



PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

PRAYER POINTS - NOVEMBER 2023

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

WEEK 1 - SUNDAY 5th - Saturday 11th NOVEMBER

"...There is symbolic as well as actual beauty in the migration of the birds, the ebb and flow of the tides, the folded bud ready for spring. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring comes after winter. Rachel Carson

- ❖ **Hospital Chaplains** - Remember Presbyters you know who are official NHS Chaplains at city, town or community hospitals. *Lord Jesus, your healing ministry was part and parcel of your daily ministry of word and witness to your power and compassion. Bless Katrina Blackwood and Mike Newlands as they combine their hospital chaplaincy work with OLM studies and placements. Bless and encourage any Presbyter working in any branch of the NHS or Care Services with your grace, patience and wisdom. Take care of their needs as they take care of others. Be with all our ministers and pastoral visitors seeking to bring your comfort and hope to parishioners in hospital.*
- ❖ **Pastoral Support Advisors** – Convener: Rev Eddie McKenna, St Nicholas Kincorth
Ministers – Fyfe Blair, Shuna Dicks, Edmund Gatima, Kevin Gruer, Alan Macgregor, Richard Reid, George Rollo,
Elders – Vera Anderson

WEEK 2 - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12th – Saturday 18th NOVEMBER

- ❖ **Military Chaplains** – Flt Lt Rev David Young, RAF Lossiemouth. **Reserve and Cadet Force Chaplains (Ken Jeffrey, Shuna Dicks, Marjorie McLean, Sean Swindells)** Name others known to you and please let the Prayer Promotion Team know for future years) *Mighty God, thank you for those called to these 'hands on' ministry relationships where hard activity, and sometimes danger, faced together can lead to big life questions. Equip all military chaplains with good humour, wise, honest words and a clear reflection of the strong loving character of our 'Captain'.*
- ❖ **Remembrance Services** – *With multiple and sometimes widespread, services to co-ordinate, especially in rural areas and fewer ministers available to share the workload, we pray for all Presbyters involved in this busy day of remembrance. Lord, help with logistics and planning with the various civic and military groups. Give grace and patience and safe travel between locations. And may no service feel rushed or 'mechanical' because of the same words being said over and over. In this particular year of yet more war, may your Spirit hover over every Remembrance service and minister your peace to any who are stressed, tending towards despair, or just plain tired.*
- ❖ **Boys' & Girls' Brigades** and their leaders; **Other uniformed organisations** attached to your church/ using your Halls.



WEEK 3 - SUNDAY 19th – Saturday 25th NOVEMBER

- ❖ **Schools Chaplains** - *Father God, we pray for 'open doors' for all our ministers and MDS going in to schools. Grant good and growing relationships of mutual respect with Head Teachers and those dealing with spiritual/ moral education. Take away suspicion and help all to see the practical benefits for the mental wellbeing of pupils of spiritual quiet spaces and other resources available to help school chaplains in this vital work.*

- ❖ **Workplace Chaplains; Chaplains at Sports Teams & Clubs** - Pray for any of your Ministry team members who are involved in these community ministries that they will be 'attractive' and confident in their faith in Jesus as a Friend for ALL of life. May their conversations and character show forth our robust, real and relevant Lord and Saviour.

WEEK 4 – SUNDAY 26th NOVEMBER - Saturday 2nd December

- ❖ **Training & Development for Ministries & Mission Committee** Convener Rev David Stewart – Devana Church, Aberdeen.

Ministers Alistair Bruce, Jaco Boonzaaier, Alison Jaffery, Darren Jalland, Alisa McDonald, Sheila Mitchell, Seòras Orr, Emma Percy, Linda Pollock, Brian Smith, Sarah Smith, Colin Strong, Sean Swindells, Mary Whittaker, Maggie Whyte, Kerr Wintersgill

OLM Norman Trewren; Deacon Margaret King; Reader John McCafferty

Elders Margaret Benton, Elaine Henderson, Katherine Hyman, Gillian Jamieson, William Paterson, Vernon Raymer

Wonderful Teacher, Trainer and Equipper of Disciples, grant David and this large team great wisdom and willingness to work on various aspects of their extremely wide remit, both outward facing mission and more inward focussed training for the recognised ministries. Rekindle the fire and love for ministry in all its forms. We rejoice with all those ordained this year and ask your blessing on them. We pray for one or two going through discernment that you would clearly direct their steps.

- ❖ *We continue to pray for the full restoration to health of our **Presbytery Clerk, Elspeth Mackay**, thanking you for progress made. Bless and help **James, Eunice and Ruth** in the daily round of admin duties in the office and keep our **Moderator, Stella**, safe and healthy in her very full life of travel around the Presbytery in addition to normal parish business.*

NORTH STAR by Ian Adams

Where do you abide?

Where is the point on which you pivot?

The course to which you continually return?

You know that it is your stillpoint,
the place of your belovedness.

Your North Star is the Christ.

The more you look up into the glorious sky
the more natural becomes your sense of your connection
to this North Star.

Study the sky.

Keep on looking up.

Abide in me.

Loving God,
in this time of challenge and change help us to know what is ours to do.
Help us to trust that you are with us in it and through it
and that all humanity is held in your loving care.
Help us to recognise your presence in acts of kindness and compassion,
in moments of stillness and silence, and in the beauty of the created world.
May that Great Love which never ends be our comfort, strength and guide.
Amen