

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

PRAYER POINTS – FEBRUARY 2024

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

Rev Dr Stewart Weaver noted in an Ascend article in 2023 how, during Covid, he began reading through the Book of Common Order, lingering on some of the Daily Devotional prayers & savouring lines like

To know you is eternal life, to serve you is perfect freedom.'

'Keep us, this day and every day, in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and joy.'

'In the new creation, your grace has dawned upon the world with healing for all.'

He felt more connected ***Not just to God, Christ and the Spirit, but to the many people who composed these prayers, the wider Church of Scotland, the worldwide Church and, often, the communion of saints.*** Reflecting on tough times, he noted that ***There have been many moments of weariness, frustration and fear. Too, there have been the moments of clarity and breakthrough, and shimmering hope. These are not mine alone. They belong to all of us these days. And, even more importantly, we all belong to God. Unified more deeply and fully than any of us can ever imagine. In that, our hope is founded.***

It is our hope that as we pray for and with one another in our common problems and frustrations, but also as we share moments of clarity and shimmering hope, we will feel more connected as NENI Presbytery

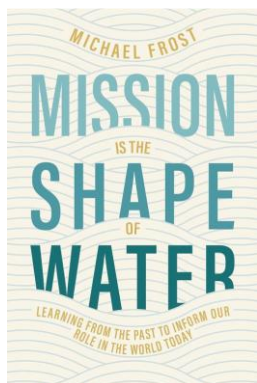
WEEK 1 - SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY

Tue 6 Feb – Presbytery Meeting 7pm Zoom. *Heavenly Father, at this first meeting of Presbytery in 2024, grant freshness – fresh courage, fresh faith, fresh hope. fresh grace and love. Please bless and strengthen the 'leadership team' of Stella, Peter, Eunice, Ruth and James as they pull things together and aim for smooth administration of business. Help Conveners with their reports and grant success to the Staffing Group as they seek a replacement Presbytery Clerk. We pray for restoration to full health for Elspeth as she retires. As things begin to 'shake down' in Presbytery and in individual churches and groupings, grant continuing patience and grace as people go at different paces and have different understandings and feelings about the process of change.*



Fri 9 – Sun 11 Feb Visit of Moderator Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton to Kingshill Trinity, Aberdeen and Fraserburgh churches. *May these be happy, helpful and hopeful days, Lord. Keep the Moderator safe and strong through these last months in post and cause her to be an encouragement to all she meets.*

WEEK 2 - SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY



Missional Book Reading Group – Wednesdays 11.45 – 1pm led by Rev Sean Swindells (Cruden, Buchan) Michael Frost explores how mission has been understood within ...Christian history. ...can we learn to discern the shape of mission for the present day?

Presbytery Reading Group - *Being an Intergenerational Church* by Suzi Farrant & Darren Philip. Thursdays from 1 Feb at 8.30 pm - led by Rev John Cook (West Gordon)

Father God, bless these and any other smaller Presbytery 'zoom' groups getting to know each other a little better as they discuss matters of interest to the Church. Thank you for those making time to meet up in person in local areas in order to maintain personal connections. Help us make imaginative connections in prayer via your Spirit.

WEEK 3 - SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY- FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus kneels in darkness in the Garden of Gethsemane and pleads with his disciples, “*Stay here with me ... Watch and pray.*” This Lent we are encouraged to **wait expectantly for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face.**

Shetland Church of Scotland comprises 12 local congregations spread out over a number of church buildings. There are three ministers covering the different geographical areas of the islands.

Whalsay - Rev Irene Charlton Inducted 1997

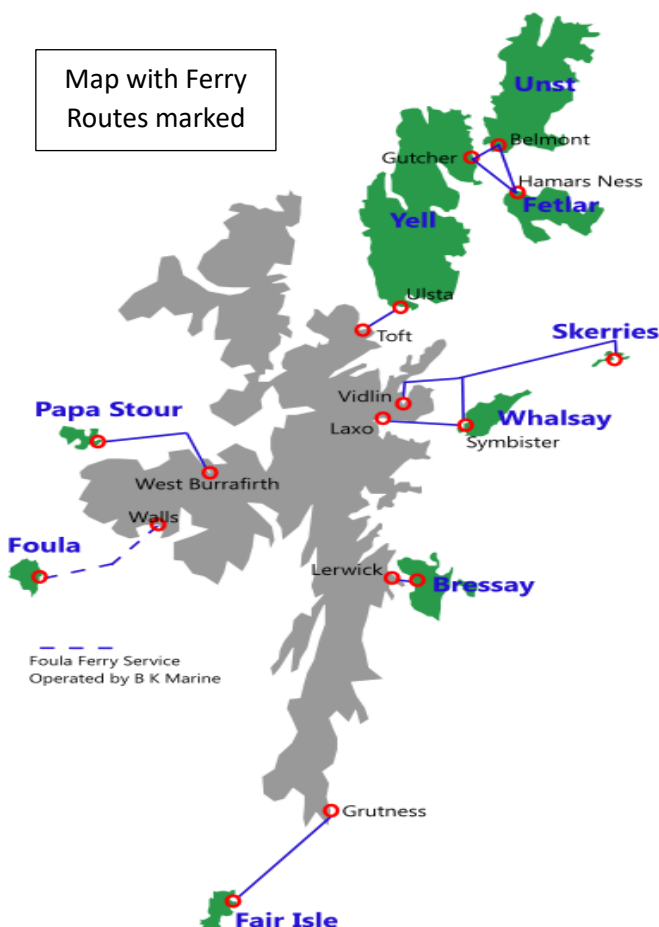
Scalloway - Transition Minister: Rev Dr Frances Henderson Inducted 2018

Lerwick - Interim Moderator: Rev David Stewart (Devana, Aberdeen) Rota of retired ministers of all denominations plus trained Worship Leaders

Presbytery Elder: Jim Donald, Burra Isle

Session Clerk: Arthur Watt, Lerwick

Unst; Yell; Ollaberry; Brae;
Walls; Bixter; Vidlin; Brough (Whalsay);
Burra Isle; Scalloway; Lerwick; Sandwick



Amazing Holy Spirit God,

Thank you that you are as ‘present’ at the northernmost tips of Unst and Yell as you are in every other location in NENI Presbytery. We are united in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. We pray for our sisters and brothers, named and unnamed, known and unknown to us. There are special circumstances prevailing on these islands, with their own particular civic and church history. Just as we are all one in Christ Jesus, so we are each individually unique. We pray for them because ‘we are all in the same boat’ but also because they are unique. Please encourage them to know and draw on your strengthening through the storms and trials they face. Come especially to any who are ill or feeling stressed and tired. Revive and restore individuals and congregations to vibrant faith and joyful hope in Jesus, our living Lord. Keep them firm and strong to the end so that they may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. We praise you, Faithful God, who does this for us, in Jesus’ Name. Amen

WEEK 4 - SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY- SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- ❖ Some 4 **people are ‘in discernment’** with ministers & congregations throughout Presbytery, accompanied by various Presbytery Assessors. *Father God and Eternal Guide, thank you for choosing and calling us **all** to be your holy people. But we pray for those seeking to know or confirm your call to specific ministries in your church. Guide them clearly through your Word. Take away fears and provide for them and their families, we pray.*
- ❖ **‘New’ Ministers on 18 month contracts** because of sisting of vacancies during Presbytery Planning. *Knowing & Caring God, as Plans are implemented and vacancies open up, be with all those seeking your will and place for them in this new era of shared & Team ministries. By your Spirit, bring ministers and congregations to that sense of ‘fitness’ and lead them forward in faith..*