

Our Prayer Diary



October 2023

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God;
and a great King above all gods.

(Psalm 95:1-3, NRSV)

Sunday 1st

We are delighted to welcome Mr Rob Petersen to Pentland Parish as he takes up the post of Parish Assistant. Loving God help us, the congregation, to assist when we can with things he is trying to implement. We pray that he and his family will feel supported as he starts on a new journey in Pentland Parish.

Monday 2nd

Dear Father, let us pray for the thousands of workers who are likely to lose their jobs with the closing down of around four hundred Wilko high street shops. Please bring Wilko's staff comfort and help them find other suitable employment as soon as possible.

Tuesday 3rd

Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things. *The hope of the righteous brings joy* - Proverbs 10 verse 28 ESV. Be ready for those dark nights and enjoy the October Prayer Diary.

Wednesday 4th No Prayer Meeting

This afternoon Pentland Parish Kirk Session will meet in Canisbay Church Hall. Almighty God, from whom alone comes wisdom and understanding, we ask You to be with those present today, that they may be guided to make right decisions for the good of the church and the advancement of Your kingdom.

Thursday 5th

I ask forgiveness, Lord, for those times when I've talked too much and forgotten to listen as intently as I should. Forgive me all those opportunities that I missed.

Friday 6th

Lord, many people both in our parish and beyond are grieving at the loss of someone close to them. Be with all who know the pain of the absence of a loved one. Please comfort those that mourn and reassure them that You hold the departed in Your presence, and they shall have eternal rest and peace in Your heavenly kingdom.

Saturday 7th

Today at *Castletown and Community Free Church* there will be a Coffee Morning for the *Blythswood Shoebox Appeal* from 10.00 am to 12 noon. All monetary donations will go towards items to put into boxes and also towards cost of transportation of the boxes to Eastern Europe. Heavenly Father, bless all the people who work tirelessly for the *Blythswood Shoebox Appeal*. We know that one box of items can make such a difference to the people who receive them.

Sunday 8th

Esme writes: "*Great is Your faithfulness*", thank you. During the months I have spent in hospital or back at home with carers over the past year, I have often had to use these words either addressed to God or to a large number of friends both here or spread over many areas. I have meant it each time! Although life has turned out somewhat differently from what I anticipated last October, I am amazed at how many times I have either had reason to sing the hymn, or to say the words. Generally I know who I am speaking to but most recently I don't know who provided me with ramps which enable my wheelchair to travel safely out of my house. Henry will only say they belong to the church. I'd like to feel that I have said thank you so can only do this by asking Liz to put this insert into today's prayer. Thank you!

Monday 9th

Father we pray for those who don't know You - help us to share the gospel and lead others to Christ. Through your Holy Spirit please give us the words to say when we speak to them.

Tuesday 10th

Today is *World Mental Health Day*. This day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health. In the past this subject was rarely mentioned and people often had to suffer in silence. Thankfully there are more options available now, but they need to be adequately resourced. Loving God, we pray that more resources become available so that individuals needing help can readily access the treatments best suited to them. We ask that the professionals are given wisdom from You that is needed in treating patients. Please comfort those who are struggling and fill them with Your peace.

Wednesday 11th *Prayer Meeting* - Canisbay Church Hall 2pm

We pray for the relief of those suffering with the many different side-effects of Covid 19. We ask for increased understanding so that we can learn how best to help each other and increase vigilance as symptoms change. As the invitations to attend vaccine clinics fall through letter boxes we hope people will actually make an appointment - the more folk that are vaccinated the better the chance of suppressing the virus.

Thursday 12th

We give grateful thanks to all who work in shops. Cleaning, stocking, serving, smiling and trying to put the customer first isn't always easy, Lord. Give all shop workers the strength to serve as we would like to be served.

Friday 13th

Lord we give thanks for Your goodness. Thank you for the people that are stepping out of their comfort zone and helping with services in the churches. Thank you for all that are helping in so many ways. Please bless them all.

Saturday 14th

This afternoon Miss Lynsey Bremner and Mr Matthew Thain are to be married in Dunnet Church. Heavenly Father we ask Your blessing on them for a long, happy and healthy life together. Mark 10 verses 8 and 9 NIV: *And the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.*

Sunday 15th Harvest Thanksgiving - Joint Service - Canisbay

The service today will be conducted by members of Pentland Parish Guild. Gifts for the harvest table are welcome - these will be donated to Caithness Foodbank. We remember all the farmers in our community and pray that they have managed to safely gather in their crops. Father God we give thanks to You for giving us seed time and harvest. To quote the hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter': *'All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above'*.

Monday 16th

'You think dogs will not be in heaven? I tell you, they will be there before any of us.' Robert Louis Stevenson

Tuesday 17th

Lord the world is such an uncertain place - we hear of so many floods and natural disasters and we cry out for those affected by them. Let aid reach them. Help us Father to be better stewards of Your precious earth.

Wednesday 18th *Prayer Meeting* - Canisbay Church Hall 2pm

Loving God, help us to be more considerate towards people who are deaf or hard of hearing. They miss out so much in company and sometimes we can be so caught up in the conversation that we don't stop to make sure they are following what we are saying. Remind us to look at them when we are talking, and generally help us to do all we can to communicate effectively.

Thursday 19th

I am sorry for being forgetful and writing these prayers so late. Getting distracted by visitors and work meant that I put that first before You. This reminds me how poor a disciple I make. Please help me to improve, Lord!

Friday 20th

At this time last month a group of people were visibly preparing for the popular *Macmillan Coffee Morning*. They are always grateful for the amount of support given to those whose lives are greatly helped by Macmillan Nurses. Heavenly Father, thank you for all that is given for Macmillan Cancer Care. That what we give for You is never in vain and You multiply it back.

Saturday 21st

We thank all those who work in new technologies. New methods of generating power mean that with effort, we will be able to reduce our carbon emissions and reduce the effect on our climate. Lord, keep us focused on reducing harm to this planet, we pray.

Sunday 22nd

The school holidays are drawing to a close. Heavenly Father, we pray for all school staff and ask that You bestow Your wisdom upon them. Please sustain and guide the pupils as they learn. We hope that they will have a good term ahead of them.

Monday 23th

Loving Father, You are an all-powerful God who knows what will happen next in our lives. We place our trust and faith in You. Please remind us of that when we forget.

Tuesday 24th *Guild* - Canisbay Church Hall 2pm

Last month we were appalled by the news of the dreadful floods in Libya and the heartbreaking death toll caused as whole families were destroyed by the water. As details were shared with us in the news programmes, it appears that the local government may have known the risks of the dams collapsing yet had done nothing about it. Heavenly Father, please support that ravaged country and bring healing and comfort to its people.

Wednesday 25th *Prayer Meeting* - Canisbay Church Hall 2pm

Father God we will soon need to vote on the *Presbytery Mission Plan* and Lord we pray for your wisdom for the right decision to make. We only want Your will to be done - please show us clearly what that is. Thank you that You are sovereign.

Thursday 26th

Fairtrade works with farmers and workers so they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses, and protect our shared environment. *Fairtrade* achieves this by rallying a global community of millions – farmers and workers, supply chain partners, brands, retailers, shoppers, schools, government – to pay fair prices and uphold fair production standards and practices. Heavenly Father, when we go shopping please encourage us to support the values of *Fairtrade* and to source *Fairtrade* items where possible.

Friday 27th

Death is something that is a certainty for us all - both two and four pawed. This month *4 Paws* has given us a poem which gave them comfort on their dogs' passing. They feel it may also support others at a time of similar loss. It is entitled '*It's Time*'.

*If it should be that I grow weak, and pain should keep me from my sleep
Then you should do what must be done, for this last battle can't be won*

*You will be sad I understand, don't let your grief then stay your hand
For this day more than all the rest, your love for me must stand the test*

*We had so many happy years, what has to come can hold no fears
You'd not want me to suffer so, the time has come, please let me go*

*Take me where my needs they'll tend, and please stay with me until the end
Hold me firm and speak to me, until my eyes no longer see*

*I know in time that you will see, the kindness that you did for me
Although my tail it's last has waved, from pain and suffering I've been saved*

*Please do not grieve it must be you, that has this painful thing to do
We've been so close we two for years, don't let your heart hold bitter tears*

(Author unknown)

Saturday 28th

Loving Father, we give thanks for the life saving measures of reduced speed limits in Wales. These are also happening in some Scottish communities too. We know that by driving slower we will create a safer environment. May drivers heed the new notices!

Sunday 29th Joint Service - Canisbay 12 noon

Today the clocks go back. Caring God, please draw near to all who do not enjoy the long dark nights. Many may feel lonely as with the weather being colder and sometimes stormy they will be less liable to go out. Help us to remember them, prompt us to phone or drop by to visit. A little chat will hopefully uplift their spirits.

Monday 30th

There have been some spectacular displays of the *Northern Lights* recently. Heavenly Father, we are deeply grateful for Your bounteous gifts and wonders within our environment. Help us to recognise and appreciate Your blessings bestowed upon us.

Tuesday 31st

Please bless everyone who reads this Prayer Diary and pour out your Holy Spirit upon them.



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**

We hope and trust its regular use will strengthen the bond between our congregations as we share news and support one another.

This diary also goes by e-mail to a growing number of friends throughout Scotland and we are sincerely grateful for their interest and support. Feel free to commend it to others, and if they express a wish to receive it please forward their contact details to the Editor.

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

e-mail: neilbuchan007@btinternet.com or phone: 01847 821759

Copy date for the November issue is Monday 9th October.

We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!

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