

## PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

### PRAYER POINTS – MARCH 2025

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

#### A STEEL-LIKE HOPE

After a long chapter of lament and complaint, Jeremiah seems to take a deep breath, readjust his 'spiritual specs' and says:

BUT THIS I call to mind and THEREFORE I HAVE HOPE  
the steadfast love of the LORD NEVER CEASES;  
His mercies NEVER COME TO AN END:  
They are new every morning  
GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS

From the outside in, this steel-like hope seems inconsistent with the visible circumstances....  
The rockiness of their situation has not made them second-guess the goodness of their heavenly Father....  
Eternal hope can be tested but not destroyed. It can be questioned but not taken away.

IT RESTS ON THE PROMISES OF GOD.

Living in our hope is the most powerful sermon we could ever give. It is the decision to BELIEVE GOD,  
to trust him with our future, and to walk forward, fully confident that God is at work.

A steel-like hope – that is what God wants for us.

[Adapted from 'Be Still - 90 Devotions for the Hopeful Heart', pp 42-43]

Looking back – Thank you, Lord, for the visits of Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, around NENI, constantly giving a message of HOPE and encouragement to have faith and build together. We pray in advance for his visits to Orkney and Shetland in April and ask that they too might be blessed by your Spirit

**Sat 1 Mar – Presbytery Prayer morning in various locations and online.** Father, please make this a great springboard for steel-like hope as we learn more about practising prayer through Lent (and life!) Bless the speakers, location leaders and all who attend with your steadfast love that never ceases. Cause your Spirit to hover over all the 'proceedings' in church halls and homes and encourage and teach your people.

**Sat 1 March – Scripture Union EQUIP event for S1-S6 pupils , St Mary's Centre, Inverurie.**

Thank you, Father, for the work of SU among our children and young people. May all involved be thoroughly grounded in Jesus, and his promises, as their eternal, unbreakable Hope through all the struggles of youth right through to old age.

**Mon 3 Mar – Moray Guilds Together Talk. Keith North Church Hall,**  
7.30pm. Rae Lind on Sir Archibald Charteris & Foundations of Guild.

**Thu 6 Mar – South Aberdeenshire Guilds Together 'Spring Thing'**

**Fri 7 Mar - World Day of Prayer** in various locations. Written by Christian women of Cook Islands (Pacific Ocean, midway between Australia & S America!) **'I made you wonderful' Psalm 139:14**

**Sat 8 Mar – Glorious Women's Conference,** Music Hall, Aberdeen.



Dear Lord, Thank you for **the C of S Guild** (originally formed to give women a place and opportunity to serve and lead in the church). Please bless and follow through on all its projects, many of which are still bearing fruit a score of years after specific support has ceased. Thank you for gutsy campaigning on difficult subjects; for £millions raised for 'good works' at home and abroad; for inspiring leaders, nationally and locally. We pray for **women who are treated as property** and limited by cultural/ religious norms in reaching their full potential for leadership and service to their communities and nations. Please help Christian Aid's partner **Rehabilitation Association & Agricultural Development for Afghanistan, [RAADA]** **'Silk & Saffron' project**, to support and equip 4150 women to come together to process, market and sell their product and benefit socially and psychologically as well as economically. Amen

## CHURCH, SOCIETY & INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Convener – Rev Dr Amy Bender

Ministers: Jenny Adams, Rhona Cathcart, John Cook, Mary Cranfield, Carl Irvine, Iain MacDonald, Aileen McFie, Stephen Potts

Deacon in Training: Angie Mutch

Elders: Lesley Adamson, Stella Anderson, Vera Anderson, Sheila Brumby, Sheila Cameron, Bill Diack, Robert Esson, Iain Hunter, Sandra Jackson, David Nicoll, Matthew Philip, William Rae, Val Reid, Elizabeth Robertson, Jan Sanders, Anne-Marie Simpson, Rosemary Sutherland, Margaret Veitch, Kristina Watts, Karen Whyatt

Because of the perilous state of the world at present and the continuing struggles of many in churches all over Presbytery and Scotland, it feels appropriate to pray especially for CSI this month.

*O Mightily Able and Compassionate God, It would be easy for Amy and this Committee to feel even more overwhelmed than the rest of us as we look out on the world in these dark days of undisciplined, proud leaders, careless talk and horrendous situations of conflict and confusion among the nations of the world. Oh, LORD, we plead with you for **ordinary people in Gaza, the***

***West Bank, Israel, Ukraine, among so many other places, who are hurting, feeling powerless & abandoned to bombs, abuse and cynical deals. Help us all not to despair, but to lift our eyes to you, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, to trust that you are in control and will bring good out of all the evil that seems to have the upper hand at the moment. Help Amy and her team to ‘keep our feet to the fire’ in terms of engagement in practical help and prayer. Let us not be ‘weary in well-doing’, remembering that you persevered in loving us to the fullest extent until the very end – and still do - in all your risen Spirit power! We pray for refugees and asylum seekers within NENI’s bounds and for the congregations with a special ministry among them. Please bless Dasha (our Communications Officer) and any family/friends she still has in Ukraine with your protecting wings of peace and hope. We pray for the leaders of nations and terrorist groups that they would be brought to their knees, acknowledging that all ‘earth’s proud empires pass away’, unlike your Kingdom, Lord Jesus, which stands and grows for ever! All this we pray in your powerful and precious Name. Amen***

### CH 720 – Ann Quigley

*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts, for love we only find in you, our God.*

For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer.  
In sorrow, in grief; be near, hear our prayer, O God

For wisdom, for courage, for comfort; hear our prayer.  
In weakness, in fear; be near, hear our prayer, O God

For healing, for wholeness, for new life; hear our prayer.  
In sickness, in death; be near, hear our prayer, O God

Lord save us, take pity, light in our darkness.  
We call you, we wait; be near, hear our prayer, O God

### CH 721 – Anna Briggs

We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet,  
haunted by hunger, war and fear, oppressed by power and hate.

Here human life seems less than profit, might and pride,  
though to unite us all in you, you lived and loved and died.

Come, Spirit, on us breathe, with life and strength anew;  
find in us love, and hope, and trust, AND LIFT US UP TO YOU.