAY NIGHT 29TH MARCH**

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**A group of people posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**MURC has recently been included in the Third Sector Leaders ‘Open to All’ scheme, which recognises that we are an organisation that is welcoming and inclusive to people from all backgrounds. Here are a lovely group of folks at our Wednesday morning Knit and Natter, proudly holding the**

**Open to All certificate.**

**(With Janet and Susan hiding at the back.)**

**Easter: a new world is ushered in …** *What did Easter actually change?*

*‘Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So, she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple… and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”’ (John 20:1,2)*

No one was ready for Christ’s resurrection.

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On the Friday, two sympathetic Jewish council members - Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus – had taken the body of Jesus down from the cross, burying Him in a new tomb before instructed guards had moved into place. Thirty-six hours later the tomb was empty, and the guards were scattered – to be paid off with hush money by the chief priests (Matthew 28:12).

The account rings with authenticity. Here is no ingenious attempt at a carefully contrived scenario, with Pontius Pilate or Caiaphas the High Priest falling back in confusion before a resurrected Christ and a crowd of impressive witnesses. The whole account has feet running everywhere - *yet ushering in a new world that would never be the same again.* At this stage it is a complete jumble.

1. The right actions, but the wrong deductions - Mary Magdalene witnesses the empty tomb and then runs, rousing Peter and John, having concluded that her Lord’s body had been taken away. She then returns to the tomb - Peter and John presumably outstripping her on the way. It was only then that she met the risen Lord for herself.

2. The quick feet, but the slow minds. As for Peter and John, they breathlessly reach the tomb - and are gazing at the grave clothes, still twirled together and collapsed under the heavy spices. How long did they wait? John eventually perceives what has happened and believes. In his account he admits his slowness to take in the truth of the resurrection.

3. The new era, but the familiar routine gives us an interesting statement: ‘Then the disciples went back to their homes.’ There was Jerusalem outside - just the same.

Before long they’d go out fishing again. Life looked unchanged – for the present.

Yet, from now on, Christ’s gift to them of Resurrection to eternal life would captivate hearts, loyalties and energies for ever.

SOURCE: THE PARISH PUMP

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**Guarding the Easter chocolate**

Was there a security tag on your Easter egg this year? If so, it wasn’t because high street bosses feared the Easter Bunny might take it.

It’s that shoplifting has soared to an unprecedented amount. There were more than 20 million shoplifting incidents last year - an average of about *50,000 cases a day*, according to the British Retail Consortium (BRC). In all,retailers lost £2.2 billion.

And it seems that shoplifters also like chocolate. Which is why some WH Smith shops have been tagging the Cadbury Mini Eggs, and why some Tesco stores have put Quality Street chocolates under a wire net, to name but a couple of examples.

**Chocolate – food of the gods!**

Did you know that the botanical name for the cocoa bean is *Theobroma* – which means ‘food of the gods?

Millions of us obviously think chocolate is special – on average, each of us consumes 8.1 kilograms of it a year! Certainly, chocolate makes us feel better. Some scientists believe that this is due to the chemicals it contains. These trigger the release of endorphins, like those we naturally produce when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause your blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep. Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have mad cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60 per cent or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium. Good as all this may be – most of us enjoy chocolate because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives

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you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy, unfortunately followed by a slump and then the desire for another sugar-fix!

*Trying to pay at a car park can be a nightmare.*

*Have any of your readers had this happen to them?*

**Five-minute parking rule is scrapped**

Have you ever pulled into a private car park, and then had trouble paying because of a poor internet signal, or other problem beyond your control?

Last year a motorist in Derby was taken to court by a private parking company which demanded a £1,906 fine from her, because she had not paid within five minutes of arrival. The publicity that her case generated led to the industry’s two trade associations deciding to update their code of conduct, to provide a ‘safeguard’.

The British Parking Association (BPA) and the International Parking Community (IPC) have now stated that in privately owned car parks, which have fixed camera monitors, no driver should be issued a ticket for a delay in paying, so long as they pay before they leave. However, the AA and RAC are sceptical. They want more - a government-backed code of practice. The RAC points out that: “As there’s no information on how the change will work in practice, we fear it will make little difference to drivers.”

In the meantime, private car park companies across the UK are giving drivers more than 41,000 parking tickets a day. Be careful out there!!!

**Wrong number?**

Yesterday I dialled the Red Cross but got the HMRC in error. When the HMRC operator asked me what number I had meant to dial, I explained: "The Red Cross, you know, where they take people’s blood." She said, "Well, you aren't too far off, are you?"

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**All in the month of April**

250 years ago, on 18th April 1775 that American silversmith and folk hero Paul Revere made his famous midnight ride on horseback from Charleston to Lexington to warn residents that the British were about to attack.

Also 175 years ago, on 23rd April 1850 that William Wordsworth died. A Romantic poet, he was Poet Laureate from 1843-50.

150 years ago, on 1st April 1875 that Edgar Wallace was born. This British writer, playwright and journalist was best known for creating King Kong.

Also 150 years ago, on 17th April 1875 that the game of snooker was invented by Neville Chamberlain, a British army officer stationed in India.

125 years ago, from 14th April - 12th November, that the 1900 Paris Exposition, a World’s Fair, was held. Nearly 50 million people visited Paris that year.

100 years ago, on 10th April 1925 that F Scott Fitzgerald’s novel *The Great Gatsby*, was published.

80 years ago, from 1st April to 22nd June 1945 that the Battle of Okinawa, Japan took place. The largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War, it was an Allied victory.

Also 80 years ago, on 30th April 1945 that Adolf Hitler, Austrian-born German Nazi Party Leader, Chancellor of Germany (1933-45) and dictator (1934-45) committed suicide along with his wife, Eva Braun.

70 years ago, on 5th April 1955 that Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced his retirement because of failing health. He was succeeded by Anthony Eden on 7th April.

Also 70 years ago, on 10th April 1955 that British nightclub hostess Ruth Ellis shot and killed her lover, David Blakely. On 13th July she was hanged at Holloway Prison, the last woman to be executed in the UK.

Also 70 years ago, on 18th April 1955, that Albert Einstein, German-born American theoretical physicist, died. Considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century. Known for developing the special and general theories of relativity.

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65 years ago, on 1st April 1960 that Dr Martens boots went on sale in the UK.

50 years ago, on 4th April 1975 that Microsoft, the computer software/hardware company, was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque New Mexico.

Also 50 years ago, on 23rd April 1975 that US President Gerald Ford gave a televised speech in which he announced that the USA’s involvement in the Vietnam war was over, and all US aid to South Vietnam had ended. The war itself ended on 30th April, when North Vietnamese forces captured the South Vietnamese capital Saigon.

40 years ago, on 21st April 1985 that Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna won the Portuguese Grand Prix. It was the first of his 41 Formula One wins.

Also 40 years ago, on 23rd April 1985 that the Coca-Cola Company changed the formula of Coca-Cola and launched it on the market as New Coke. The public were outraged, and the original formula was restored within three months.

30 years ago, on 4th April 1995 that Kenny Everett, DJ, comedian and TV entertainer, died. Known for his zany humour, characters and sketches.

Also 30 years ago, on 19th April 1995 that the Oklahoma City bombing took place. A truck bomb exploded outside the Alfred P Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 people and injuring 500 more. Timothy McVeigh was convicted of the bombing and executed in June 2001.

25 years ago, on 12th April 2000 that Queen Elizabeth II awarded the Royal Ulster Constabulary the George Cross in recognition of its collective and sustained bravery during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

20 years ago, on 2nd April 2005 that Pope John Paul II died. Succeeded by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th April.

Also 20 years ago, on 9th April 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales, married Camilla Parker Bowles, who gained the title the Duchess of Cornwall.

15 years ago, on 20th April 2010 that BP’s Deepwater Horizon oil

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platform in the Gulf of Mexico exploded, killing 11 workers. Around 210 million US gallons of crude oil were spilled, causing an environmental disaster. BP was fined $18.7 billion - the largest settlement in US corporate history.

10 years ago, on 2nd April 2015 that the Gorkha earthquake took place in Nepal. Nearly 9,000 people were killed, 22,000 injured, and 3.5 million made homeless.

**The genius of Madame Tussaud**

Some 175 years ago, on 16th April 1850, Madame Marie Tussaud, a French artist known for her wax sculptures, died. She was the founder in 1835 of Madame Tussauds wax museum in London.

Born Anna Maria Grosholtz, she was taught wax modelling in Paris by Philippe Curtius, from whom she inherited two wax museums. Imprisoned as a royalist during the French Revolution, she was given the job of making death masks from heads freshly removed from their bodies by the guillotine.

Her subsequent marriage to François Tussaud was not a success and she moved to England, where she toured for over 30 years with her collection of wax models until she found it a permanent home in Baker Street, London, where it became extremely popular: Charles Dickens described it as “more than an exhibition… an institution”. Her grandson Joseph Randall moved it to its current location on Marylebone Road in 1883. The extensive exhibition is now operated by Merlin Entertainments and has locations in cities across four continents.

**The paintings of JMW Turner**

It was 250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775, that ground-breaking British artist J M W Turner was born. The London-born watercolourist and printmaker transformed the established methods of painting, sweeping aside classical preoccupations of form and order.

Joseph Mallord William Turner, known in his time as William Turner, was a child prodigy born to a modest lower-middle-class family. He enrolled at the Royal Academy of Arts when he was 14 and exhibited

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his first work there a year later. He was a controversial figure, prone to depression and eccentric ideas, such as having himself tied to the mast of a ship during a storm so that he could experience what he wanted to paint.

Nevertheless Turner, who never married but had two daughters by the widow Sarah Danby, had many admirers and supporters from the outset. He travelled widely, particularly around Europe in 1802, and worked in the open air on detailed pencil sketches which he then turned into paintings.

One of his supporters was the MP and artist Walter Fawkes of Farnley Hall, near Otley in Yorkshire, and Turner returned to the area frequently to paint. He was also a friend of the Norwich School artist and clergyman Thomas Daniell.

Turner was certainly not a conventional Christian, but he had attended a Methodist Sunday school as a child and had a deep belief in God as Creator, which he reflected in his use of light in landscapes. Many of his paintings had Biblical themes.

Considered one of the most influential artists of all time, Turner is pictured on the £20 banknote, and this year sees a twelve-month festival of events and exhibitions across the UK to mark the 250 years since his birth.

**A Prayer for April** *by Daphne Kitching*

Living Lord Jesus,

We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts. For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, “I have seen the Lord!”

Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations.

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Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring. Amen

**Where did your Easter egg come from?**

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.

Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

***This year, why not buy an extra Easter egg or two, and join our church in donating them to our food bank? You will make some local children very happy!***

**London Marathon 2025 – Sunday 27th April**

Last year’s London Marathon attracted more than 53,000 runners, which made it the world’s biggest annual one-day fund-raising event EVER. It also raised a world record-breaking amount of £73.5 million for charities.

The route is 26.2 miles long. Greenwich and Blackheath is the starting point, and then the route takes in Woolwich, Greenwich, Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Tower Bridge, Limehouse, Canary Wharf, Isle of Dogs, Shadwell, Tower Gateway, Westminster Bridge, Great George Street,

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Birdcage Walk, Buckingham Palace and finally to the iconic finish line on The Mall. It is all a far cry from the first London Marathon back in March 1981, when 6,747 people ran, and which did not raise any money specifically for charities.

**SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday Coffee dates in April 5th, 12th, 19th,26th**

**10.00am – 11.30am All Welcome**

**If you have any material or news of the church family you would like including in the MAY magazine, please give material to Jean Whitehead by hand, post or email to** [**office@moldgreenurc.org.uk**](mailto:office@moldgreenurc.org.uk) **on or before SUNDAY 20TH APRIL for the magazine deadline.**

**RECYCLING**

There is a basket in the church entrance where you may deposit any old Christmas cards/Birthday cards etc. Plus, a box to put used postage stamps in. Also, there is a bin in the kitchen where you can recycle plastic bags which have a green label on indicating recycle at local supermarkets.

**ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS:**

1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell.

11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur.

22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:**

1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist.

7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche.

16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

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**10 Easter one-liners**

What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear?

*An eggsplanation*

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt?  *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with fleas?  *Bugs Bunny*

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards?

*A receding hare-line*

How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group?

*Just look for the gray hares.*

What do rabbits say before they eat? “Lettuce pray.”

Where does Christmas come before Easter? In the dictionary.

**The taxi**  
The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a shop window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!"   
The passenger apologised and said he hadn’t realised that a little tap would scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."

**DON’T FORGET TO BRING SOME FLOWERS ON EASTER SUNDAY TO DRESS THE CROSS**

A line of flowers and grass

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

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**A crossword puzzle with a person in a robe

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**