



## PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

### PRAYER POINTS – OCTOBER 2024

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

*Lord, now that I have your undivided attention...*

*The story is told of 2 men in financial straits kneeling side by side to say their prayers. The one, a poor man, only asked God to help by providing him with a little much needed cash. On hearing this, the other, a relatively wealthy man, sent him away with a fiver and returned to the urgent matter of his own needs.*

*"Lord," he prayed, "now that I have your undivided attention...."*

*Sometimes it is easy to slip into a similarly blinkered view of prayer and focus only on our own immediate needs as individuals and even as congregations. But... **there are others around us who need our prayers and who, in turn, are ready to offer prayers for us. One of the marks of the early church was a willingness to pray for each other... [I am glad] to commend this prayer call to all the congregations within the bounds of our Presbytery as we seek together to continue the work of building up the body of Christ in our particular corner of His Kingdom.***

From **Dunkeld & Meigle Presbytery Prayer Booklet** filled with prayers from all churches & age groups, and the Foreword above written by their Moderator Rev Neil Gardner, 2004/ 5.

**[This message is still so apt for us today is it not?!]**

#### **Tue 1 Oct - Service of Union of the Orkney Churches.**

*Gracious God, We pray for this ongoing process of personal and congregational adjustment as leaders and people, in various ways and worship centres, learn to worship, work and witness together to your power shown through the lovely grace, humility and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

#### **Safeguarding Courses**

**Natasha Hepburn; Rev Julia Meason**

**Tue 8 Oct 9.30- 12 noon JM** – Online Introductory Training

**Sat 12 Oct 1-4 pm NH** – Online Advanced Training

**Wed 13 Nov 2-4.30 pm JM** – Online Trustee Training

*Father, thank you for Natasha & Julia teaching these 'bread & butter' courses run in response to Church and civic legal requirements, but also out of genuine concern to protect and care for our young and 'any-age' vulnerable people. Lord, we never really believe that anything bad will happen in our church(es). But your Word warns us to 'Be alert and of sober mind for the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour'. (1Peter 5: 8) Help us to keep our training up to date out of love rather than with an irritated sigh! Bless those who are faithful in keeping us up to the mark!*

#### **Tue 8 Oct 7pm - Assisted Dying Consultation Evening**

- a facilitated conversation about assisted dying and the current bill proposed in Scottish Parliament.

Registry for the event

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/assisted-dying-consultation-evening-tickets-1028049412467?aff=oddtcreator>

ZOOM link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82220412467>

#### **WHERE:**

Fountainhall Church

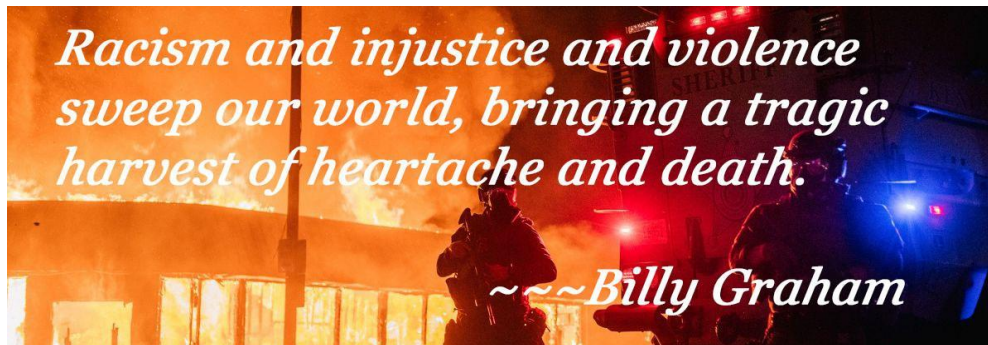
at the Cross

38 Albyn Pl, AB10 1YN

*O Father God, this is such a sensitive, emotive issue. Personal experience and long held beliefs can collide with painful results. Big-name influencers and massive advertising concerning funerals and 'not being a burden', affect our thinking. Good laws about such things are desperately difficult and need to be administered with hearts of love. May all speaking and teasing out the issues do so with grace and wisdom.*

**Thu 10 Oct - Service of Union, Devana Parish Church of Scotland and St John's Church for Deaf People, Aberdeen.** *Tender-hearted God, as these services of union go on in various parts of the Presbytery, we remember those for whom they bring a deep sense of loss and sadness, as smaller churches close or have fewer opportunities for worship or fellowship locally, where people know each other and can immediately tell if someone is missing. Help those with different perspectives and personalities not to be impatient or dismissive. May each one of us, especially leaders, set a guard on their mouths, and season all their language and conversations with the salt of your grace and gentle respect.*

Although we are primarily focussed on praying for NENI Presbytery, its churches, staff and issues, we cannot block out the world beyond which does not seem to have got better over the years.



At this time of rejoicing in and thanksgiving for **good harvests** bringing to most of our church membership enough to eat and drink and live safely and warmly, **we bring to God the tragic harvest of heartache and death** sweeping over the Middle East and the world.

*We pray for CoS partners in **Israel** and their contacts and friends in **Palestine, Gaza** and now **Lebanon**; for **Tabeetha School** where a light still shines as children from Jewish, Arabic and Christian homes representing scores of national backgrounds learn to live together and respect each other's beliefs and customs. O Lord, protect their young minds and that of their teachers as divisions and conflict deepen. In your mercy, grant that these children & young people might lead*

*their communities and leaders in the way of justice and peace. Hear our prayer, Lord, and let our desperate cry come unto you, in Jesus' name. And we pray for **Ukraine** and its beleaguered people as they head towards another bleak winter of war and deprivation. Strengthen and comfort them. Cause ordinary **Russian** citizens to hear and understand what their leadership is doing in their name and begin to stand up for justice and peace. Break through in **South Sudan**, we pray. And especially speak to Christian leaders. Give wisdom and will to be peace-makers in this desperately troubled nation. And we pray for **relatives and refugees** from all these and other war-torn areas, especially any sheltering within our bounds and known to us.*

### **Church Society & International**



**Convener: Rev Dr Amy Bender** *We pray for Amy and her Committee as they have special responsibility for lifting our eyes to these wider situations and have more contact with affected people on the ground or here in NENI Presbytery area. Help us all to remember that real people who hunger and hurt just like us, are involved. O Lord, in your mercy, hear and answer our prayers, and guide in how we might be channels of your justice and peace.*

### **Assistant Ministers on short term contracts**



*Heavenly Father, thank you for **Rev Christine McWhirter** raising the issues facing ministers, ordained or undergoing familiarisation during Covid and the sisting of vacancies while the Church went through its drastic 'down-sizing' and restructuring process. We pray for those finding themselves in financial and social difficulty and pray that you will open up a way for her and others who are struggling to find your spot for them to work out their calling in a stable, longer term setting. Help them and their families to dig deeper into you and come out of this trial stronger and even more fitted for the ministry you have prepared for them.*