

Sunday 1st-Ask God to be with **Ronnie Armour** today as he opens up the Word to us. May God to take away all distractions and help us to listen and meditate on what he is saying to us through Ronnie. Give thanks also for all those people who have continued to be available for Worship services and provide necessary roles throughout these restricted times eg. stewards, musicians, sound desk, financial management, Brian, Jane, Hayley etc.

Monday 2nd -Pray for all those who provide **care for a family member or friend**, many of whom have felt neglected or abandoned at this time by the demands of Covid placed on health and social care authorities. Many are struggling with their own health issues and are desperately in need of respite. Ask God to give them physical, emotional and spiritual strength to cope and that help and support can soon be made available.

Tuesday 3rd – The **GB** leaders are planning some fun and games for the girls this month. Pray that these get-togethers will go ahead safely and many will come along to enjoy fun and fellowship. Pray for wisdom so that leaders will make the right plans and decisions so that all can embrace the new ways of meeting and formats. We pray that GB will still be an exciting place where girls will want to come to learn more about Jesus and know Him personally.

Wednesday 4th – Although we associate **loneliness** with older people it can affect anyone at any age – the highest level is actually among young people aged 16 – 24. Many feel isolated due to physical separation from others, lack of contact or lack of opportunities to participate in work, groups or social situations. Mother Theresa said “the greatest disease in the West today is loneliness...the only cure for loneliness, despair and hopelessness is love.” Help us to follow Jesus’ example of selfless love and compassion.

Thursday 5th – Today is **National Friendship Day** – give thanks for your friends and church family. Ask God to make us aware of the importance of being kind to each other, to be friendly and show compassion to each other. Pray that in this world where there is so much hurt, we can be salt and light bringing the love of Jesus to others. “....Be kind and tender-hearted to one another...” Ephesians 4 V 32 GNB

Friday 6th- Take time to pray for **Hayley** as she seeks to lead and guide our children’s and youth ministry through these restricted and difficult times. Things have changed so much from the 5 year strategy we envisaged at the outset. May God be with children, young people and parents so that they feel part of the church community and be enthusiastic to invest in it. Pray that God would be with all the leaders and helpers in the new formats we may have and equip them to create exciting, connected, fun, God-centred teaching that will help children and young people grow spiritually.

Saturday 7th - Remember in prayer the **Irish Mission workers**(PCI): David Boyd (Dublin), Philip Whelton (Arklow), Keith Preston (International Meeting Point, Belfast), and Tom Dowling (Kilkenny)

.Pray that funding would be secured for their work through the International Appeal. Pray for strength and boldness as they work alongside churches in the community to share God’s love and make Jesus real.

Sunday 8th – Give thanks that **Rev George Moore** is speaking today at our church service and for his willingness to share the message with our congregation. Pray that each person attending today’s service would feel the presence of the Holy Spirit moving in their hearts. Pray that they would sincerely worship the Lord and feel a real closeness to Him during worship. Deuteronomy Ch 30 v 20 “love the Lord your God, listen to His voice and hold fast to Him”.

Monday 9th- We live in a country and a world where **God’s values and truths** are ignored and even despised. This seems to filter more and more into our daily lives through the media and other sources. Pray for the Church, Christian leaders, politicians, teachers and organisations such as Evangelical Alliance who try to ensure that God’s standards are upheld. Ask God to strengthen us, to build us up and make us confident to stand firm in this secular society which tries to influence us away from God.

Tuesday 10th – **NI GCE A and AS level** results come out today (GCSE results on 12th). Pray for all the pupils who have sat these exams and who are waiting anxiously to hear if they may progress to the next level of their preferred option – further education, university or career. Pray that pupils will receive a fair result for their hard work and that they will be pleased with the outcomes. Pray also for teachers who have had to take on the responsibilities previously carried out by exam boards and the onerous task of assessing and grading each pupil.

Wednesday 11th – Think of **M and A** and that God will richly bless their work with Muslims as they share their Christian faith while living in Poland. Although Muslims make up only 0.1 % of the population there is deep mistrust and prejudice between religions. Please pray that places of worship are always safe and open, not only to those who are praying there but to everyone seeking shelter, or to find the rest and peace offered by a life in Jesus.

Thursday 12th - Please pray for the leaders of **BB** as they plan how best to restart face to face activities in September. We all long to meet like we used to but realise this may not be possible for quite some time. However, as the chorus of the BB hymn reminds us : We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure when the billows roll, fastened to the rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love.

Friday 13th - Pray for **Raymond, Willie** and other members of the Property Committee who work tirelessly to keep our church buildings, Manse, car parks etc maintained and operational. Give thanks for all they have done preparing and setting up the church, seating plans,

“fogging” the building between services and ensuring the various Covid regulations that apply are adhered to.

Saturday 14th- Give thanks for the **PCI Counselling service**, “Fresh Light.” Pray that people will find comfort, strength, peace, hope and transformation as they receive help in what are often very difficult circumstances in their lives due to stress, anxiety, depression, relationship breakdown and so on. The pandemic has increased mental health issues so dramatically and give thanks that this professional ministry can supplement the pastoral care of the church.

Sunday 15th – Give thanks for our speaker today -**Ian Fleck**. Ask God to be with Him as he shares his message of faith in Jesus Christ .Pray that God will encourage and challenge us as we bring our thanksgiving to Him, no matter where we worship or what our circumstances might be.” This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” Psalm 118 v 24.

Monday 16th – Pray for all the staff of **PCI involved in many differing roles** but all serving God and seeking to extend His kingdom through their work – the Moderator, Clerk and all administrative and financial support staff, Ministers, Deaconesses, Chaplains, staff in Homes and Units, Missionary workers, and those who serve on Boards and specialist agencies. Help us all to work together as the body of Christ to serve our community, growing in faith as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, so that the Good News of the Gospel can be shared.

Tuesday 17th -Pray for staff and volunteers working with the **Marie Curie, Macmillan, NI and Children’s Hospice** organisations as they offer emotional, physical and financial support for people and families living not just with a cancer diagnosis but with a whole range of terminal illnesses. Give thanks for the nursing care and palliative care provided in their specialist units in Belfast and Antrim Area Hospital and for the home-based care they offer. Pray that many will benefit from their compassion, expertise and experience.

Wednesday 18th –A United Nations report published in July 2021 highlighted the devastating news that around **one tenth of the world’s population was undernourished last year**- a probable fallout of Covid 19. More than half of these numbers live in Asia but the sharpest rise in hunger was in Africa at 21% of the population. Whilst the pandemic triggered recessions and jeopardized access to food other factors such as conflict, climate extremes, economic and inequality factors are still prevalent and the UN warns we are at “a critical juncture”. Pray that policy makers have the vision, desire and commitment to make urgent transformation possible.

Thursday 19th – Pray for those who have been **bereaved** in recent times. With certain restrictions still in place eg. numbers attending funerals and people unable to visit homes it is difficult for families to deal with the grieving process and for others to express their sympathy personally. Think of those you know who has lost loved ones and ask God to be especially near to them- Psalm 27

Friday 20th –There will many people who **have not been able to travel** to visit loved ones for quite some time. Think of those undertaking missionary work abroad, those serving in the armed forces and those with work or other family commitments. Some may be in countries where there are dangers from conflict or instability. Pray that they will know their loved ones are thinking and praying for them and that they can keep in contact with them and be assured of their safety.

Saturday 21st –Pray for our local **Special schools** such as Riverside, Jordanstown and Hill Croft who encourage and support the children/young people to acquire new knowledge and skills in a safe, happy and stimulating environment. Give thanks for the amazing staff and parents who do this on a daily basis. Pray for each child who provides “ moments of delight, moments of wonder, pride in achievement and happiness in being accepted” (from Harberton school mission statement.)

Sunday 22nd –Our speaker today in Sunday Worship is **Ronnie Armour**. Ask God to give Ronnie wisdom and strength that he may continue to serve the Lord and lead and guide others to Him. Pray for Ronnie in his work life, which is a very demanding and challenging role, that he can bring a Christian witness to those he comes in contact with. Pray for Linda, Mark and Stephen in their daily walk and for the new academic year ahead and for all the changes and challenges this may bring.

Monday 23rd –In these uncertain times we need dedicated people to **make themselves available** to make the church function smoothly. Any small amount of time or role is invaluable to the congregation and a service to the Lord. Pray that new volunteers within the congregation will be encouraged to help- 1 Corinthians 12 v 5 “There are different kinds of service but the same Lord.”

Tuesday 24th- Tearfund are raising awareness of the catastrophic effects that **climate crisis** will have on the world if it continues to accelerate. Without urgent action it will push 132 million more people into poverty by the end of the decade. Pray for the Reboot campaign they are running and how they will be lobbying for action to be taken by world leaders at the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November. As Christians we have a vital role to play through prayer and speaking up for change.

Wednesday 25th –It is our **time of prayer in the Church** this evening. Pray that those attending will feel the presence of God with them as they pray for others and their situations. May those facing difficult times be strengthened and encouraged that others are upholding them in prayer. Please pray also for those who lead the studies, that they will feel God's presence guiding them.

Thursday 26th- We pray for all **children returning to school**, especially those starting schools/nurseries for the first time or those beginning secondary education. Due to Covid restrictions many will have received little transition preparations and they (and their parents/guardians) may be feeling very nervous about changes and procedures that will be in place in school. Pray that they will settle quickly and feel safe in their new environments.

Friday 27th —As **we approach September and hope to resume organisations** and school/college/university situations there is still a great deal of uncertainty about the effects of “opening up” and how we operate our churches and daily lives in a new normal. We are all anxious about what the Autumn and Winter months will hold so help us to trust and rely on the Lord going forward. Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything , but in everything ,by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Saturday 28th –This is a prayer from Tearfund adapted from the Congo Prayer Book – “Oh God , loving parent of all, **comfort your children – displaced, wounded, lost or orphaned by conflict** in DRC. May the people have enduring peace, justice and freedom that their children may grow up without fear.”

Think of the Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries who are experiencing a humanitarian crisis on an alarming scale and pray for the most vulnerable people in these situations.

Sunday 29th – Today **Rev John Dixon** will be taking the service. Pray that everyone attending will feel a sense of belonging and community with other believers. Pray that soon we will be able to move to a point where restrictions ease so that we can worship collectively once more. Please pray that we will remember what Christ has done for us and that we trust and obey the plans and purposes He has for our congregation and His church.

Monday 30th- Think of families over the summer who have perhaps **struggled to make ends meet**. Give thanks for the free school meals campaign to help those in need and for local foodbanks. More people are finding themselves in economic difficulty arising out of the effects of the virus such as unemployment or reduced hours. Pray that those in such circumstances will be helped and supported in the name of Jesus.

Tuesday 31st – Pray for God to lead us through **this period of change**. We think of Peter, Sandra and Aaron who will be beginning September in a much different way and pray that they feel a real closeness to God and that He will open up the way for them according to His plans and purposes. Pray for Stephen Lockington too, as he takes on responsibility for our congregation and the process of calling a new Minister. Help us to put our complete trust in the Lord to bring the right person to Muckamore in accordance with His will and perfect timing.



Prayer Diary August 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 Isaiah Ch 40 v 8

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying “This is the way; walk in it”.