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**NTCG Chesterfield’ Online**

Volume Number 1.1 News Extra! Date March 2012

***Welcome...***

***News Extra!! On Lent***

***We’re in the season of Lent, season of spring, new beginnings and birth.***

***You can print these pages if you wish to but it must be for your personal use only. Permission has been given to us to use the items and fun things on the pages inside.***

***So go on, have some fun! Just don’t sell it as your own!***

***Lovely weather for March, don’t you think?***

***Well, it’s the season of Lent. Time for self-denial, reflection, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. New beginnings.***

**From your Editor...** 

Hello!

*I hope you’re enjoying our new home here on* [www.NTCGChesterfieldOnline.weebly.com](http://www.NTCGChesterfieldOnline.weebly.com)

Remember, if you have little ones that you read stories to, you can find daily bible stories [here](http://ntcgchesterfield.org/DailyDevotion.aspx). Don’t forget to come back each day for a new one.

There’s also a children’s publication called “Children Worship Too!” which is [here](http://ntcgchesterfieldonline.weebly.com/children-worship-too.html).

I hope you and your little one find lots of pleasure in these publications. Why not let me know how you get on? I’d love to hear from you!

If you have a story, poem, recipe or anything else that you’d like to see in the next edition, send it to me by email, the address is on the front page.

I’ll be back in April with your usual stories and activities.

**“Yesterday has passed and gone**

**Tomorrow is a mystery**

**But today is a gift, that’s why it’s call the present”**

**Dates, Events Notifications for Your Diary**

***Thursday March 1st***

***World Book Day (what have you read lately)***



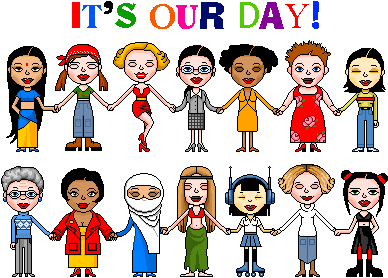
***Thursday March 1st***

[](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/saints/david_1.shtml)

***St David’s Day (Wales)***

***International Women’s Month***

***Thursday March 8th International Women’s Day***

[](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/about.asp)

***To find out what events are on in your country and community*** [***go here***](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/esearch.asp?country=221&town=)

[](http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://youngwomenmisbehavin.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/womenday.gif?w=388&h=278&imgrefurl=http://youngwomenmisbehavin.wordpress.com/2011/03/01/100th-anniversary-of-international-womens-day/&h=278&w=388&sz=33&tbnid=gX6LdQxUq3KsLM:&tbnh=90&tbnw=126&prev=/search?q=international+women's+day&tbm=isch&tbo=u&zoom=1&q=international+women's+day&docid=NS8AvA3CJ30eLM&hl=en-GB&sa=X&ei=eJpST9WgPKLO0QW_8uXLCw&ved=0CIABEPUBMAk&dur=1696)[](http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://youngwomenmisbehavin.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/womenday.gif?w=388&h=278&imgrefurl=http://youngwomenmisbehavin.wordpress.com/2011/03/01/100th-anniversary-of-international-womens-day/&h=278&w=388&sz=33&tbnid=gX6LdQxUq3KsLM:&tbnh=90&tbnw=126&prev=/search?q=international+women's+day&tbm=isch&tbo=u&zoom=1&q=international+women's+day&docid=NS8AvA3CJ30eLM&hl=en-GB&sa=X&ei=eJpST9WgPKLO0QW_8uXLCw&ved=0CIABEPUBMAk&dur=4361)***Saturday March17th***

[](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/saints/patrick_1.shtml)

***St. Patrick’s Day (Ireland)***

***Sunday March 18th***

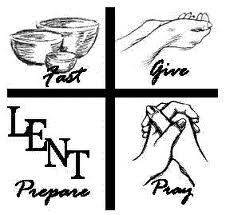
[](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_9430000/newsid_9439700/9439714.stm?scope=global&survey=no&surveyname=cbbcnewsround_2010q2&site=cbbcnewsround&url=http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_9430000/newsid_9439700/9439714.stm&js=no&uid=c46e5c873836e05f87fc983651967c054aad3d95f070f1113212d3e394d44565)

**Mother’s Day**

**The clocks will go forward by one hour on Sunday 25 March**



**British Summer Time begins**

**Lent** 

Lent is a **Christian Festival**. In the past it was a long, strict religious fast when people gave up all rich food.

This year, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on **22nd February** - which falls 40 weekdays or 46 days before Easter Sunday.

So the season of Lent will began on 22nd February (Ash Wednesday) and will end on 7th April (Holy Saturday).

The day before Lent starts is known as **Shrove Tuesday** as well as **Pancake Day**

The terms "**Mardi Gras**", "**Mardi Gras season**", and "**Carnival season**” in English, refer to events of the Carnival celebrations, beginning on or after Epiphany and culminating on the day before Ash Wednesday.

*Mardi gras* is French for **Fat Tuesday**, referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday; in English the day is sometimes referred to as **Shrove Tuesday**, from the word *shrive*, meaning "confess.

Related popular practices are associated with celebrations before the fasting and religious obligations associated with the penitential season of Lent.

Popular practices include wearing masks and costumes, overturning social conventions, dancing, sports competitions, parades, etc. Similar expressions to Mardi Gras appear in other European languages sharing the Christian tradition.

In English, the day is called Shrove Tuesday, associated with the religious requirement for confession before Lent begins.

In Christian tradition, Lent is a period of 40 weekdays between the Ash Wednesday and the Holy Saturday, wherein believers resort to prayer, penitence, alms giving and self-denial.

**Fasting** – A form of self-denial

During Lent, Christians used to **fast** (give up food) but now a days some people try to give up their favourite food, such as chocolate, and not giving into temptation. Others might give up all dairy products. The Orthodox Church keeps Lent more strictly and people give up both meat and dairy products. Different religions fast for different reasons. Sometimes people fast because they believe that suffering makes them closer to God. Fasting is believed to concentrate the mind on holy thoughts. There are some religions such as Buddhism and Sikhism, that don't encourage fasting because they don't believe it helps deepen religious strength.

Only weekdays are taken into consideration when counting the 40 day period, as Sundays represents mini-Easter - each of which marks the celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Lent Sundays commemorate the resurrection.

The main purpose of this 40 day observance is to reflect on the life of Jesus - his life, death and resurrection. According to the Holy Bible, these 40 days represent the time which Jesus spent in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry.

Within the season of Lent, there exist several holy days - including

Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent),

Palm Sunday, 1stApril (marks the beginning of the Holy Week),

Maundy Thursday, 5th April (a day Christians commemorate the Last Supper)

Good Friday, 6th April (commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ).

Many churches hold special Lent services and in some towns the churches of different denominations join together in groups to discuss and share their Christian faith.

Lent ends at Easter when Christians remember he execution of Jesus and then then celebrate his rising from death.

The colour of Lent is **purple**.

**Interesting fact**

The number 40 is a special number in the Bible. It signifies preparation for something special:

Did you know?

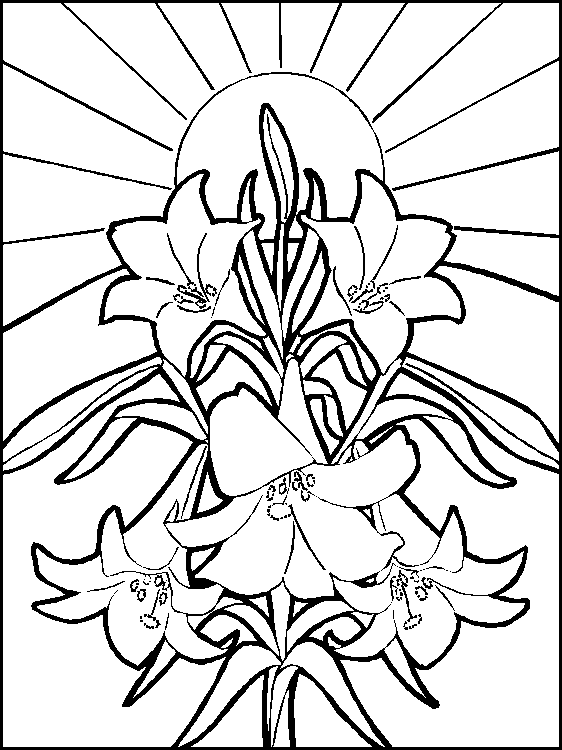
* The rain lasted for 40 days in the mighty flood - Noah
* Moses stayed on the Mount Sinai forty days (Ex 24:18)
* Jonah gave the people of Ninevah forty days to repent (Jon 3:4)
* Jesus, before starting his ministry, spent forty days in the desert in prayer and fasting (Matt 4:2)

[](http://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://media.egotvonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/lent1.jpg&imgrefurl=http://egotvonline.com/2011/03/09/7-easy-sacrifices-for-lent/&h=433&w=322&sz=17&tbnid=jwXbrQY261i4xM:&tbnh=90&tbnw=67&prev=/search?q=pictures+for+Lent&tbm=isch&tbo=u&zoom=1&q=pictures+for+Lent&docid=Ga3vIxxC63cAuM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=hrhST57LF4HL0QWqubTHCw&ved=0CD4Q9QEwAA&dur=1523)

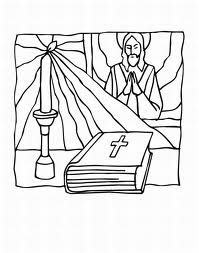
For a Multifaith 2012 Calendar [go here](http://www.chiddingstone.kent.sch.uk/homework/religion/calendar.htm#mar)

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2 pages of colouring fun







**Prayer:**

Father in heaven

Here I am, Lord, take all of me just as I am. I give You my heart, I give You my mind, I give You my soul, I give You my all. Here I am, take all of me, Just as I am.

Amen

***Requests***

*In your prayers please remember:*

*Our bereaved families*

*Our communities*

*The elderly & infirm*

*Our families, neighbours & friends*

**Visit us online for more inspiration.** <http://ntcgchesterfield.org/videos.aspx>

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[**Click here for your Praise time!**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSJhyJNvC5M&feature=related)

To those celebrating this month

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**Are you Seeking God? Or would you like to know more?**

**The Pastor/Minister of the church that you attend can assist.**

**Or if you wish to you can contact our Pastor - Reverend Stan Notice on 01246 551906.**

**Leave your contact details and someone from his office will get back to you as soon as possible.**

***At the New Testament Church of God in Chesterfield we worship each Sunday at 10:15am for Sunday school, 11:30 for Morning Worship and6:30pm for Evening Worship and on Tuesday evenings we meet for Prayer and Bible Study from 7.30pm.***

***We want to invite you to come visit us at our church. Our address is 7 Compton Street in Chesterfield near the old football ground.***

***Find us*** [***here***](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=S40+4TA&ie=UTF8&t=h&ll=53.239001,-1.436613&spn=0.001541,0.003433&z=18&source=embed)

**Thank you**

**&**

**May God bless you**