

Issue 132

# THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



## MAGAZINE

### February 2018

The Ladygrove Church meets at the  
Ladygrove Community Centre, Tamar Way  
every Sunday at 10am

*Blessed by God to Be a Blessing to Others*

[www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk](http://www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk)

Minister: The Revd Hugh Boorman Tel: 819036

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## Thank you to all our contributors this month:

Hugh Boorman and Mary Parker

It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **March magazine** will be available on Sunday 4th March and the deadline for articles to go in it is **Sunday 25th February.**

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

# Thought for the Month

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## Lent

It barely feels as though Christmas is over and here we are this month marching on into the Season of Lent. Oh, the joys of movable feasts!

And some of us face a particular dilemma this year. Should we give our loved one some choccies for Valentine's Day when it falls on the same day as Ash Wednesday – the first Day of Lent? Do we spend the day celebrating love or going without? What should be on our face – a smile or the burnt remnants of last year's palm cross?

Lent has an interesting history. It is not clear whether it was originally a period to be observed by all Christians or simply those preparing for Baptism, which in the early church only took place at Easter. There is also a difference of opinion as to whether it should be observed only on weekdays or on Monday to Saturday. What is certain is that there has been a gradual reduction on the

expectations placed on those observing it. Back in the year 325AD, it was declared that Lent should be a forty day period of fasting with only one meal a day being eaten (in the evening) and no meat, fish or animal product was to be consumed.

Five hundred years later, fasting was only required to last until 3.00pm and then by the Fifteenth Century, the period was further reduced to 12noon. Then fish and animal products were dropped from the list of no-go areas.

Nowadays many people don't really observe Lent at all and if we do, it is often simply by going without something pretty trivial like chocolate, alcohol, caffeine or Facebook, and regularly publicising what we have chosen to deprive ourselves of so that everyone knows.

That hardly fits in with Jesus' guidance: *"When you fast, do not look sombre as*



*the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:16-18).*

Jesus' assumption is clearly that we will fast ("when", rather than "if") although he obviously is not referring specifically to Lent. He also tells us that fasting needs to be something between ourselves and God – a private practice, no publicity. And fasting meant the Jewish practice of absolutely no food or drink for a set period.

Fasting gives us an opportunity to consider our priorities and who is in charge. When Jesus fasted in the Wilderness and was tempted, he turned to the word of God for his answers (Matthew 4:1-10). When I feel pangs of hunger or thirst do I turn to God for sustenance or do I go to the biscuit tin? And, therefore, when I am feeling down, upset or angry, where do I go for comfort – God or Cadbury's?

Rather than being linked to life's luxuries, fasting is also meant to be about stewardship and discipline. Do I have mastery over what I consume or

do food and drink hold power over me? Again, not necessarily about Lent or fasting but Paul wrote, "*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave" (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).*

I'm not sure that no sweeties or social media for forty days counts as striking a blow but going without something that we physically need does.

I guess that ultimately the season of Lent is simply a celebration devised by the early church. It does not have to be adhered to and God has made it abundantly clear that he is not too impressed by empty rituals (Isaiah 1:11, Jeremiah 6:20, Amos 4:4). However, if we do decide to observe it, then perhaps it gives us an opportunity to express to God and admit to ourselves the level of our commitment. And God has an opinion about that too (Revelation 3:16).

**Hugh Boorman**  
**Minister of the Ladygrove Church**

# Coming Up

## Prayer Spaces

It's definitely Prayer Spaces season!

Stephen Freeman School will be having their Prayer Spaces again in the week commencing Monday, 5th February and Northbourne CE School are holding theirs a month later in the week commencing Monday, 5th March. If you would like to volunteer to help at Northbourne, contact Sara Green at [sara@thegreenho.me](mailto:sara@thegreenho.me).

## Emmaus

Our current Emmaus Course, all being well, finishes on 22nd February and we will be starting another one soon after. If you would like to come on it speak to Hugh.

Also, while we have been using the introductory course, there is a more detailed course which looks into the subjects of Prayer, Worship, the Bible, the Church, and Life, Death and Christian Hope in more depth, each one taking 3–5 sessions. If you would like to come on a course on one or more of those topics or would like to use the material for your home group, please speak to Hugh.

## And Something for the Summer

We're planning to have a barbecue, fun and games and an overnight camp after the Messy Church in July. More information will be coming out soon but in the meantime, please keep the weekend of 14/15th July free if you can.

**Hugh Boorman**



## **Sustainable Didcot Repair Café**

**Saturday 17th February 2018  
All Saints Youth and Community Hall, Roman Place  
(opposite the barracks)  
4.30pm – 7.30pm**

Sustainable Didcot will be running their first “Repair Cafe” on 17th February 2018. At the Repair Cafe, we will try to fix broken household items in a collaborative and social way. We will have expert volunteer fixers on hand to work with you to support:

- repairs of household electrical items (incl. computers)
- advice with simple computer problems
- gluing broken items/toys
- mending clothes/up-cycling/fabric crafts
- sharpening knives, tools, etc.

We will PAT test any electrical items to make sure they are safe.

We will be serving tea, coffee and cakes throughout the evening to make it into a social occasion.

[sustainabledidcot@gmail.com](mailto:sustainabledidcot@gmail.com) [www.sustainabledidcot.org.uk](http://www.sustainabledidcot.org.uk)  
or find us on Facebook

So, bring along your broken (or unwanted) electrical items, household items and clothes or blunt tools and we will try to help you repair them. Please don't bring anything that you can't carry (contact us if you are unsure!). You can also donate any unwanted electrical items for us, and we will test them and pass them on to a new home.

The idea is not to provide an anonymous fixing service, but help people learn what needed to be done so that they can gain knowledge from the experts. The items that we can fix will depend entirely on the expertise of our volunteer fixers.

These type of events are also being run by other local groups – for example:

- » Sustainable Wallingford are running their first event on 14th April 2018
- » Wantage Repair Café at the Mix – 1st Saturday of the month starting in January 2018
- » Reading Repair Café – 3rd Sunday of the month
- » Headington “Fix-It” café in the Bullingdon Community Centre in Oxford





Dorchester Team

RIPON COLLEGE  
CUDDESDON

## SCIENCE & RELIGION LECTURE

Thursday 8th February 2018, 7.30pm  
Harriet Monsell Lecture Theatre,  
Ripon College Cuddesdon

Explaining Religion (Away?)  
Evolution, Psychology & Christian Faith

A talk by Revd Dr Jonathan Jong  
Brain, Belief & Behaviour Lab, Coventry University

Can science *explain* religion? And if so, what might that mean for religious believers? Recent developments in the science of religion might unwittingly remind us of the value of traditional conceptions of God.

The Revd Dr Jonathan Jong is a Research Fellow at Coventry University and Assistant Curate at St Mary Magdalen Church, Oxford. He is the author (together with Jamin Halberstadt) of 'Death Anxiety and Religious Belief: An Existential Psychology of Religion'.

**FREE ENTRY. All welcome. Refreshments available.**



Funded in part by a grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation





If you work with children, or are planning to increase your children activities within the church, please join us at

WALLINGFORD DEANERY SYNOD MEETING  
St Matthew's Church, Harwell  
Tuesday 27th Feb, 2018  
19:45 for 20:00

when the main item on the agenda will be:  
**Yvonne Morris, Diocesan Children's Worker**

Yvonne will be talking about how to encourage children & youths into the church. Many of you will have heard Yvonne speaking enthusiastically and she has a great deal of experience to support, encourage and resource churches in their ministry with children.

Please email Wendy Muggeridge if you plan to attend,  
to indicate numbers arriving at St Matthew's:  
[aidwallingforddeanery@gmail.com](mailto:aidwallingforddeanery@gmail.com)



A black horizontal bar with a purple and blue gradient on the left side. The words 'baptist assembly' are written in a white, lowercase, cursive font across the bar.

*baptist assembly*

*Saturday 12 May 2018*

*KingsGate Conference Centre  
Peterborough, 10.30-18.30*

More information available at  
**[baptistassembly.org.uk](http://baptistassembly.org.uk)**

# February Prayer Diary

Feel free to make suggestions of topics that we can add and, in the future, if you would like prayer for something particular on a specific date, whatever it might be, please let one of the editors know and we can add it to this prayer diary.

## Thursday, 1st February

- Please pray for those struggling to find their way in life.
- People living in Nunney Brook.

## Friday, 2nd February

- Please pray for the North East Didcot Development.
- People living in Ashburn Place.

## Saturday, 3rd February

- Please pray for our Member of Parliament, Ed Vaizey.
- People living in Doe Lea.

## Sunday, 4th February

- Please pray for our sung worship – those who play or sing, those who operate the mixing desk and, of course, those who have written such beautiful hymns.
- People living in Brunstock Beck.

## Monday, 5th February

- Please pray for Prayer Spaces taking place at Stephen Freeman School this week.
- People living in Finham Brook.

## Tuesday, 6th February

- Please pray for Sharon Jones, our mission partner in Lima, Peru, as she takes up the baton again after her time in the UK. Her latest news can be found at [www.lifeinlima.com](http://www.lifeinlima.com).
- People living in Ingrebourne Way.

## Wednesday, 7th February

- Please pray for those who have trouble sleeping.
- People living in Stort Close.

## Thursday, 8th February

- Please pray for Kitchen Table.
- People living in Monks Lode.

### Friday, 9th February

- Please pray for God's blessing upon our waste and recycling services.
- People living in Lambwath Stream.

### Saturday, 10th February

- Please pray for our Messy Church meeting this afternoon.
- People living in Prestwick Burn.

### Sunday, 11th February

- Please pray for the other expressions of Christian community in the town.
- People living in Bowmont Water.

### Monday, 12th February

- Please pray for those families who face additional challenges during the school holidays.
- People living in Tarret Burn.

### Tuesday, 13th February

- Please pray for those who experience homelessness in whatever form.
- People living in Blakehope Burn.

### Wednesday, 14th February

- As some of us decide on something to give up for Lent, let's pray for those for whom going without is a way of life.
- People living in Medlock Grove.

### Thursday, 15th February

- Please pray for those working in health services.
- People living in Chinnock Brook.

### Friday, 16th February

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS World Mission partners in Amsterdam. See [www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com](http://www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com) for their latest news.
- People living in Abbey Brook.

### Saturday, 17th February

- Please pray for God's blessing on the Repair Cafe being run by Sustainable Didcot at the All Saints' Youth and Community Centre this evening (see the advert elsewhere in this magazine).
- People living in Sutherland Beck.

### Sunday, 18th February

- Please pray for those who live in fear.
- People living in Dudwell.

### Monday, 19th February

- Please pray for God's blessing upon our local councillors.
- People living in Dart Drive.

### Tuesday, 20th February

- Please pray for our RGB Youth Group meeting at Vaughn and Sarah Lawfull's this evening.
- People living in Alphin Brook.

### Wednesday, 21st February

- Please pray for those in long-term pain.
- People living in Tavy Close.

### Thursday, 22nd February

- Tonight is the final meeting of the current Emmaus Course. Please pray for Julie, Lisa and Sara-Anne as they consider how to take the next step in their journey.
- People living in Dagdale Drive.

### Friday, 23rd February

- Please pray for the Bungokho Rural Development Centre in Mbale, Uganda – our mission partners. See [www.bungokhoruraldevelopment.com](http://www.bungokhoruraldevelopment.com) for more information about their work.
- People living in Cole Court.

### Saturday, 24th February

- Please pray for our police, paramedics and fire brigade.
- People living in Wandle Beck.

### Sunday, 25th February

- Let's give thanks for those who have been influential in our walk with God.
- People living in Old Bourne.

### Monday, 26th February

- Please pray for those working in retail.
- People living in Rawthey Avenue.

### Tuesday, 27th February

- Please pray for our schools and the opportunities that Christians have to serve them.
- People living in Yealm Close.

### Wednesday, 28th February

- Please pray for our Parent/Carer and Toddler Group that meets each Wednesday and Thursday.
- People living in Tweed Drive.

## March

### Thursday, 1st March

- Please pray for Pastor Gay leading the Sante Fe Church in Laguna – our mission partner in the Philippines.
- People living in Cray Court.

### Friday, 2nd March

- Please pray for God's blessing on our music group.
- People living in Brent Avenue.

### Saturday, 3rd March

- Please pray for all those attending the Marriage Preparation Day today and for the ongoing preparations for their big day this year.
- People living in Cherwell Close.

### Sunday, 4th March

- Please pray for those who are not at peace with themselves.
- People living in Ruge Furlong.





# baptist assembly

Saturday 12 May 2018 - KingsGate Conference Centre, Peterborough

**09:30**      **Doors Open**

**09:45 - 10:15**   **Informal BUGB CIO Q&A session**

**10:30 - 12:30**   **A Worshipful Celebration:**  
of all that God has done in and through us by his grace

To include...

- In Memoriam
- Recognition of Ministers and Mission Personnel
- Commissioning address from Kang-San Tan

**10:30 - 12:30**   **Children's programme**

**12:30 - 13:30**   **Lunch**

**13:30 - 14:30**   **Seminars 1:**

**14:30 - 18:30**   **Children's programme**

**14:45 - 15:15**   **BUGB AGM**

**15:15 - 16:45**   **Refreshment Break**

**15:30 - 16:30**   **Seminars 2:**

**16:45 - 17:15**   **BMS World Mission**

**17:30 - 18:30**   **A Worshipful Celebration:**  
praying for ourselves and our  
churches in worship and mission

To include...

- Message from Lynn Green
- Retiring offering

For more details, please visit:  
[www.baptistassembly.org.uk](http://www.baptistassembly.org.uk)



## Baptist Presidency

Once again, the Baptist Union of Great Britain is inviting every member church to vote on the next President for the year 2019-2020 who will act as the Vice-President for the previous year. The President's main role is as a communicator/facilitator of the vision and mission of the Baptist Union, engaging with local churches, regional Associations and Colleges as appropriate. Another key part of the role is the leading of the Baptist Steering Group (BSG) Accompanying Group, which provides prayer support and shares in spiritual and missional reflection with BSG. The Accompanying Group act as 'critical friends' bringing perspectives from beyond the BSG. The President's role as part of this group is in bringing insights from their presidential travels as well as their own particular experience and expertise. As leader of the group, the President will be expected to coordinate the other members of the Accompanying Group, and their contact with BSG.

There will also be occasions when the President will provide a symbol or focus for unity of Baptists Together, and as such will represent the Union at various civic and ecumenical events. There may be some involvement in the annual Assembly, and the President may be invited by BMS World Mission to visit some of their work overseas.

At the service on **Sunday, 4th March**, there will be an opportunity for all of us to have a say on which candidate we would like to become President. To help us in our thoughts and prayers, here are brief profiles of the two candidates:



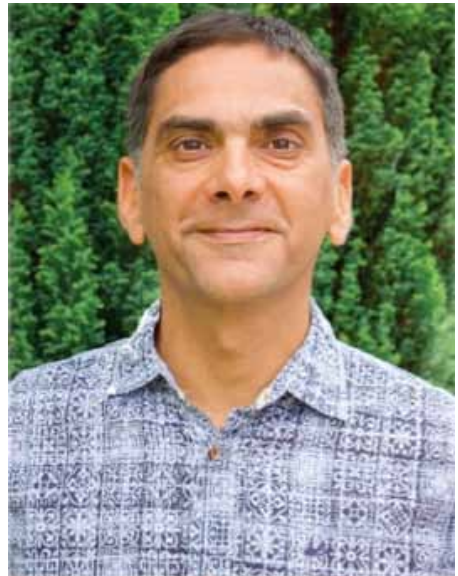
# Ken Benjamin

I am grateful for the chance to introduce myself, both with this written candidate information and with a short video.

**Background:** I am married to Sue, and we have two adult-children both at university. Sue and I grew up in South London and were members of our local Baptist church. I consider myself to have been blessed by being born into a mixed-race family. My Dad was from an Asian background, having been born in Sri-Lanka, and my mum is from a white-British family. Prior to church ministry I was a retail manager and trainer for one of the department stores on Oxford Street and a lecturer, teaching business studies and management skills. I have served as a minister in Chichester Baptist Church for 21 years. I

love the church minister role that I have been called to (most days!) A primary motivation in my standing for consideration for the President role, is a belief that the times that we live in call for us to think beyond our existing patterns and programmes in imaginative and creative ways. To that end, if elected, I would particularly promote two things: An emphasis on both whole-life discipleship and missional communities.

**Whole Life Discipleship:** I am an Associate Speaker for LICC (The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity).



Their message is that all Christians should go into their everyday 'Frontline' world confident that God can work through them. This fits really well in a Baptist context with our emphasis on the priesthood of all believers. Many of our churches already engage with their ideas and resources and I would seek to grow and develop this link. Whatever we seek to do as churches, whatever events we put on or new initiatives we introduce, they will always fall short of their potential unless the individual followers of Jesus, in our churches, are equipped and confident as His representatives. I believe the messages from LICC hold some keys for us at this time and that there is further room to engage with them in a way that specifically fits our denomination.

**Missional Communities:** We appreciate our Sunday services at our church and try to make them as accessible and relevant as possible. But we also recognise that a growing number of people want to explore faith in a completely different environment. So, for the last six years, we have also run various monthly gatherings in a wide variety of contexts and locations [www.chichesterbaptist.org.uk/alternativegatherings.htm](http://www.chichesterbaptist.org.uk/alternativegatherings.htm) A growing number of Baptist Churches are exploring and trying similar ways of reaching out. There is the potential within the role of President to develop ways to share ideas and seek to encourage any churches who are looking to explore new and additional ways of gathering.

**Further information:** I have written a small 'give-away' book about grief and bereavement, 'Some words for another time', which is used by a number of our churches as a resource for funeral services. [www.baptist.org.uk/somewords](http://www.baptist.org.uk/somewords) With my free time, I enjoy playing golf and tennis as well as time away in our VW camper.

In addition to this written information, Ken has provided a video which can be found at: [www.baptist.org.uk/kenbenjamin](http://www.baptist.org.uk/kenbenjamin)

# Linda Turner

Linda spent her childhood in North Shields a fishing town in the North East of England. In 1977 she moved to Bradford, West Yorkshire to undertake her nurse training, moving to Norfolk in 1995 to work as a Forensic Psychiatric Nurse, continuing her education Linda gained a BSc (hons) at the UEA in 2005 eventually becoming the Head of Education and Development for the Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust.

A published author, she married Malcolm in 1978, together they have six children, fourteen grand-children and five great grand-children, life is busy and all about relationships, with both family and church.

As a youth worker for 18 years Linda enjoyed the challenge of working with young people and was a co-ordinator for an international team of young people as part of the Operation Mobilisation 'Love Bradford' mission.

She has been involved in both rural and urban outreach work, including being a lead singer in a Christian band, working with the then Yorkshire Baptist Association Evangelist.



Following her move to Norfolk God called Linda to overseas mission where she worked as a volunteer nurse at an orphanage in Zimbabwe, looking after babies and children orphaned through HIV/AIDS. This experience had a profound effect on her relationship with God.

After retirement in 2010 Linda studied at Spurgeon's Bible College in London and was ordained in August 2013 and is the minister of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Martham, Norfolk, where she was Pastor for ten years. Co-founder of Faithful Radio an online Christian radio station she has a heart for reaching new people with the gospel.

Linda is Moderator of the Eastern Baptist Association - a role which she loves, although this will be coming to an end soon. She also loves to journey with people in the freshness and growth of their developing relationship with God.

If successful in becoming President, Linda's theme 'From Revelation to Elevation' based on John chapter 14, is a journey in recognising that God's character is revealed through Jesus, and Jesus is revealed through us.

The more revelation of God's character in our lives, leads us to a greater elevation in our relationship with him. As the elevation of our relationship with him rises, our ability to do his work and his will also rises.

Linda believes that God wants us to be a prayerful, faithful, believing, healing, teaching, life raising people, to be this, we have to have a revelation of God's character, that leads us to an elevation of our relationship with him.

In addition to this written information, Linda has provided a video which can be found at: [www.baptist.org.uk/lindaturner](http://www.baptist.org.uk/lindaturner)

# BMS Day of Prayer

Sunday 4th February 2018



Churches, homegroups, families and individuals are encouraged to join in praying for God's amazing work through BMS – on 4th February (or another day). Here are some prayer pointers:

1. **“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9: 38)**

*Pray that the Lord will continue to raise up local believers overseas and folk in the UK to serve in mission across the world.*

2. **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10: 10)**

*Pray that the ministries of BMS partners and personnel across the world would be fruitful, and that they would see the abundant life that Jesus promises emerge.*

3. **“On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matthew 16: 18)**

*Pray for Christian communities across the world to grow in terms of people coming to faith in Christ, and pray for deepening discipleship.*

4. **“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” (2 Corinthians 9: 12)**

*Thank God for the generosity of the many churches and individuals who give sacrificially to enable lives to be transformed around the world.*

5. **“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.” (Proverbs 24: 3)**

*Pray for the leadership of BMS, that they would have the wisdom and vision to faithfully follow God's leading.*

6. **“Peace, peace, to those far and near, says the Lord.” (Isaiah 57: 19)**

*Pray for peace and reconciliation in nations currently in conflict.*

## February Diary

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, 1st	9:30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 4th	10:00am	Worship All Together Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are: The Meek
Monday, 5th	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – all welcome
Wednesday, 7th	9.30pm	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	1.45pm	All Saints' School Year 3's Ash Wednesday Service at All Saints' Church. All welcome.
Thursday, 8th	9.30pm	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.30pm	Emmaus Group at 12 Trent Road
Saturday, 10th	8.00am	Leading and Preaching Team Breakfast Meeting
	3.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday, 11th	10.00am	Anglican Communion with Children's Groups Matthew 5:6 - Blessed are: Those Who Hunger and Thirst
Monday, 12th	8.00pm	Messy Church Debrief and Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Sunday, 18th	10.00am	Worship All Together Service Matthew 5:7 - Blessed Are: The Merciful
	12.30pm	Shared Lunch
Monday, 19th	8.00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Wednesday, 21st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 22nd	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
		Morning Service with Children's Groups Matthew 5:8 - Blessed Are: The Pure in Heart
Wednesday, 28th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group

# March Diary

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, 1st	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Saturday, 3rd	10.00am	Marriage Preparation Day at All Saints' Church
Sunday, 4th	10.00am	Worship All Together Matthew 5:9 - Blessed Are: The Peacemakers

## Homegroups

There are a number of homegroups meeting throughout the week at various times and venues - some with a specific focus; others more generic.  
For more details, speak to Hugh.

Tuesdays	7-8:30pm	RGB youth group for secondary school and sixth formers at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the first Tuesday of the month for Bible study Contact Jamie 07881 710171
Thursdays	7:30pm	Kitchen Table for 20's and 30's at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Refresh Ladies' Group at Ruth Busby's home Contact Ruth 511622
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the third Thursday of the month for a social gathering Contact Jamie 07881 710171
	8:00pm	Home Group at Ian and Kathryn Sykes' home Contact Ian and Kathryn 850085

## Messy Church

**Saturday 10th February** - 3-5pm  
Ladygrove Community Centre



Crafts, games, activities and worship for families, followed by tea.  
Offers of help and donations of finger food and cake will be welcome! Please speak to Hugh for more information.

