



Disciple

The Weekly Newsletter of The MCC of Manchester

Sunday 24th May 2009

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Welcome to this newsletter and to the ministry of MCC Manchester. If this is your first contact with us, know that you are welcome. You can take part in our ministry through attending our worship services or mid week meetings, or by using the various resources on our website. You can keep in touch with us in person, by email, or by text. It is our prayer that our people grow as committed disciples of the Lord Jesus.

Today's Service celebrated the Ascension. At the end of his earthly ministry Jesus ascended to Heaven and now sits as the Universal King. We are both his subjects and citizens of this world and sometimes this causes tensions between our values as Christians and the way of the world.

Thanks. Thank you for your generosity last week. 34 people attended last week and gave £132 in the collection.

Mid Week Service. There is no midweek service this week due to a concert being held in the main church.

New Members. We have a number of new members joining over the next few weeks. Next Sunday we will celebrate Anne's baptism and reception into membership along with Alan, David and Lynette. We are also planning a membership reception for Sarah, May and Paul who can't make church next week. Two others are exploring membership, Neil has rejoined and Elaine Gaston, formerly of MCC Brighton has been enrolled by the Board. Once all those who have confirmed they are joining have been enrolled we will have 41 members, up from 33. We hope to hold another membership class after the Summer.

Mary's Meals During May St Chrysostom's are having a special appeal during for *Mary's Meals* - a special charity which provides school meals for small children in deprived countries of the world. There will be a plate to receive donations next to Mary's statue, in church. We are inviting everyone to put 20p on the plate during May. 20p gives a child

In Your Prayers

*Please
remember*

Those who are ill in mind, body or spirit, especially Terry, Smiley and Elaine's mum.

To give thanks for the recovery of Andy's friend Elaine. The doctors have removed her lump and have now decided she doesn't need any more radio therapy. She will have check ups every three months.

Birthdays in May

23rd Jane
Caldwell

Daily Devotional

You can get our daily devotional in church or on our website. It is designed to help us grow spiritually by giving a resource for our own daily prayer

in a deprived country in Africa a school meal for a week! Its not much to give and it gives a lot. Please put 20p – or more – on the plate next to Mary’s statue, in church, during May.

Can You Sing or Play an Instrument? We are always looking to expand our choir and musical input on Sundays. If you can sing – or at least one to explore singing speak to Philip and turn up at 3pm on Sundays for the choir practice. If you can play a musical instrument again speak to Philip and we will try you out!

News from our Wider Fellowship.....our elder, the Rev Glenna Shepherd is the new pastor **of MCC Edinburgh**. It has been announced that she will be working with them on a part time basis until the end of the year. **MCC East London** has called a new pastor, the Rev Margarita Sanchez who formerly worked for our church in Puerto Rico. This means that all our UK churches have qualified pastors whilst two of our mainland churches, Montpelier and Cologne have lay pastors. Ines-Paul in Cologne is nearing the end of his studies for ordination.

Out and Proud in Tameside. Tameside is the local authority which covers the part of East Manchester which includes Denton, Ashton and the surrounding areas. Proud Tameside is a network of individuals from the lgbt communities in Tameside which works towards identifying, promoting and improving services for lgbt people in the Borough. Philip, Barry and Ian from our congregation are involved with this group. You can keep up to date with their activities via <http://tinyurl.com/proudtameside> For the International Day Against Homophobia, Proud Tameside held a 'Walk to IDAHO'. Participants assembled in front of Ashton Town Hall and around 50 people then walked to a local park where a rally took place. The Town Hall flew the Rainbow flag. Walkers handed out leaflets to many passers-by on the way, explaining the principles of IDAHO Day and promoting the Proud Tameside LGBT Network, and many passing motorists sounded their horns in support of the cause. At the rally in the park, speakers recalled the beginnings of the IDAHO event; heard case studies of lesbian, gay, and transgender people around the world who have been imprisoned, tortured or even killed because of who they were; and reviewed the huge progress towards equal rights which lgbt people in the UK have achieved in recent years. Peter Tatchell, the famous international campaigner for lgbt rights, sent a message to the rally; at the same time he was marching, and being arrested, in Moscow whose city authorities had banned a similar event. Angela Mason, former director of the gay and lesbian campaigning group Stonewall also sent a message to the rally: "In this country we can celebrate many changes: legal discrimination against lesbians and gay men has gone, we have civil partnerships, but we all know that prejudice and simple lack of understanding still exists and that the rise of the far Right poses new challenges and threats. In the future we have to work not only to come out in our communities but to work in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who also face discrimination and prejudice. We have to build a society where the dignity of all individuals is respected and understood. "Remember, things don't change, people change things."

times. It consists of a short "order of worship" of a Psalm, other Biblical reading and a reflection. It also gives ideas of things to pray for.

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