

GREETINGS

February 2026

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

Dear Friends

I hope this issue of Greetings finds everybody well and in good spirits. The New Year came in very cold and snowy and I am sure that some people, especially children, will be hoping that February will be same but I am equally sure that many people will be hoping that better weather is to come in February.

February is quite a special time because the 14th of February is Valentines Day and we will be seeing lots of cards in the shops with hearts on!

February is also the start of Lent. On the 17th of February it is Shrove Tuesday or to many it is known as Pancake Day! The following Day is Ash Wednesday and Lent then continues until the 2nd of April which is Maundy Thursday and then we shall be celebrating Easter.

Here are a few interesting facts about Lent -

Did you know that the word 'Lent' is from the old English word 'Lencten', which means 'spring season'?

Christians have been marking Lent since the 4th century.

Many churches mark Lent by having an official colour which is violet. This colour symbolises the grieving for Jesus as he died on the cross. It's also a colour of royalty and celebrates Jesus coming back to life and His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

During Lent, a purple cloth is placed over the altar in many churches, to show that Christians see Jesus as king.

Of course people give things up for Lent. What do you think most people give up during Lent? You could probably guess - yes, it's chocolate!

As Congregationalists we don't celebrate Lent in quite the same way as some other denominations do—but I know a number of people who give things up for Lent.

Whilst I was thinking of this what came into my mind was what would Jesus want us to give up? Would he want us to give up chocolate or anything else we really enjoy?

I think that Jesus would probably laugh at some of our efforts during Lent. I guess that He would even look us in the eye and ask why we're giving up things like chocolate and coffee or any of the things that actually bring us joy and make us happy?

Then, I think He would suggest we might look at ourselves and rather than ditch things perhaps we should think of things we'd like to do.

So, here's my 30-second Lenten advice:

Keep the chocolate and try to follow what the Bible says God wants us to do.

Micah chapter 6 (NIV) says "The Lord has told you what is good. He has told you what he wants from you: Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God."

In the Message translation it says

"It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously."

Best wishes

Liz



Snow had fallen—snow on snow

We offer a very warm welcome to everyone!

What's on in February

Sunday 1st February	10.45am	Family Service and Holy Communion led by Rev Liz Dean
Friday 5th February	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday 8th February	10.45am	Family Service led by Rev Foday Kamara
Friday 12th February	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday 15th February	10.45am	Family Service led by Peter Butler
		Followed by Quarterly Church Meeting
Friday 20th February	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday 22nd February	10.45am	Family Service led by Elisabeth Sweeney Smith
Friday 27th February	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group

Flowers For Church

1st February	Ruth Horrocks
8th February	Rowena Bairstow
15th February	Roger & Andrea Hindle
22nd February	Yvonne Biram
Flower Steward	Yvonne Biram

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

At the meeting to discuss Social activities the following ideas were agreed:

A Quiz Night to be organised by David and Sally Hopkins

A Coffee Morning on the 21st March with proceeds being given to charity

Theatre trip on the 25th of April at the George Lawton Hall Mossley—"We will Rock You"

A Faith Lunch to be held after the Church Anniversary Service on the 10th of May

A Murder Mystery Night on Saturday evening the 13th of June to be organised by Malcolm and Joy. Proceeds to Cystic Fibrosis charity

BOOK CLUB

Are you interested in joining a Book Club? If so please see Rowena and listen out for details!!

ALL FOR JESUS - JESUS FOR ALL



This is a new course developed by the Congregational Federation. There are 8 sessions available to explore and to enable churches to go deeper with God. In particular to

- Encourage churches to step out in faith and do new things
- Be a resource to churches as they respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit

There will be a focus on listening to one another, building each other up and working together. The course will also look at how we can engage with local communities more effectively through listening and learning to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches.

The aim of this new programme is to help all churches, whatever their size or context to be able to share and promote the Christian faith within the church and the community.

If you want to know more please come along to the first session which will be an introduction to the course and help us to decide how we want to follow the course. We hope to start in the Spring and dates will be announced asap.

GREENACRES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Galland Street, Oldham

Enquiries please contact Joy Dean on 0161 785 0638 or 07971560289

Or on www.greenacrescongregationalchurch.co.uk

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