

Wednesday 1st- We continue to remember **Hayley Cullen** in her new role with Greater Ballyclare Youth for Christ. Pray that as Hayley uses her gifts of speaking and her many abilities, that she will be an effective witness among young people. Pray for her as she takes on new and demanding responsibilities, in leadership and in speaking, and as she works alongside other staff, interns and volunteers. Pray that they will all know God's leading and wisdom in the many events and initiatives that are being run in the Ballyclare area.

Thursday 2nd—Give thanks today for our **Queen** who has remained steadfast throughout her 70 years of dedicated service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. May her example of Christian faith and integrity continue to inspire and encourage people in every walk of life. Pray for safety, peace and joy throughout Her Majesty's Platinum celebrations, culminating in the Big Jubilee Lunch with millions joining street parties.

Friday 3rd - Pray for our health service as there continue to be issues about the availability of hospital beds. Pray for our emergency departments as staff there appear to be overstretched and for patients who end up with long waits in ambulances and in hospital corridors. The ambulance service is currently struggling to meet response times as they are caring for patients outside busy emergency departments. Pray for additional funding to help recruit more staff.

Saturday 4th—This past few years have been very different from normal for all **students**. For those **graduating** this year there is the added concern of finding a job. With so many people losing jobs in recent years and so many unemployed this can be a very anxious time. Please pray that opportunities be available for those graduating and that students will achieve the results they require to follow their chosen careers.

Sunday 5th— Pray that we would prepare our hearts and minds as we come to worship today. Pray for **Rev Graham Connor** as he ministers to us; that God would use him to challenge and encourage both young and old as he shares God's word.

Monday 6th -We are at present, seeing on the news, how people are **struggling to make ends meet as food prices have risen**. With shortage of grain due to the present situation in the Ukraine things are very unlikely to improve. Production costs in farming have risen and therefore the price of many food items, such as bread, milk, fruit, vegetables and meat are expected to rise at least 10%. Pray especially for families with low incomes and unemployment that they will be able to provide for their families.

Tuesday 7th — Today pray for **PCI'S Board of Social Witness**. Working in partnership with many different organisations, PCI plays a key role in ministering to the physical needs of people and provides services all across Ireland. This includes residential care, supported housing and nursing care for older people, day care, residential respite care, supported living and services for people with a learning disability and those with a physical disability. The Church also works with people with addictions and with offenders. Pray for all staff in these facilities delivering practical care, love and hope in Jesus' name.

Wednesday 8th - **British Heart week is 7-15th June**. Heart disease is responsible for 1 in 4 deaths in the UK, please pray for additional funding to continue much needed research into the prevention of heart and circulatory diseases. Please pray for charities such as the British Heart Foundation as they promote awareness of cardiovascular disease.

Thursday 9th- Due to Covid and our vacancy this past year, many may not have attended church regularly. Some may still, because of Covid, find it very hard to return to attending our Sunday Services. Give thanks that in recent weeks our numbers have increased and with the Rev. Stephen McNie going to be our new Minister things are returning to some kind of normality. Please pray that those who have become used to watching a service on line will feel **encouraged to return to our weekly services** and to enjoy the fellowship which we are able to have once again.

Friday 10th - **Release International** serves the persecuted church in some 30 nations. Each year, in honour of Christians whose churches have been demolished or who are denied the opportunity to worship, Release International invites churches to go All Out For God. 'Our aim is to encourage Christians to hold part of their Sunday service in the open air.' says Release International CEO Paul Robinson. 'We want to demonstrate our unity with persecuted believers denied a place of worship, who are unable to enjoy the freedoms we have in the UK.' Pray for the persecuted church and for all Christians who have decided to go All out for God in their Sunday services.

Saturday 11th - When so much of the world does not have access to **clean water**, we should never take our clean water supply for granted. Ask God to help us to be careful in our use of water. Think about how we as a family could try to cut down on how much we use, maybe just through small, simple steps.

Sunday 12th - Today in Muckamore we are having a **Family Service**. Give thanks for all the preparation work carried out by

Jane and Brian and pray that the children will enjoy taking part and learn more about God and His goodness through their readings, prayers, songs and lesson. Be with **Rebekah Ravey** from Scripture Union NI as she leads the service and may it be a time that our fellowship can celebrate our children and young people and their importance to our congregation.

Monday 13th- Yesterday was **Pentecost Sunday**. Today give thanks for and honour the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and celebrate the birth of the church. In John 14:16 Jesus said: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever." Praise the LORD for His constant presence, guidance and assurance.

Tuesday 14th- It is **Loneliness Awareness Week**. It's a common misconception that loneliness is limited to older people. In fact, it's now the 16-24-year-olds who are the loneliest age group in the UK. However, older people are more susceptible to serious physical and mental health risks arising out of loneliness eg. cardiovascular stress, blood pressure, depression and dementia. Over half a million older people have stated that they may not see another person for 5 or 6 days. Please pray for and find opportunities to talk to, visit or befriend people who may be lonely.

Wednesday 15th — As we return to some kind of normality and will also be installing our new Minister, it is a great time and opportunity for people to come forward to **help or be involved in various areas of our church life**. This is especially important as families return to church and hopefully organisations will be able to return to normal by September. Please pray that people will volunteer to be part of our welcome teams, choir members, play an instrument, be part of the counting teams, help in the children's ministry and wherever their talents can be used to serve God.

Thursday 16th — The **climate crisis** in our world is a huge emergency but with God's help we can make an impact for others through prayer and financial assistance. Rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall cycles have disrupted farming and growing patterns making food scarce, resulting in high prices and poverty. Natural disasters have ruined entire communities and the effects on the economy and population may be irreversible. Pray for countries that are the most vulnerable to climate change; Nigeria, Yemen, UAE, Philippines, Haiti, and Kiribati.

Friday 17th — Tonight we celebrate the **Installation of our new Minister** Rev Stephen McNie. We give thanks to Rev Stephen Lockington and the Elders for all their preparation work and prayerful consideration throughout the whole vacancy process and that God has led us as a congregation to this point. We look

forward with eagerness and excitement to Stephen's ministry in Muckamore and beyond and ask that God will help, guide, bless and sustain him, Sarah and Beth as they make this major change in their ministerial and personal lives.

Saturday 18th – **Street Pastors** is a Church based scheme through which Christians from different churches get together and go out onto the streets of towns and cities. They take pressure off the emergency services by helping to prevent anti-social incidents, picking up bottles etc., which could be used as weapons, helping with simple first-aid and giving help as needed. They provide a great witness to the community in every way. Please pray that all volunteers remain safe when out at night and also for the prayer teams and how they support those on the street. Pray also for those they meet week by week and that they have an opportunity to share their love for God.

Sunday 19th – Heavenly Father, we give You grateful thanks for another Sunday when we can come into your presence to worship You. Today we give you special thanks for our new Minister, Rev Stephen McNie. We ask you to bless him richly as he begins his ministry with us. May he know Your presence with him as he speaks to us today and as he ministers here in the days ahead. Be with him in his role as a husband and as a father. Thank You too, for all **fathers on this Fathers' Day**. Thank you for the wonderful privilege of being able to call you our 'Abba' Father.

Monday 20th – At this time of year, **schools are trying to balance their finances** and organise their budgets, in a time of great financial uncertainty. Pray that God will strengthen and give wisdom to management teams and teachers as they prepare for the next school year.

Tuesday 21st – **Refugee week** is 20th -26th June and the theme this year is healing. Pray for all countries experiencing conflict and the trauma caused to civilians caught up in war. Pray for those who have lost their homes, have been bereaved and have to build new lives from scratch. Pray for those who go through the asylum system, that they would receive compassion in their new environments and have their physical and social needs met.

Wednesday 22nd- **The PCI General Assembly** will meet this year from Wednesday 22nd June to Saturday 25th June. Pray that this annual gathering will be an important time of coming together, of fellowship, worship, Bible study and celebration. Pray for **Rev. John Kirkpatrick** as he undertakes the role of Moderator for the incoming year. Ask God to be with him, to give him courage and boldness, and with his wife Joan, in this challenging role.

Thursday 23rd- Please pray for **Presbyterian Ministry students**, who will begin their summer placements this month, serving full-time in congregations until September. For some, this will be their first experience of full-time ministry. For others, it will involve ministry in an unfamiliar context. Pray that students will learn, be shaped in

character, and that God will bless their service wherever they are placed.

Friday 24th- We pray for all **young people who are finishing school or college** for the summer break. Ask God to help them to find wholesome, worthwhile activities during the summer months, so that they will not become bored, but rather find fulfilment in doing something productive, enjoyable and creative. May they use their time well, and in a way that brings honour to God.

Saturday 25th – Today, on **Armed Forces Day**, pray for all the men and women who serve in the Navy, the Army and the Air Force, who face danger and put their lives at risk so that others might live in safety. Pray too for chaplains and lay readers, people like Paul Somerville, who bring comfort and hope through Jesus into challenging and desperate situations.

Sunday 26th – Pray for **Stephen** as he leads Worship today. As we look forward to his ministry here, pray that we will be united as a congregation, moving forward together in love and faith under God's plans and timing. Weather permitting, we also hope to share in a "bring your own picnic" after the service. Pray that many will come along to share time, chat and fellowship together and to meet with Stephen and the family.

Monday 27th- As we head into the Summer months and people will be **heading on holidays, many people will be travelling** from one place to another. This may be by car, boat or plane. Please pray that people will concentrate if travelling by car as roads are constantly becoming busier. Pray that in airports there will be minimum delays at both check-in and security and that flights will operate on time and as scheduled.

Tuesday 28th – Pray for our **mission partners** in Croatia, Poland, Uganda, Kenya and India as they continue their outreach and mission work after the effects of the pandemic. Give thanks for their faithfulness, patience and compassion and for all ways practical love is shown to their communities in the Lord's name eg. in education, healthcare, the supply of bibles and scripture resources and by providing safety, financial assistance and basic necessities.

Wednesday 29th- Pray for **summer outreach teams** such as SUNI, CSSM, EXODUS, and teams within PCI. Pray for guidance for leaders and young people as they commit themselves to this outreach. Pray for wisdom and safety in travel whether locally or overseas. Pray that God would draw young people to Himself through these mission teams.

Thursday 30th- Pray for **young people as schools break up** for the summer holidays. Ask God to keep them safe in body and mind. Pray that families will continue to attend church and encourage their children to engage with summer outreach and Holiday Bible Clubs. Give thanks for this opportunity for rest and refreshment. May we all use this summer as a time to refocus on Jesus.



Prayer Diary June 2022

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 v35,37

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”