

# PRESBYTERY OF NORTH EAST & NORTHERN ISLES

## PRAYER POINTS - MARCH 2026

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

"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment"  
Joel 2:12-13



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

**LENT** - a journey of PRAYER, OPPORTUNITY & CHALLENGE

It is an **opportunity** for a reset.

It is an **opportunity** to examine where we are in our faith,  
in our relationship with God, with God's family  
in living a life honouring to the One who made, rescued and sustains us.

It is an **opportunity** to **reconnect with Him**

**To remove the clutter or distractions -**

**refocus on the One** who calls out of darkness and into light.

It is an **opportunity for a return** which is sincere and honest.

A return where we acknowledge what is wrong and seek forgiveness.

A return which is personal and without show

A return which is trusting in God's graciousness, mercy and steadfast love

It is an **opportunity** to begin afresh - **to be renewed.**

Of course, we don't need it to be Lent to do that.

We know that God's mercies are new every morning

But when was the last time you stopped and, in the words of Psalm 139,  
asked God to search you and know your heart, to test you, to examine your anxious thoughts,  
to see if there is any offensive way in you, to lead you in the everlasting way?

[Adapted from Rev Stella's (Presbytery Clerk) Weekly Letter of Ash Wed 18 Feb]



*Dear Father God, we are not keen to examine ourselves or let you examine us, because we're scared of what we might find. You, of course already know us inside out. But we still don't want to admit to any wrongdoing or just general 'falling short' – so often. We don't want to confess because it will mean we have to change and we are so tired of change and feelings of failure, Lord. But here we are in the season of Lent again and we hear your call to return to you, reminding us of your lovely character and why we should not be afraid. Help us to grasp and trust the reality of the sort of God you are - gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. Help us to reconnect and rejoice and feel the wonderful relief and release of your forgiveness and a fresh start.*

*We pray for the charges noted below & those leading and administering their worship and work. Some are going forward with positive hope and confidence, while others are struggling, hurting and fearful. Come alongside each church and its leaders by your Holy Spirit to guide, strengthen and comfort as you see their need. From city and old 'County' towns, from remote countryside, coastal communities and 'royal Deeside', we turn to you with faith and awe, praise and thanksgiving for your persistent, extravagant love. In your mercy, grow us into the people you want us to be and that, in our best moments, we want to be.*

### Aberdeen Stockethill

Rev Ian Aitken: Ord & Ind 1999; Elder: Morag Ledgerwood; S Clerk Fiona Douglas

1. We're giving thanks for growth in our ministry amongst children and families and asking for God's guidance in next steps.
2. We're thankful for opportunities to reach out into our community and praying that we would have wisdom to take them.
3. We're grateful for one another and praying for a deepening relationship with God in Christ.

### Aberdeen St Machar's

Rev Sarah Brown Ord 2012 Ind 2021; Elder: Sheila Cameron; S Clerk Alan Grant

### Kingshill [Westhill, Aberdeen & village of Skene]

Rev Dr Daniel Spencer Ord 2021 Ind 2025; Elder: Innes Murchie; S Clerk: Chris Pinnell

*Please bless the 'Thinking Christianly' course, Lord*

### Banffshire East [Banff, Macduff, Whitehills – Fishing ports / seaside towns]

Int Mod: Rev Stephen Potts (Auchterless & Auchaber); Elder: Mike McDonald; S Clerk: Andrew Simpson.

### Huntly Strathbogie Drumblade

Rev Elspeth Mackay Ord 2014 Ind 2025; Elder: Keith Stewart; Joint S Clerks: Alison Milne & Ann Gray

### Methlick (Rural Aberdeenshire)

Int Mod: Rev Ricky Reid (Retd); Elder: James Presly; S Clerk: Colin Presly

### Braemar & Crathie

Rev Kenneth Mackenzie Ord 1990 Ind 2005; Elder: Patricia Fraser; S Clerk: Pat Thomson

### Elgin Parish (Major 'County' town between ABN & INV)

Rev Deon Oelofse Ord 2002 Ind 2017; OLM – Vacant; MDS Paula Baker; Elder: Stuart Lynch; S Clerk: Hazel Dickson

1. *We give thanks for the **gift of our ecumenical services at Birnie Kirk**, [a CoS taken on by the RC Church] where Christians from different traditions gather as one family in Christ. As we worship side by side, may we grow in mutual respect, humility and joy celebrating what unites us and learning graciously from our differences. May our commitment to continual prayer be a quiet but powerful witness to God's kingdom of peace and reconciliation*
2. *Thank you for **growing fellowship among different faith communities in Elgin**. Working together, may we show Christ's love in word and deed to those without the hope & healing you offer.*
3. *Give thanks for the **monthly Café Church** which enables more space & time for questions and interaction.*

### KNOCKANDO, Elchies & Archieston (One church, tiny villages, rural Banffshire/ Moray)

Int Mod: Rev Donald Prentice (Retd); Locum: Rev Morris Smith (Retd) Elder & S Clerk: Lorna Millsopp

Plan is to link/ unite with Aberlour.

*Wise & Merciful God, please come to this Kirk Session & Aberlour's; to the Interim Moderator and Planning & Deployment Committee of Presbytery as they seek your will and move toward your plan and purpose for this area of Upper Speyside.*

**Fri 6 Mar World Day of Prayer Services** written by WDP ctee of Nigeria. Various times & locations over NENI. **Mod of Gen Assembly**, Rt Rev Rosie Frew, at **West Gordon Parish Alford** at 2.30pm.

*We all 'stand in the need of prayer', Lord, and the nation of Nigeria is particularly fractured. May your Holy Spirit bring life and reality to the formal speaking out of information and saying of prayers that the people of Nigeria may know the power of your healing, reconciliation and peace flooding into them from all over the world.*

**Fri 20 Mar at 7.15pm Ordination & induction of Michael Newlands to Fraserburgh & District Parish Church, Seaforth Street.**

*Gracious God, bless this new ministry and newly united charge with a sense of your purpose, plan and hope for the future. Disciple & revive these coastal communities by your Spirit. 'Hug them back to life'! Bind them together in the unity of your love. Grant wisdom, vision and patient grace to Mike and all in leadership*

**Sat 21 Mar 9.30 -12.15 Lent Retreat Morning** at The Caim, Luthermuir for everyone.

[Thecaimfield@gmail.com](mailto:Thecaimfield@gmail.com)

**Mon 23 Mar 10am – 3pm Lent Day Retreat** at The Caim, Luthermuir for those in fulltime ministry

*Father God, bless all who attend with a real sense of your loving Presence and care that will ripple outwards to families, churches & communities in opportunities taken and challenges met. We offer all our prayers through Jesus' mighty name. Amen*

CH 361 [Nun Danket – Now thank we all our God,]

**Forgiveness is your gift,  
both cleansing and renewing**

to catch us when we drift,  
our base desires pursuing,  
**and hug us back to life**  
and bring us to a feast  
where all will celebrate  
**the life your love released**

**Your grace goes out to meet  
the sinful and the doubting  
your arms and dancing feet  
speak louder than all shouting.**

**O God, how great your love  
which takes us empty in  
and with our worth unproved  
lets better life begin.**

Ian Masson Fraser