

familiesfirst

e-NEWS JUNE



Father's Day will be 100 years old on June 20, 2010, and it is all because of an inspired woman, Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd, who wanted to honour her father who raised her and her five younger brothers on a remote farm in Eastern Washington.

The boys are back

With Father's Day coming up this month and adventurous Bear Grylls on our cover for the May/June issue, it seems appropriate to mention *The Boys are back*, a film based on journalist Simon Carr's memoir, *The boys are back in town*. In the film Clive Owen plays Simon Carr as a single parent to two young boys after his wife dies of a long-term illness.

In an interview with *The Sunday Times*, Simon Carr says, 'In the family you need one parent to do the close, detailed work and one to take the children on a tour d'horizon. One to focus them, the other to open their minds. These roles aren't gender-specific — and they can change from one parent to the other moment by moment. But it asks a lot of one person to do both in the one house at the same time.'

Visit online retailer [Amazon](#) to purchase the DVD for under £10.



Who Let The Dads Out? Annual conference

Timed to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of Father's Day, this conference will provide you with everything you need to know about running a toddler group for dads. It features workshops on how to set up a *Who Let The Dads Out?* group, a speech from father of three Rev Phil Jump, opportunities to hear from some of the 24 groups from around the UK and special guests from the highly successful Messy Church initiative and a time for lunch and fellowship.

The conference will be held on Saturday 19 June 2010, from 10.00am - 3.30pm at All Saints Church Centre, Vicarage Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3HZ. Tickets are £25 but there is a group discount and existing *Who Let The Dads Out?* and Messy Church members pay half price.

For more details and to book tickets contact www.wholetthedadsout.org or telephone 01244 342955.

WELCOME to the June e-newsletter from the *Families First* team

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Week of Prayer for Parliament and Government

The seventh annual Week of Prayer for Parliament & Government will take place from 5 - 11 June.

This important event is a partnership between Christians in Parliament (CiP) and Christians in Government (CiG), and is supported by the Evangelical Alliance, the Bible Society and 24-7 Prayer. Driven by the Christian communities that work in politics and government, it will involve daily prayer walks around Parliament and Whitehall, daily prayer across the parliamentary estate and in Whitehall government departments, large worship events, prayer for political parties and more.

We are all affected by decisions made by the government with respect to family life, marriage and/or parenting so prayer support is much needed from Christians and prayer networks across the UK and the world. This is a great opportunity to pray for God's mercy and blessing on our nation.



A young mum writes...

A new Mothers' Union member shares her story

Heather Carlton is a 19-year-old mum who has recently become a Mothers' Union member in Chester. You can follow her experiences and comment on her blog as she writes about her first year as a member.

In her own words:

'Over the course of the next year I am going to explore Mothers' Union. I am going to look past the fundraising and branch meetings and see what other work the Mothers' Union carries out, not only in my area, or even in the UK, but all over the world. I am going to explore projects specific to me and my roles in life, and see how much support the Mothers Union can give me.'

Click [here](#) to be directed to her blog.



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Open Farm Sunday

Open Farm Sunday makes a visit to your local farm a great way to meet the farmers who grow your food and see how they care for the countryside. 450 farms across the country open their gates on 13 June 2010.

Your visit could include a tractor and trailer ride, an opportunity to see sheep being sheared, cows being milked or even chicks hatching!

There will be plenty of farm walks and nature trails organised, which are ideal ways to enjoy the peace and beauty of the countryside. You could take a picnic to enjoy with family and friends down on the farm and for those who love machinery, there will be plenty of tractors and tools on show too.

To find out which farms in your area are taking part, visit www.farmsunday.org

National Family Week

National Family Week (NFW) returns this year from 31 May – 6 June with hundreds of new events and activities added every day!

This year NFW has organised tons of fantastic family deals on theme parks, heritage sites, museums and more. Discounts last all week and include free entry to Alton Towers Park and free board at Alton Towers Hotel for children under 12.

<http://www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/events/>



Bike Week 19 – 27 June

Team Green Britain Bike Week is an annual opportunity to promote cycling. Demonstrating the social, health and environmental benefits of cycling, the week aims to get people to give cycling a go all over the UK.

Visit the website to find out more about the activities taking place, see what new incentives are available or log on to use the cycling calculator and discover how much money you'd save if you cycled and leave the car at home.

<http://www.bikeweek.org.uk/>



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Debt help guide for churches

[Credit Action](#), the national money education charity has launched the Credit Action Community, a network of support for Christians and churches involved in money education and advice initiatives in their local area.

“Over the past 20 years, debt has reached epic proportions in society, impacting on nearly everybody” says Keith Tondeur, president of Credit Action.

In partnership with UK debt charity CCCS, Credit Action has recently created a step-by-step guide called ‘*Assisted Debt Remedy*’, to help church advisers to use CCCS’s online *Debt Remedy* counselling tool with financially struggling parishioners. The guide can be accessed via the CCCS website:

[Assisted debt remedy](#)

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, a patron of Credit Action, supports the new initiative.



Mothers’ Union AGM

Mothers' Union will be celebrating 10 years of literacy and parenting at this year's General Meeting at Guild Hall Preston on the 24 June.

With guest speaker Margaret Sentamu and prayers from the new Mothers' Union Chaplain Bishop Ken Clarke, the day should be a truly exciting affair.

See the [Mothers’ Union’s news update](#) for more information.

Coming soon...

Listen out for *Families First* editor Catherine Butcher on [Premier Radio](#) talking about the importance of families on the Woman2Woman show on Bank Holiday Monday at 11.20am.

The July/August edition of *Families First* will be out on 23 June.

Listen to Premier
London 1305,
1332, 1413 MW
National DAB
Sky Digital 0123
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