

# PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

## PRAYER POINTS – APRIL 2024

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

*Up from the grave he arose With a mighty triumph o'er his foes,  
He arose the Victor from the dark domain And He lives for ever with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Halleluia! Christ arose! MP 453*

We are resurrection people, a diverse singing community, centred around the impossible – that death can be conquered, that hope pulses out of the grave.... A question was recorded in John's Gospel of a man who'd been desperately unwell for nearly four decades. A community had formed around his diagnosis, his identity was shaped by the sorrows he bore. The Healer walked into his space asking, 'Do you want to be well?' The question seems ridiculous – of course he did – health is better than weakness, surely he would rush to be whole. Why ask the question? I wonder if Jesus asked because the option was on the table – did the man want Him to change things? Do we want Him to change things? .... Heather Holdsworth, Faith Mission in Canada Prayer Magazine.

### WEEK 1 - SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL and WEEK 2 - SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Aberdeen ministers founded **INSTANT NEIGHBOUR** 40 years ago to support their local communities. **Rev Tanya Webster** is on their Board. Fundraising **Music event at Fountainhall Church at the Stocket Sun 14 April, 3pm.** Entry by **cash donation or Bag of Groceries.**

*Father, we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us and we join in the work that you are already doing in the world. We are sad that our communities are **still** in such need, physically and spiritually, and ask that both needs might be met through this 'Hour with Eileen Pike and Yvonne Morton'. Bless and help all involved with the organising. May those who attend be blessed and generous in their giving and may those in receipt of the gifts become aware of your divine, eternal help, by your Spirit through your Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

### WEEK 3 - SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL

**Tue 23 April 7pm – Presbytery meeting** Lord God, we commit to you the business of running our Church & Presbytery. Please equip and help all involved in leadership of committees and practical technicalities, we pray.

**Sat 27 April – Run Balmoral for CrossReach.** Ministers **Keith Blackwood** (Aberdeen), **Amy Bender** (Keith, Moray), **Sean Swindells** (Cruden, Buchan) are part of a small Presbytery group running to raise funds for **6 CrossReach services in NENI Presbytery.** The Bungalow & Clashfarquhar House, **Stonehaven**; Balmedie & Bellfield Care Homes, **Aberdeenshire**; Moray Counselling Services, **Buckie**; The Walter & Joan Gray Care Home, **Orkney.**

To give via Just Giving, use this link - [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/running-for-CrossReachNENI?utm\\_term=e5NejkYn6](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/running-for-CrossReachNENI?utm_term=e5NejkYn6) Further information from Iain Hunter [iain@ihmsh.co.uk](mailto:iain@ihmsh.co.uk) .

*Wonderfully gracious God, how we thank and praise you for the work CrossReach does on our behalf throughout Scotland, but especially for these 6 services in NENI. Help us to 'own' them, take a positive interest in them and pray regularly for their users, residents and staff. Lord, thank you for the privilege of being partners in your work of loving and caring for those in need for whatever reason. Bless and protect Amy, Keith, Sean and others in their preparations and running on the day and may the whole Presbytery join in praying and giving so that your name may be glorified and CrossReach blessed and encouraged!*

**Sat 27 April – Readers' Conference** Thank you, Lord, for all our Readers in NENI, for all their service in the past and all that they do now. Please give them a great time of fellowship, refreshment & learning!

## WEEK 4 - SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL

### LOSSIEMOUTH

Recent union St Gerardine's High & St James' - **Rev Geoff McKee** Ind 2016 & 2024;

OLM Rev Anne Marie Simpson Ord 2023  
Elder – Scott Anderson

### **Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman (DSH):**

**Rev Jenny Adams** Ord & Ind 2013  
Asst Minister Rev Christine McWhirter

### ELGIN

(Recent union of Elgin High, Birnie & Pluscarden.) **Rev Deon Oelofse** Ind 2017 & 2024 OLM Rev Sonia Palmer Appt 2017  
MDS - Paula Baker Elder – Stuart Lynch

### UPPER SPEYSIDE

#### **Knockando, Elchies & Archiestown lw Rothes:**

Int Mod Ann Bowie (Bellie & Speymouth);  
Elders – KEA - Sean Jones;  
Rothes - Sheila Brumby

#### **Aberlour:**

**Rev Andrew Kimmitt** Ord & Ind 2020  
Elder – Donald Grassie

#### **Mortlach & Cabrach (Dufftown):**

**Rev Eddie Enslin** Ind 2020  
Elder – Catherine Morgan

### KEITH

#### **St Rufus, Botriphne & Grange:**

**Rev Wiekus van Straaten** Ind 2020  
Elder – Fiona Simpson

#### **North, Newmill, Boharm & Rothiemay:**

**Rev Amy Bender** Ord & Ind 2022  
Elder – Rosemary Sutherland



#### **Findochty lw Portknockie:**

Int Mod Rev Louis Bezuidenhout (Retd);  
Findochty Elder – Jimmy Bremner  
Portknockie Elder – George Sinclair

### BUCKIE

#### **North lw Rathven:**

**Rev Dr Jaco Boonzaaier** Ind 2021  
Elder – Kathryn Cowie

#### **South & West lw Enzie:**

Int Mod Rev George Rollo (Retd)

### LOWER SPEYSIDE

#### **Bellie & Speymouth, Fochabers:**

Int Mod Rev Dr Jaco Boonzaaier (Buckie North);  
Elder- Ann Bowie

#### **St Andrew's Lhanbryd & Urquhart [SALU]:**

Int Mod Rev Wiekus van Straaten (Keith St Rufus) Elder – Jane Rossetter

*Dear Father God,*

*There are still many difficult discussions to be had & decisions to be made concerning buildings and adjustments. We pray for all in positions of leadership, dealing with both the problems and with the people most directly affected. Give great wisdom, compassion and grace, we pray. Bless those who have started their journeys and are working well together in new frameworks and hold them steady in their course. But come especially to those who are struggling to see their way through and how to turn hurt people into healed and healing people, so that their communities may see your transformative power and love at work. May every congregation throughout Presbytery, large or small, have the vision and the sense of their calling to be 'resurrection people', for Jesus' sake. Amen*

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son  
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won!*