

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

PRAYER POINTS - OCTOBER 2023



Please use the 'Points' in personal prayer, but also encourage its use in church services/meetings, study & prayer groups.

God puts us in a world of passing things where everything changes and nothing remains the same. It helps us appreciate that everything is a gift.

We didn't create it. We don't deserve it. It will not last, but while we breathe it in, we can enjoy it and know it is another moment of God, another moment of life.

Richard Rohr

WEEK 1 - 1st -7th OCTOBER

Interim Moderators – Below are just 3 of the most recent noted from Presbytery papers. There are **many, many more!** Rev Amy Pierce at Banchory Ternan East; Rev Ricky Reid at Methlick; Rev Darren Jalland at Aberdeen Hillside. Is your minister 'doubling up'? Do you know of elders standing in the gap? Are you in a church in vacancy or have you been in the past? How do (did) you feel – frustrated, anxious, tired, excited, patiently and joyfully trusting 😊 ?! Be honest and specific in your praying.

Dear Father God and Head of our changing Church, we pray for the many ministers caring for charges that they have not been called to. Grant them your love, patience and grace as they meet

with different people and committees and deal with various practicalities. Thank you for retired ministers who have 'stepped up to the plate' and elders who have trained and now serve in this capacity.

[Name those known to you and hold them intentionally before the Lord.]

O Holy Spirit, whatever our situation, good or bad, it is passing, Only you are from everlasting to everlasting - here, with us, yesterday, today and forever. We pray against frustration and fatigue and ask for humour, patience and deepening discipleship and faith both for Interim Moderators and all whom they are trying to guide through painful or confusing change.

WEEK 2 – 8TH – 14TH OCTOBER

Vacancy Procedure Committee Convener: Rev Bob Fowlie, Longside, near Peterhead;

Ministers: Amy Bender, Mary Cranfield, Tanya Webster, Moira Taylor Wintersgill.

Elders: Lorna Glen, Marshall Halliday, Angus Johnstone, Anne McLaren, Pam Pack, Brian Sim, Margaret Sutherland.

Gracious Lord, you are a God of order and good organisation. You helped Moses and his team of elders to sort out various procedures, and organised upwards of 2 million people to move on at your command. During this time of increasing vacancies as Presbytery Plans are implemented, please fill Bob and his team with your wisdom and grace so that they may enable congregations to deal with the legalities smoothly and cheerfully

WEEK 3 – 15th – 21st OCTOBER

Presbytery Planning & Deployment Committee – Convener: Rev Tony Stephen, Banchory Ternan West;

Ministers: Keith Blackwood, Jonny Clipston, Andrew Kimmitt, David Locke, Amy Pierce, Donald Wood.

Elders: John Anderson, Angela Gracie, Ewan Hay, James Macpherson, Eunice McConnach, James G Roberts, George Sinclair, Margaret Sutherland, Alun Walker,

Father, we pray for this Committee overseeing the nuts and bolts of Presbytery plan implementation and promoting a positive policy for the mission of Presbytery, taking account of changing congregational resources and social patterns. Strengthen them in the busy-ness and, sometimes, the confusion and sadness of the changes they are helping people to face. Continue to grow kindness and grace in all their relationships and dealings with people on the ground.

WEEK 4 – 22nd – 28th OCTOBER

Church, Society & International Committee Convener: Rev David Galbraith OLM;

Ministers: Jenny Adams, Amy Bender, Rhona Cathcart, Mary Cranfield, Duncan Eddie, Carl Irvine, Iain MacDonald, Aileen McFie, Stephen Potts.

Elders: Vera Anderson, Sheila Brumby, Sheila Cameron, Iain Hunter, Sandra Jackson, Stuart Lynch, Yvonne Mackay, David Nicol, William Rae, Elizabeth Robertson, Jan Sanders, Ed Stewart, Rosemary Sutherland, Linda Watt, Kristina Watts.

O God of all the Universe & everyone in it, we pray for these 25 presbyters as they work on different aspects of their large remit in small sub groups. Bind them together in your love for the world. Help them find and follow your priorities in national and international mission and seek to apply our Christian faith to every aspect of society and life - science, politics, social justice, and the environment. May they not be overwhelmed or feel guilty for not covering everything all the time!

***Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

***Gratitude is the companion to worship.
We may not see what we hope to see God doing,
but we don't want to miss all that he is doing.***

From *Making Peace with Change* by Gina Brenna Butz

NOTES

- Don't be overwhelmed by the lists of names. They have been included to help us begin to recognise some names at least and perhaps link them up with faces seen on screen or 'met' more personally in 'break-out rooms'. If you are on one of the Committees listed, please try and make the effort to get to know them all. If not, look for names you recognise from your former Presbytery or through other networks. Understandably, we quickly pass over the lists of names in Chronicles, Ezra and the 'wall-builders' in Nehemiah. But they were real people with real daily lives and concerns. Our lists of names on committees are real people too, sisters and brothers in faith, struggling, rejoicing, doubting and trusting - just like us.



Loving God of all comfort, we pray especially for those of our fellow presbyters who are sad because they have lost someone they love and for those struggling with poor health in body or mind. Come alongside as only you can and grant your peace which the world cannot give. We pray especially for the family and church family of Rev Breda Ludik who died in service at St Andrew's Llanbryd & Urquhart (near Elgin). May his humble leadership continue to be an inspiration to his congregation as they press on with the very major changes required by the Presbytery Plan. Give your wisdom to Interim Moderator, Rev Seòras Orr.

- If you are part of a Prayer Group, encourage others to join you in prayer for NENI.
- As part of any report to your Kirk Session, please consider pointing them to the NENI website, click on Resources and then Prayer!