



Bear Grylls on the family motto:
*'Be the most enthusiastic person
you know.'*

Who will get your vote?

With probably the most exciting election in Great Britain for a long time, the three main political leaders are using varying tactics to get our vote and it's easy to get confused about who has promised what. We've located the manifestos for the Conservative party, the Labour party and the Liberal Democrat party so you can read a comprehensive guide to their plans for government.

[Conservatives](#)

[Labour](#)

[Liberal Democrats](#)



Is there a place for the Church in politics? Watch this message for Christians from the main party leaders: <http://www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk/home/>



World Fair Trade Day 8 May 2010

Be the change you wish to see in the world, Gandhi said. Contribute to fight climate change, transform the status of women, and empower small producers by giving them a voice and by supporting Fair Trade. Fair Trade ensures that small producers get a fair deal, with good working conditions and fair prices under safe conditions, and allows for sustainable development and a promising future for millions of farmer and artisan communities around the world.

In 2009, 1000 events in 70 countries were recorded, touching 8.2 million people.

Holding a product fair, a cookie competition, an art show, a tea party or a picnic are just a few ways in which you can take part. Get more ideas and register your event for 8th May via their website: [World Fair Trade day](#)

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

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Science & faith



The *Test of Faith* project

Science is an amazing way to find out more about the world that God has created, and technology provides ways of using that knowledge to make people's lives better in lots of different ways.

In the recent (May/June) issue of *Families First*, we feature Dr Ruth Bancewicz from the Faraday institute for Science and Religion as she encourages parents and grandparents to talk to children and young people about science and faith. The *Test of Faith* project was initiated to provide relevant and accessible educational materials to be used in any setting where people are interested in science and faith. You can find more details as well as a collection of free resources at www.testoffaith.com/youth



Cheltenham Science Festival

9 – 13 June 2010



Food innovator Heston Blumenthal is the latest guest to be announced at *The Times* Cheltenham Science festival.

The five-day event is a celebration of science, engineering and the arts and is produced by Cheltenham Festivals. Visitors will come face-to-face with around 300 of the world's leading scientists and thinkers and the festival promises a mix of serious debate, live experiments and surprising discoveries all based at Cheltenham Town Hall.

Events over the five days include 'The real science of the circus', a water rockets workshop, 'Gastronuts – a wild culinary adventure', 'Do try this at home' and demos from the Blue Peter scientist.

Visit the website to purchase tickets for this event: [Cheltenham Science Festival](#)

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Climbing mountains - Raising money for Mothers' Union workers

At the beginning of June, some of the staff here at Mothers' Union are planning to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. This started as a private holiday for just two, but as news of the idea spread through the head office at Mary Sumner House, it became a fundraising event.

Please sponsor this hike. The funds raised will help us to pay for Mothers' Union workers' travel needs. On average our workers travel between 40 and 70 miles to get to parishes within their dioceses, but sometimes workers have to travel hundreds of miles to reach the people they work with. In Papua New Guinea, with its mountainous terrain and islands spread over vast areas, workers can travel for three days to reach their communities. This not only shows the dedication of our workers, the acuteness of the needs we support, and the urgency of our work, but sadly it also shows the contrast between those who have and those who have not.

You can sponsor the team at <http://www.justgiving.com/mothersuniondoeskilimanjaro>

Please continue to pray for our work!

NEW! MUE Gift catalogue

Mothers' Union Enterprises has published a new gift catalogue for summer. With newly designed greeting cards, jewellery (including fair-trade), pampering kits, family games, beatrix potter baby gifts and books for both children and adults, this catalogue is a must-have for every home.

Please contact the office on 020 7227 9730 or enterprises@themothersunion.org for a catalogue, alternatively you can order online: www.muenterprises.co.uk/

100% of all the profit made from the sale of these items is covenanted back to the charity to fund the work of Mothers' Union – supporting families worldwide.



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Competition winners from our March/April issue

Congratulations to our latest competition winners!

Grandpa in my pocket DVD: Mrs Cathy Pass, Mrs P Bickerdike, Neve Bosisto, Mrs Doris Hall, Mrs Pat Atkins, Mrs W L Homby, Sarah Wood, Mrs P Cobban, Robert and Anna Kissick, Megan K and Jamie M Sermon

LEGOLAND family tickets: Dr Ian S Appleyard and Mrs S Beeby

Travel Matters holiday: Heather Fry



Christian Resources Exhibition

The *Families First* team will be at the [Christian Resources Exhibition](#) this year, taking place from Tuesday 11 – Friday 14 May at Sandown Park in Esher, Surrey. If you want to chat and find out more about *Families First* or just want to say hello and meet the team, come and visit us at our stand, S6.

Share your gifts!

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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