

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our May 2018 prayer and information newsletter. Life in the Mission continues to be busy, rich and full and I'm confident that the month of May will be similar. Our monthly 'Immerse the Mission in prayer for the month of May' will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, 02 May at 7 00 pm.

May is also the month during which we celebrate Pentecost. This festival was held fifty days after Passover and marked the start of the wheat harvest for Jewish people. Jews usually give thanks for the Torah (Law) that Moses received from God on Mount Sinai at this time. It was during the celebration of Pentecost in Jerusalem that we learn about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. I'm looking forward to enjoying Pentecost Sunday on the 20 May and the services and events that have been arranged for that day.

It may be of interest to readers to know about a couple of traditions that have developed to mark Pentecost, one being from Italy where believers scatter rose petals which represent the tongues of fire and another from France where Christians blow trumpets to represent the mighty rushing wind. I wonder if we have creative ways which would help us to symbolise and celebrate this great occasion!

I was listening to a colleague recently who said that he wished his congregation could 'do less better'. Much as I wish to embrace this approach to ministry it doesn't seem a likely or realistic possibility in the near future. However, we continue to learn and grow together as we enjoy our challenging Sunday morning teaching themes; The Holy Spirit in the Luke - Acts writings and Living the new Jerusalem in advance. It has also been a reason for satisfaction to see how people engage with the Story as part of our Community Bible Experience on Wednesday evenings. All of these learning opportunities help us to share our lives together and to know the will and purpose of God in deeper and richer ways.

Our Mission of the month for May is India Village Ministries. IVM began its existence within the Mission building which gives us a special interest in its people and activities. We are looking forward to welcoming Peter Ross, one of the IVM trustees, who will provide a short update about their work during our café-style service on Sunday morning 13 May.

Matters carried over from April;

I was very moved by the response to the invitation to our DIY / Spring Clean day. Many people came along to volunteer and I was delighted to learn that amongst a very international group of volunteers there were a considerable number from Syria. I am very happy to extend an invitation to you which I have received from the Syrian Families to attend a charity meal they are arranging at 4 00 pm on Sunday 13 May. Please contact me for further information if you wish to attend. The building now looks so cared for and spotless so my sincere thanks to all who turned up and helped out. Please pray that as we reach out both to local people and our international visitors that the Holy Spirit would touch their lives with his transforming power and grace.

At the same time as the Spring Clean, Steven and I were attending the 'Meet the MP's and MSP's' event to showcase the Mission. This turned out to be an exceptionally enjoyable and worthwhile occasion. Many congregations and Christian organisations attended and there was considerable interest in the Missions ministry and work. We met many old friends and made many new ones and I felt a great joy and deep satisfaction about the evident respect, affection and appreciation in which the Mission is held by many. I had prepared a poster entitled 'Life in the Mission Church in a nutshell' which is now displayed on the wall of the upper hall. Please continue to pray for our congregation and for a time of righteous reaping of the many kingdom seeds we sow.

Steven and I had also recently attended a conference entitled 'Just Church' exploring issues of justice, compassion and righteousness. It was a helpful event during which we learned about a new and different way through which people journey to Jesus. The steps are Cause, Community and Christ. It seems that frequently, especially for young people, the journey to Jesus begins with a cause that addresses injustice and ends with the discovery that Jesus champions those affected by injustices. Please pray that we would continue to be a meaningful voice which defends just and righteous causes.

Study Space for students during the exam diet began on Monday 23 April and continues until Friday 18 May. Please pray blessing on all our students who add such a richness and energy to the life of the Mission. We will miss them during the summer months but wish them a super time whatever they do and wherever they travel.

Items for prayer during May;

Tue 01 May, 10 30 am	The local Pastors and Church leaders monthly meeting for prayer and intercession for the area.
Wed 02 May, 10 30 am	Donside Christian Partners meeting in Credo.
12 00 pm	Integration meeting for Syrian families.
7 00 pm	Immerse the Mission in prayer for the month of May and the weekly CBE.
Fri 04 May, 10 00 am	Planning meeting for the 'Leavers Journey'. This is a new initiative which will involve welcoming P7 pupils from the feeder primary schools associated with St. Machar Academy to the Mission during the last week of May for a fun-filled, Jesus centred transition event.
Sat 04 May, 6 00 pm	City - Praise in the Altens Hotel, I will be taking part in this event.
Tue 08 May, 7 00 pm	Deacons meeting.
Thur 10 May, 7 00 pm	AGM.
Sun 13 May, 11 00 am	Cafe - style family service exploring, 'living the new Jerusalem in advance' and hearing about IVM our Mission of the Month.
Mon 14 May, 9 30 am	School Pastors prayer and planning meeting
7 00 pm	Make Lunch team, planning meeting.
Fri 18 May, 7 30 pm	City - Wide prayer gathering in Summerhill Parish Church.
Sun 20 May, 2 00 pm	Pentecost Day with the annual DCP BBQ in Woodside Parish Church
Thur 24 May 7 00 pm	Friendship House Worship Service. This is an initiative organised by our friend Prof. John Swinton to provide a worship meeting for those who have learning disabilities.
Sat 26 May, 9 30 am	Me, my Selfie and I. A conference exploring what the Bible says about our on-line lives arranged by Trinity Church.
Wed 30 May - Fri 01 June	P7 Leavers Journeys.

I was reading Romans 12 this morning, among the many exhortations to the church in Rome the writer Paul includes this one in verse 12, 'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer'. May we be blessed with a spirit of faithfulness in prayer as we seek to be blessed and be a blessing during this coming month.

With warmest blessings on behalf of the Mission Church elders,

Hector

You're invited!

Join us every
Sunday at 11am

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