

Our Prayer Diary



June 2024

*Show me Your ways, Lord, teach me Your paths.
Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are
God my Saviour, and my hope is in You all day
long.*

Psalm 25 verses 4 & 5 NIV

Saturday 1st

Tristan Petersen (son of our Parish Assistant) requires major surgery in Aberdeen. Caring God please be with Tristan and his family as he undergoes surgery. We pray for skilled staff to carry out all the necessary procedures, and wisdom to all who care for him after the operation. Surround Tristan with Your healing presence and bring comfort to him.

Sunday 2nd

We have recently heard from Presbytery that Dunnet, Keiss and Olrig churches are definitely to close. We are advised that such decisions have been based in part on congregation numbers. Heavenly Father, we pray that ideas and ways that may attract more people into our churches might be found. It may mean changing the way we do things and making the general public more aware of what a church can offer in the 21st century.

Monday 3rd

Father we pray for all those who find themselves alone. This can happen suddenly through bereavement, separation, or with families who have been dispersed to other places through work and personal circumstances. Help us to identify and reach out to the lonely so that new friendships can begin.

Tuesday 4th

The Church of Scotland has long had a special link with the Royal family and many church leaders pray every Sunday for the King. We also remember the Princess of Wales. Gracious God we pray today for complete healing for them both. We also ask for wisdom and enabling as the King arranges his programme for the summer months.

Wednesday 5th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Last month the Church of Scotland met for the General Assembly in Edinburgh. The reported messages make it clear that the path ahead for the Church calls for accelerated action, with ministers in particular facing the challenge of implementing changes as guided by General Assembly decisions. We pray that ministers may have found and are continuing to find comfort and a very real sense of God's love and purpose for each one of them.

Thursday 6th

Loving Father we continue to pray for all the people who live in countries still at war, thinking especially of Ukraine where people are having to leave their homes for the second time as they are re-invaded by Russia. We hope that International help will reach them and may You give wisdom to the political leaders so that equitable solutions are found, peace can prevail and this dreadful war will end.

Friday 7th

Recently I saw a bumble bee delicately probing newly opened flower heads. In the tree above, chaffinches were putting the world to rights whilst the dog sunned herself on the lawn. How wonderful is Your creation and how very necessary it is to protect all that is on this planet, Lord.

Saturday 8th

Father we continue to pray for the release of the hostages in Gaza - we can't imagine how it must be for them and what they are enduring. Please give them strength to cope and peace in their heart knowing that You are God.

Sunday 9th

Last month we celebrated Pentecost, rejoicing in the coming of the Holy Spirit into our world. The book of Acts records what followed. How different from the Church today, from most churches, yet the Holy Spirit is the same Spirit. If we ever needed that Holy Spirit it is now! Fan the flames Great God. Set each of Your people on fire today. Let us work together in Pentland Parish giving Janet and Rob our full support and let us see what happens! We can't go back, only forward or we may shrivel away in despair.

Monday 10th

We are grateful for the many hours of work put in by our minister Rev Janet, and the support she gets from Rob. We all benefit from their love and work. We pray too, for all who give of their time so freely for Pentland Parish, be it in an administrative role or the many practical tasks undertaken.

Tuesday 11th

During May the spring flowers were delightful. Many people in Caithness enjoyed watching and taking photos of fabulous Northern Lights displays. Others perhaps enjoyed long walks along the spectacular Caithness coast or went bird watching. Loving Father, we thank You for the beautiful world You have created for us. Please help us to value it and care for it so it can be preserved for future generations.

Wednesday 12th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

The Golden Rule (Matthew 7 verse 12 NIV) says '*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you*'. This fundamental principle of humanity is so important to the whole of society that it has been included in the writings and teaching of every major religion in the world. Heavenly Father I pray that You give me the wisdom to think of others before I say or do anything that may cause offence. In Your holy name, guide me to say and do the right things to others.

Thursday 13th

Father, thank you for Your living word. We pray we never take it for granted. May we treasure it in our hearts and live and love as You would have us live and love - all to the glory of You, Father God.

Friday 14th

Please forgive me, Father, for all the times during this last month when I've said something which has offended somebody. It has never been intended, but sometimes my tone has been sharp, hurtful or thoughtless. I'll keep trying to do better!

Saturday 15th

Loving Lord, we can probably all think of people who are seriously ill. Please wrap Your arms of love around the relatives and friends of those people who are unwell. They are experiencing tremendous grief and anguish watching and caring for their loved ones.

Sunday 16th

Castletown and Community Free Church continue their monthly *Psalms and Supper Evenings*. This is an open invitation to anyone who likes to sing or might like to learn some new tunes or even just to listen to others singing. We are all very welcome to join them at *Castletown and Community Free Church* tonight at 7.45 pm. It is completely non-denominational and there is always a warm welcome and a lovely time of fellowship around the table.

Monday 17th

Caring God, we pray for healing for all those who have been involved in accidents, be it road traffic or something else. We give thanks for the emergency services who first attend to the injured and assess the situation before they are taken to hospital where medical specialists can attend to them. Often there is a lengthy time of recuperation. Be with them as they adjust to doing things a bit differently.

Tuesday 18th

Continue to pray and give great thanks to God for sending Rev Janet to us and for enabling her in these difficult years. Decisions have been made, some of which may appear to contain a great lack of empathy and understanding. Gracious God, help each of us in Pentland Parish to support her in every way we can. Many changes are necessary as we look to God and see what he is going to do in the years ahead.

Wednesday 19th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Over the last couple of months the weather has been mixed but we have enjoyed some beautiful days, and people have rejoiced to be able to spend time in their gardens. Almighty God give each of them strength and wisdom not to overdo their programme of activities on the sunny days because they fear that the rain and cold winds are just waiting to come back! We pray for those who are unable to be out in their garden because of disability or weakness. Comfort them and bless them with memories of time spent in Your beautiful world.

Thursday 20th

We pray for healing for each person involved in making war. Give leaders the wisdom to avoid people being killed. We ask too, that different countries learn to talk respectfully to each other and that land boundaries are recognised.

Friday 21st

Loving God show us where we need to change, where our faith is lacking and our discipleship weak, and help us each day to move a little further from what we've been to what You would have us be.

Saturday 22nd

As our roads become busier and more people enjoy their well earned holiday we pray for safe travel throughout the country. May we all have patience and consideration for other road users and keep everyone free from harm on our dreadful potholed roads.

Sunday 23rd

Dear loving Father give me the courage to extend our Christian mission in new and innovative ways so that Your word may be heard by many, many more.

Monday 24th

Loving Lord, thank you for the kindness of others. Little acts may seem as nothing to the doer but can mean the world to the recipient. Help us to be more sensitive to the needs of others.

Tuesday 25th

Sovereign God, though we like to think we are in control of our lives - that we can make plans for the future, map out the direction events will take - help us to remember that in reality things are different. Teach us that though we can influence certain aspects of life, for better or for worse, we are unable to dictate our destiny; though we can shape circumstances to a point, more often than not they shape us. Teach us that true power lies not in our hands but in Yours.

Wednesday 26th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Lord, on television recently it showed a gentleman whose home town was being re-invaded by the Russian forces and he said he could not leave as he had to look after his goats. Father we pray for all the animals that are suffering too - please let aid get through for them, as well as for anyone in need.

Thursday 27th

Caring God we pray for people who can't afford rents or mortgages and have to live in dreadful and precarious conditions. Please help them find decent housing at a reasonable price. We also pray for people who lose their homes because of coastal erosion or flooding.

Friday 28th

On Sunday 30th June the Annual Stated Meeting of Pentland Parish will be held immediately following the service. Being the fifth Sunday of the month all four congregations will be worshipping together at Canisbay, with the service beginning at 12 noon. Generally when we have a joint service on the fifth Sunday of the month refreshments are served in the church hall. However due to the meeting there will be no tea following the service. Loving Father we give grateful thanks for all who administer our parish.

Saturday 29th

Today the Canisbay Show is being held in the Hall Park. Although Pentland Parish Guild does not meet during the summer months we hope to have a stall at the Show to raise money for The Guild Projects. We pray for a fine day and support for all the worthwhile work that the Guild undertakes.

Sunday 30th

4 Paws draws to our attention the fact we are now half way through 2024. They hope you enjoy the month and ask that you don't forget your pets. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals because he loved and respected them a lot, believing all animals were part of God's creation. The following words are believed to have been written by Francis of Assisi - *'Lord make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love'*.



The Church of Scotland

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meeting in four congregations around the Caithness Coast:

CANISBAY, DUNNET, KEISS and OLRIG.

www.pentlandparish.org.uk

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If you have found this Prayer Diary helpful please let us know, and if there is any topic or particular prayer you would like included in a future issue please contact the Editor, Liz Buchan, via:

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Copy date for the July issue is Monday 24 June.

We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!

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