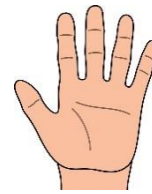


Reflection May 2024



My Dear Friends, today I want to stand with our Faith lead at MSH, Ish, to issue you with an invitation to be part of 'Thy Kingdom Come' the worldwide ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension Day on the 9th May until Pentecost on the 19th May for people to come to know our Saviour Jesus Christ. Since its conception in 2016 it has grown into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in

prayer, that is nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions. Because of this it has a special place in the heart of MU. This year MU is asking us to 'pray for five, invite one' that is to say we are being asked to pray [something I know you are all very good at] for family, friends and neighbours who do not yet know the Lord.



Then we as individual members are being encouraged to invite one person to join in an MU activity. Now I know many of you are no longer able to attend MU meetings but if you are in touch with local members, and I hope you are, then please speak to your contact, find out what activities they are doing at this time and give them the name of the person you have invited in this way. Many resources are available for this event and your local branch should have received information on what these are and where to find them. As previously mentioned, this event takes place between Ascensions Day and Pentecost, two very important days for us as Christians. The bible tells us that on the day of the ascension, Jesus was standing speaking with his friends when a cloud came, and he was lifted up out of their sight. That must have been a really strange experience for those left standing and I am sure they would have wondered what would happen to them now that their leader had gone.

Sometimes people seem to disappear from our lives too, maybe they move away or are no longer able to visit because of age or infirmity, but just like the disciples found when Jesus was taken up to heaven, as one door closes another door opens and that is just what happened at Pentecost when God sent his Holy Spirit into their hearts and lives. So, as we go through this time of waiting and then celebration let us remind ourselves that we are not alone God is always with us upholding us and supporting us. We only have to look out of the window at His creation to know that someone who is able to give us birds who sing to us, flowers which smile at us, trees which lead us to look up to the sky with its different shapes of clouds, all of which are full of colour and beauty can only be the best friend we can ever have. So, my friends I wish you joy as **Thy Kingdom Come** is echoed all around the world.

Love & Prayers

Jenny

Let us Pray

Father God, we pray for thy kingdom to come into our world, into our homes and into our lives. We hold before you all who will join in the wonderful time of prayer, praise, and celebration. We ask that we may stand beside others to worship as we ask you to reach out your hand and touch lives of the five people we are praying for right now. We ask that you bring blessing to the one person who has been invited to join with Mothers' Union in an activity of their choice, may their eyes be opened to understand better the work undertaken by the members. We ask this prayer in Jesus' name. AMEN

O God our Saviour, we bring before you all whom you are calling to lead this wonderful organisation forward into the next triennium. As voting gets underway open their eyes, hearts, and minds to hear your voice and respond to the call. Help us also to use our voice, if we are not able to vote, to guide those who are to vote wisely and with understanding. We pray too for all at MSH whose job it is to ensure that voting is fair. Give them your strength to carry out the work and give them your peace to know that they have done the job well. Father, we are in your hands and ask that your kingdom come, your will be done, now and always. AMEN