

UPDATE
14th May
2020



www.meadowbank.church

Dear friends

I draw your attention to these point for prayer

ASHA—from the slums of India

This week the UPDATE has a focus on the work of ASHA in the slums of India with a feature from Eleanor and Mickey Robertson on the back page

10-16 May is Christian Aid Week

The work of Christian Aid has rarely been more important as the poorest nations of the world grapple with the impact of COVID19. Imagine being in a country where there are fewer than 10 ventilators; living in conditions where soap and running water are luxuries; where overcrowding is part and parcel of life; and where the shelves are already empty.

Service of Installation of Moderator

In this on-line service Rev Dr Martin Fair will officially succeed Rt Rev Colin Sinclair as the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad on **Saturday 16 May**. You can watch the broadcast live from 11am and thereafter on [GA2020 website page](#)

Heart Soul

You can watch a special Heart and Soul on-line celebration on **Sunday 17 May from 2pm** to around 4:20pm. Heart and Soul 2020 will include highlights from the service to install the new Moderator along with worship, conversation, music and all-age entertainment. You can watch the broadcast live from 2pm and thereafter on [GA2020 website page](#)

This Sunday is National Sports Sunday which looks to celebrate the important place which sport has in our lives. This is also a day of prayer for the supportive work of Sports Chaplains in nearly all women's and men's football clubs.

In particular I am involved with Edinburgh City FC and know the huge challenges the directors, management and players face with everyone 'furloughed' and uncertainty about the future.



The bible passage we are looking to at this time is from the beginning of the book of Joshua where the people face a period of transition

***I will never leave you nor forsake you.
Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.***

Joshua 1 verse 5-6

The people of Israel have been 40 years with Moses wandering in the desert and now they have a new leader in Joshua and new possibilities. They need to hold to God's wonderful promise to be with them as they enter a new future and they need to be bold and courageous in faith.

We share this message with the sports clubs and we need to hold to it in our churches where the situation with COVID19 sees us all in a time of transition where we need to look to the future in faith assured that God will not leave us.

**We are together as
a community of prayer**

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Asha—working in 80 slum colonies

Eleanor & Mickey tell us of work of this vital project with the poorest people in India

In the first week of 'lockdown' we had a phone call from friends asking how we were. It was a special phone call because it was from Dr Kiran Martin and her husband Freddy, who head up the Asha Project in the slums of Delhi.

We quickly turned that question round to ask how they and their people were. The Asha Project works in over 80 slum colonies, with nearly a million people. The people live in tiny 'houses', some of them built from whatever they can find, even the better ones are about the size of a small garage here. The lanes between the houses will be about 6 feet wide, some narrower. They do not have bathrooms, they queue at the toilet block serving many people, and the nearest they come to

'running water' is a standpipe, again serving many, many people. Some slums don't even have a standpipe, they rely on a tanker coming every week or two to bring them water, and again they stand in long queues with their containers.

India is also under lockdown but many of the people are day labourers - if they don't work, or cannot work, they have no money to buy food. They buy daily. They have no store cupboard, or fridge. The 'stay at home' message can't really work for them. It is not possible - up to 8 people may live in their tiny dwelling. Also, they have to go out (to stand in a queue) to use the toilet, or to collect water. They can go to stand in another long queue for a government meal, but it is the fittest and strongest who get to the top of the queue.

The Asha staff do not live in the colonies so they can't go in to help - they are not allowed to travel. But Asha have an army of well-trained people who live in, and belong to, the slums and they have risen to the challenge. CHV's

(Community Health volunteers), women who were illiterate, who never came out of their homes except to walk behind their husband, face covered, head down, with no feeling of worth. But now they have been trained to care for the poor and sick, the young children and pregnant women, and many of these women are real leaders, with hidden potential. And then there are the young people, trained and nurtured by Asha to love, have compassion and respect the dignity of the people, who are reaching out, delivering food to the poorest, helping the elderly and doing what needs to be done.

Perhaps, when you are having a 'down-time' because of the restrictions, you could offer up a prayer for the slum dwellers of Delhi in their lockdown, and also for the wonderful people who are helping them in their need. Here is a link to a beautiful video on Asha's Covid19 Emergency Response for Slum Children.

<https://youtu.be/okV0120xUqc>



asha

Transforming Lives in the slums of Delhi

<https://asha-india.org/get-involved/donate/great-britain-donations/>