

Tuesday 1st- On this '**All Saints Day**', give thanks for all the people who have helped us grow in faith through the witness of their godly words and lives. Pray that we too would bear witness daily to our Lord and Saviour through the example of our faith, worship, dedication and love.

Wednesday 2nd -**Prayer** is the powerhouse of the church, please pray that there will be a good turnout from the congregation at the prayer meeting tonight. Pray for Stephen as he leads us in prayer. May those who attend know God's presence and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Thursday 3rd- **Homelessness** is devastating, dangerous and isolating. There are many things which cause homelessness. It could be due to social causes such as poverty and unemployment, unable to afford the rent, mental or physical health problems, substance misuse, violence in the home and many more. Give thanks for such organisations as the Welcome Organisation in Belfast and for all the volunteers who give of their time to help others. Please pray for all those trying to help the homeless.

Friday 4th- We pray for all **Christian marriages**, and especially couples known to us personally. Give thanks for the teaching we had on this subject recently, when Stephen spoke from God's word about how we should live as married couples. Pray that wives and husbands would be Christ to each other. Pray that those of us who are married would love freely, humbly, respectfully, selflessly and graciously.

Saturday 5th – **Elaine Houston**, our Church Officer, works tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring our church buildings are clean, tidy and welcoming for Sunday services and all organisations throughout the week. Give thanks for her commitment and conscientiousness and the service she carries out for our congregation and to the Lord.

Sunday 6th – **Andrew Dickson** has recently taken over the role of PCI's Congregational Life Development Officer. Pray for Andrew as he settles into his new job and as he organizes events to encourage, empower, equip and embolden new volunteer leaders to step up within their congregations.

Monday 7th- Please pray for **hospital staff** as they face ever-increasing pressures at this time of the year. Pray for strength as they often work long hours and provide cover for colleagues who may be off. Pray that God would protect them from burnout and encourage them so that they can do their work to the best of their ability.

Tuesday 8th- Each year, Presbyterian ministers, along with their spouses, are given the opportunity to attend a **Pre-retirement conference** which will be held in Newcastle this week. This is for those who are due to retire in the next couple of years. The time spent at the conference is to help them to reflect on and to plan for retirement, which usually involves leaving their job, congregation, home and friends. Pray that the conference will be a time of encouragement, help and blessing to those who attend, and that each delegate would be aware of God's presence, guidance and direction for the next stage of their lives and ministry.

Wednesday 9th- **Bowling Club** allows church members and non-church members to meet, chat and play and enjoy both the social and competitive side of the game. Give thanks for the recent barbeque which was held and the outreach the club provides to the community. Give thanks for all the office bearers and the work they put into organising and running the club each week.

Thursday 10th - Pray today for the annual **UN Climate Change Summit 'COP27'** in Egypt. Lift up all people from across the world at the conference who are praying for and petitioning policymakers to act for a fair and affordable future, especially for poorer countries. We are all called to play our part, "to act justly and love mercy." (Micah 6v8)

Friday 11th -**Remember those who sacrificed their lives** in the First and Second World Wars and in **recent conflicts**. Pray for wisdom and safety for our armed forces who serve to defend our freedom and remember their families. Pray for those who have been bereaved as this can be a particularly painful time for them. Pray for peace in our troubled and chaotic world.

Saturday 12th - Today is the start of the series of five **Transfer Tests** for P7 pupils. From now until 10th December, many children will sit GL and AQE tests to determine which is the most suitable school for them to go to for their secondary education. Ask God to help them to be calm, to think clearly, and to do their best. Pray especially for Christian children, that they will have the peace of knowing God's presence and care.

Sunday 13th— Praise God for another Sunday when we can meet as a church family to **worship God**. As we gather on this Remembrance Sunday, and as we remember the Lord's death through our **Communion** service, may we know His presence with us. Pray also for the GO gathering this evening. Pray for Stephen as he leads, preaches from God's word and helps us once again to understand God's word and to put it into practice.

Monday 14th- Please pray for people in our congregation who have **mental health difficulties**. Pray that they would be able to open up to family and friends rather than keep things hidden. May they access appropriate services to get the necessary help. Pray for wisdom and discernment amongst our young people as they interact on social media, that they would not be bullied by their peers or inadvertently bully others. Pray that their home situations would adopt an open and transparent platform to discuss these issues.

Tuesday 15th - Continue to pray for our **Kirk Session** as they oversee the spiritual aspect of Church life and encourage people to be involved in all church activities. Give thanks that over 200 people attended the Hog Roast on the evening before our Harvest Thanksgiving services. Thank God for the fellowship that we enjoy whether tea/coffee after church, at Mid-week, Friendship Club, Thursday morning Coffee Shop or any other organisation. Continue to pray for the Elders as they encourage people to return to Worship.

Wednesday 16th- This evening at **PW, Colin Tinsley** will speak about the mercy trip he and his wife made to Poland in March to help the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. They organised 31 lorries full of essentials to cross Europe to reach Ukrainian refugees. Food, clothing and medical supplies were transported directly into Ukraine to those who needed it most. Also pray for Colin in his work through Hope for Youth Ministries running Bible Clubs and Missions and Summer Camps at home and abroad.

Thursday 17th - Give thanks to God for all **new babies born** recently, especially within our congregation. Praise God for some recent baptisms which have taken place in church. Pray that God would help these parents to keep their baptismal vows, and enable them to bring them up to know and love the Lord. Ask for God's blessing as they face and deal with all the challenges of daily life.

Friday 18th- **Street Pastors** are trained volunteers from local churches who offer reassurance, safety, support and care in the community. They go in teams on a Friday or Saturday night from 10.00p.m. to 3.00a.m. to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets. They are ready to help anyone who is in need, for whatever reason. Please pray for safety and protection for those who go out in these teams in all weathers to show love and compassion to those they meet. Pray also for the prayer teams who are praying for the teams while they are on the streets.

Saturday 19th—Today is '**World Toilet Day**'! 1.7 billion people are still living without a decent toilet. Pray for Tear Fund, through 'toiletwinning.org', as it seeks to provide education about hygiene and sanitation, especially among the world's poorest communities and in camps for displaced people. Remember in particular the

people in Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Zambia, who are now using the twinned toilets provided via our JUMP 'Big Bake' fundraiser in 2019, and pray that as their dignity is restored, they will turn to the Creator God who made them and who loves them.

Sunday 20th-Prayerfully reflect on **Philippians 2v3-5**. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." May we grow closer together as a fellowship.

Monday 21st – **Badminton Club** takes place on a Monday evening. Give thanks for Evelyn who organises the club so efficiently each week and for her many years of service and dedication to the club and its members. Give thanks for the friendship and support the club provides to enable players to enjoy fun, fitness and fellowship in an informal and welcoming environment.

Tuesday 22nd- As winter weather approaches we pray for **safety on our roads**. Lives can be saved and injuries prevented if drivers and road users remain within the law. The main causes of death and serious injury are through speeding, drinking/drug taking and driving and careless driving eg using mobile phones. Pray that all drivers take responsibility for safety by practicing due care and attention, especially in unfavourable weather conditions.

Wednesday 23rd- The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has responsibility for a number of **residential and care homes**. Today, we think especially of Trinity House in Garvagh, the newest home in the PCI family. Pray for this 50 bed residential care home for older people, which also has a 16 bed unit for residents who have a diagnosis of dementia. Pray for the home manager and for all staff who look after the residents and show God's love in many practical ways on a daily basis. Ask God to be near to family members as they visit and spend time with their relatives.

Thursday 24th– Pray for the Anchors and Juniors of our **BB Company** tonight as they enjoy a visit from Joe Loughlin and 'The Gathering Drum'! Pray that the boys will have fun learning a new skill and that their confidence and relationships will be strengthened.

Friday 25th – **Christian Aid** seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Everyone is equal in the sight of God, yet we live in a world where poverty still exists. Christian Aid seeks to give people survival essentials when they are without shelter or refuge, and help them to find strength and resources to protect themselves from natural or manmade disasters and rebuild. Please

pray for the work of Christian Aid and partners around the world. Please pray for those whose lives have been torn apart by emergencies and disasters.

Saturday 26th - The **Salvation Army** is a worldwide evangelical Christian Church. Their mission is based on faith in Jesus Christ who wants everyone to experience life in all its fullness. They put their faith into action by offering practical help for people without discrimination. They are reaching out to those hardest hit by the cost of living crisis, supporting people displaced by the crisis in Ukraine, helping the homeless and many more projects. Please pray for financial support as they reach out to many homes struggling, especially at this time of year.

Sunday 27th-Praise God that **Sunday evening services** have recommenced with a focus on growing together as a fellowship and on outreach. Stephen has commenced a series on Acts and through this may we understand how to live as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Monday 28th - **Rick Hill** is the recently appointed Executive Secretary to the Council of Mission in Ireland. Thank God for the wealth of experience which Rick brings to this position. Pray for him as he becomes familiar with all aspects of his new job, and as he talks to and visits PCI personnel and congregations all over Ireland. Pray for Rick as he helps the denomination to support many people in specialist ministry roles, like chaplains in university, armed services, healthcare and prisons, as well as deaconesses and Irish Mission workers.

Tuesday 29th –At present we are constantly being reminded of how many shopping days there are until Christmas. With the **cost of living** increasing daily and the added pressure of spending money on Christmas presents etc. it is very worrying. Please pray that people will think carefully before spending beyond what they can afford and end up in debt which they will struggle to get out of. Pray that people will remember the real reason of Christmas is celebrating Christ's birth, the most important gift of all.

Wednesday 30th – We pray for **Rebekah Armstrong, the local SU E3 Schools' Worker**. Ask that she may build up and extend schools ministry allowing children and young people the opportunity to explore and encounter the good news of Jesus and make their own response. Help her to build good relationships with both students and staff. Pray for SU groups running in primary and secondary schools and for all staff and students on organising Committees, that they may be able to speak compassionately and clearly to their peers about their faith.



Prayer Diary November 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

So we say with confidence "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"
Hebrews Ch 13 v 5