

GREETINGS

April 2026

*to each other, all our
neighbours - and everybody
whose eye this leaflet meets!*

Dear Friends

It doesn't seem two minutes since we were celebrating Christmas and now we are at the beginning of Spring! Yes spring is here at last, the clocks moved forward on the 29th of March, the days are getting lighter and hopefully the weather will soon be improving.

First, let me ask—are you going to indulge in any Easter chocolates this year? The supermarkets have been displaying Easter eggs on their shelves since the New Year but have you ever wondered where chocolate first came from? We have the Aztecs of equatorial Central America to thank: it was they who discovered that a certain tree, later named Theobroma Cacao, was well worth cultivating and they came to consider chocolate to be the 'drink of the gods'.

Chocolate reached England about 1849. It was first served as a drink, until the Industrial Revolution when it caught the attention of several leading Quaker families, (including the Cadburys, the Frys, the Rowntrees and the Terrys) and the rest, as they say, is history. Today the world eats about 7.5 million tons a year. Enjoy your Easter egg!

Of course the most important time in the Christian year is Easter when we celebrate that 'Christ is Risen'. The core of the Christian message is the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The stark contrast between His execution as a criminal and His glorious triumph over death is a powerful display of the power of God at work and that's something we should celebrate every day.

The glory of Easter is that we move from the sadness of Good Friday to happiness, as we enter Easter Sunday, and realise that Jesus is alive, that death has been defeated, sin, guilt and shame have been wiped away, defeated. We can rejoice, we can celebrate.

In many ways Easter is so much better than Christmas, there is not so much pressure on us all to provide that perfect meal, or give that perfect present, we can relax and enjoy this festival, and celebrate God's love for us.

As always this Easter we celebrate an empty cross and an empty tomb! A warm welcome awaits everyone who would like to worship with us.

Happy Easter to you all

Liz



He is Risen

We offer a very warm welcome to everyone!

What's on in April

Thursday 2nd April	7pm	Maundy Thursday Service at Greenacres led by Rev Liz Dean
Friday 3rd April	10.45am	Good Friday Service at Hope Congregational Church led by Rosemary Scholes
Sunday 5th April	10.45am	Easter Sunday Service and Communion led by Rev Liz Dean
Tuesday 7th April	7.30pm	Deacons meeting
Friday 10th April	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm	Book Club
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday 12th April	10.45am	Family Worship led by John Pollitt from Springhead Congregational Church
Friday 17th April	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday 19th April	10.45am	Family Service led by Graham Radcliffe from South Chadderton Methodist Church
Friday 24th April	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Saturday 25th April		Theatre Trip to Mossley AODS 'We will rock you'
Sunday 26th April	10.45am	Family Service led by Rev Kathy Shaw from Padfield and Stalybridge Congregational Churches

Flowers For Church

April 5th Liz Dean
 April 12th Gail Waterhouse
 April 19th Glennys Nesbitt
 April 26th Ann and Lawrence West



Flower Steward Joy Dean

Quiz Night & Coffee Morning

Our thanks to all who helped at the Quiz Night and the coffee morning. They were both very enjoyable events and the quiz night raised £291 for church funds and the Coffee Morning along with the following Sunday's coffee money raised £150 for the Marie Curie Fund

"Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket."



The Church Book Club got off to a great start in February. Seven people who had read Tracy Chevalier's book *The Glassmaker* met at church to discuss the novel and shared coffee and cake. The group have chosen *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden as their next read and will meet again on Friday 10th of April at 2pm to discuss this book. Please feel free to come along!

Dates for your diary.....

Saturday 9th May Congregational Federation National Assembly in Sheffield
 Sunday 10th May Church Anniversary Service led by Rev Foday Kamara
 Saturday 16th May NW Area Congregational Federation Spring Assembly at Inglewhite
 10.30am—2.30pm Congregational Church
 Saturday 13th June **A Murder Mystery Evening** 'The Great British Baking Shock'
 Tickets £5 including buffet supper. Proceeds in aid of Cystic Fibrosis

GREENACRES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Galland Street, Oldham

Enquiries please contact Joy Dean on 0161 785 0638 or 07971560289

Or on www.greenacrescongregationalchurch.co.uk

Or Facebook Greenacres Congregational Church

If you have any items you wish to include in the next issue of Greetings please let Liz Dean have them
 lizdean503@gmail.com or 0161 620 2141 or in person at church