



PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES  
PRAYER POINTS FOR APRIL 2026

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



**A Better Resurrection by Christina Rossetti**

I have no wit, no words, no tears;  
My heart within me like a stone  
Is numb'd too much for hopes or fears;  
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;  
I lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief  
No everlasting hills I see;  
My life is in the falling leaf:  
**O Jesus, quicken me.**  
My life is like a faded leaf,  
My harvest dwindled to a husk:  
Truly my life is void and brief  
And tedious in the barren dusk;

My life is like a frozen thing,  
No bud nor greenness can I see:  
**Yet rise it shall**-the sap of Spring;  
**O Jesus, rise in me.**  
My life is like a broken bowl,  
A broken bowl that cannot hold  
One drop of water for my soul  
Or cordial in the searching cold;  
Cast in the fire the perish'd thing;  
Melt and remould it, till it be  
A royal cup for Him, my King:  
**O Jesus, drink of me.**

CH 385 Words By Brian Wren

Here hangs a man discarded,  
a scarecrow hoisted high,  
a nonsense pointing nowhere  
to all who hurry by.

Can such a clown of sorrows  
still bring a useful word  
when faith and hope seem phantoms  
and every hope absurd?

**Yet here is help and comfort**  
for lives by comfort bound,  
when drums of dazzling progress  
give strangely hollow sound:

*Lord Jesus, what can we say? How can we keep the balance, if there is balance to be had, between the dark horror of Good Friday and the joy of Resurrection Sunday? Some individuals, perhaps some church communities in Presbytery, and certainly the millions trapped in violence and poverty the world over, will know what the poet and hymn writer describe – the numbed and frozen life, when faith and hope seem like phantoms and every hope absurd. Yet here at the cross on which your life drained out in bleak distress, even here is the help and comfort we all need. Here it is, in the depths of death and despair, that we discover your Love still burning with*

Life, emptied of all meaning,  
drained out in bleak distress,  
can share in broken silence  
our deepest emptiness;

**And love, that freely entered  
the pit of life's despair,  
can name our hidden darkness  
and suffer with us there.**

Christ, in our darkness risen,  
help all who long for light  
**to hold the hand of promise,  
till faith receives its sight.**

*indestructible light, hope and Life. O Wonderful Lord, help all who are presently groping in darkness to hold your hand of promise till faith regains its sight. Cause every Holy Week service in every charge around NENI, and further afield, to reverberate with your triumphant Truth and extravagant, victorious Love. May many see and respond to the relevance and wonder of the Easter message that you are risen indeed and go ahead of us into all of life, making a way where there seems to be no way, granting wisdom and grace to all who seek to worship you in Spirit and in Truth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

**Good Friday 3 April Walks of Witness** in city and towns all over Presbytery. *Mighty Lord, as your name is lifted up in public places, draw more people to yourself and cause your Kingdom of sacrificial love to gain ground in NENI and beyond. Our communities need you. Please help us to be good witnesses.*

## Aberdeen Hillside

Rev Edson Duque de Castro Ord 1999 Ind 2024 Elder : Elaine Mitchell; S Clerk: Rhona Paterson

## Cults

Rev Shuna Dicks Ord 2010 Ind 2018; Elder: Stella Anderson; S Clerk: Graeme Robertson

1. Prayers for the **New Property Supervisor** starting the first week of April.
2. Continued success for **Baby and Toddler group** the church is now running, for willing volunteers and thanks for the lovely families coming along.
3. For **all those mourning** with a number of funerals in the congregation and community.

## Mormond West ( New Pitsligo, Strichen, Tyrie – Rural Aberdeenshire)

Rev Colin Strong: Ord 1989 Ind 2020; Elder: Stephen Wilson; S Clerk: Irene Taylor

## Longside (Aberdeenshire)

Rev Bob Fowlie Ord & Ind 2007; Elder: Fiona Gillies; S Clerk: Margaret Gordon

1. **Godly Play** - Please pray for our leaders, teenage helpers and young children who attend this group on the first Sunday of each month.
2. **Holiday Clubs** - Please pray for our upcoming **Easter activity on 10th April** and our summer Holiday Club on 3-7th August.
3. **1st Longside Girls Brigade** - Please pray for the **35 girls and 9 Officers** who meet each Monday evening. They are currently preparing for their open night and completing badge work. We are blessed to have a team of **dedicated and talented leaders** who have encouraged and mentored several teenage helpers since they themselves attended groups as children. Please pray that these **young people will continue to grow in their faith as they consider their future paths in life.**

## Strathdeveron (Turriff, Aberchirder, King Edward, Rural Banffshire)

Rev Kevin Gruer: Ord & Ind 2011; Elders: Moira Nicholl, Evi Wilson; S Clerk: Christian Watts

## Huntly Cairnie Glass

Rev Tommy Calder Ord & Ind 1994; Elder: S Clerk: Patrick Scott

## Dyce with New Machar

Int Mod: Rev David Locke [Retd]; Rev Joan Thorne OLM Ord & Appt 2019; Elder & S Clerk: John Blanksby

## Glaenmuick (Ballater)

Rev David Barr Ord & Ind 2014; Elder: S Clerk: David Horne

## Laich of Moray (Lossiemouth) Recently united with Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman

Int Mod: Rev Eddie Enslin (Bellie & Speymouth, Fochabers); Rev Anne Marie Simpson OLM Ord & Appt 2023; Elder: Scott Anderson; S Clerk: Susan McSheffrey

1. Prayers for the **sale of Spynie Kirk** set for the end of the month. There will be a service of thanksgiving acknowledging pain, grief and sense of loss.
2. Prayers for **elders and the IM Eddie as we work through all of the necessary business to call a new minister.**
3. Ongoing prayers for the **new parish as we grow together as a new community/church family** and move forward together in mission and service.

*May we leave in God's hands the things which are out of our hands and which we cannot change.*

Findochty with **Portknockie** [Coastal villages in Moray] **Service of Union, 3pm Sun 26 Apr**, in Findochty Int Mod & Locum: Rev Louis Bezuidenhout [Retd]; Elder & S Clerk: George Sinclair

1. We pray for all associated with Findochty Church and Portknockie Church as we look forward to our **Service of Union in April**.
2. We give **thanks** for the dedication and outstanding service of those in Portknockie Church who have, through their **leadership of our Sunday School and Thursday Club**, introduced, nurtured, and developed a knowledge of Christ in hundreds of children over the years. All three of our leaders will be presented with very well deserved long service certificates by the Moderator of Presbytery, at a Family Service at 11.15am on Sunday 26 April, in Portknockie Church.
3. We give thanks for the **opportunities the Lord has provided for us to undertake our various mission activities**, both in our community and further afield.

*Father God, we pray for **uniformed organisations, and all youth & children's work** going on in churches across Presbytery. Keep them well 'safe-guarded', enthusiastic & full of Christ-like joy. Bless those of an age to be taking exams with calmness and a desire to turn to you for peace, comfort and help. And for those churches with little or no connection with younger age groups, grant patient hope and continued prayer.*

**The Skills Lab - Bible Confidence - 18 April, 9:30-11:30** To register for the morning, visit <https://NENIskillslab.eventbrite.co.uk> Workshop is aimed at equipping folk with a better understanding of the Biblical narrative, and greater confidence to teach the Bible to children and young people. *Lord, please bless all who attend this Skills Lab with a real sense of your Presence and progress in understanding and practical ability in using the Bible in an engaging way with young people.*

<p><b>24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL- CARRIE BROWN</b></p> <p>CARRIE IS THE NEW YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULTS DEVELOPMENT WORKER FOR THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HEAR FROM HER ABOUT HER ROLE AND HOLD A DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW THE CHURCH SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE.</p>	<p><b>LiFT</b> – [Love in Fellowship &amp; Trust - Young Adult Guild] Meet online last Friday of month. <b>24 April</b> <i>Ever Young God, bless LiFT and every effort in every church to connect with younger folk and share the love of Jesus.</i></p> <p>✉ YAG@churchofscotland.org.uk 👍 Lift CofS 📱 @lift_cofsg</p> 
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**Tue 28 April – Hybrid NENI Presbytery meeting.** *Wise & Able God, please guide and help Shuna, Stella, Peter and all Committee Conveners as they lead, report and encourage meaningful interaction and discussion. Grant patience, grace and wisdom to every participant. Please give safe travel to those attending in person, smooth out technical issues for those online and help everyone to feel involved and valuable to the whole process. All this we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Every sunrise in this Easter season carries a reminder of love that never fades.

Easter is proof that endings are often the beginning of something beautiful.