

familiesfirst



e-NEWS APRIL



1 Peter 1:3

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...' (NIV)



Easter meringues!

If you're looking for an alternative to chocolate this Easter, you may want to try beautiful, Easter themed meringues instead. Made in Kent by [Head in the Clouds](#), these gorgeous meringues are gluten free, lower in calories than traditional Easter cakes and cookies, and made with free-range eggs sourced from a Kent farm run by the Royal School for Deaf Children.

The Easter range includes Easter Cupcake Meringues, Easter Chick and the new Alldulgent™ Rose & Pistachio and Lavender & Wild Blackberry large Easter nest, which simply needs filling with fresh cream and fruit to create an impressive and delicious 'home cooked' dessert for your guests.

(Where available, meringues are made with Fairtrade sugar, chocolate and coffee.)



Fairtrade? Tackling child labour in the chocolate industry

As Easter approaches and sales of chocolate increase, so does concern about the ongoing problem of child labour in the cocoa industry. Recent television programs shown throughout Europe have taken a closer look at the cocoa industry and where our chocolate comes from. Click [HERE](#) for an update from Fairtrade Labelling Organisations (FLO) on what those in the Fairtrade movement have been doing to increase efforts to combat it.

FACTFILE: Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. The name "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum", meaning a commandment. Jesus Christ, at the Last Supper, said:

'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' (John 15:12)

WELCOME to the April e-newsletter from the *Families First* team.

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Survey of Mothers

The European Commission has asked a consortium of non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and universities to come up with recommendations for future research on family policy to be funded by them. As part of this exercise the World Movement of Mothers is conducting an online survey of European mothers to ask for their views and experiences. The results of this will be very helpful for future policy work within Mothers' Union and other organisations campaigning for families.

To fill in this survey please click [HERE](#) (language options at the top of the website).

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Bringing meaning to the movies

Reel Issues is an initiative of the Bible Society which provides free resources to help you discuss links between big-screen themes, everyday life and the Bible in a relaxed setting.

Ideal for church outreach, home groups or to enhance a sermon, *Reel Issues* is packed full of ideas to help you discuss the latest films in the light of the Bible with friends from in and outside your church

Set in three different formats to suit different audiences, there are *Reel Issues Epic* for small groups, *Reel Issues Clip* for quick and friendly chats and *Reel Issues Scene* for youth groups.

Visit the Bible Society website for more information on these resources:

[Bible Society - Reel Issues](#)



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Family friendly festivals

Spring Harvest

[Spring Harvest 2010](#)



The annual Christian event is back this year with a new theme: 'Different eyes – Living instinctively in a time of uncertainty'. This Easter, around 45,000 people will gather together to discuss applying Biblical truth to modern day issues such as crime and rehabilitation, ethical consumerism - fair trade and food miles, banks, economics and bonuses, war and peacemaking, euthanasia and assisted dying.

Clan Gathering

Madras College, Kilrymont, St Andrews, 24 - 30 July



Clan Gathering's vision is to see the nation changed through Christians and churches being filled with Holy Spirit, being made alive with the joy of knowing and worshipping Jesus Christ, living out His Word and doing the works of the Kingdom of God.

[Clan Gathering 2010](#)

Big Church Day Out



[Big Church Day Out 2010](#)

Stanford Hall, Nr Loughborough 29 May; Wiston House, West Sussex 30 - 31 May

Big Church Day Out is about people and faith, music and worship, activities, families, and just being together. There's something for everybody, from a nice cup of tea with the Chamber Orchestra, to high energy worship, from storytelling to touch rugby, from bouncy castles to quiet prayer...it's all about being 'church' together.

Detling

Kent County Showground, 7 - 12 August



The Detling Summer Celebration is a week-long Christian event for all ages designed to help equip, encourage and empower the Church 'to be all God has intended for us to be.' This year's theme is Rise, Run and Reign and speakers include Canon Andrew White, Graham Kendrick, RT Kendall and Debra Green. [Detling 2010](#)

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General Election resource available from Mothers' Union

The Faith & Policy Unit at Mothers' Union has produced a resource for the General Election, which will take place this year, most likely in May. If you would like to read it, or have any enquiries from members, you can find it on the Mothers' Union website - click on 'General Election 2010' or go to:

[New vision, new future: A guide to the 2010 General Election](#)

Visit Mary Sumner House

4 - 7 August 2010



Would you like to visit Mary Sumner House and learn more about the exciting work of Mothers' Union worldwide?

Come for an in-depth tour of Mary Sumner House for only £3.75 per person including Fruit Juice/Tea/Coffee. Arrive at 12.30pm for refreshments, tours start promptly at 1pm & finish at 4pm.

For further information and a booking form contact Laura on 0207 2225533 ext 201 or email: laura.bedwell@themothersunion.org

Helping hands across the world

Mothers' Union have exciting volunteering opportunities within various units based at Head Office in Westminster; from working within the publications department to assisting teams that liaise with local workers on various projects around the world. The work will be varied and you will be gaining experience in a dynamic and devoted charity doing all it can to make a better world for families.

Interested? Please email your CV and a short covering letter to:

jobs@themothersunion.org



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