

Dear friends and partners of the Mission Church,

Welcome to our March Prayer / Newsletter. I'm very thankful by how far-reaching and widely appreciated the newsletters have become.

As 2020 marches on so quickly and imperceptibly it's been a surprise for many that the period of Lent has already arrived. It may be that you are not too concerned about the dates and seasons of the Christian calendar, nevertheless, Lent can be a helpful season of reflection and self-examination. Our friend Sinclair Ferguson has written a very informative, devotional guide to Lent entitled 'To seek and to save!' (Luke 19 v 10). Sinclair begins the story of the Journey of Jesus from Luke chapter 9 and follows his encounters and experiences as he heads on the road to Jerusalem to his trials, death, burial and resurrection. I highly recommend it to you.

I have been profoundly challenged recently about the story of king David and his kindness to Mephibosheth recorded in 2 Samuel 9. David desired to extend hospitality to any of the family of King Saul who still remained alive. The story ends up with this grandson of Saul, who had suffered critical injuries, sitting daily at the table of the King and enjoying the respect and honour which life in the palace affords. David was described by Samuel 'as a man after God's own heart' and such a heart, whether true of an individual or congregation, will be characterised by a gracious kindness to others.

As I apply the essence of this story to Mission, I was amazed at the variety of people that we extend hospitality to. These include; International women and children, local and international students, refugees, people experiencing food poverty, school children from both primary and secondary sectors and a variety of others who visit our premises regularly or occasionally. On a typical week, especially during term time, 500 people or more can cross our threshold. I trust that they all receive a similar royal welcome of hospitality and generosity. During one of our recent children's talks we were reminded of the qualities that a happy and 'kingdom' home has and these include love, joy, peace, kindness and patience. My prayer is that our many visitors recognise these attributes and I would be grateful if you would join with me in praying for an increase in these characteristics amongst us.

Having so many building users obviously stretches our resources to the limits, so practical gifts of commodities like tea, coffee, biscuits, toilet rolls, printing paper etc. are very welcome indeed. Please either leave them in the kitchen or hand them into the office and however small or great the contribution, all will be greatly appreciated.

As we continue in our Mission and the powerful call of God upon us, fervent prayer is all the more essential. We will hold our 'Soak the Mission in prayers for March 2020' meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 04 March. Please join us for this important time together. During the meeting we will pray for the important work of Latin Link which is our Mission of the Month for March.

Matters for prayer carried over from February;

The work of Tearfund is always worthy of our prayers. As our February Mission of the month is was stimulating to be reminded about some of the work they are involved with and we should remember them in our prayers. The AUCU (Abdn Uni Christian Union) events week went well and we continue to pray about their follow-up / discipleship series held on Thursday evenings here in the Mission.

Please continue to pray for all the expressions of the precious 'unity' with others that Steven and/or I have connections with. These include; the local pastors and church leaders prayer group, DCP (Donside Christian Partnership), the city-wide prayer gatherings, the city pastors monthly lunches, NESELN (The North East of Scotland Evangelical leaders Network) and a variety of other connections.

The organisations and people who work out of the office always appreciate prayer. These include; SAMS, SU The Mission, Friends International and School Pastors.

Please continue to pray for the regular meetings usually held weekly in the Mission, these include; CAMEO, IBS (Int'l Bible Study), Drop-in for Syrian families, SAMS, Foodbank, iCafe's, Sunday School, Young Adults, AUCU, Just Love and our wonderful cleaners.

Dates for your diary and matters for prayer throughout March 2020;

Sun	01	11:00 am	Family service with communion
Tue	03	9:15 am	Local pastors and Church leaders prayer meeting in The Tilly Hub
Wed	04	10:00 am	Easter Journey planning meeting
		2:00 pm	St Machar catchment area Partners Forum
		7:00 pm	Immerse the Mission in prayer for the Month of March meeting
Thur	05	10:00 am	DCP meeting in the Chaplaincy
Sat	07	6:30 pm	We have been invited to join with our friends from DCFC for their Mission's weekend meal.
Sun	08	11:00 am	Cafe - style service followed by our monthly congregational lunch
Sun	15	3:30 pm	We have been invited to join The El Shaddai Church praise event in Sheddocksley Baptist Church
Thur	19	All day	The Fisherman's Tale drama for local school children with a performance at 6 00 pm for adults in the Mission.
Fri	20	7:30 pm	The City - wide prayer gathering, Gilcomston Church. Union Street
Thur	26	7:00 pm	iCafe
Sat	28	All day	Cakefest event for Friends of Seaton Park with set - up on the Friday Evening.
Sun	29	1:00 pm	Set - up for Easter Journey 2020.
Mon	30 - Fri 03 April		Easter Journey

The Apostle Paul wrote these amazing words to his friends in Philippi from his prison cell in Rome; 'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus'. I endorse his sentiment enthusiastically.

With warmest blessings on behalf of the Mission Church eldership,

Hector

You're invited!
 Join us every
 Sunday at 11am

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