

Dear friends,

Welcome to our November prayer / newsletter. I'm thankful that from small beginnings the circulation of this newsletter has grown considerably. As Oswald Chambers once said, 'Prayer does not fit us for a greater work, prayer is the greater work.'

Persuaded by this quotation, our 'Immerse the Mission in Prayer' meeting for the month of November will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 04 November, via Zoom. Please join us for this important occasion, during which we will pray for our Mission of the Month, Blythswood Care.

November is a very busy month in both the Christian and secular calendar - All Saints Day on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Guy Fawkes Night on 5<sup>th</sup>, Remembrance Day on the 11<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday in Advent on the 29<sup>th</sup>, St. Andrews Day on the 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition to these well-known dates, there are 2 other interesting dates coming up this month – namely Stiring Sunday and the International Day of Prayer for persecuted believers (IDOP).

This year IDOP is being held in the UK on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November. It is promoted by The Religious Liberty Commission which is a partnership of the Evangelical Alliance, Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Release International. These organisations provide helpful guides to equip us to pray in a meaningful and informed way. We recognise the value of prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, so we plan to hold a Zoom meeting at 7pm on this day. Please contact Steven or me if you wish to join and we will ensure that you receive the Zoom details.

Stiring Sunday is an old tradition which prepares the church for the Christmas season. This year it is celebrated on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The idea behind Stiring Sunday is simply to 'stir' your Christmas pudding. The pudding should have 13 ingredients - one each for Jesus and the 12 Apostles, and it should be stirred from east to west to acknowledge the wise men who came from the east. Please ask me if you would like a list of the 13 ingredients. Stiring Sunday is a reminder to pray that the Lord would stir-up our hearts as we anticipate the coming of the Christ-child into the world. The Stiring Sunday prayer is: 'Stir up, we beseech thee O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people, that they will plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works and may of thee be plenteously rewarded, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

### **Opening Up!**

We are very thankful for both Zoom and Facebook Live, which has meant that we have been able to continue with our pattern of worship services. Nevertheless, we have missed the fellowship of people and so are delighted to inform you that we plan to reopen on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 11am. Plans are being made for this and we will inform you of the conditions and protocols in due course.

### **Wednesday Prayer, Sermon Review and Catch-up Meetings via Zoom**

We continue to meet at 7pm on Wednesday evenings via Zoom for sermon review, prayer and catch-up. Following some helpful suggestions, we plan to make a few changes, starting this month.

We will start our meetings with a reading of the passage, followed by quiet reflection and prayer.

We will then consider the following standard questions:

1. Is there anything in the text you would like further explanation about?
2. Was there anything that encouraged you?
3. Is there anything in the text we should emphasise?
4. Is there anybody we should pray for that this text would be a blessing to?
5. Is there any congregational action we should be taking in response to the text?

The meeting will close with a time of catch-up and prayer for each other.

### **The Lighthouse**

Over the years, we have worked closely with John Merson and the Lighthouse in Tillydrone. We rejoice with them now that they have taken over the former Tilly Community Centre and Library for their work. We assure them of our continued prayer and practical support.

### Vulnerable Children in Aberdeen

We are deeply concerned about the many children in Aberdeen who need fostering or adopting. We are grateful to Jeannette Mackay who is taking a lead on this issue, informing congregations about the issue and encouraging prayerful and practical response. 'Home for Good' and 'Safe Families' are 2 Christian organisations involved in this area. We remember them and Jeannette in our prayers.

### Tearfund Quiz

Tearfund is a Mission we support wholeheartedly in The Mission. They we will be holding an online quiz on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November which we have registered for. If you wish to join in, please contact Steven for more information. It promises to be a fun night and should raise much needed funds for Tearfund.

Matters carried over from October which we should continue to pray about:

- Operation Mobilisation. It was super to hear an update from Phil Rose last month.
- Our Syrian friends from the 'Shared Futures' group. I have recently been able to deliver food parcels to a couple of families. They all said how much they miss the weekly drop-in sessions to The Mission.
- We remain in close contact with the Footdee Mission, with both Steven and I preaching there recently. Please continue to pray for Fittie!

Dates for your diaries and prayers;

Sun	01 Nov	11 00 am	Family service with communion via FB Live
Mon	02 Nov	9 30 am	Shoebox collection
Tues	03 Nov	9 00 am	Local pastors and church leaders meeting for prayer via Zoom
		4 00 pm	Shared Futures meeting about gypsy travellers via Zoom
Wed	04 Nov	7 00 pm	Immerse the month of November in prayers for The Mission via Zoom
Sun	08 Nov	10 55 am	Remembrance Day service via FB Live
Wed	11 Nov	2 00 pm	EA review of North East of Scotland churches
Sat	14 Nov	7 00 pm	Tearfund Quiz
Sun	15 Nov	11 00 am	Service to 'open-up' the Mission to people, also via Facebook live
Fri	20 Nov	7 30 pm	City-wide prayer, hosted (in-person) by Hillview Community Church
Sun	22 Nov		Visit to the Mission by the Laver family.
Sun	06 Dec	11 00 am	Service to be led by AUCU

Reflecting on the story of the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25 v 1 to 13, Gordon recently asked me, 'If the bridegroom came now, would you be ready to meet him?' My desire for us all is that, when the time comes, we will be prepared so that, when the door is shut, we will all be on the inside. We must all join in prayer for this outcome! Jesus concludes the parable, solemnly and in the following terms - 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.'

With warmest blessings and very best wishes,  
Hector and the Mission elders.

*You're invited!*

Join us every

Sunday at 11am on



St. Machar Drive, AB24 3RX

Tel. 01224 277265 Email: [office@the-mission.org.uk](mailto:office@the-mission.org.uk)

Web: [www.the-mission.org.uk](http://www.the-mission.org.uk) Facebook: The Mission Church Aberdeen