**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 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***

***MARCH 2025***

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

***Pastorate of United Reformed Churches***

A stained glass window with hands and a book

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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**

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

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**page 1**

**March** **2025**

Dear Moldgreen,

I am really excited to celebrate this time of Lent throughout March with you. We rejoice in the birth, death and ministry of Jesus. We look to the Gospels once again to recommit and understand our relationship with our God. Even as Christians, having served many years together, we can often ask the question ‘God, how have you loved us?’. The events of Lent and Easter are where the answers lie.

As Lent begins, I would suggest setting aside time to pray, to meditate and read our bibles so that we practice making space for the disciples of Lent in our busy days. We come prepared then for God to lead us over 40 days to Easter, a time of love rooted in challenge and beauty.

If you would like to spend time with your church and worship together there are various events happening over March and April. The focus of this year’s Lent will be a retelling of the Gospel stories, using our imagination to bring to life the events of this festival season.

**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 afternoons from 1.00pm-1.40pm on March 5th, 19th, 26th and April 2nd.**

**Meeting together in the Gathering Place, near the entrance.**

**Session stories:** Temptation in the Desert, Judas’ betrayal, Pilate and the Crowd and Palm Sunday.

**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.

**page 2**



**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 both are 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 welcome.

We send our love and prayers to Alan and June Atkinson.

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

**page 3**

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.

There will be a Memorial Service for Barbara Fleetwood on Thursday

27th March at 7.00pm-8.30pm at church. There will be coffee/tea and cakes after the service. If anyone would like to help with the refreshments, please let Christine Hall know.

**TIME of PRAYER and a HEART to HEART**

I would like to invite you to a time of Prayer and a Heart to Heart on Wednesday 26th February. I will be holding this in the Gathering Place. We will start with a short time of prayer between 1.10pm –1.40pm. The prayer time will be made up of praying for Moldgreen’s groups, church users, church family, elders, committees, ministry team and the community in Dalton/Moldgreen.

We shall then pray for people and situations close to our heart at this time, not using specific names but ensuring pastoral support. We shall also finish with a worship song. Everyone is free to come and share in praying either out loud or silently.

**Pastoral Care**

If you would like to have a visit from the minister, for a heart to heart, 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

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

**page 4**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN MARCH**

March 1st Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

March 2nd Family Church Service 11.00am

Curling after the service.

March 3rd Monday Fellowship 2.00pm

March 5th Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon

March 7th Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

March 7th World Day of Prayer Service at 4.00pm in church

March 8th Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

March 9th Family Church Service 11.00am + Church A.G.M.

March12th Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon + Cinema

March14th Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

March15th Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

March16th Family Church Service 11.00am

March17th Warm Welcomes drop in anytime 9.00am-11.30am

March17th Monday Fellowship 2.00pm

March18th Elders Meeting 9.30am

March19th Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon

March21st Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

March22nd Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

March23rd Family Church Service 11.00am

March25th Garden Planter Session 1.00pm-3.00pm

March26th Wednesday Drop In 10.00am - 12.00noon

Knit & Natter / Lunch at 12noon

March27th Warm Heads Warm Hearts 1.00pm-3.00pm

Knitting wool workshop. Booking required.

Speak to Sue Cockroft or Helen Snashall.

March27th Memorial Service/Barbara Fleetwood 4.00pm

March28th Living Well with Dementia 10.30am-2.30pm

March29th Saturday Coffee Morning 10.00am-11.30am

March30th Mothering Sunday-Joint Service at Moldgreen

March31st Monday Fellowship 2.00pm

**page 5**

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

March 9th Church A.G.M. June 22nd, September 14th, December 14th

**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.**

**FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR MARCH AND APRIL**

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.

Mar 2nd Stephen and Pauline Taylor

Mar 9th Lydia Muchemwa

Mar 16th Vacant

Mar 23rd Margaret Hines

Mar 30th Donation

April 6th Julie Lindley

April 13th Vacant

April 20th  Jean & John North

April 27th Ian & Jean Whitehead

**SUNDAY SERVICES IN MARCH**

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

March 2nd Family Church Service – Worship Group

March 9th Family Church Service – Rev Sarah Fitton

March16th Family Church Service – Worship Group

March23rd Family Church Service – Rev Sarah Fitton/Communion

March30th Joint Pastorate Service at Moldgreen URC

**page 6**

**DUTY ELDERS IN MARCH & APRIL**

Mar 2nd John North April 6th  Christine Hall

Mar 9th Kevan Shuttleworth April13th  Janet Straughan

Mar16th Mark Binns April 20th Jo Mawdsley

Mar 23rd  Jean Whitehead April 27th John North

Mar 30th  Julie Johnston

**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 17th March** 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.**

**page 7**

**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.

Each year there is a worship service. A different country is chosen each year and a committee of women from that country will prepare and publish a service for distribution worldwide.

The Worship Group at Moldgreen are hosting this year’s World Day of Prayer Service and the country of focus is the Cook Islands. The service will take place on **Friday 7th March at 4.00pm.** There will be colourful artwork, music from the Cook Islanders and stories from the women of the Cook Islands included within the service. We are hoping that Moldgreen URC and the local churches will support this service.

If you want to know more, visit the World Day of Prayer website and most importantly put this date in your diary and attend the service if possible. We can promise that it will be a very special and joyful event.

**The Worship Group**



**A Prayer for Lent**

Dear Lord,

In this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon Himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by His resurrection.

Lord, we bring to You our own journeys through our daily lives.

We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You that You are with us in and through all of it.

**page 8**

We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus.

Thank You that He made that journey for us, and all we have to do is trust in Him. Help us to do that and to share His good news with others, especially those in distress. We pray in His name. Amen. *By Daphne Kitching*

**NOT TO BE MISSED**

The Monday Fellowship agenda for March is certainly something not to be missed, a trio of fascinating meetings with such a variety and interest. It’s a hat trick of sorts to look forward to that will undoubtedly hit the right spot. A trip up the Andes to begin with followed by a throwback in time to the early days of the “Peelers” and the “Rozzers” of London trying their best to catch the ripper. We will have a big display of souvenirs from the past. Right at the end of the month Mark Binns will intrigue us with his tales on staging a big concert in a small field in the village of Almondbury which in many ways became a high-class Glastonbury for the residents of Huddersfield.

April is also not without its attraction too as it will begin the month with the return of David Glover who will submit the evidence as to whether or not Anna Anderson was or was not the Russian princess Anastasia – come along and make up your own mind, Denis Goude finishes off the month with his annual beetle drive.

All in all, quite an attractive couple of months to look forward to. The schedule therefore for the next three months is as follows: -

March 3rd Julie Johnston and Carolyn Binns – Carry on up the Andes.

March17th Mobile Police Museum. -

Stories and display of artefacts from the past.

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

April 14th David Glover – Grand Duchess Anastasia or Anna Anderson

April 28th Dennis Goude. – Beetle Drive.

**page 9**

May 12th John Startin.

May 26th Spring Bank Holiday. – No meeting.

All meetings Monday afternoons from 2pm in the small meeting room with tea, coffee and biscuits to follow.

**George Binns**

**Be Careful What You Pray For**!

A man was sick and tired of going to work every day while his wife stayed home. He wanted her to see what he went through, so he prayed: 'Dear Lord: I go to work every day and put in 8 hours while my wife merely stays at home. I want her to know what I go through. So, please allow her body to switch with mine for a day. God, in his infinite wisdom, granted the man's wish. ... The next morning, sure enough, the man awoke as a woman... He arose, cooked breakfast for his mate... Awakened the kids, set out their school clothes, fed them breakfast, packed their lunches, drove them to school, came home and picked up the dry cleaning, took it to the cleaners and stopped at the bank to make a deposit. Went grocery shopping, then drove home to put away the groceries, paid the bills and balanced the check book. He cleaned the cat's litter box and bathed the dog... Then, it was already 1pm and he hurried to make the beds, do the laundry, vacuum, dust, and sweep

and mop the kitchen floor, ran to the school to pick up the kids and got into an argument with them on the way home. Set out milk and cookies and got the kids organized to do their homework. Then, set up the ironing board and watched TV while he did the ironing. At 4:30pm he began peeling potatoes and washing vegetables for salad, breaded the pork chops and snapped fresh beans for supper. After supper, he cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded laundry, bathed the kids, and put them to bed at 9pm. He was exhausted and, though his daily chores weren't finished, he went to bed where he was expected to make love, which he managed to get through without complaint. The next morning, he awoke and immediately knelt by the bed and said: - Lord, I don't know what I was thinking, I was so wrong to envy my wife's

**page 10**

being able to stay home all day. Please, Oh, please, let us trade back... Amen!' The Lord, in his infinite wisdom, replied: "My son, I feel you have learned your lesson, and I will be happy to change things back to the way they were. But you'll have to wait nine months, though. You got pregnant last night **!**

**‘Open The Book’ celebrates 25 years of Bible storytelling**

Do you remember hearing your first Bible story? Most of us would have been children at the time.

If you had the privilege of hearing them often, those stories would now be a part of you, giving you hope in dark times, and a way to understand the world around you, and a sure sense that the God of the Bible exists. All in all, Bible stories are important to know.

This year Bible Society’s Open the Book turns 25. It has seen remarkable progress in getting Bible stories ‘out there’, to young children right across the world. Open the Book brings the Bible to life through its creative and interactive storytelling approach.

From England to Kyrgyzstan, storytelling teams visit schools and present a ten to fifteen-minute scripted Bible story, designed to be interactive.

Over many years, hundreds of volunteers and creative storytelling teams have shared the ageless stories in thousands of primary schools. They have created lasting memories, sparked the imagination, given hope, taught important lessons, connected generations and touched the hearts of countless young people and their teachers.

Fiona, a member of the Open the Book staff team at Bible Society, says: “With 95 per cent of children no longer in church, who else will tell them these powerful, life changing stories and take the word into our neighbourhoods?”

Find out more at: https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/

**page 11**

**A crossword puzzle with many squares

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**ACROSS**

1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)

9 ‘You will not — me to the grave’ (Psalm 16:10) (7)

10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)

11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)

13 Mede (anag.) (4)

16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)

17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)

18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)

20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)

21 ‘He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear’ (Acts 2:33) (3,3)

**page 12**

22 ‘You — me together in my mother’s womb’ (Psalm 139:13) (4)

23 Edit (anag.) (4)

25 ‘Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?’ (Isaiah 53:1) (3)

28 Abraham’s brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)

29 ‘When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes’ (Esther 4:1) (3,4)

30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

**DOWN**

2 ‘That was why his parents said, “He is — —; ask him”’ (John 9:23) (2,3)

3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4

4 ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands’ (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)

5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)

6 ‘Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law’ (Romans 3:31) (7)

7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)

8 ‘I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)

12 ‘Out of the same mouth come — and cursing’ (James 3:10) (6)

14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus

(John 10:20) (3)

15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)

19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)

20 ‘So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people’ (Acts 11:26) (3)

24 ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ’ (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)

25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)

26 ‘In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them’ (Genesis 1:27) (4)

27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4) **ANSWERS ON PAGE 20**

**page 13**

**31st March John Donne, the metaphysical poet**

John Donne (1572 – 1631) was an English poet, scholar, soldier, secretary and finally Dean of St Pauls Cathedral in London. But he is most remembered for his poetry, for he is seen as the greatest of the 17th-century ‘metaphysical’ poets.

Donne was born in 1572 into a Roman Catholic family in London at a time when the Church of England was the dominant faith, and those who remained Roman Catholic were considered second class citizens. Although Donne studied at both Oxford and Cambridge, because of his Roman Catholicism, he was denied a degree. So, in 1592 Donne went to London to study law at Lincoln’s Inn.

In 1594 Donne decided to convert to the Church of England, and this opened a whole new life for him. In 1596 he joined the naval expedition led by the Earl of Essex against Cadiz in Spain. When he returned in 1598, he was appointed private secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Seal. All was going well, but then he fell in love with Egerton’s 16-year-old niece, Anne More, and in 1601 he secretly married her. Egerton was furious, and Donne lost his job, and even ended up in prison for a short time.

For several years after that Donne worked as a lawyer. Then in 1610 he wrote a book encouraging Roman Catholics to take the Oath of Allegiance to the king. The book caught the eye of James 1, who may have suggested that Donne go into the Church. Certainly, Donne was appointed as a royal chaplain only a few months after his ordination in 1615. In 1617 Donne’s beloved wife, Anne, died. In 1621 he was appointed the Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral and proved to be a much loved and inspiring preacher.

Throughout his working life, Donne continued to write poetry, though most of it remained unpublished until 1633. It was then mostly forgotten after his death, until early last century. Then, in the 1920s, both Ezra Pound and TS Eliot openly acknowledged their literary debt to him.

**page 14**

Donne’s place as one of the greatest of the 17th-century‘metaphysical’ poets is now assured. He wrote both sacred and secular poetry, with his main theme being that of human love and divine love. SOURCE: THE PARISH PUMP

**Is it time you remembered ‘eureka!’? -** *The Revd Dr Roger Roberts*

As Lent 2025 gets underway, do you suspect that your Christian commitment is not all it could be? If so, you are not alone. As one American church leader sadly put it: “In America the church is 3,000 miles wide – and one inch deep” But Jesus is still calling us to be His disciples, NOT His well-wishers – from a safe distance! So how does one start as a disciple, exactly? It can be helpful to remember the story of John and Andrew in the first chapter of St John.

Firstly, John and Andrew were simply getting on with daily life when their teacher, John the Baptist, introduced them to Jesus. They hadn’t been out looking for Him – but when they met Him, they were deeply affected. Andrew excitedly reported: “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:41). His statement is true, but the more you read of the story, the more you’ll realize that it was Jesus *who found them*. He is after YOU, too! If you encounter God, it is no accident that your paths have crossed.

Secondly, there is the *eureka!* factor in Andrew and John’s story. This expression, from the Greek *eurisko*, is said to have been exclaimed around the year 200 BC by the Greek mathematician Archimedes when he discovered a way to determine the purity of gold. Andrew used this same expression in vs 41, when he told his brother he had found Jesus Christ. “I’ve found Him! Eureka!” This Lent, you can be sure that Jesus is certainly looking for you, and if your response has ever been: ‘I’ve found Him! Eureka!” – then you, like Andrew, have become a disciple, a Christian. Maybe you began to follow Jesus a long time ago, but your obedience has been “on hold.” You haven’t been faithful in worship, in reading the Bible. You haven’t even been a part of a local church.

Well, Lent 2025 is an ideal time to re-discover the joy of *eureka!* again.

SOURCE: THE PARISH PUMP **page 15**

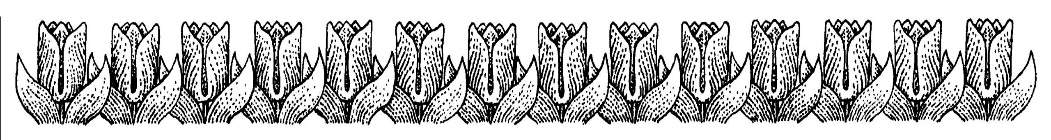
**Mothering Sunday – 30th March**

Mothering Sunday can be a day of mixed emotions. For many it’s a happy, joyous day, but for others it’s one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honored Mary His mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John’s protection: *‘When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, ‘Woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.’* (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their *‘mother’* church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselvesgetting in the way. However, God’s help is available to change things, *‘because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.’* (Romans 5:5)



**All in the month of March**

250 years ago, on 23rd March 1775 that Patrick Henry, a Founding Father of the United States, gave a famous speech at the Second Virginia Convention. He called for America’s independence from Britain, saying “Give me liberty or give me death!” **page 16**

175 years ago, on 5th March 1850 that the Britannia Bridge linking Anglesey and mainland Wales across the Menai Strait was officially opened. Designed and built by railway engineer Robert Stephenson, it had to be replaced after a disastrous fire in 1970.

150 years ago, on 7th March 1875 that the French composer Maurice Ravel was born. Best known for *Bolero*.

125 years ago, on 28th March 1900 that the British archaeologist Arthur Evans began excavating the ancient city of Knossos, capital of the Minoan civilisation, in Heraklion, Crete. Knossos is regarded as the oldest city in Europe. It was abandoned (unknown reasons) more than 3,000 years ago.

100 years ago, on 21st March 1925 that Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh was officially opened.

90 years ago, on 16th March 1935 that driving tests were first introduced in Britain. Three days later, on 19th March, a speed limit of 30 mph in built-up areas was also introduced, under the Road Traffic Act of 1934.

80 years ago, on 24th March 1945 that Operation Varsity took place in Wesel, Germany. The USA, Britain and Canada carried out the largest single-day airborne landing operation in history, involving more than 16,000 paratroopers and thousands of aircraft. Allied victory.

70 years ago, on 11th March 1955 that Sir Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist died. Joint winner of the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering penicillin

60 years ago, on 8th March 1965 that the first US troops arrived in Vietnam. This marked the beginning of the USA’s main involvement in the war.

Also 60 years ago, on 18th March 1965 that Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei

Leonov became the first person ever to make a spacewalk.

50 years ago, on 26th March 1975 that the Biological Weapons Convention came into effect. This multilateral disarmament treaty banned the development, production and stockpiling of all biological and toxin weapons.

**page 17**

40 years ago, on 3rd March 1985 that British miners voted to return to work after a year-long strike over pit closures and job losses.

30 years ago, on 2nd March 1995 that the ‘rogue trader’ Nick Leeson was arrested for his role in the collapse of Barings, Britain’s oldest merchant bank. Four days later, on 6th March, the Dutch bank ING

purchased Barings, for the nominal price of £1.

Also 30 years ago, on 26th March 1995 that the Schengen Treaty came into effect in the European Union. Seven nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) eliminated their internal border controls and tightened their external borders.

20 years ago, on 10th March 2005 that Dave Allen, Irish comedian, died.

10 years ago, on 12th March 2015 that Terry Pratchett, British fantasy novelist best known for his Discworld series, died of Alzheimer’s, aged 66.

**And still the potholes grow!**

It is Spring, and daily it gets easier to walk outside.

But not easier to drive. Not on our pothole-plagued local roads.

There are currently an estimated million potholes across the UK. And they need a staggering £16.3 billion to fix them.

All in all, they are a “national embarrassment”, according to the chair of a House of Commons committee, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP says: “As well as harming the prospects for our economy and communities’ own social wellbeing, highways riddled with potholes pose an increasing safety threat to road users.”

Potholes do terrible things to car tyres and wheels, but even worse things to cyclists who cannot avoid them in heavy traffic.

**Snoring**

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife’s snoring. “It has to STOP,” he insisted. The doctor was intrigued: “Does it really bother you that much?” “Well, it’s not just me,” confided the minister. “She is bothering the whole congregation.

**page 18**

**Beware of these contagious diseases in church**

*Frontophobia:* A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door and so collapses in the nearest back seat.

*Sermonic Throat:* A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to affect a complete cure.

*Ear Frequency Destruction:* Caused by sitting near the loudspeaker when the minister is singing full volume, off-key, etc., into the microphone.

*Double Auricular Clearance:* A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

*Accelerated Vocal Response:* A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

*Retarded Vocal Response*: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

*Theexits:* A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

*Church Meeting Paralysis:* This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.

**Miscellaneous observations on daily life**

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

Based on my calculations, I can afford to retire five years after I die.

Birthday cake is the only food you can blow on and spit on, and still everybody rushes to get a piece.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you

wish they were.

I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner - all it was doing was gathering dust.

**page 19**

**SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday Coffee dates in March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th.**

**10.00am – 11.30am All Welcome**

**If you have any material or news of the church family you would like including in the APRIL 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 23rd MARCH 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, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm.

28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking.

8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met.

24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

**\*\*\*\*\*\* Shrove Tuesday 4th March \*\*\*\*\*\***

A cartoon mouse holding a pan

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**page 20**

**A crossword puzzle with cartoon characters

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**