

Friday 1st At this time of the year people often think of the year ahead and what it will hold for them. With the past year being extremely difficult for everyone and many activities and plans having to be cancelled many are hoping for a better year ahead. **Pray that everything we plan with God's help will take place.** Help us to put Christ first in everything we hope to achieve.

Saturday 2nd - Ask God to be with those who have been recently **bereaved**. Give thanks for the support others have given to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Pray that God will be with the bereaved as each day can be emotionally painful and pray that his presence in their lives will give them comfort and strength for the days and weeks ahead.

Sunday 3rd – “For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth ... I have become a sign to many; You are my strong refuge” (**Psalms 71 v 5,7**). Ask God to remind us of His strength and presence with us always and as a result may our attitude and hope bear witness to the world around us.

Monday 4th- Caroline Yeomans brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as she takes up her new position as **PCI's Head of Disability Services** today. Working within the Council for Social Witness, she will be part of the Senior Staff Team with particular responsibility for our residential homes and day care unit for adults with physical and/or learning disabilities: Aaron House; Lawnfield House; Willow Brook/Topley Terrace; and Peacehaven (Co Wicklow). Pray that she will quickly settle in and become a very valuable member of staff.

Tuesday 5th- Yesterday was **World Braille Day**. Pray that God would encourage individuals who are affected by visual impairment and help them to live as independently and successfully as possible. Give thanks for the Braille Bible and pray that it would be a blessing and source of light and life for many.

Wednesday 6th—Please pray for **Lynn Falls our Pastoral Visitor and Hayley Cullen, Youth Worker** as they adapt their working practices to these times of restriction. Pray that they will know God's presence as they keep in contact with and work alongside members of the congregation. Help us to encourage and support them as God works through them to comfort, care for, guide, disciple and encourage others.

Thursday 7th _ With the Covid 19 vaccine now being distributed it has filled people with the hope that soon things may begin to return to some sort of normality. Many will have to be patient and wait until it is available for them. Some may be afraid and unsure because it is such a new vaccine so please pray that they will be reassured and people will be willing to have it so that this virus may be overcome. Pray that this will help take pressure off the Health Service and for safe and quick distribution to everyone.

Friday 8th- Ask God to guide us whether at school, university or college of further education, work, in church life or in the post-employment years, to avail of new ways to enhance our lives and those of our families and others around us. Pray that we are able to trust God when choosing alternative or new paths along the life's journey. **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way” Proverbs 3 V 5 + 6 GNB**

Saturday 9th -This is the time of year when P7 pupils attend Open Days to help them choose their secondary school. Many of these will be ‘virtual’ this year. Pray for our P7s in Muckamore, that they and their parents would seek God when making their choice and know that God's plans for them are the best! (Jeremiah 29 v 11)

Sunday 10th- 2019 has been a very difficult year for everyone. Many are missing the fellowship in Muckamore. Peter has worked very hard to help everyone to be able to Worship in their own homes on Sunday mornings but everyone is missing being able to see all their friends at Sunday Worship. Everyone is also missing all the various organisations no matter what their age. Please pray that it won't be long until we are all able to Worship together. Also pray for Peter and the Session as they plan ahead.

Monday 11th - Take time to thank God for the scientists all around the world who have spent most of 2020 coming up with a vaccine to help protect us from the coronavirus. Pray that the vaccine will be delivered efficiently and effectively during 2021 and pray that the most vulnerable will be safe and that restrictions would become a thing of the past. Pray that the government, who have been trying their best to make the right decisions, would continue to do what is right for the people.

Tuesday 12th - Give thanks for the **safe arrival of a new baby** and the joy this gives to all the family members. Pray for new parents, especially those who lack practical family support as they do not live in close proximity to their immediate family. Ask God to be with new mothers, as due to the pandemic restrictions, interaction with other new mothers and health professionals is more difficult and can lead to a sense of isolation and loneliness.

Wednesday 13th - Pray for **health and social care workers** who have to visit people in their own homes on a regular basis, such as District Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Care Teams and others. Their work has become much more stressful as a result of the pandemic and finding themselves in homes where families are not observing the restrictions as they should, putting these kinds of support staff at greater risk. Pray that they will know God's protection as they go about their vital work.

Thursday 14th- In November, schools and churches together celebrated 10 years of **Scripture Union's E3 project** in Antrim. Give thanks to God for the tens of thousands of young people who have been reached through RE lessons, assemblies and SU groups in the Antrim and Lisburn area. Pray for Joel Hutchinson and the many volunteers in schools and churches as they adapt programmes and produce online resources to “Engage, Equip and Empower” Christian teachers and pupils in our area. Pray that SU groups would find ways to keep challenging and supporting young Christians at this time as they continue to make God's Good News known.

Friday 15th-- Now that a new year is beginning, why not decide today to **read the bible every day**. Even if you can only manage one chapter a day, or aim to read one book of the bible a month. It is very achievable, by the end of the year you will have read 12 books of the bible or follow the Bible in a Year structure. Pray that God would give you the motivation and desire to read His word and pray that He would speak to you during this precious time of study.

Saturday 16th —As children sit **AQE exams this month**, pray that the Lord would be with each child and help them to do their best. It has been such a difficult year for P7 children, having lost out on four months in school, reduced school day hours since September for some, many classes having to isolate for 2 weeks, some individual children having to be off school, exam dates changed twice and therefore prolonging the study time over Christmas, no familiarisation practice day and debate now over where they will have to sit the test. It has been a very unsettling year for the children, full of change and uncertainty. Pray that God would help each child to stay calm, focused, happy, settled and content during these challenging times.

Sunday 17th—“**This is the day the LORD has made**; let us rejoice and be glad in it”(Psalms 118 v 24). Pray for Peter as he leads us in worship! Pray that God will inspire him as he prepares and equip him to deal with digital technology! No matter how we worship today, pray that God will encourage and challenge us as we set aside time to meet with Him.

Monday 18th – At the present time many **Christian Charities** are unable to receive support in all the normal ways. Fundraising events cannot be held and these Charities are trying to do so much more for others. Due to the Covid outbreak there is an even greater demand on their services. Pray that people will respond generously to their financial appeals and prayer requests.

Tuesday 19th – Many are finding the continual **loneliness** very difficult. They very much miss people calling in for a chat. They may not see anyone for days or even weeks at a time. Many may not be very good with technology and have to rely on a phone call. Please pray for those who have been lonely because Covid 19 has made them feel very isolated. Please pray that it won't be long until they will be able to get out more to activities where they find friendship and fellowship.

Wednesday 20th – **Presbyterian Women's** Groups in our local congregations have been unable to meet during the current church year as a result of the Coronavirus restrictions. Pray for those in the local groups who are missing the opportunity to meet and enjoy friendship and fellowship with other ladies, learn about the work of the wider church and other Christian organisations, and contribute to the Home and Overseas projects through the PW Mission Fund. Pray that the groups will resume as soon as practically and safely possible.

Thursday 21st -Pray for Dr Jacqui Montgomery-Devlin, **PCI's Head of Safeguarding**, as she continues to keep the church's Taking Care Guidelines up to date in line with legislation. Give thanks for her expertise and experience in this important area as she ensures Ministers, Designated Persons and other staff employed by PCI; eg. in Residential Homes and Units receive regular training. Ask for wisdom as she conducts investigations on behalf of personnel department into misconduct, advises on local situations and oversees the vetting processes in both NI and RoI.

Friday 22nd – Give thanks to God for people who inspire us whether they are part of our congregation, on the mission field, family, friends, work colleagues or sport or media personalities or unsung heroes in our community. Give thanks for the remarkable lives they have led and the stories they relate to us.

Remember God is our ultimate inspiration and his presence in our lives changes and influences us on a daily basis and pray that he will continue to guide us through struggles and uncertainties.

Saturday 23rd – Take time today to meditate on this verse in a quiet place. **Mark 12v31 "Love your neighbour as yourself – there is no commandment greater than these."**

Sunday 24th – Many **families in our fellowship** have been worshipping 'online' on Sundays since March. Give thanks for Peter and Hayley, as they have taught and led all of us in worship, no matter what our age. Pray for parents, as they encourage their children in the faith and ask God to give them wisdom and commitment to "impress on their children" the commandments of God. (Deuteronomy 6 v 4-7).

Monday 25th-Give thanks for the **Moderator's Appeal during December**. Pray that there will have been a good response from PCI members so that millions of the world's poorest people affected by Covid-19 can receive much-needed practical help and support through Tearfund, Christian Aid and PCI's partner churches – people in places such as South Sudan, Malawi, Indonesia, Nepal, Lebanon, Syria and Romania.

Tuesday 26th – Make this a day when you give thanks to God for all your blessings. Take time out from your day and focus on all that you have to be thankful for. Sometimes we can get so caught up with the

problems we are facing and problems we hear on the news that we fail to remember and see all the great things going on around us. Remember what God has done for you on the cross, remember His wonderful promises and the hope we have in an eternal life with Him through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Wednesday 27th - **Holocaust Day**-Remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. Pray for the survivors of these atrocities. Pray that **terrible crimes against humanity** in places such as Syria and Yemen, where the innocent become victims comes to an end. Pray that love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Thursday 28th- Give thanks that the protocols put in place by the **NI Prison Service** have prevented the spread of Covid-19 among the Staff and prisoners, with only a very small number affected; mostly prisoners on remand or those who have just come into prison following trial. Pray for wisdom for Ronnie Armour in his role as Head of the Prison Service, together with his senior management team and the staff in the various Prisons as they continue to manage prison life, including visits from family and friends.

Friday 29th – All ministers at present must be finding it very difficult to **fulfil all their duties as a minister**. They are all working very hard to keep in touch with their congregations but obviously not being able to visit or talk face to face is making things very difficult for them. Please pray for all ministers, that they will be able to continue to lead Worship in Churches even though still in a difficult environment. Also pray for a full return to Worship and all organisations as soon as possible.

Saturday 30th- Pray today for all those people who **have lost loved ones over the past few months**. We have heard recently of so many people who have passed away, some expected, some due to the coronavirus and some totally unexpected. It is difficult learning to live without loved ones but the Lord will hold up those who mourn, He will give comfort to those who weep, He will give them strength and peace and there is light at the end of the dark tunnel of grief that we have to walk. We must pray that we will trust Him at all times, in good times and in bad and know that He is in control.

Sunday 31st - Give thanks that **the financial position of our congregation** remains very healthy despite the challenges presented by the fact that we haven't been able to meet together on Sundays for much of 2020. Pray for congregations who are struggling financially and have had to make staff redundant or reduce their hours – pray for those individuals and their families affected in this way. Remember congregations who are in the process of major building or repair work that need additional financial support from members to complete.



Prayer Diary January 2021

This diary is designed to help you to pray for the life of our congregation. We would encourage you to take it and use it on a daily basis, asking God for His hand in all that we are and do.

Scripture Reflection Romans 8 V 24 &25

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.