



Dear friends

Buon giorno, Buona sera depending on what time of day you are reading this! After spending the last 10 days in Sorrento, Italy it seemed a fitting start, although any further Italian references will be down to Google! Due to juggling with dates my first task back is to put pen to paper for this prayer letter, and I do so with the usual mix of anticipation, optimism and apprehension for the academic year ahead. If I'm honest as I get older (birthday this week!) I often feel I know less and less which at times is quite unsettling, but it also encourages me to search more urgently for the heart and will of God. I'm not going to pretend I am anywhere close to having a regular understanding or experience of what that is, but I am more convinced than ever that to 'succeed' I/we need to draw on and experience Him. I can no longer rely on the youthful energy and zeal that I once had in abundance: I need a change of perspective. I was asked to lead a service in my home church in early August and for weeks prior I struggled to know what to focus upon until I was led to recall a video which looks at the 'stories' of Mary of Bethany. Mary of Bethany appears in three main narratives: Mary and Martha, the raising of Lazarus, and the anointing of Jesus. Each time Mary is found at the **feet of Jesus**. Mary of Bethany is not known for great miracles, teaching or doing anything distinctive; Mary is known for being at the feet of Jesus. It's recognised that Mary had a special bond with Jesus and I suspect it's because she came to Jesus ready to listen and learn, with respect, anticipation and courage, often doing so against the cultural norm of the day. I think the challenge for me is to become more of a Mary of Bethany and be found at the feet of Jesus. I suspect I am not alone!

GenR8 News – We are delighted to announce that Sian Thorne has joined GenR8 as our Inspire Prayer Spaces Director. What is particularly exciting about Sian joining our team is that she is well known to us: her mum (Sarah) has been a volunteer since 2004 and Sian herself has experienced GenR8 through being a local teacher for 8 years, and also as an It's Your Move volunteer. Please pray that Sian will settle into her role as we support her in this transition.

'Celebr8 GenR8' Showcase – We may be in danger of labouring our showcase evening on Tuesday 2nd October (7.30-9pm) at Histon Baptist Church, but we are really keen to let you see and hear more about what we do. We would love it if you could join us for this evening! More information is on the invitation attached.

Volunteers – We are greatly encouraged that Nick Cassidy (Adult Team), Naomi Meeks, Millie Durrant and Aaron Au (Young Team) are joining our Xcellr8 team for 2019, also that Joanne Jackson is joining us as a bookings co-ordinator and assembly team volunteer. Brilliant!

"I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended." - Nelson Mandela

-  For protection and God's favour in and through all the initiatives and people involved in GenR8.
-  For Megan working towards a second year in Australia, Ellen at Cambridge Building Society, Millie as she returns to Middlesex University and Alfie as he starts GCSEs.
-  To be open to God's path for the future.
-  For more volunteers to join our assembly and Inspire prayer space teams.
-  For all the activities this term including; 26 Cool Choices dates (Sept/Oct), Showcase (2nd Oct), Train Up (Children's Worker Training day on 13th Oct), Children's Worker Network (10th Sept), Church services at Hardwick, Comberton and Haddenham, and our Christmas assembly presentations (Nov/Dec).

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. – Luke 10: 38-39