

## 24/7 Prayer Week 2020 Update for the Church Family



This was the twelfth year of the annual 24/7 prayer week at St Mary's and it took place from 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October in the James Chapel.

The theme this year was **'Going Deeper, Growing More'** as roots of a tree planted by a stream go deep and the leaves do not wither even in a drought (Jeremiah 17:8).

2020 has been a difficult year due to the global pandemic of COVID 19. We have certainly had to be well-rooted in the Holy Spirit, represented by living water. The photograph of how the James Chapel was set up aptly demonstrates the symbolism of living water flowing from the throne of God.

Two trees were placed by the living water display, one to represent the Fruit of the Spirit and the other for people to use as part of their prayers of confession. People were invited to write on labels and shapes of fruit and hang them on the trees.

***Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life as clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God and of the lamb (Revelation 22:1).***

Even in these difficult times it was encouraging that 70 members of the church community participated during our period of 24/7 prayer. 20% of people prayed from their homes.

For the first time, we offered a three-mile Prayer Trail with 15 stations around Sneyd Park, containing 45 words from Psalm 1:2a-3 for people to collect and piece together.

During the prayer week, we received a number of prophetic words for St Mary's including the picture shown here of **a lighthouse beaming out a powerful light in the midst of an ocean of darkness and a sea of confusion.**

We took great encouragement from these words and the ways in which God is already using St Mary's to be a lighthouse for our parish, the Mission Area and beyond. We are always seeking to be alert to new ways that God is calling us to shine His light to those around us.

Many thanks to the creative team who designed and put together the displays in the James Chapel and who organised the rota – Angela Cattell, Ann Thomas, Anni Davey, Rachel Powlesland, Hayley Brydges, Carrie Patterson and Rachel Sandford.

