

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

PRAYER POINTS – MARCH 2024

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

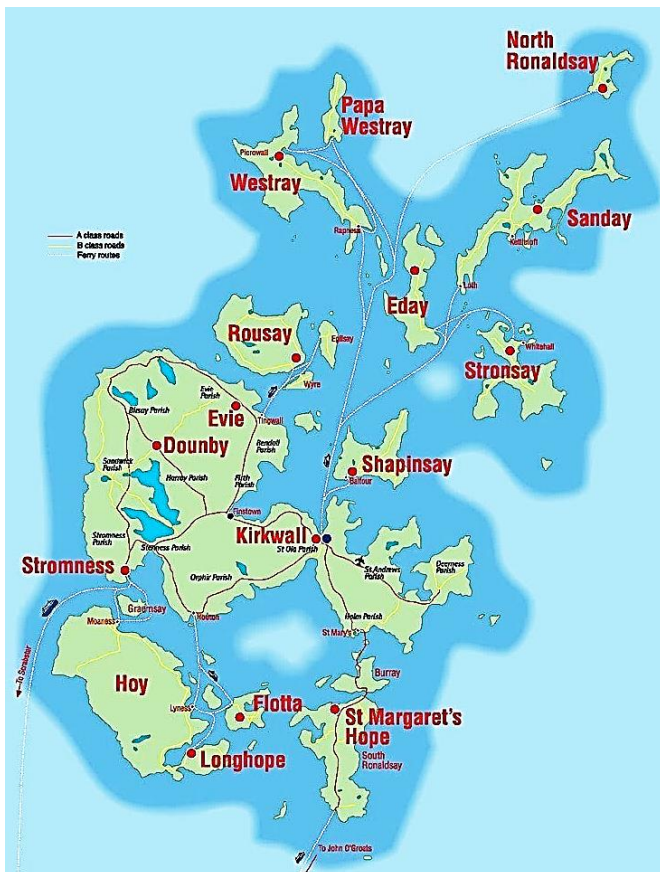
Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciples, teach us about spiritual discipline in our relationship with you. May Lent be a time of inward searching that makes us more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world and do something about them. Thank you, Lord, for desert experiences, when being confronted with ourselves makes us realise our need of you. Continue to guide and encourage us through these difficult days. As we move towards the darkest day, we know you will not forsake us. We keep our eyes fixed on you, and simply, - sometimes with only a mustard seed of faith - we follow you. Amen

WEEK 1 - SUNDAY 3rd MARCH - THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

- ❖ **Treasurer - Elaine Mitchell; Mission Development Officer – Rev Dr Robert Smith**
Father God, we pray for those new in role. May they quickly find their feet and make many good connections with individuals and congregations so that information, encouragement and help may flow out to those in need of assistance or support. We pray too for all in 're-routed' ministry roles requiring getting to know different congregations in unfamiliar groupings with new names which have yet to be taken to heart. Please grant persevering patience, grace, wisdom and love.
- ❖ **Wed 6 March – Seeds for Growth event** at Fountainhall at the Cross, Aberdeen.
Lord, bring all whom you want to be there and give them a great time of equipping, sharing and worship. May the speakers 'scratch where people itch' and may all attending feel and know eternal benefit and renewed hope and energy in their respective ministries.

WEEK 2 - SUNDAY 10th MARCH - FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WEEK 3 - SUNDAY 17th MARCH - FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



O God of Divine Diversity and Unique Unity, come to all Ministers (8 FTWS, 2 OLM), Elders & congregations on the islands and Mainland of Orkney. In places of rich history and ancient culture, bring fresh hope and joy in service. Thank you for all who are conducting worship, reaching out in faith to their communities, learning and caring together. Come to all who are tired and struggling. Renew their strength like the eagle and cause them to walk and not faint.

NORTH RONALDSAY

Interim Moderator – Kenneth Meason (Kirkwall East);

PAPA WESTRAY with WESTRAY

Rev Iain MacDonald Ind 1993
Papa Westray Elder - Alan Sharp;
Westray Elder – Alasdair McVicar;

SANDAY

Interim Moderator – Rev June Freeth OLM (St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall);

EDAY

Interim Moderator - Rev David Locke (Stronsay); Session Clerk & Reader - Johan Robertson

STRONSAY **Rev David Locke** Ind 2021
Elder & Session Clerk – Elsie Dennison

EVIE & RENDALL with FIRTH
Interim Moderator – Rev Iain MacDonald (Papa
Westray with Westray)
Evie & Rendall Elder – Elma Moar
Firth Elder & Session Clerk – Janis Dickey

BIRSAY, HARRAY, SANDWICK
(MILESTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH)

[Located in Dounby] **Rev Moira Taylor-
Wintersgill & Rev Kerr Wintersgill** Ind 2022
Elder – Janet Alexander, Sandwick;

STROMNESS **Rev Moira Taylor-Wintersgill &
Rev Kerr Wintersgill** Ind 2024
Elder – Jim Lawson

KIRKWALL EAST with SHAPINSAY
Rev Julia Meason Ind 2013
Kirkwall East Elder – James Watson;
Shapinsay Elder – Sheila Garson;

KIRKWALL: ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL
Rev Fraser Macnaughton Ind 2002
Rev June Freeth OLM Ind 2015
Elder & Session Clerk – Margaret Sutherland

EAST MAINLAND **Rev Chris Wallace**
Ind 2022; [Church overlooks Churchill Barrier &
Italian Chapel; includes Tankerness Airport
Elder – Jack McKintosh;

HOY & WALLS Interim Moderator Rev Dr
Marjory MacLean (South Ronaldsay & Burray)
[Church located in Longhope]
Elder -

FLOTTA with ORPHIR & STENNESS
Interim Moderator Rev June Freeth OLM
(Kirkwall); Rev Martin Prentice OLM;
Flotta Elder & Session Clerk – Isobel Smith
Orphir & Stenness Elder & Session Clerk –
Nicol Sclater

SOUTH RONALDSAY & BURRAY **Rev Dr
Marjory MacLean** Ind 2020 [Church in St
Margaret's Hope] Elder – Charles Nicholson;

WEEK 4 - SUNDAY 24th MARCH – HOLY WEEK

We continue to pray for brothers and sisters in Orkney, whose Orkney-wide union of churches is planned for late summer. This major step is a source of stress for many. Prayer is asked for its harmonious and positive development, especially that the isles and mainland Orkney will successfully journey forward together. Sanday &

North Ronaldsay congregations will be served by Rev Chris Wallace and Eday by Rev David Locke. We have taken information and requests received from David and expanded it into a prayer covering the situation more generally. But it is not a complete picture. If you have more local knowledge, please pray specifically.

Dear Lord and Head of the Church,

We thank and praise you for faithful little congregations on the outlying Isles of Orkney. Please help them to continue to witness to 'their' islands and develop in faith and leadership. Come to any who are despondent and remind them that you do not despise the day of small things and that your Kingdom comes not by might, nor by power but by your Spirit. Please help with the technicalities of streaming services from elsewhere in Orkney and equip your people in every church to facilitate its use. We pray for developing relationships with local primary schools and ask that many children and young people will respond to your Word and your love and put their trust in you. Lord, we thank you for local leadership of Readers, Session Clerks, elders and Worship Leaders who have stood in the gap over many months of vacancies and general uncertainty. Bless them with good rest and renewed strength and faith. May all who seek to minister faithfully in the Orkney Isles find fresh hope over this Easter season, in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

*Zechariah 4: 10, 6

WEEK 5- SUNDAY 31st MARCH – EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER PRAYER

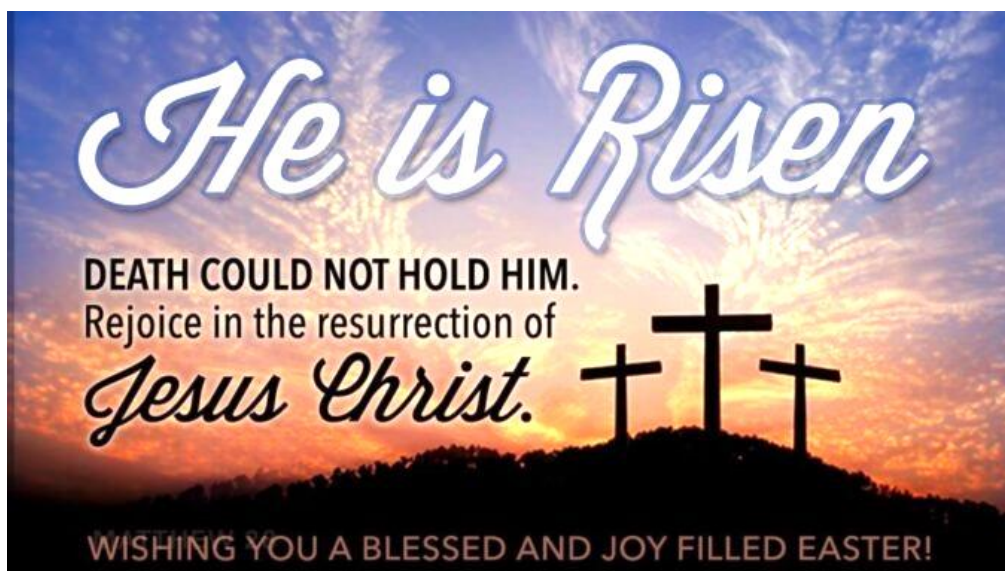
by the Revd Michaela Youngson. (Methodist Church)

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun
would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.



*Wishing all our fellow presbyters
A Blessed and Joy-filled Easter!*