FROM THE RABBI Esther Hugenholtz

When I switch on the services, week after week, I

each other and I am so grateful that we have the

delight in seeing your faces. We schmooze and

A colleague of mine, Rabbi Adam Greenwald, posted the following on Facebook:

"And it's March, again. And also it's always been March."

Can I get a rousing 'amen'?

For those of you into space flight, NASA or living vicariously through such things through sciencefiction, you'll get my reference that we could have been on Mars by now and even started harvesting our first crop of dome-

grown potatoes. (There's a movie titled 'The Martian' - based on a novel – featuring Matt Damon where the protagonist travels

to Mars on an eight-

month space flight

the mind to contemplate both how fast and slow this year has gone by. As vaccines continue to roll out and as mutant strains continue to emerge, we are now entering a tense period of hope and fear, a showdown between the titans of human science and viral evolution. In some ways, this reminds me of the Passover story. That story too, recounts an epic battle between God and Pharaoh, forces beyond our understanding and reckoning; where both Israelite slaves and ordinary Egyptians find

> world. I am also reminded of the resilience of that story. Be it boils, hail, frogs or darkness – the Israelites bonded together and, as the Torah tells us, they

themselves at the mercy

of the tremors of their

discuss a little more; time spent connecting on the screen rather than the social hall. Our educational programming and religion school serves a similar role. This is a time to connect, check in and be with