

# PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

## PRAYER POINTS - FEBRUARY 2026

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

### TEAMWORK? THE STRUGGLE TO GET FREE?

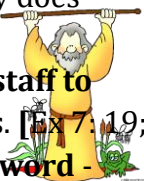
Not for the first time, I asked the Lord what on earth we are supposed to do with the plagues



in Exodus 7-12. I got no answer.

But I did notice, for the first time unbelievably, that although Aaron was specifically 'recruited' to be Moses' mouth-piece, he actually does none of the speaking to the Pharaoh.

But he does take over the use of the **staff** to perform the first 3 miracles/ plagues. [Ex 7: 19; 8: 8, 16] Twice, Moses only speaks a **word** - flies & diseased animals [Ex 8:21-24; 9: 1-3].



Once, they both go with ashes in their hand. But only Moses throws them in the air - boils [Ex 9: 8-10]. Only Moses is mentioned for the hailstones, locusts and darkness [ Ex 9: 23-24; 10: 12-13 & 21]. The last and most terrible 'plague', the death of all the firstborn, was entirely of the Lord. All Moses, Aaron and the people did was prepare as instructed and wait under the 'covering' of the blood of lambs

splashed on the doorposts



of their homes while the Angel of the Lord 'passed over' them. What on earth are we to make of all this horror, Lord? I still don't know! But I see leaders working on their own and with others under God's instruction and finally the Lord acting alone in salvation power. I also see how horrendously messy and frightening is the process to make God's individual people into one united people, and to set them free from the slavery of past attitudes, thoughts and attachments.

Is this what the Church of Scotland is going through at this time? As frightened and hurt as some may be by what we are witnessing and experiencing in church circles and in the wider world, we can rest '*safe and secure from all alarms*' under the protection of our God who cares for us with extravagant love and does the ultimate hard thing for us - sheds his blood and dies to set us free.

*Lord, to be honest, we still don't understand it. But we're glad that you do the hard yards for us. We hide ourselves in Jesus and trust you for the 'salvation' of the Church of Scotland and our world. We pray for all the charges noted below, especially for any finding it particularly hard or frustrating to effect the change necessary to move on. We pray for tired Ministers, Interim Moderators and office bearers, especially any who have fallen ill. In your mercy, revive, heal and strengthen all in need of your touch. We also rejoice with those who have been less affected by major change and are working well in their new circumstances. Keep them humble and mindful of any neighbours they might be able to help in some way. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **ABERDEEN MANNOFIELD Church**

Rev Keith Blackwood Ord 1997 Ind 2007; Elder: Lorna Howie; S Clerk: Bob Anderson

1. Our **Alpha course** runs for 10 weeks and started this week and we are hoping that the course helps lead people to God and to progress their spiritual journeys. *Father, we join with this congregation in praying for spiritual fruit and growth as people discuss and think about faith.*
2. We have **people in our congregation originally from Iran who have lost contact with their families** still living there during the current turbulence. *We pray for them and their families and hope that the situation can be resolved. Only you have the power and wisdom, Lord!*
3. Support for our "**Towards 150**", a 5 year plan as our church approaches its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**ABOYNE & DINNET with Cromar** (Aberdeenshire)

Rev Sharmann Maromo Ord 2016 Ind 2024; Elder: Donald Cowie; S Clerk: Sarah Wright

**BRIMMOND** (Bucksburn – edge of Aberdeen)

Rev Jonny Clipston Ord & Ind 2020; Elder: William Diack; Joint S Clerks: Michael Hepburn & Jeanette Abel.

**Culsalmond & RAYNE with Daviot** (Near Inverurie, rural Aberdeenshire)

Rev Dr Mary Cranfield Ord & Ind 1989; Elder & S Clerk: Vera Anderson

1. **Rayne church is scheduled for closure** but we are not closed yet. and since that decision **a Fb page was set up**. A prayer from C of S is put on it every day, and there are a number of followers.
2. We offer a **Prayer of Thanks for all who keep the Church alive through work and Prayer on a regular basis**. We had the Theme of Hope for Christmas. We distributed fliers and had a warm result on Christmas Eve Service with new readers and visitors.
3. Bad behaviour to staff caused a local village store to close for 2 hours during the recent snowy weather. **We pray for tolerance, patience and understanding in these times of difficulty**

**FYVIE with Rothienorman** (Turriff area, rural Aberdeenshire)

Int Mod: Rev Hugh O'Brien; Elder: Carole Eddie; S Clerk: Audrey Clark

**KEITH NORTH, NEWMILL, BOHARM & ROTHIMAY** (rural Banffshire, midway ABN & INV)

Rev Dr Amy Bender Ord & Ind 2022; Elder: Rosemary Sutherland; S Clerk: Krista Brown

We pray for:

1. Continued outreach as a worshipping community
2. Reaching S1-S6 pupils through the Seeds for Growth community music grant
3. Resolution of the building issues and guidance for Session as decisions approach

*Sometimes, Father God, there is no clear or agreed path on buildings and yet steps need to be approved & taken. Please make a way where there seems to be no way and grant your eternal wisdom to Minister & Session as they seek to reach out as a worshipping community to schools and other groups with the Good News of Jesus in song, word and action.*

**MELDRUM & BOURTIE** (rural Aberdeenshire)

Rev Alisa McDonald Ord 2008 Ind 2020; Elder: Graham Smith; S Clerk: William Dalzell

**SHETLAND PARISH** covers 12 congregations/ places of worship with posts for 3 Ministers

Rev Irene Charlton Ord 1994 Ind 1997; Int Mod: Rev Keith Blackwood (Aberdeen Mannofield)

Elders: Maureen Cumming, Margaret Sandison, Jim Donald; S Clerk: Jim Donald

*Gracious Lord, our hearts go out to this single Parish with 12 places of worship spread over many of the islands. Bless all who support the Minister & Int Mod in the daily round of ministry, thanking you for retired clergy of varying denominations, Readers, Worship Leaders and others. We pray for any who are ill with stress or physically and spiritually tired and unable to see a way forward. Raise up those willing to go over and help them even in the short term and give wisdom to the Kirk Session as they seek your vision and comfort in order to encourage and comfort others.*

**ST FERGUS** (near Peterhead)

Rev Jeffrey Tippner Ord 1991 Ind 2012; Elder Helen Richards; S Clerk: Ann Flett

**STONEHAVEN CARRONSIDE**

Int Mod: Mr William Mitchell (Aberdeen Hillside); Elder: Louisa Greenwell; S Clerk: Brian Sim

**Tue 3 Feb 7 pm – NENI Meeting on zoom.** *Father, we pray that all the business, reports and social interaction will reflect your nature of patience and grace. Particularly bless Shuna, Stella & Committee Conveners and those with special responsibility for leading and co-ordinating the technical elements.*

**Fri 13 Feb, 7 pm, Cults - Long Service Certificates Service -**

The preacher for the service will be the Moderator of the General Assembly, the **Rt Rev Rosie Frew**, who will be presenting the long service certificates. *Father, make this a joyous & uplifting service we pray.*

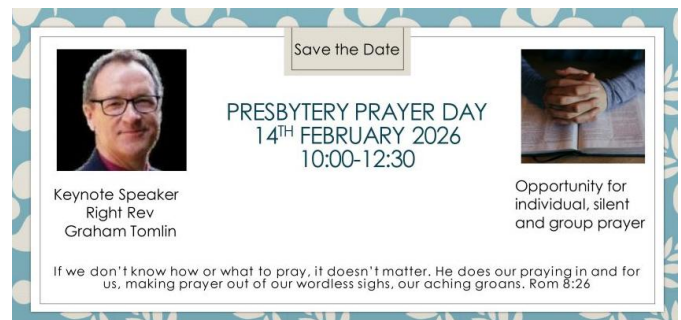
**Sat 14 Feb 9.30 – 11.30 am St Columba's Church, Aberdeen** <https://NENIskillslab.eventbrite.co.uk>



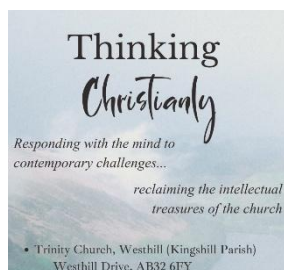
Sue Thomson (Scottish Bible Society) and Matt Sinar (Presbytery's Youth Development Officer) are running a training workshop to explore creative and interactive ways to share the Easter story with children and young people.

**Sat 14 Feb 10.00 – 12.30 Presbytery Prayer Day**

Online and in person in Cults Church, Bellie & Speymouth Church, Fochabers, Fraserburgh & District Parish Church and Strathdeveron Community Church Turriff. You can now register on Eventbrite – the link is here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/presbytery-prayer-gathering-tickets-1980940125240?aff=oddtcreator>



Comes just before Lent and is **a way of encouraging the practice of prayer as we prepare for Easter.**



**Sat 28 Feb 10-12noon Thinking Christianly** - Seminar Series at **Kingshill Church**

Think about and discuss some of the deepest questions that relate to our faith in the contemporary world. Questions or queries, contact Rev. Dr. Daniel Spencer:

07554392895 | [dspencer@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:dspencer@churchofscotland.org.uk)

First Seminar – Biblical Authority & Christian Faith(s)

*Father, we pray for all these 'equipping' events that they would be attended by all you want to be there, that teaching and responses and practice would be useful for the building up of your people in these dark and uncertain days and that technicalities would all function smoothly and not be intrusive. And we pray for the 2 services of union noted below that uniting congregations would work well and grow together for your glory.*

**Sun 15 Feb 2.45pm - Laich of Moray (Lossiemouth) - Service of Union**

**Sun 22 Feb 3.45pm - Howe of the Mearns Parish Church of Scotland (Laurencekirk) Service of Union**

*Lord God, help us not to be overwhelmed by all this information for prayer, but rather quietly hold it all before you, thanking you for opportunities available, praying for the event organisers and speakers and asking for your wisdom and help day by day for ourselves and our brothers & sisters across NENI, in Jesus' Name. Amen*

