

Wednesday 1st- Continue to pray for the people of **Turkey and Syria** following the horrific earthquake and loss of life. Pray for all involved in the rescue operation, those helping with providing basic necessities and all those who have suffered traumatic experiences and lost family members and friends. The biggest priority for people affected by these earthquakes is shelter as it can be below freezing in the areas hit by the earthquakes. Pray that blankets, heaters and shelter can be made available to the worst affected areas.

Thursday 2nd—Pray for people with **eating disorders**, which are devastating mental illnesses that affect 1 in 50 people in the UK. Pray for better and quicker access to treatment. Pray especially for fellow Christians suffering in this way, that God's love will be real and that His image of them will be healing.

Friday 3rd - The **Woman's World Day of Prayer service** is always held on the first Friday of March. It is written by Christian women from around the world. Taiwan is the country that has prepared this year's World Day of Prayer service. Pray for all the services which will be held today and for those taking part as they pray for the people of Taiwan. In a land of so many people and so many faiths, pray for those who know the One True God. The theme of the 2023 programme is based on Ephesians 1 v 15 - 19, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude.

Saturday 4th—Please pray for the **Session as they meet** for breakfast this morning followed by a meeting in the Lawther School. They plan to reflect on the book, 'The Gospel' by Ray Ortlund which they have been studying this winter. Continue to pray for the Session as they review all the activities in our Church and as they plan on how our church in Muckamore can lead more people to Christ and show God's love in a practical ways.

Sunday 5th— The **BB Battalion service** will be held this afternoon in Templepatrick Presbyterian. This is the first time since 2020 that the BB companies within the Presbytery have been able to meet collectively. What a privilege it is to be able to come together and worship God and for the boys and officers to renew friendships.

Monday 6th - Please pray for **our health service**. Pray for a resolution to the many industrial disputes currently occurring. Pray that patient care would not suffer and that staff morale would improve. Pray for protection of staff from ill health, stress and abusive behaviour from patients.

Tuesday 7th — **Food waste action week** runs from 6-12th March 2023. 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted globally each year. Pray for wisdom for government leaders and action groups such as the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) as they aim to halve food waste by 2030, targeting manufacturing, retail, hospitality and households. Pray that they will help retailers to be efficient with resources, encourage consumers to reduce their waste and redistribute surplus food to those in need.

Wednesday 8th — Today is **International Women's Day** — this stands for an equitable and inclusive world where women are celebrated. *Concern* states that in order to fight poverty we must begin by investing in women. Many countries do not allow women fair access to education, agricultural tools, training, healthcare and income and they also live with the dangers of child marriage and trafficking. In Iraq a woman will be killed for driving a car. Pray that societies and governments will move for change to eradicate these injustices.

Thursday 9th- Thank God for the '**Expressions' series** that we have been following in our Midweek meetings this winter. Pray that we may be able to put into practice some of the things we have learned about sharing our faith. Pray that we may be open to the leading of God's Spirit as we reach out to others in God's name.

Friday 10th - **Hospital Chaplains** play an important role in our hospitals. Pray for God's wisdom, guidance, discernment and understanding as they meet, support and pray for patients and their families. Pray that God's love and His peace might be felt by those who are going through surgery, waiting for a diagnosis or making a decision about further treatment.

Saturday 11th - Tomorrow evening our Church in Muckamore hosts the **Templepatrick Presbytery Rally**. The two guest speakers are Sonya Anderson, a deaconess since 2007 in Shore Street Presbyterian Church, Donaghadee and the Rev. Keith McCorry from Maynooth Presbyterian Church (founded only 10 years ago). Pray for both speakers as they reflect on the work they do in their communities and also that it will be well attended.

Sunday 12th - We celebrate the sacrament of **Communion** today; help us to observe this reverently, recognizing that salvation is through the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus. Voting papers are also to be returned today for the election of the new Committee. We give thanks that God has chosen and guided us to select people to serve and be faithful stewards of our church's resources. 1st Timothy Ch3 v 8.

Monday 13th- **PCI's Carlisle House** is a safe environment which aims to provide the opportunity for individuals who have a substance misuse problem, and their relatives, to begin the journey of recovery through self-awareness and change. Pray for its staff members, under the direction of David Cuthbert, who are committed to an ethos of respect, dignity and compassion. Pray for the residents as they are helped to discover their own solutions to their own problems.

Tuesday 14th- Pray for the Bible Society's project, "**Bibles for Babies**", which is continuing into 2023. Pray that the children who will receive a Bible through this project will come to faith in Jesus. Pray too that their parents would be blessed and helped to foster the habit of reading the Bible together with their children.

Wednesday 15th- Our group of **Presbyterian Women** meets this evening, and their speaker is Barbara Boyd. Pray for her as she talks to the members and shares her love of needlework and her story of faith. Pray for Jennifer and the committee as they plan and lead the meeting, and everyone as they enjoy friendship and fellowship with each other.

Thursday 16th—Tonight is the **BB Parents' Evening**. This will be in a different format to our usual displays but will demonstrate to parents what activities the boys take part in each Thursday evening. We pray that all the boys, leaders and parents have an enjoyable and successful night and feel proud and encouraged by all that has been achieved this year. Continue to pray for BB—for the important role it has in influencing young lives for Christ.

Friday 17th — **An extract from St Patrick's Breastplate** "...I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me; God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me, God's hosts to save me from snares of the devil..."

Saturday 18th — Pray for the work of **Open Doors** as they supply bibles and Christian literature, provide emergency relief and help persecuted believers. More than 360 million Christians worldwide are persecuted for their faith, which is 1 in 7 believers. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ especially in countries such as North Korea, Somalia and Yemen. Thank God for their faithful witness and pray for strength to endure. Pray that God would bless those who must meet in secret.

Sunday 19th — Today is **Mother's Day**, when we remember our mothers with gratitude. Please pray for all mothers, grandmothers and mother figures who we know and love. This morning is our

PW service, which will be led by Jennifer Marks and some of the members. The speaker is Keith Preston, who oversees the ministry of the International Meeting Point in Belfast. Pray for Keith and for everyone who will take part in the service today.

Monday 20th - **Debt Awareness Week** runs from 20th – 26th March. The focus this year is “debt can happen to anyone”. As the cost of living crisis affects more people than ever before, pray for the work of CAP (Christians Against Poverty). Give thanks for this organisation and pray that its vision : “people released from poverty and churches actively serving communities bringing hope in Jesus’ name” would become a reality and a source of joy.

Tuesday 21st – **Our Session** continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September to June. Pray for guidance for them as they tackle various administration issues such as the need for leaders in our various organisations, the election of our new Committee and the need for some form of replacement for our youth worker. Please pray for God's guidance in all these issues and that God's name will be glorified.

Wednesday 22nd- Pray today, on “**World Water Day**”, for the 2.2 billion people living without access to clean water and sanitation. Pray that God will stir the hearts of world leaders to make rapid and steady progress to achieve the “Sustainable Development Goal” to provide clean water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Thursday 23rd- Today is the **National Day of Reflection**. It is a day to connect and support the people who have been bereaved during the last two years and to reflect on and remember the lives of those who have died. Experiencing loss during the pandemic was very difficult for many as they were unable to grieve with friends and family as they would have normally done. Please pray for all those remembering a loved one today and that they will find comfort in events organized to help remember this difficult time.

Friday 24th- Our **annual GB Display** takes place this evening. This cannot happen without a great deal of hard work, planning and practice by all the leaders, officers and girls. We pray that all the plans will go well and that it will be well attended .We give thanks for Sharon and everyone who has contributed to making a fun and varied display which puts God at the centre of all the activities. Pray that this will have an outreach into our community and that visitors will clearly see the love of God displayed through our GB company and its members.

Saturday 25th – Give thanks for **Lynn Falls**, our Pastoral Worker. Pray for travelling mercies as she visits those who are housebound

and who are in care. Pray that God would give her wisdom in the variety of situations that she finds herself in. Pray that God would continue to give Lynn good health and strength for this important role.

Sunday 26th – Give thanks to God for those who met recently at the Men’s breakfast. Pray for wisdom as the **men’s ministry** restarts and that a God-centred programme would be set up. Pray that as they fellowship together, they would be encouraged in their walk with the Lord.

Monday 27th- Give thanks for every opportunity for Christians to be involved with our **local schools**, as staff, parents, governors, volunteers, and others serving in practical ways through giving to fund Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs. Pray that they will be a witness to Jesus through their kindness and faithfulness in prayer.

Tuesday 28th – Lord we gaze in wonder at your **beautiful creation** ; the Earth and all the people, animals and plants that inhabit it, the sea, sun and stars. We pray that as Spring arrives there will be warmer and sunny days to allow the farmers to prepare the land for the year ahead and for rebirth in nature. Help us to honour the world you have created for us to dwell in.

Wednesday 29th- Tonight is our **prayer meeting**. Pray that more people would be encouraged to attend and pray for wisdom for Stephen as he leads our prayer time. “Let us approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” Heb 4v16

Thursday 30th- Give thanks for the very good response we have on a Thursday morning to the **Coffee Morning**. There can be from twenty to thirty people attending each week. People are getting the opportunity to get to know others and there is a great deal of chat. Pray for good weather conditions for safe travelling. Continue to pray that all who come will enjoy this time of friendship and fellowship together.

Friday 31st - Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my **disciple** must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (Luke 9v23). Pray for courage, grace and boldness to live for Jesus every day.



Prayer Diary March 2023

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 2 Thessalonians Ch2 v 16

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope , encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.