

Dear Friends

Welcome to our April 2018 prayer and information newsletter. I'm delighted that the newsletters are now added to our website and being read widely.

As the writing of the newsletter corresponds with Easter for this year I wish all our readers a very blessed Easter. I often think that the adopting of the name of the Saxon, pagan, goddess Estre, whose symbol was a rabbit, is a strange tradition for such a wonderful festival with deep Jewish roots and a strong Christian pulse. Nevertheless, I'm looking forward to our Easter service on Sunday 01 April when we can celebrate the true meaning of the occasion together, which is beautifully summarised by Paul in his writings; 'For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures' 1 Corinthians 15 v 3 + 4. This text is generally thought to be the first 'Confession' of the early church and what makes it really remarkable is that the New Testament Church did not have the New Testament, they were completely dependent upon the Older Testament and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Someone once said that the heart of Christianity is bracketed by two impossibilities; 'A virgin's womb and an empty tomb'. We give all the glory to the Lord for the unique and precious way he has revealed his salvation history to us.

Our 'Immerse the Mission in prayer' meeting for the month of April will be held at 7 00 pm on Wednesday 04 April, please join us for this important time.

Our Mission of the Month for April will be Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW). I have been a Trustee of this organisation for thirty years and as I was reflecting about whether I should continue for another term the Governance committee sent me an arm-twisting email requesting that I continue for another spell as a trustee. I am persuaded that when the Lord 'calls' you into a work or ministry he will also clearly call you out of the work in his own gracious time and way. It has been an exceptional privilege to be involved with CSW throughout this period and participating in its growth and success over the years. During the month we will welcome Ruth Donaldson to the Mission. Ruth is the Scottish development officer and she is doing a fantastic job of promoting CSW throughout the nation.

Matters carried over from March;

We held our local pastors and church leaders' prayer and intercession meeting for the month of March in the new Lighthouse offices in Tillydrone. What was amazing about this occasion is that the offices are above where the old Broadsword pub used to be before its demolition. The Broadsword had been a place with a considerable reputation as a 'stronghold' for iniquity and now to be sitting above 'what was' and enjoying a time of fellowship, prayer and celebration together was an answer to our many prayers for the work of God's kingdom in that area. It is a wonderful experience to observe the transforming grace that changed what was into 'what is' and is now a powerful witness to the local community.

The new Sunday morning teaching theme, 'The Holy Spirit in the Luke - Acts writings' is a wonderful series to be involved with. I trust it is a blessing to the congregation as well as to Steven and myself who are teaching it.

We have also decided to compliment this series by using the Luke - Acts passages from the publication The Story, each Wednesday evening. This series is one of the Community Bible Experiences which subtly changes our more traditional Bible studies into something alike to a Book Club. Even if you cannot make it on Wednesdays please take a copy of The Story home with you and use it on your own or with a friend. It is a helpful and instructive resource for us.

During March the first of our new Cafe - style / Mission focused services took place. I'm thankful that it was well received and we look forward to having more of these in the future, usually on the second Sunday in the Month.

The Easter Journey week, which involved a large team working with staff and pupils from five primary schools was an amazing time of blessing. Each day began by saturating the occasion in prayer and the corresponding unity amongst the team was refreshing. The openness and the joy of the children was evident throughout and we pray that the many seeds sown will lead to harvest in the future. I know she wouldn't want to be singled-out but the team are very grateful to Cheri from Scripture Union for her gracious and careful leadership. The 'Journey' moved out to Alford following its time in the Mission and we wish it much fruit there also.

Our annual Palm Sunday Walk with the Donside Christian Partnership was another very special time for us. There was a lovely warmth and unity amongst the walkers and the pleasant atmosphere generated in the Mission during the refreshments following the walk was delightful. The next 'Donside' event will be the Pentecost BBQ due to be held in Woodside Parish Church at 2 00 pm on Sunday 20 May.

Items for prayer during April;

Easter Day! During our Easter celebration Steven will preach an Easter message and we will share communion together. Later in the day I will preach an Easter message in the Fittie Mission. Please pray for these opportunities that we have to highlight the wonderful truths about Easter.

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| Tue 03 April 10 30 am | The local pastors and church leaders meeting for prayer and intercession.  |
| Wed 04 April 7 00 pm  | Immerse the Mission in prayer meeting for the month of April.  |
| Sat 14 April 9 30 am  | Renewing your passion for Christ. with Gary Wilkerson, son of David Wilkerson of the cross and the switchblade fame in Kings community Church. |
| 5 30 pm               | Powerpoint, pizza gathering.   |
| Fri 20 April 7 30 pm  | City - wide prayer gathering in Ferryhill Parish Church.   |
| Sat 28 April 9 30 am  | The annual Mission DIY day. Please see Alasdair for a list of the chores which need attention.   |
| 10 00 am              | Meet the MP's and MSP's event which Steven and I will be attending on behalf of the Mission.at the BB HQ in Crimond Place.                     |
| Mon 30 – Fri 18 May   | STUDY SPACE for AU students during their exam leave. Please speak to Hector or Steven if you would like to help out.                           |

I was deeply moved when I read in Ecclesiastes these words, 'He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of mankind... I know that everything God does will endure forever, nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so people will 'revere' him'. Ecclesiastes 3 v 9 to 14.

May this month be a time when our reverence and affection for God increases and our lives are transformed by the resurrection power of Jesus.

With warmest blessings on behalf of the Mission Church elders.

Hector

*You're invited!*

Join us every  
Sunday at 11am

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