

Ross Presbytery Prayer Diary 2021

The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide some short and practical suggestions to help you pray, when you can, throughout each month for the wider work of the Gospel in Ross Presbytery.

Some Scriptures which encourages us to Support One Another in Prayer:

This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one. **Matthew 6:9-13**

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. **Romans 8:26-27**

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. **James 5:13**

May my prayer be set before you like incense; May the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. **Psalms 141:2**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

Psalms 17:6

1st September, 2021: Our Front-Line Workers

Give thanks to God for our NHS Staff who continue to work tirelessly in the care of others. Ask God to protect and watch over all those who will continue to give of themselves for others in the coming months.

Pray for the ongoing roll-out of the vaccines for Covid-19, and that these will be used by God to bring this virus more fully under control.

Ask God to provide resilience, stamina and his rest to those who are exhausted from the intensity of giving themselves in the service of others.

2nd September, 2021: Castle Street, Dingwall

Minister: Rev Drausio Goncalves

Church website link: <https://castlestreetchurch.org/>

Church Facebook page: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/castlestreetchurch/>

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. **Isaiah 43: 18-19**

Pray for wisdom as we start various activities that have been on hold for so long. Pray for our children to return to Sunday School as most of them have been missing during the school holidays. Give thanks for the recent Family Service and for future similar services. One of our members is hoping to start a Girls Brigade in September, so pray for helpers and for sufficient numbers of girls to attend so that it can go ahead. Pray for a moving of the Holy Spirit in all the churches - people coming to faith and spiritual strengthening for all believers.

3rd September, 2021: Killearnan linked with Knockbain

Minister: Rev Susan Cord

Church website link: <http://kandkcofs.org/>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kandkcofs/>

Pray for grace and wisdom across the Presbytery, as we deal with the changes facing us. Pray for the Ministry and Presbytery planning team, as they visit congregations to discuss what a new presbytery plan may look like. Grant wisdom, courage & grace in all they do. At Killearnan and Knockbain, a spirit of unity as siblings in Christ. Care for one another; love for the Lord Jesus Christ. Through that care and love, the light of Christ may be known in the parishes, to God's glory.

Take time to read and fully take in God's promise to you in **Isaiah 40:28-31**

4th September, 2021: Kilmuir & Logie Easter

Minister: Rev Alistair Drummond

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Kilmuir-Logie-Easter-Church-of-Scotland-323528971170799/>

The contemplative theologian Beatrice Bruteau writes: "*Jesus gathers people into communities in which . . . each person does the same thing that Jesus originally did - loving another person on the level beyond any description, beaming full attention (with all one's heart, soul, mind, strength) of positive regard. This can awaken the sense of selfhood in one who has not yet known it, and in this way the community expands. . . [In the community] all people are absolutely equal, and each is absolutely unique. The sharing within the community is thus richly textured and very creative.*"

Please pray for the congregation

- having just celebrated the August 45th anniversary (Aug 12) of the united congregation on Sunday, August 29th
- having presented a long service certificate from the Church of Scotland to Session Clerk George Morrison for 31 years of service as an elder.
- having added a new elder to the Session in the person of Patricia Jamieson
- identifying gifts among members and finding new avenues to be of service in the community

5th September, 2021: Alness Parish Church

Minister: Rev Michael Macdonald (Auxiliary)

Psalms 133

Give thanks that we have been able to recommence our Young People's Church within the Kirk.

Pray that the virus is so reduced that we will be able to worship in church without face coverings - at least while singing.

Pray for the Session and Board as they make decisions for the Spiritual and practical needs of the Congregation.

6th September, 2021: Chaplaincy to Vulnerable Groups

Ordained Local Minister: Rev Irene Munro

We give thanks for Prospects Across Scotland, a national group of worship for those with learning difficulties, which begins to meet socially again in Dingwall and pray for more members and helpers. We give thanks for the staff in the Care Homes who keep so cheerful and positive in the midst of the extra work of the pandemic.

We give thanks for the Care Homes which are receptive to Chaplaincy. We pray for the care staff who don't know you as their Lord and Saviour and who sit through the services of worship that your Word will enlighten them and draw them to worship.

We pray for the Care Homes who struggle with staffing capacity that people of compassion will apply to work with the vulnerable. We pray for those care staff and residents who are weary and tired and anxious about their situations.

Isaiah 26:3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

7th September, 2021: Urray and Kilchrist (Muir of Ord)

Minister: Rev. Monika Redman

Church website link: <https://www.muirofordcofs.co.uk/>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/urrrayandkilchrist.churchofscotland>

Loving and heavenly father we bring our prayers before you.

We thank you for this amazing world you have given us. Help us to take care of it.

As we see covid restrictions lessen, encourage us all to do the right thing so that the virus becomes manageable and that we help less fortunate countries.

We ask for your healing hand on the families who have been bereaved recently. This will be a difficult time for them and they will be needing your loving support.

Give thanks to God for the recent induction of Rev. Monika Redman.

We give thanks to you for the diligent work by our nominating committee and for your powerful answer to many hours of prayer.

Give Monika and her family strength during what will be a very busy time for them all.

Grant the congregation a spirit of love and unity as they look forward and continue working together under God's guidance.

We know that none of this is possible without you.

8th September, 2021: St Clements, Dingwall

Minister: Rev Bruce Dempsey

Church website link: <https://www.dingwallstclements.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Mankind's Responsibility - Genesis 2: 8-9 and 15-17

God gave the garden of Eden over to Adam, to look after and tend the freedom to eat from any tree except the tree of good and evil (giving man choices)

John 15 verses 1-8 – Jesus is the true vine

Pray for God's creation, his presence in all who are committed to looking after his environment, especially our gardens, parks and all woodland habitats. May we appreciate what has been given to us by God to look after. May we not destroy land that is so important to the ecology of the world.

Pray for all countries to play their part in reducing pollution on land, sea and sky, so that we and the future generations will continue to preserve and enjoy God's handiwork.

Pray for all governments that they may carry out all their duties with honesty, diligence and integrity, representing the people and not themselves. Pray for all Christian churches, their ministers, family and congregations, as well those who are facing closure or reorganisation. May we embrace these changes with God's guidance.

We pray for all communities that are continuing to support the vulnerable and the needy. Especially pray for all the workers and volunteers in charity shops, soup-kitchens, homeless shelters, CrossReach facilities and foodbanks. May they be supported by all who give their time, talents and money to alleviate suffering. Bless each and every one who serve in your name.

Remember in prayer all who are in hospital at this time, HHS staff, residents of care and nursing homes. Bless each and every one with God's uplifting presence and strength, as they seek to carry out their duties with kindness and compassion.

Pray for all who are grieving this day. May they call out to Him so that He will comfort them with his compassion and His presence. May He surround them with is love and give them the inner peace that He alone can give. We pray for the lonely, sad, and the mentally and physically ill, so that they move forward with their lives through God's support and power.#

All our prayers God does hear and answer according to his will. Through Jesus precious name we pray – Amen.

**9th September, 2021: Fearn Abbey & Nigg linked with Tarbat (Portmahomack)
Interim Moderator - Rev Andrew Fothergill**

Church website link: <http://www.easter-rosscofs.co.uk/home.php>

Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PortmahomackandFearnChurchofScotland/>

Please pray that the linked congregations will grow stronger in unity as they desire to see the good news about Jesus proclaimed in Tarbat & Fearn.

Pray also that in 2021 significant progress is made towards filling this vacant charge.

**10th September, 2021: Tain Parish Church
Minister: Rev Andrew Fothergill**

Church website link: <http://www.tainparishchurch.co.uk/>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tainparish/>

Please pray:

That our congregation will remain resilient in a significant time of change.

That many in our community hungry for hope, peace and good news, will see Tain Parish Church as a welcoming family church to attend now that services have resumed on Sunday mornings.

11th September, 2021: Ferintosh Parish Church

Minister: Rev Stephen MacDonald

Church website link: <https://ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FerintoshParishChurch/>

With the church building open again we give thanks that we are able to gather in the church for two services each Sunday. Please pray that God would continue to strengthen, through his Word, those who gather together at church services and who attend the Sunday evening Zoom services as well as those who receive the Worship at Home material each week.

Isaiah 55:10-11 - For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

12th September, 2021: Invergordon

Interim Moderator Rev S. Macdonald

Church website link: <http://www.invergordonparishchurch.org.uk/>

Church Facebook page: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/InvergordonChurchOfScotland/>

Give thanks to God for the appointment of Rev Iain MacLeay as Locum Minister.

Pray for much blessing to be upon the preaching of the Word of God and for God's grace and peace to be with Iain and his family.

Give thanks that the church building is open again and that church services have resumed each Lord's Day at 11am with the Zoom services on Sunday evening.

Pray that God would continue to bless the congregation and Parish of Invergordon and that God would continue to encourage the congregation, Nominating Committee, and office bearers as they prayerfully seek the Lord for a new minister.

13th September, 2021: Our Local Communities

Pray for our local businesses who have been affected in so many ways by the current Corona Virus Pandemic.

Intercede for those in our communities who are facing uncertainty over the future in regard to their employment, etc.

Pray that many folks will be drawn back to God, and that our churches and congregations will be used to share Christ and His Gospel with them.

14th September, 2021: Roskeen

Minister: Rev Phil Gunn

Church website link: <http://www.spanglefish.com/rosskeenchurchofscotland/index.asp>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rosskeenparishchurch/>

Give thanks that our move to live-streaming has gone smoothly and that the congregation is able to engage with the services.

Pray for God's guiding hand as we open our doors again and continue to welcome the congregation into the buildings once more

Pray for God's wisdom as we make plans for the future, - what projects do we continue with, what projects do we say goodbye to and what projects can we begin

Give thanks for the schools in our Parish who are willing to engage and connect with us through the term, and give thanks for all the staff who have worked so hard in getting the children safely back into their education and for their desire to help the children develop into fully rounded individuals

15th September, 2021: Avoch linked with Fortrose & Rosemarkie

Minister: Rev Dr Warren Beattie

Church website links: Avoch - <http://www.avochchurch.co.uk/>

Fortrose & Rosemarkie - <http://www.fortrosemarkiechurchofscotland.com/>

I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. **Psalms 63:2-3**

Let us pray for us all, in the year ahead, to find the strength, love and determination to identify and help those in need. Pray 'for those in our, and indeed all, congregations unable to attend either virtual or physical services during this continuing lockdown.'

Pray, especially, for the minister and kirk sessions that the Lord would open up ways to reach out in practical and, where necessary, financial ways in the local community at this difficult time.

16th September, 2021: Education

Please pray for all our school teachers, college and university lecturers, and all those involved in educating those associated with our communities. May many of them be enjoying a well deserved break over the summer holidays.

Remember also our children and young adults, that they also will be enjoying their summer break

Remember all those who will, after the holidays, return to face-to-face education, from the youngest to the oldest. Pray for the mental health of so many who are clearly suffering from the difficulties created by the lockdown restrictions.

17th September, 2021: Children's Ministries

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7**

Please pray for: Existing ministries which have continued and will continue to adapt. Children who are unable to attend activities due to Covid-19 restrictions. Families who may be struggling during this difficult time.

God's hand in leading and guiding and blessing all children's ministries as they develop and flourish in the coming days.

18th September, 2021: Youth Ministries

Please pray for: All youth groups who are still able to meet together for fellowship. Young people who have, for now been unable to meet together.

Those who may be finding things difficult.

God's hand in leading and guiding and blessing all youth ministries as they develop and flourish in the coming days.

19th September, 2021: Contin linked with Fodderty & Strathpeffer

Minister: Rev James Bissett (Locum)

Church website link(s): <http://www.strathpefferchurchofscotland.org/>

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. **1 Chronicles 16:11**

Please pray for the locum minister, office bearers and those associated with Christ's church who seek to serve God faithfully in these local communities.

Psalms 32:8 says "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.....but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him."

And **James 1:5** says "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

Isaiah 30:21 says "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left."

Psalms 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

John 14:26 says "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

So, in the spirit of the verses above, let's pray:

Loving Father, help us to cultivate spiritual disciplines, so that we are more able to receive what you have to tell us, and more willing to do what you require.

May we not only come to you with our needs, our praise, & our thanksgiving, but make a habit of spending time in worshipful listening. Help us not to allow the distractions of social media, the bickering of politicians, the fear and uncertainty of not understanding guidelines, the busyness of life & the longing for a return to some sort of normality drown out your still small voice. Help us to be guided in all things by you, rather than our own imperfect judgment.

Mighty God, if we try and live our life without you, we will fail. Long ago, you sent your presence in a towering cloud and burning pillar of fire to guide your people through the wilderness. When we don't know which way to go, we ask that we would know your presence near us, nudging us and guiding us in the right direction. We do not want to go anywhere without you, Lord, because being in your presence is the best place for us. Protect us from harm and direct our steps. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

20th September, 2021: The International Justice Mission

Pray for those in poverty who are sadly and wrongly being harmed by violence and exploitation

Pray for the work of the International Justice Mission as they seek to rescue and restore victims, strengthen justice systems and bring criminals to justice

Take time to find out more about this organisation, so you can pray more intelligently and regularly for its invaluable work – see link below

<https://www.ijmuk.org/our-work>.

21st September, 2021: Cromarty linked with Resolis and Urquhart (Culbokie)

Minister: Rev Terry Burns

Church website link: <http://www.cromartychurch.org/>

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:

'Love your neighbour as yourself. **Matthew 22:37-39**

Please pray for the minister, office bearers and those associated with Christ's church who seek to serve God faithfully in these local communities.

22nd September, 2021: Informal Drop-In Ministries

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. **1 John 3:16-18**

Please pray for those who are lonely and vulnerable. For example, those who miss the weekly opportunities to meet for a cuppa and chat at informal drop in ministries provided by the Church.

As we look to the future, and the possibility of meeting in person, may God enable these valuable ministries to be re-established and developed safely and wisely.

23rd September, 2021: Presbytery Prayers

Pray for Ross Presbytery, and indeed each Presbytery of the Church of Scotland as they debate, discuss and agree their response to the same-sex marriage proposals which came down under the Barrier Act at the recent General Assembly.

May God's people stand up to what His word clearly teaches on this matter.

In Matthew 19:4-6, we find what Jesus (quoting Genesis 2:24) taught, adding his own endorsement: "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

24th September, 2021: Kiltearn Parish Church

Minister: Rev Donnie MacSween

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **1 John 4:9-11**

Please pray for the minister, office bearers and those associated with Christ's church who seek to serve God faithfully in the parish of Kiltearn.

25th September, 2021: Our Government and Leaders

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **1 Timothy 2: 1-2**

Pray for our politicians, those whom God has given the responsibility to govern our land. Ask God to help our leaders to make wise and right decisions. Pray that He will direct the paths of those who know Christ, and that His sovereignty will overrule in all things.

26th September, 2021: Prayer and Bible Study

Rejoice and give thanks to God for the power of prayer and the freedom we have to read and be taught the scriptures. Give thanks to Him for those who have still been able to pray and enjoy bible study through on-line means of communication.

Encourage those who are really missing fellowship in the Word and in prayer.

As we look to the future and the possibility of meeting in person, may God enable these valuable ministries to be re-established safely and wisely

27th September, 2021: All Foodbank Ministries

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, **Matthew 25:35**

Please pray for all churches who are providing basic food essentials for those who find themselves in need of this practical help.

May God use this practical way of demonstrating Christ's love to show the power of his Gospel.

28th September, 2021: Ross-shire Guilds

Please pray for all the local branches of the Guild that are still faithfully operating and meeting on-line in Ross Presbytery.

Give for the blessing the Guild continues to be to the Church of Scotland.

Praise God for the fellowship provided, and the amazing practical projects that share the Love of God and the Gospel of Jesus with others.

29th September, 2021: Lochbroom & Ullapool

Minister: Rev Heidi Hercus

Church website link: <https://www.ullapoolkirk.org.uk/>

Church Facebook page: <https://en->

[gb.facebook.com/LochbroomAndUllapoolChurchOfScotland/](https://en-gb.facebook.com/LochbroomAndUllapoolChurchOfScotland/)

"We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through"

Please pray for the Minister, Heidi, and for the session as they seek to best serve the parish through these strange times. Pray for unity, compassion, empathy, kindness and love for a community fearful as Corona moves in. Please pray for a vulnerable church and community, our Faith may be bigger than our fear.

30th September, 2021: Ministry Candidates at Various Stages of Training

Please pray for those involved with the selection and training of all our ministry candidates: Deacons, OLM's, Readers and Word and Sacrament.

Remember all candidates who are commencing, mid-way through and completing their theological studies on-line.

Give thanks to God for the way he has used the Highland Theological College and all the staff associated with it to provide sound and robust theological and academic learning to so many students. Pray that God will continue to use, enhance and bless the work of HTC. Please pray for our two current Candidates in Training for Ross Presbytery, Tommy MacGregor and Alister Murray.

31st September, 2021: Pray for Yourself

Psalm 55:22: Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Bring before God in prayer... all your joys, all your sorrows, all your cares and burdens ... everything!