

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Pray for **all Key workers** whose work is vital to the pandemic response .Remember the PSNI personnel as they continue to protect the public .Ask God to be with the police officers as they engage with people to control and enforce the governmental restrictions. Pray for these key workers as they face huge challenges in carrying out their duties.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Remember **Muckamore Tots** as the current Government restrictions prevent the adults and children from meeting in the church hall. Pray for the leaders of Muckamore Tots, the helpers and especially the parents, grandparents and guardians who brought the children along each week for fun and Christian fellowship. Pray for all preschool children at this difficult time as they miss playing with their friends and other activities which enhance social development.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> –“Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here." (William H Parker). Pray for courage to **tell the stories of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus to those we meet**, whether face-to-face or online at the minute. This is National Storytelling Week (30th Jan - 6th Feb) and it is our right and responsibility to share the love of Jesus - people need to hear!

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>- After thinking it may be some time for a **vaccine** to be available, it was great news to hear that not one but two were now available. The vaccines have met strict standards of safety and the rollout of the vaccine is continuing well. Please pray for there to be a sufficient supply of the vaccine for the rollout to continue steadily. Pray also that everyone will remain safe as they wait for their turn to be vaccinated and that everyone will continue to obey all the rules.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup>- With the isolation and loneliness being experienced as a result of the lockdown restrictions and the closure of licensed premises, many are drinking more alcohol in their homes than they otherwise would, leading to possible increased levels of **alcoholism**. **Give thanks for the work of Carlisle House – PCI's residential substance misuse treatment** centre for individuals over the age of 18. Pray that through the treatment programmes, information and advice, and ongoing support offered, many will find solutions to their problems.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>- Thank the Lord for **Peter** and that he has been healthy and well during this pandemic. Thank God that Peter has been able to provide excellent online services for the congregation and been able to carry out services in the church building when restrictions had eased. Pray that God would give Peter wisdom, guidance, direction and strength as he makes plans for the future for the church and as he ministers to us and shepherds us. Pray too

for Peter in his personal life and bless Sandra and Aaron so that God's hand of protection would be over them.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - Take time to pray today for the **leaders of Hub**. Pray that God would direct and guide them in their decision making and in preparing weekly material for the Hub nights. Help everyone involved during this strange time when young people have to meet on Zoom, rather than in the hall. Pray that the young people would engage enthusiastically on Sunday evenings and particularly pray that God would help those young people who don't feel comfortable taking part in Zoom meetings. Pray that God would speak to them and challenge every young person involved.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – This is **Children's Mental Health week** (5th - 11th). Pray that our young people will get the support they need, but maybe don't know how to ask for. Remember in prayer the "Big House, Ireland". Like many charities at the minute, their work has been curtailed. Pray that young people who are having problems with relationships, exam worries, grief, identity and other issues, would be able to access the support they need online from the Christian counsellors in the Listening Space. Pray for the staff as they prepare resources and find new ways of working.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>-Ask God to be evident to all our **GB girls** and their families as they deal with constant change and uncertainty. Pray for the GB seniors who log onto Zoom each Tuesday evening. As they work through the Shaken resource from The Big House pray that the practical tips and the Bible application will help them develop healthy coping mechanisms for when life is difficult.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> **Christian Persecution** as defined by Open Doors is “any hostility, experienced from the world, because of one's identification with Jesus Christ.”. Sadly there are many Christians today who face severe persecution and restrictions because of their faith in Jesus Christ and with coronavirus and Brexit etc. there is the fear that these Christians are being forgotten. Open Doors have said that the pandemic has created more opportunities for persecutors to attack believers. Please pray for those suffering under persecution at the present time as they are crying out for prayer support.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - Thank God for all the **amazing work teachers are providing for children online** and through work packs. It's brilliant to see the web being put to excellent use, ensuring children have access to the education materials that they need, in order to stay on track and to be able to continue learning safely from home. Thank God that the government have provided laptops, internet connection and sim cards to children who previously were unable to gain internet access. Pray that children would be able to find a place at home where they can concentrate and that parents would

spend time helping their children, despite all of their other responsibilities.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> - As we entered a new year and all that it involves because of Brexit, there was a fear of **lack of supplies of food** and some supermarkets had some empty shelves. Added to this many families are very much dependent on food parcels. Please pray that things will run smoothly and supplies of food will reach the supermarkets. Pray also for the families who are struggling to buy food for their families and that they will receive the help they require.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> - Remember SUNI, Exodus and PCI as they recruit volunteers for **summer camps and missions** at home and overseas. Not only do leaders have to deal with the unknown of possible future Covid-19 restrictions, but also the uncertainty around applications for passports and visas due to Brexit. Pray that God would remind all involved that He is in control. Pray that people would apply for teams and that in God's wisdom and ways, outreach will still take place in 2021, either face-to-face or online.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>- Many people think we don't need **Valentine's Day** to be able to tell our loved ones how we feel but do we tell those we love often enough? We should tell them regularly through our words, our thoughtful actions, by a caring touch and taking time to listen to the person we love. Make an extra special effort today but don't forget about the other 364 days! Remember God's love is the greatest of all- 'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!' (1 John 3:1)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> -In Muckamore we support **various organisations including Tearfund, the Leprosy Mission, Christian Aid**, etc. In spite of the coronavirus at present, these organisations still continue to provide aid. As they are unable to organise fundraising events which would normally take place they are very dependent on donations online. Pray that people will remember their ongoing work and provide the necessary financial support.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51v10). Today, **Shrove Tuesday, marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent**, traditionally a time when Christians focus on their need to repent and be forgiven. As we turn to God today in repentance and faith, give thanks for the salvation we can know through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>- Pray for all who **are experiencing abuse** in their lives - for children, young people, men and women; that they may find courage to seek out help. Give thanks for all those individuals and organisations who work tirelessly with survivors of abuse –

following God's command to love one another. Pray for everyone affected by the finding of an investigation into 18 'mother and baby homes' in the ROI in which 9,000 children are estimated to have died.

Thursday 18th – At a time when the world is facing the same pandemic which is bringing economic and social devastation to all nations, pray for our **world leaders**. Ask God to guide them as they make difficult decisions both for their individual nation and collectively with other nations to alleviate the suffering of people throughout the world. Pray that world leaders use their power to fight injustice and respond to the needs of others who are vulnerable and at risk.

Friday 19th - Pray for our Youth Worker, **Hayley, as she coordinates the 'BRJ @ Home'** materials for children of Bubbles, Rainbow Club and Jump age in the congregation. Pray that leaders in these groups will help with putting the materials together for each Sunday. Pray that parents will find the materials very helpful in teaching their children "the truths and duties of the Christian faith" as many of them promised when they presented their children for baptism.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>- The **Guysmere centre** in Castlerock is a site owned by PCI. For over 80 years it was a popular venue for Christian camps, youth weekends, church and community events. Members of our congregation have come to faith there and many have been impacted positively for the Lord. A Development Panel has been working on the planning phase of a world-class residential and conference centre for Christian mission and ministry. Please pray for God's leading of the Panel and Guysmere Trust in their key tasks: \* Seek partners to help implement the vision\* Source funding for the project \* Plan a facility which will serve to advance Christ's Kingdom in tomorrow's world.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>-Normally at this time of year we hold our annual **Tearfund Lunch** when over £3,000 is raised. Last year over 1million people were reached through their disaster fund while another 2.4 million were helped through the community development work. Pray that lack of fundraising across the UK will not have a negative impact on the work of Tearfund and that people will continue to give them financial support.

Monday 22nd – Pray for all those involved in **Fostering and adoption** of children in Northern Ireland. Pray that children in care are placed in stable family settings and give patience to potential adopters as the adoption progress is long and arduous. Give thanks for the foster parents who may be asked at very short notice to care for vulnerable children who are at immediate risk from harm. Ask God that more people come forward to give children in care a

home whether for a short period of time or becoming a family member.

Tuesday 23rd – We continue to remember **M and A** in our prayers. In July M fell down the stairs and severely damaged ligaments in his left shoulder. As a result he had surgery in October which has proved to be successful. Added to that, in December both he and A tested positive for coronavirus and had to obtain antibiotics from the hospital. Thankfully they have both recovered well. Please continue to pray for them in Gdansk which like the UK has a high level of coronavirus.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>- Please pray for **people who have been deeply hurt** by someone in a way that has led to the breakdown of their relationship – a husband/wife, friend, family member. Pray that those who carry that hurt with them every day will know God's comfort and healing by learning to lean on Him. Give thanks for PCI's 'Fresh Light' counselling services that seek to bring comfort, strength, peace, hope and transformation in difficult seasons of life.

Thursday 25th – Give thanks for **farmers** who have continued to work through the pandemic to supply the food chain. Pray for them as they plan for the incoming farming year. Pray that farmers will adapt to the new ways of working as the new deal with the EU is implemented by the UK.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>- In Esther 4v14, Mordecai reminds Esther of her responsibility to be faithful to **God's plan for her life**. Today Jewish people celebrate the festival of Purim, which commemorates the deliverance of their ancestors from genocide in the ancient Persian Empire. Pray that they, and we, would turn again to God, seek His face and recognize in Jesus Christ, God's promised Messiah and Deliverer.

Saturday 27th- This is **Fairtrade Fortnight** (22nd Feb - 7th Mar). Pray for the Fairtrade Foundation as they continue to campaign for the rights of more than 1.7 million farmers and workers worldwide. In Micah 6v8, the Lord tells His people to "do what is right to other people, love being kind to others". The two main Fairtrade products in the UK are bananas and coffee. Pray that as we shop, God will help us to be mindful of how our simple choices can make a real difference to the lives of others.

Sunday 28th – Many people have found the past 11 months very difficult indeed. Being isolated, illness, difficult work environments, bereavement, losing jobs, being in financial difficulty, having to work from home, missing church, NHS staff having to work in very pressurised conditions, home schooling, being restricted to staying within 10 miles of our home, holidays cancelled, not getting to see and hug loved ones. **It's been a very challenging time**. Pray ultimately that people would turn to God for help in prayer and reading the bible. Remember this: 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.' (Ephesians 3:20)



## Prayer Diary February 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 Acts 15 v 13

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**