

Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles Prayer Points - August 2026

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:3-6*



Who are you thankful for? Who brings you joy, when you think about them and about their faith or how they have nurtured your own faith?

Take time to bring their name(s) before God and think about a way in which you could show your appreciation to them.

What are you most thankful for in the life of your family or in your congregation?

Take time to reflect on why you are thankful for it and talk to God about it. Can you also be praying about what happens next with it?

As a new Presbytery year gets underway, we can give thanks for all those who have recently stepped down from specific roles or membership of Presbytery. They have served us well, with grace and diligence. We can also give thanks for our new Conveners and the work they are doing to get themselves up to speed with their role. Business Committee meets at the end of the month, and will look different, with a new Moderator and the new Conveners. We give thanks for the work it does in shaping the life of our Presbytery and ensuring that we are living up to our values.

And we can give thanks for each other. Consider for a moment the congregations around your own. What is going on for them at the moment? What is one thing you are thankful for when you think about them? It could be something you work at together. It could be something they inspire you with. It could simply be that they are there, as brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing the gospel in their own context.

"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life."
Philippians 4:6 (The Message)

One of our values as a Presbytery is to be nurturing. We strive to be affirming, generous, welcoming and supportive of one another. At any time, there are a number of our brothers and sisters in Christ within the Presbytery who are struggling. Some with ill health (physical or mental), some with bereavement, some with the breakdown of relationships, some with the challenges of ministry and work and some with the burden of caring for others, whether younger or older.

We remember the family of Rev Elspeth McKay, following her recent death, and we remember Rev David Barr and his family as he demits on the grounds of ill health. We pray for those who are off on sick leave and for those who have been on compassionate leave this year. We call to mind those whom we know to be burdened, and we pray for all who need comfort and compassion from God, the source of all compassion.

**We pray for all who are in trouble,
that those who are sick may be cared for,
those who are lonely sustained,
those who are oppressed strengthened,
those who mourn comforted,
and that those who are close to death
may know their risen Lord.
(Common Order)**





We remember in prayer those who are coming to the end of their current ministry. Some are moving on elsewhere whilst others are entering into retirement. We pray that God would help them to finish well and be present to them as they begin a new phase of life with all the challenges and opportunities that will come. We pray for the congregations they have been ministering to and within. Lord, guide them as they begin to look ahead and consider what comes next. We give

thanks for those who serve as Interim Moderators and Locums across our Presbytery, providing stability and guidance. And we remember those congregations who have been looking to fill a vacancy over a longer period of time. Lord, assure them of your enduring faithfulness and grant them patience. Help them to discern who you may be calling to serve them.

Across our Presbyteries, lots of churches have been organising and participating in Holiday Bible Clubs. We give thanks for those which have already happened, praying that the children/young people would have enjoyed the experience and learned something of God's love for them in the activities, stories, games, and in the nurturing of the leaders. We give thanks for those who stepped up into leadership roles for the first time, transitioning from attending to helping out. May they have grown in their faith and discovered the joy of being part of a team. And we pray for those still happening or about to happen. For energy, for safety, for creativity, for the right weather and seeds sown.



We remember all our young people as exam results are received and decisions are made about the future. We pray for those getting ready for the start of a new school term – from teachers and staff to students alike.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of education for the children and young people in our area. We pray for those who make decisions in our schools: grant them wisdom, integrity, and a heart to serve the good of every child. Make our schools places of safety, joy, genuine learning, and mutual respect. Thank you for every opportunity to share your love through SU Groups, assemblies, and RME lessons. May many hear about Jesus for the first time and respond to your amazing grace. Amen.

(Prayer from Scripture Union Back to School with God Resources – CLICK [HERE](#))

Finally, we pray for the communities across our Presbytery.

We pray for communities where there is division driven by fear or prejudice or misunderstanding. We remember in particular those communities where people have come from elsewhere in the world to settle and make a life for themselves. We pray for those working hard to create an environment that is welcoming and inclusive for everyone. We pray for dialogue which helps to dispel myths and identify common ground. We cry out against hatred and racism and pray for those most affected by it.

We pray for communities in which there are high levels of deprivation and financial struggles. We pray for those unable to find employment and we pray for those who find themselves in the position of relying on a foodbank to feed their families and themselves. We give thanks for the work happening across communities to support those living in poverty.

We pray for communities impacted by isolation. We recognise that different kinds of communities face different kinds of challenges. Our islands, coastal and rural communities can be cut off from other physically, especially in the winter months. Our villages, towns and city can be impacted by the isolation that comes through the breakdown of any sense of belonging to a community. Help each of us to find ways of reaching out to those we live alongside, to break down barriers and to build community.