

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 March, 2020: Our Front-Line Workers

Give thanks to God for all 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 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 March, 2020: Ferintosh Parish Church

Minister: Rev Stephen MacDonald

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

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

Pray that God would continue to strengthen, through his Word, those who can attend the weekly worship services on Zoom each Sunday while the church building is closed.

May God use the weekly Worship at Home and recorded services to draw those who read and listen closer to Jesus.

3rd March, 2020: Invergordon

Interim Moderator Rev S. Macdonald

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

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

Pray that God would continue to bless the congregation and Parish of Invergordon.

May God encourage the congregation, Nominating Committee, and office bearers as they prayerfully seek the Lord for a new minister.

4th March, 2020: Killearnan linked with Knockbain

Minister: Rev Susan Cord

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

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

Praise God for the success of the roll out of the Covid vaccine, where many congregation members have received their first (or maybe even second) dose, throughout the presbytery.

As we all move to a new stage in the pandemic, help us all to have a vision of how the church should and needs to be; truly loving God and loving others. Grant wisdom and courage to the office bearers, as the congregations deal with impact of the pandemic.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." **Joshua 1:9**

5th March, 2020: Castle Street, Dingwall

Minister: Rev Drausio Goncalves

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

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

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7: 14**

Pray for wisdom for ministers/Kirk sessions as to what changes may be necessary when restrictions are eased - layout of church buildings and possibly new ideas for the actual church service.

Pray for folk - members and adherents - who haven't been in church for nearly a year and may find it difficult to return for various reasons. May God show us the ways he has planned so that we can effectively reach out to those folk in the future.

Pray for children. Very few came to church when restrictions were lifted, a few months ago, so we need to pray that we will see all our children back in the fold when we return to the new-normal.

6th March, 2020: Chaplaincy to Vulnerable Groups

Ordained Local Minister: Rev Irene Munro

*For thou, O Lord, art good and forgiving, abounding in **steadfast love** to all who call on thee. **Psalm 86:5 AV***

The Hebrew word 'hesed' does not translate readily into English, but 'steadfast love' conveys the meaning, loosely interpreted as- 'come together for aid'. Hesed is therefore not abstract but involves practical action, expressing God's all-encompassing care for us. Hesed expects that the stronger agency will support the weaker in covenantal relationship. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 11 29 "Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? (NIV). Thank God for His steadfast love to us in our weakness that He is an ever present help in times of trouble exchanging our weakness for His strength.

Pray for those who do not admit their vulnerability and weakness easily and have been 'strong too long'.

Pray for all of us to be able to 'come together for aid'-ing each other reciprocally in our weak times.

Pray for our churches to be places of honest lament when so many are bereft and grieving, as well as being places of God's steadfast love and resurrection hope in Christ Jesus. Amen

7th March, 2020: Urray and Kilchrist (Muir of Ord)

Minister: Rev James Munro (Locum)

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

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

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God. **Psalm 42:5**

May the hope of God fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope - **Romans 15:13**

Place our hope in God and His Word

Will lockdown work this time? Will it bring down infections, transmission rates, deaths? Will vaccination eliminate the virus?

Will these things allow us to worship together again, resume our church activities, eat out soon, meet friends, plan for holidays?

These are all questions to which most people would reply "Let's hope so", in the vague hope that things will work out. BUT, the only sure hope is a hope that trusts in God and His plan for us.

Let's pray that we hear God's voice saying to us "I am your hope" over all other voices. Fill us with hope in You, Lord, and in Your plan for us, remembering that You are "able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think" (**Ephesians 3:20**).

May we all sense that You walk alongside us in all things: in the grand scheme of things, in life, in death, in pandemic, and also in the little things we do each day: the housework, the gardening, the smile, the helping hand, the tear we shed... Help us, Lord, to realise that hope placed in You is never hope misplaced, but a hope and trust rooted securely in Your promises.

In the name of Jesus, Amen

8th March, 2020: 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.

9th March, 2020: 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.

10th March, 2020: Our Moderator for 2020-21, Rev Dr Martin Fair

Give thanks to God for Martin Fair, and all that he has been enabled to do during his period in office as our Moderator.

Pray that God will continue to strengthen, lead and guide Him as he continues to support and encourage the Kirk during this time. Pray for his family and the congregation and community served by St Andrews Parish Church in Arbroath

11th March, 2020: Alness Parish Church
Minister: Rev Michael Macdonald (Auxiliary)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **James 1:17**

Please give thanks for the scientists who have created the vaccines and that many in our congregations have received their first jab and are encouraged by it.
Pray that our church family may find fellowship and sound teaching while unable to gather for worship.

Ask God for wisdom and practical help as we update our technology to be able to reach out into the community.

Remember our wider community where Covid-19 has affected Care home residents and carers.

12th March, 2020: Ministry Candidates at Various Stages of Training

Please pray for those involved with the selection and training of all our ministry candidates, 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.

13th March, 2020: Roskeen
Minister: Rev Phil Gunn

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

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

We are facing a large outbreak of COVID in Alness so please pray:

- For the local health workers and care homes as they battle with the COVID outbreak in the area

- For those who are sick and as they experience isolation cut off from their normal routines pray that they will receive the care and treatment they need, and that they will know peace and perseverance throughout their suffering.
- For the staff pray for their protection from the virus, for stamina during their long, intense and emotional working hours, especially as they cover for staff who are isolating.

14th March, 2020: 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 their local communities.

15th March 2020: Presbytery Prayers

Please pray for the continuing monthly meetings of Ross Presbytery via Zoom, and for the ongoing work of all the Committees

16th March, 2020: Kilmuir & Logie Easter
Minister: Rev Alistair Drummond

Church Facebook page:

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

Moses used to take the tent, and pitch it outside the camp, at some distance from the camp. . . . Anyone who wanted to consult Yahweh would go to this tent of meeting outside the camp. **Exodus 33:7**

Richard Rohr writes: "The early desert fathers and mothers imitated both Moses and Jesus by fleeing to Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Cappadocia—and some as far as Ireland and Scotland. Beginning in the 4th century, we Christians surrendered our unique and free perspective to the Roman and Byzantine Empires. In the desert and outside the camp, these people discovered what we now call "contemplation": the alternative mind and the alternative community to the status quo—then and now—of money, power, and war."

Please pray for:

- Minister and Kirk Session leading the Congregation to answer the long-standing question of the future of our church buildings.
- Members and adherents currently worshiping without in-person worship that they may be encouraged, feel loved, and included in the fellowship.
- The Mercat Centre in Milton and its staff innovating ways to be of service to the community around them especially those in most in need.

- The recently bereaved in church and parish as they grieve and find comfort in prayer and phone calls while in-person contact is limited.

17th March, 2020: 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.

18th March, 2020: 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.

19th March, 2020: Contin linked with Fodderty & Strathpeffer

Minister: Rev James Bissett (Locum)

Church website link(s):

Fodderty & Strathpeffer <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.

20th March, 2020: 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.

21st March, 2020: 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.

22nd March, 2020: 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.

23rd March, 2020: Rejoice! Easter is Coming!

As we look forward to Easter, please pray for all churches in our Presbytery, Country and across the world as we prepare to proclaim and celebrate the death of Christ for us and his glorious resurrection.

May this be a time when we see the Gospel bearing good fruit in answer to our prayers.

24th March, 2020: 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.

25th March, 2020: 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.

26th March, 2020: 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.

27th March, 2020: 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 when services are resumed.

28th March, 2020: 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.

29th March, 2020: St Clements, Dingwall

Minister: Rev Bruce Dempsey

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

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. **Ephesians 6:18**

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

30th January, 2020: Education

Please pray for all our school teachers, college and university lecturers, and all those involved in educating those associated with our communities.

Remember all those who have returned to face-to-face education, or will be soon, from the youngest to the oldest

Ask God to help all those in our communities in their learning, that He would nurture their gifts and talents to the full.

31st January, 2020 Pray for yourself, and all whom you love and care for.

Psalms 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!