

Thought for the week: “If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be” (Maya Angelou)

Family news: The service of Thanksgiving for the life of David Barnes will take place at the chapel of Kingsdown Crematorium on Tuesday 16th March at 2.00 pm.

Please Include in your prayers:

- Fairtrade
- International Women’s Day (8th March)
- Highworth URC
- For the return to schools on Monday 8th
- For all those we know who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances.
- For the vaccination in our country and the world.
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches
- Jonathan Edwards – who is to be the transitional minister for Central Church.
- The URC: nationally, the 13 Synods.
- The South Western Synod: Ruth the Moderator, Gwen the Synod Clerk, and all who work for the Synod Office, and the churches of the Synod.
- for the homeless, and rough sleepers
- our leaders in politics, economics, churches, culture, health, commerce, industry, trade unions, armed forces, and all walks of life: wisdom and call to serve.

Hymn for today

When Israel was in Egypt’s land, *Let My people go*;
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, *Let My people go*;
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
Tell old Pharaoh: Let My people go.

The Lord told Moses what to do, *Let My people go*;
To lead the children of Israel through, *Let My people go.*

As Israel stood by the water-side, *Let My people go*;
At God’s command it did divide, *Let My people go.*

When they had reached the other shore, *Let My people go*;
They sang the song of triumph over, *Let My people go.*

Oh, let us all from bondage flee, *Let My people go*;
And let us all in Christ be free, *Let My people go.*
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
Tell old Pharaoh: Let My people go. (Rejoice and Sing 643)

Question: how can you relate this hymn to the Reflection for today?

Discussion Group: Our next Zoom Discussion Group – “Reflecting on the Reflection”, will be next Tuesday, 9th at 2:00 for about 45 minutes. The link for the meeting can be found at the foot of the Reflection each week. Looking forward to seeing you and sharing thoughts, as we Reflect on the Reflection.

International Women’s Day — an annual March 8 observance. The day has been designated as an official United Nations observance since 1975, which was International Women’s Year, and is a national holiday in many parts of the world. The impetus for establishing an International Women’s Day can be traced back to New York City in February 1908, when thousands of women who were garment workers went on strike and marched through the city to protest against their working conditions. In honour of the anniversary of those strikes, which were ongoing for more than a year, a National Women’s Day was celebrated for the first time in the U.S. on Feb. 28, 1909.

A Thank You Message: “I would like to thank you, the minister and the congregation of the church for coming up trumps with our celebration of Iris 100th birthday. There were so many cards and memories of times past. Edith wrote of the much-enjoyed trip to Jerusalem. Geoff and his wife recorded Happy Birthday which made us smile. All contributions were so thoughtful. We thank you again. The Birthday Message from the Queen arrived on time to make the day complete. (I am not so sure about the black envelope.)” This comes from Margaret, Iris Quinn’s sister-in-law.