

# familiesfirst

# e-NEWS MARCH



## Celebrating the gift of motherhood

### A gift for mothers

Christ Church in Winchester ordered 100 copies of the March/April issue of *Families First* to give away as a Mothering Sunday gift to mums. Please do contact us if you would like to do the same: [familiesfirst@themothersunion.org](mailto:familiesfirst@themothersunion.org)

(The January issue of *Families First* completely sold out before we were able to send out all our orders so please act fast if you want to order extra copies of the latest issue!)

## make a mother's day

Helping parents provide for their children, giving unemployed women new earning opportunities, or getting vital healthcare to sick children, Mothers' Union changes lives for families across 78 countries of the world.

This Mothering Sunday, why not help by giving an Ethical gift?

By giving a mum or carer a Mothering Sunday gift, you can help a mum in tough circumstances through Mothers' Union's international work. You can also give a gift in memory of a much-missed mum.

Visit the website to purchase your gift and to download the Mothering Sunday resource pack for further ideas and inspiration: <http://www.makeamothersday.org/>

### Create a stir for Mum this Mother's Day



Cutlery and gifts manufacture Arthur Price has come up with a novel gift idea for Mothering Sunday.

The collection contains a range of gift spoons that can be personalized with a variety of messages including *You're a star*, *The Boss* and *Love you*.

Spoons are only **£4.99** and are available from leading department stores and many good gift shops nationwide. You can also order online at [www.arthurprice.com](http://www.arthurprice.com).

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

Reminder: Text that is [in blue and underlined](#) can be clicked on and links to the relevant webpage

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## Can you describe Easter in 140 characters or less?

Tweeters and Facebook members are being invited to share their feelings about Easter by answering this question on a new Lent twitter feed.

Evangelical Alliance General Director Steve Clifford started the tweets off with this tweet: 'Looked like a disaster. Hopes gone, dreadful defeat. But it was the watershed of history, amazing victory, death was beaten.'

Alistair Johnson, from Cliff College, and Huw Tyler, from Share Creative, have created the Twitter feed as part of the Biblefresh movement of churches and agencies, which seeks to help Christians gain confidence in and appetite for the scriptures.

Alistair said: 'Easter is the pinnacle of the story of Jesus. In it we see the passion God has for His people.'

Huw added: 'Easter (LIVE) is about reaching new audiences to explore the Easter story. We're keen to engage with these communities and get deeper through discussion, thought and response.'

You can follow Easter (LIVE) on [Twitter](#) or on [Facebook](#)

## Get involved in National Family Week 2010

Not-for-profit organisations including sporting clubs, schools and community groups can take part in National Family Week (31 May – 6 June) for free.



Login to the [Partner Zone](#) to register and add (or edit) all the events and activities you have planned during The Week. If you wish, these events will then appear on the searchable Events Map to encourage families in the local area to attend and to promote your organisation.

All registered and approved events will be entitled to branded materials such as stickers, posters, bookmarks and balloons at no cost to you, plus other items can be purchased at cost price.

How will your organisation, church or family, support and get involved with The Week this year? *Email us with your ideas and plans:* [familiesfirst@themothersunion.org](mailto:familiesfirst@themothersunion.org)

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*Families First magazine is a lifestyle magazine which encourages strong marriages, good parenting & active faith. It is for people who care about family life; people who want the best for their own family, families in their immediate community and families worldwide.*



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### World Water Day

An estimated 1.1 billion people worldwide rely on unsafe drinking-water sources. Monday 22 March 2010 is World Water Day, a United Nations day to raise awareness about the global water and sanitation crisis.

Estimates state that at the current rate of progress, the Millennium Development Goal for safe water will not be met until 2035 in sub-Saharan Africa, some 20 years after the target.

Read about [Micah Challenge's BIG Day of prayer](#) in the April issue of [Families Worldwide](#) (online from 26 April) to find out how you can help – with prayer and action – to ensure world leaders don't forget the promises made in the Millennium Development Goals.

### Regional event - The Beautiful Mind Conference: Emotional Health and Christian Theology



We had an extended winter this year and with lots of press about Winter Depression or SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), things seem to be getting worse not better, with growing numbers of people suffering from depression.

People are looking to faith and spirituality for answers and Mind and Soul have teamed up with theologians from St Paul's Theological Centre to offer a one-day conference on emotional health and Christian Theology. It will bring the insights of theology to bear on some of the 'tough questions' that surround this issue such as prosperity theology, demon possession, how healing might happen and how secular therapies can be assessed.

Keynotes and Seminars are delivered by recognised experts from theology, counselling and mental health backgrounds. There will be a market place of stands as well as access to the HTB bookshop and time for networking and conversation.

This event takes place on 26 March at Holy Trinity Brompton church. Visit the [website](#) for more information.



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## GoD and DoG

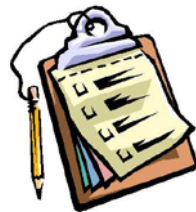
The GoD and DoG song by Wendy Francisco is an interesting way of getting across an inspiring message about God.

Wendy says, 'We know how forgiving our dogs are. Their relationship to us is not based on a scorecard. Many people think that God loves you based on how good you are. If this were true then it would be impossible to have an authentic friendship with him. I don't think of dogs as gods. I don't think that every dog is a total picture of God but I do think God expressed himself in the things we see around us'.

Visit the website to hear her song and to find out the meaning behind the words <http://www.godanddog.org/>

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## Have your say

This is a free e-newsletter from the *Families First* team, however, if you receive the magazine, please can you help us by completing this survey:

[http://www.familiesfirstmagazine.com/~downloads/ff9\\_survey.pdf](http://www.familiesfirstmagazine.com/~downloads/ff9_survey.pdf)

The information will help us to draw up a readership profile. This will help us to tailor the content of the magazine and to sell advertising. The information you give us will remain confidential and will not be passed on to third parties.

A summary of the results of all the surveys will be passed to the advertising sales team and the survey forms will be destroyed.

We welcome all feedback and suggestions so please contact the Families First team to tell us what you think: [familiesfirst@themothersunion.org](mailto:familiesfirst@themothersunion.org)



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