

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> - Lift up today every child, young person, classroom assistant, teacher and all others who work in our **schools** at the beginning of this new academic year. Pray especially for those starting nursery, primary or secondary school for the first time. Help them to settle and make good choices in their friendship groups. Pray that God would encourage our young people to join SU groups in school, where they can be supported, nurtured and encouraged in their walk with Jesus.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>- Food prices are rising and many struggle to make ends meet. Conflict, COVID, the climate crisis and **rising costs** have combined in 2022 to create jeopardy for up to 828 million hungry people across the world. While needs are sky high, resources have hit rock bottom. The war in Ukraine is likely to lead to the greatest global food crisis since World War II. Its impact is already being felt in Somalia, experiencing its worst drought in recent history. Please pray for help to provide emergency treatment for severe malnutrition, supply food rations and train farmers how to cope with extreme weather conditions.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> –Let us pray for **renewed commitment to the Lord** as our summer holidays draw to a close. Pray that we will know how we can best serve God in church and in our community. As recently reminded in church, God used Moses for a great purpose so may we prayerfully consider how we can be of use within the different organisations in order to glorify God.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>- As we, as a church family, return to the new church year's activities, pray that we will put God first, and that our energy and enthusiasm will be renewed. Pray for our minister, Rev. **Stephen McNie**, as he prepares and delivers teaching from God's Word, and as he builds up links with the congregation. Pray that God would guide him in his priorities.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – We are holding a **week of prayer** for our church, community and wider world this week. Pray that this will be well attended and that we will feel blessed, encouraged and supported as we bring the needs of our fellowship and others to God. There is much that we should give thanks for- all those taking part on Sundays eg Minister, musicians, sound team, choir, welcome and count teams, children's ministry and all the organisations throughout the week. Also especially remember those who are struggling at this time within the congregation and beyond. 1 Thessalonians 5 v16 – 18.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Please pray for our **current political leaders** as they return from holidays and start negotiating in order that we would have a working Northern Ireland Assembly. Without a working Executive, important issues such as the allocation of budgets cannot be agreed and put in place where they are most needed. As the new Prime Minister is elected, please pray that the

government would be successful in bringing the Protocol deadlock to an end.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>- **International Literacy Day** is tomorrow-remember children who have fallen behind in school, perhaps due to COVID. Pray for the growing number of church-based adult literacy and English language classes that are being offered to people, for whom English is not their first language. Pray for local Christians, as they get involved in these classes, that they would lovingly and graciously share their love for Jesus.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>-**Coffee Morning** recommences today. Everyone is very welcome to come along between 10.00a.m and 12.00 noon to enjoy tea, coffee, scones, biscuits and to meet and chat with friends. Please pray that anyone who would love to come along but maybe feels a little anxious coming on their own will know they will be among friends and be made very welcome. Please pray that all who come will feel love and friendship.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>- Please pray for **Rev Dr John Kirkpatrick, this year's Moderator**. Ask God to bless him in his year of office, as he represents the whole of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Pray for wisdom, strength and stamina to carry out the work assigned to him. Be with his wife Joan as she supports him and accompanies him on many of the engagements. Pray for safety in travel and good health during this busy and challenging year.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> –There are many countries around the world dealing with **humanitarian crises**. Afghanistan is top of the International Rescue Committee's watchlist. They predict that 97% of the population (24 million people) is now in poverty. Also 90% of the country's health clinics are expected to close depriving millions of basic care. The risk of hunger, disease, freezing due to no shelter and death are daily realities. Pray for urgent action by governments and stakeholders to provide financial and practical relief.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> - **Give thanks for answered prayers** in our personal lives, family and friends. Praise God for our new Minister and how he and his family have settled so well into our church. Give thanks for Stephen's faithful teaching from God's word and for his ministry.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Give thanks that several **local churches have now filled their vacancies** and have installed new Ministers recently. Pray that as church life develops that these new Ministers and their families will find love, connection, support and revival in their congregations and community. May they be equipped with physical and emotional strength as they face challenges but also great joy in their new role. Pray for those churches still in vacancy

and for Presbyteries who may have to take difficult decisions regarding their congregations.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - We thank God for our **Girls Brigade company** in Muckamore. Thank God for Sharon who faithfully runs our company, along with the dedicated team of officers and helpers. We pray for Sharon and the leaders as they prepare for another busy year, and that they will have enough help for all that is organised. Pray for all the activities planned, that the girls may have good fun and enjoy their varied programme, while at the same time learning to seek, serve and follow Christ.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>- Give thanks for the unity and harmony that exists within our **Session**. We particularly want to thank God for his guidance during the past twelve months and for the appointment of Rev Stephen McNie as our Minister. Pray for the Session as we start a new church year, that they will provide unlimited support and guidance for our Church.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - Pray for our **Boys' Brigade company**. Remember the Captain, Jacqui McNeilly, the officers and helpers as they plan and organize the weekly programme. Pray that the boys who come will see and hear the message of God's love and faithfulness lived out in action by their BB leaders, and in turn may their lives become "sure and steadfast" (Heb 6v19) in the finished work of Jesus.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>- The **Simon Community NI** mission is to end homelessness in NI. Pray for its work among homeless people in NI, where almost 3600 households are in temporary accommodation. So many people are struggling financially today, but pray that God will move people to give to this charity. Pray too that homelessness would be a key priority in public policy.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> –The recent heatwave and forest fires across the UK just highlight the fact that **climate change** is a real and urgent problem across the world. Extreme weather events such as drought, landslides, flooding and earthquakes are becoming more frequent and intense. This leads to lives being lost and people displaced as well as the longer term effects on the economy and infrastructure of countries, such as food shortages, poverty and job losses. Pray for organisations on the ground who seek to bring practical help and God's love through responding quickly and compassionately to these situations.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>- Today we are delighted that **Majed and Anna** are speaking at this morning's Service. The last few years have been especially difficult with both of them having Covid, Majed also fell down the stairs and had to have surgery on his shoulder and more recently Anna had an operation to remove a growth on

her kidney which thankfully was very successful. Give thanks to God for bringing them through these difficult times. Pray also for them as they share their work with us this morning.

Monday 19th - "The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Ps 34v18). Pray for members of our church family who have been **bereaved**, that they will know God's peace and love as they grieve, and his strength as they try to find their way to a new normality in the midst of their pain. Ask that friends will remain loyal, patient and supportive.

Tuesday 20th- Continue to pray for the **farming community** as they continue to suffer from rising costs such as fertiliser, feed, diesel and electricity. Food prices in our shops will continue to rise being driven also by the war in the Ukraine limiting the availability of grains such as barley and wheat and also fertiliser, vegetable oil and gas. All these situations will lead to many problems in farming and prayers for them would be much appreciated.

Wednesday 21st – **PW** are recommencing this evening. The speaker is Laura Rainey a rep with Asia Link. She will be bringing along "Hope and Light" jewellery, proceeds of which provide hope and light to exploited women and children across Asia. Pray that new members and other past members will feel encouraged to come along to enjoy a warm welcome, fellowship and renewed friendships.

Thursday 22nd- Please continue to pray for the **health service**, for staff who work long hours covering for those who are on leave; for protection for them from exhaustion and stress. Pray that staff shortages would be addressed, and that new staff could be appointed quickly. Please pray that The Royal College of Nursing NI would resolve their dispute over the pay award for nursing staff therefore avoiding possible strike action. Pray that the government in NI could be restored so that they can address the worsening health service crisis. Unfortunately, waiting lists have increased since the pandemic- pray that those in most need of investigations and treatment would receive medical care in a timely manner.

Friday 23rd – We pray for all those within our congregation and for **people known to us personally who are ill** at present and who need God's presence and help. Pray that if it is God's will, healing will be granted, and if not, that all who are suffering may know God's peace, His presence and His touch upon their lives.

Saturday 24th- At this time of year we **remember all students** who are returning to university or starting university for the first time. We give thanks that they have gained a place to study their chosen subject, and pray that God will help them to make a smooth

transition as they move away from the security of home. Ask God to help new students make good friends and wholesome life choices. Be especially near to Christian students as they take a stand and stay strong in their faith.

Sunday 25th – Give thanks that Sandie Carlisle has taken on the role of **Sunday School Co-ordinator** and will be responsible for all 3 age groups – Bubbles, Rainbow Club and Jump. Children's ministry is so important to sow seeds of love, compassion and Biblical teaching in young children's lives so that in time this may build disciples of the future. May all leaders engage with the children and be good witnesses to them helping them to understand the Bible and God's love for them fully.

Monday 26th - **Mission Aviation Fellowship** is a Christian mission organisation that uses planes to overcome barriers such as jungles, mountains, swamps etc. The pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines etc. to locations that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air. With an M.A.F. plane taking off or landing every 4 minutes, the need is huge. Please pray that people will give generously and pray to make all this possible. Pray for all who bring hope and the love of Christ to isolated people around the world.

Tuesday 27th – We pray for anyone whose **mental wellbeing** has been affected by the stresses of Lockdown during the pandemic, or by Long Covid. We pray that these people, who may have been otherwise healthy, will be able to recover from any ways in which their mental health has been affected. Ask God to give wisdom and expertise to medical staff and counsellors who bring help and guidance to all who are suffering in any way.

Wednesday 28th- Joshua 1 v 9 – "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."

Thursday 29th – Pray for the **World Food Programme** in their efforts to get much needed Ukrainian grain out of this war-torn country. 40% of the world wheat supplies come from the Ukraine and since the start of the Ukraine war 6 months ago there has been a dramatic reduction in the export of grain. Praise God that the Russian and Ukrainian governments recently came to an agreement so that wheat grain could get out of the country to reach people most affected by the global food crisis.

Friday 30th- Today we pray for the various events being organised in support of **cancer services**, for example the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We thank God for all who have signed up to host a Coffee morning, praying that each one will be a good success. We remember the Twilight Walk in aid of Marie Curie, and ask for God's blessing and safety on those who walk. Pray for the people who will benefit from such fundraisers, that they may know they are loved and cared for.



## Prayer Diary September 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

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1<sup>st</sup> John Ch 4 v7