



PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

PRAYER POINTS – JUNE 2024



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

Take a moment just to be...
...to be still...

I will lean in,
I will breathe out,
I will linger,
I will whisper,
I will listen,

retreat from the pressures I face, and move closer and deeper into your love.
refrain from the distractions I seek, become open and receive your grace.
encircled by the depth of your care, and receive your endless mercy.
in the quiet of this sanctuary, and be honest and real in your presence.
awaken all my senses to your voice, with quiet expectation and hope.

Thank You!

Some of us will remember as children being instructed or helped to write ‘thank you’ letters after Christmas or Birthdays. In the story of the 10 lepers, Jesus was disappointed that 9, including his own people, did not return to say thank you. But the one who did, a Samaritan, received extra encouragement in faith. (Luke 17: 11-19)

Sat 27 April - ‘Run Balmoral’ Thank you,



Father, for the £3505 raised for the 6 CrossReach Services within our bounds by NENI participants. May the visits and connections being made by Ian Hunter and Keith Blackwood be a real encouragement to each staff group, and

in turn, may your Spirit move in power among service users to bring faith, healing and help in their particular circumstances. And in your time and will, bring forth a fruitful harvest of those who know and love you as their Saviour and Lord.

Sat 27 April – Readers’ Conference, Ellon

Inspiring Teacher, Thank you for inspiring John McCafferty and David Stewart to organise the Readers’ Conference in Ellon. May the teaching received and the fellowship enjoyed continue to be an encouragement to all who attended in person or online. Bless all our Readers with renewed strength for and joy in their ministry.

Sat 11 May – Presbytery Prayer Training

Morning - Thank you, Faith-building God, for helping about 60 of us to meet together in person locally, and online regionally, to learn more about prayer and connect with others who pray. There were some lovely ‘gifts’ of faith and despite technical glitches, there was a sense of unity in you. Thank you, Father, for all in Presbytery who take prayer seriously as a means of relating to and hearing from you. Thank you for the gift and privilege of prayer. Please continue to help and guide us in how to help more people experience the joy of this way of working with you in mission.

Tue 11 June - Young Adult Guild (**LIFT- Love in Fellowship & Trust**) held an online meeting regarding the upcoming General Election and the importance of Voter Registration.

Father God, we thank you for all our young adults, especially those continuing the tradition of the National Youth Assembly in their intentional learning and participation in church and civic life. Help us to listen to, nurture and involve young adults in worship and the day to day running of the church, so they may learn on the job for future leadership roles. We ask your blessing on Matthew Philip (Aberdeen) and the 20 or so other young adults who meet 4 times a year. [Name any known to you]

Sat 15 June – Conference session of Presbytery at Kingshill Church, Aberdeen. *Gracious God, bless our Conference sessions, especially the June one in its different venue. Enable all those taking part to speak well. May all conversations and debate be ‘seasoned’ with the salt of grace. Please help with technical issues and travel arrangements and especially bless and empower **Rev Shuna Dicks** as she assumes the **Moderator’s role**. May her term of service be a joy of fellowship, partnership and progress. Dear Holy Spirit, guide us to and in wise decisions and competent administration, particularly helping **Rev Stella Campbell** when she takes up her new role as Presbytery Clerk in July. Fill us with confident hope for the future, we pray, knowing and trusting that your plans for us are good.*

Wed 19 June 7:30 - 8:30 pm **WEBINAR** showcasing the **Jewish-Christian Glossary**, introduced by the Chief Rabbi at the General Assembly in 2023. Hosted by the Council of Christians and Jews, the purpose of this webinar is to present the fruit of this ground-breaking work alongside some of the Church of Scotland's prominent figures: Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly, and Very Rev Susan Brown. The glossary explores various terms significant to both Judaism and Christianity. By using common terms such as 'justice', 'grace', and 'covenant', the glossary reveals how the same words can be understood and interpreted in different ways.

Father God, at this time of heart-breaking conflict between the only Jewish state in the world and its neighbours in Gaza and Lebanon, with injustices and terrible loss of life on every front, we pray for a determined desire to understand each other more and to work intentionally for peace with your infinite grace and compassionate wisdom. For many of us, Lord, the only Jew we know personally is Jesus. Help us to draw ever closer to him in the way we face and discuss important issues with others in the light of the horrific realities of the Middle East today. May this webinar be a step along the Way, through all who take part and attend.

End of June - **School holidays** begin. Pray for pupils, teachers, support staff, Holiday Clubs in your area.

God of all seasons, grant all those on holiday, but especially school children and staff, some 'holidays' of deep refreshment of spirit and body. For those leaving school, give wisdom and excitement about new possibilities and horizons, but help them also to turn to you for support in times of worry or fear. Come to families for whom holiday times mean more stress because of financial concerns. May they find joy and fun in simple pleasures by river or sea, in parks or fields. Revive teachers who feel jaded and tired. Please enable all Presbyters & families to hear and receive your offer of 'Shalom' over the summer months



Bless all Christian festivals, Holiday Clubs and camps with eternal fruit, we pray.

Thu 4 July – General Election

Ruler of Heaven and Earth,

Help us not to be cynical but to faithfully pray for those who would rule over us in human terms. We need a revival of spiritual & moral health in our nation and its leaders! We pray against pride, back-biting and negative campaigning. We pray for respectful debate and moderate language which speaks honestly and sensitively into difficult times and situations. In your mercy, Lord, please raise up kind, wise and competent leaders with the determined will to work with and for ordinary and vulnerable people to find the best way forward. Amen.

[Find out the names of your local candidates and pray for them, whatever party they, or you, belong to or support.]

Election resources from the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office at:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/scottish-churches-parliamentary-office/elections-and-hustings> Christian Aid have some information on issues:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-nvolved/campaigns/general-election-campaign-crib-sheets>



Wishing all Presbyters a God-blessed Summer!

John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at.... – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

John links this looking to our spiritual awareness. "That which we have looked at..." , and the word means gazed at, taken time over. Whether it's riverbank butterflies or the revelation of God's love in Jesus Christ, we need to take time to consider it, absorb its beauty and reflect on how it can change our lives.

*Lord, give me the grace to pause, take breath and reassess just where I am,
to find time to hear your voice in the quiet... ..*

and in the silence, as the treadmill of my mind stops turning

*I'll hear you offering me **Shalom**.*

The peace that passes understanding.

And then refreshed, my energy restored,

I can begin again to live my life as you would have me live.

Adapted from Eddie Askew's *Snails have No Reverse Gear* p. 8, 9