

Easter Services

Good Friday Communion Service - 10am at Old Mill Hall
Good Friday Act of Witness - 11am on the Green (by Millbrook Square)
Easter Sunday Celebration - 10.30am at Old Mill Hall

Hope unlimited

Good news for the people of Grove and beyond

Issue 9 Spring 2014

In this issue — Cure for Loneliness? ... CoffeePlus ... What's life all about?

Loneliness is twice as bad for your health as obesity!

"We are all social beings and we have a need for rewarding social contacts and relationships." So read the Times headline after a recent study on the effects of loneliness on older people.

A few weeks ago, I experienced the most humbling yet joyful experience in Kenya that bears out the truth of these headlines.



I held little baby Leah Rainbow in my arms for a cuddle. Her mother had sadly

died giving birth to her.

Her father is caring for the family, but urgently needs to find work. In the meantime, his neighbours are clubbing together to give as much as they can toward the £30 a month it costs to buy milk for her.

Clothing her is another expense and so it was with great pleasure that I was able to hand over dozens of jumpers,

knitted by well-wishers here in Grove, Wantage and elsewhere. If you were one of the knitters then I would like to say a huge thank you.

One local lady confessed to us as we collected a bagful of beautifully knitted clothes, that since the death of her husband last year she has been so lonely. But knowing the blessing these jumpers are, has stopped her committing suicide several times. She now has this picture on her mantelpiece.

Little Fiona and Whitney loved their jumpers so much they needed a lot of persuading to take them off.



Both of these 'giving' and 'receiving' stories have touched me profoundly.

If you're feeling lonely, wondering if anyone cares, why not join with us one Sunday when we can give you the opportunity to make new friends.

Fiona Massie

What's the most fantastic news you've ever received?

The headline boldly declared '*Carol Brothers - the woman who came back from the dead*'. Mrs Brothers, a 63 year old grandmother of 8 was expected to die after a cardiac arrest. She was rushed to hospital in an air ambulance and family members were told that there was no chance of a recovery.

Three days after medical support was withdrawn, she was left to 'die in peace'. Then she opened her eyes and told her family 'I'm coming home'. Her daughter visited her and the doctors told her 'Your mum is not going to die'. She was quoted as saying 'I couldn't believe it. It was absolutely fantastic news'.

At Easter millions of world celebrate the fact great enemy of death. is the cornerstone of the come back to life, then anity. We're just wasting



Christians around the that Jesus beat the last The resurrection of Jesus Christian faith. If He didn't there is no truth in Christi- our time.

The Apostle Paul puts it like this "*And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless ...*" 1 Corinthians 15:17 NLT

But, if it is true, the resurrection has the potential to radically change our lives. "*Because Jesus was raised from the dead we've been given a brand new life. We have everything to live for including a future in heaven and that future starts now.*" 1 Peter 1:3-4 *The Message*

The greatest news the world ever heard came from a graveyard — '*He is not here. He has risen*'. Why not take the time to check out the resurrection for yourself at a local church this Easter? Discovering the truth about the risen Jesus Christ will not only be the most fantastic news you've ever heard, it has the potential to change your life.

Pastor Paul John

The Space Academy Holiday Bible Club - 28th July to 1st August - Millbrook School



We are holding another Holiday Bible Club this summer,
followed by a special Sunday morning service on Sunday 3rd August.
If you would like to register your interest in the Holiday Club or request an application form,
please contact Helen Harwood on 07754 392890 or email: funday@gfec.org.uk

He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen - Matthew 28:6



You are welcome to our
Sunday meeting

10.30am

at Old Mill Hall

School Lane, Grove

Morning meetings include a
Children's club & Youth group.

Contact Paul John on
(01235) 210037
www.gfec.org.uk



Tel: 01235 772280
Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Open for drinks & cakes all day.
Sandwiches & hot food prepared
to order till 2.30pm.

Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm, Sat 10am-3pm

Churches working together
serving the Community
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If you have any comments to make or do not wish to receive further editions, please contact us on
(01235) 210037 or email hope@gfec.org.uk

What's life all about? THE ALPHA COURSE



What is Alpha? Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in an informal, fun and friendly environment. The Course consists of a shared meal, followed by a talk, covering topics like 'Is there more to life than this?', 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why and how should I read the Bible?' followed by discussion in small groups.

Who is Alpha for? Alpha is for anyone and everyone, whoever you are, whatever your age or background. No question is out of bounds and you're free to discuss as much or as little as you wish in the small groups.

What should I do now? If you want to find out more information on the Alpha Course please go to www.Alpha.org

For more information about our next course,
please go to pastor@gfec.org.uk

CoffeePlus - but what's the Plus?

CoffeePlus is a group of ladies who meet every Wednesday morning during term time for coffee. The 'Plus' factor is that we include God in our times together. Some of the group have been meeting for nearly 35 years and form part of Grove Free Evangelical Church.

Our times include discussions, Bible studies or DVDs on a Christian topic, followed by a prayer time. Recently we watched the story of Sue Thomas (a deaf FBI agent), discussed the dangers of the internet and talked about grief and suffering - all relevant subjects today. We've heard reports about Christian charity work overseas. There's the opportunity for everyone to share what is happening in their own lives and for us to pray for them.

We also receive prayer requests from other members of the church and the community which we are pleased to bring to God knowing that He hears

our prayers. At the end of every term we have lunch together giving us a great opportunity to get to know each other better, as do our occasional outings.

CoffeePlus is valued by our group members in so many different ways:



"CoffeePlus is so friendly, I love going!"

"CoffeePlus is great for friendship and support".

"The Bible studies and DVDs are really thought provoking".

If you would like to find out more about CoffeePlus or ask us to pray for you, a family member or friend, please email coffeepius@gfec.org.uk.

Sarah