



The Presbytery of the North East  
and the Northern Isles



## PRAYER POINTS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

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

Our particular focus this month is on congregations who are currently vacant, those who are eagerly waiting to call a minister, and those where a parish minister has recently been inducted. We remember too those who are trying to discern God's call as they apply to charges.

*Father God, we remember before you our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have recently experienced the retirement or leaving of a minister. In this new season, with all the changes it will bring and the grief that may be felt, remind them of your goodness and care of them. Encourage them to seek you afresh, as the Shepherd who leads and guides. We pray for Interim Moderators, Locums and Nominating Committees, as they work hard to do all that is asked of them.*



*We remember those who have been faithfully serving you over a long period of time, without a minister. We give thanks for those who have stepped up during this time to lead worship, to offer pastoral care and to ensure that congregational life continues and thrives. We pray for Session Clerks, Office Bearers, Elders and Church Staff. Grant them wisdom in all that they are coping with. As they have found new ways of working together and being church, may we seek to learn from them.*



*We remember those congregations who are awaiting or embarking upon the beginning of a new ministry. We give thanks for these new chapters being written and pray that you would enable ministers and families to settle into new homes and new communities. May there be a renewed sense of hope and unity.*

*We remember the Vacancy Procedure Committee and the Vacancy Advisory Committees in operation. Help each who serves in this way to be a support to others. We remember those who will put themselves forward to training as Interim*

*Moderators. Grant wisdom in each and every situation.*

*We remember those graduate candidates who have completed their training and who desire to take the next step. Open up the path before them Lord and grant them the strength they need to persevere where the discernment process is long and exacting. We remember too those in training for ministry. We give thanks for their obedience to respond to your call upon their lives. Enable financial help to be offered where it is most needed.*

*In considering their example, may we come to a deeper understanding of what you are calling us to do Lord - in our families, in our churches, in our communities, in our world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

### A Poem on Discerning Calling

May you trust the paths that unfold for you.  
May you wonder at the possibilities you find,  
May you nurture the love that forever calls you  
name,  
And holds you in the dream God has for you.

May you hear the call to be the gift you are,  
And find the ministry only your being fits,  
May you be guided by compassion for the other,  
And dare to be generous in the love of God.

May you find inspiration through life in the Spirit  
Shaping from birth who God created you to be,  
And travelling the journey you share with others,  
In the ministry of giving, find the person you are.

May you know the Word restless in your soul,  
May you be challenged to ask, seek, knock,  
And in questioning the future may the door be opened  
To discerning the call of the Lord Jesus Christ  
Roddy Hamilton

# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

## Prayers for Cross-Reach - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

- Give thanks and praise for the way that God is changing lives through the work of CrossReach. Thank God for the love that is shown to us and that we are able to share God's love with all we come into contact with.
- Pray for the most vulnerable members of our society who come to CrossReach for help. In situations that are very challenging, pray that the light of Jesus will shine brightly to bring hope and take away fear.
- In the context of a challenging public funding climate for Social Care, pray for those individuals and their families who are affected by changes to services. Pray that those who have to make difficult decisions about finances will be guided by wisdom and compassion.
- Give thanks for all the staff who have recently joined CrossReach. Pray that they will feel a sense of welcome and belonging to their teams, and that they will be well supported in their new roles. Pray that current vacancies will be filled and that the right people will be drawn to come and work with us
- Give thanks for all those who donate, fundraise and support the work of CrossReach in other ways. Pray that more people will hear about the work of CrossReach and be inspired to get involved too.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November** -*Father God, we pray for our Presbytery as we meet for business. Guide all those presenting reports and making decisions. Inform us through our conversations and our debates. Enlighten us through our speakers. Bind us together through your Holy Spirit and help us avoid technical disasters.*



### A prayer for Remembrance Sunday by Rev Jamie Miliken

*Lord God,  
We bring before You today our broken world,  
a world at conflict and war.  
We pray especially for those who are caught in the  
middle,  
lives and livelihoods lost, or never to be the same  
again.  
Futures stolen from young women and men,  
hearts broken in those who grieve.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy*

*We bring before You today our unequal world,  
a world divided between haves and have-nots  
where the rich get richer, and the poor don't seem to  
matter.  
We pray especially today for those who are displaced  
by war –  
seeking out home, a safe refuge, a place to rest and  
have a future.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*

*We pray today for our governments,  
and the difficult decisions faced, where there are no  
easy answers.*

*We pray for wisdom, discernment, boldness, and  
action.  
We pray for world leaders to hear and abide by Your  
word,  
for whom power is not about self-serving, but serving  
the needs of others especially for the sake of the least,  
the last, the lost, and the lonely.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.*

*We pray for Your Church,  
that we might not just speak of peace, but actively  
seek it,  
among ourselves and in this world.  
That we trust in You and Your ways,  
and forever encourage others to do so to.  
That we might not just pray for those most in need,  
but put our time and talents, and our money at Your  
disposal,  
as acts of worship and service to You and for our  
neighbour.*

*Give us discernment we pray,  
to see where You are moving,  
to have eyes afresh for this new day,  
ears that are willing to listen,  
hearts that are ready to respond,  
and a nimbleness of spirit,  
to join in where You are  
and touch lives afresh with the good news of Jesus.  
That Your Church may continue to worship, praise,  
and serve You  
from the heart of Your people.  
Lord in Your mercy hear our prayer, amen*