

PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER&JANUARY 2021/2

“As all the wise look for your star,
so must I follow where you are:
as you are light, so must I be,
as you are peace,
be peace in me.” (CH4 H 329)

Loving Lord Jesus, as the year turns once more, lead us prayerfully through the reflections of Advent, the joys of Christmas and the resolutions of the New Year so that we may grow in faith and in fellowship with you. Guide our sometimes faltering steps, and give us the courage to surrender our will to you in all we do.

Dear Lord, at a time when many of us are blessed with the company of friends and family, we remember those who are alone, or who feel isolated. We pray for prisoners living in small cells for many hours in the day, especially for those imprisoned under legal systems which permit people to be kept in solitary confinement for many, many years. May they feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, beside them in their distress.

We pray for the Church of Scotland's outreach body “Crossreach” as we reflect on their mission statement “In Christ's name, we seek to support people to achieve the highest quality of life that they are capable of at any given time.” May service users and staff be kept safe as they continue to live with Covid 19, and may the Crossreach Board be granted a clear vision of the work to which you have called them.

We continue to hold our minister Maggie and her family in our prayers as each day brings reminders, both sad and happy, of their beloved Heather. We think also of people known to us who have been bereaved, and pray that they too may find comfort.

Lord, help us to look for opportunities to give practical support to those in need of it, both physically and emotionally. May we do so sensitively, always trying to follow your example in all we do and say.

We ask, Lord that we may make a positive and thoughtful contribution to debates which can become polarised and confrontational. Help us to guard against the temptation to over simplify complex issues and to listen with respect to those whose views are different from our own.

Almighty God, we continue to marvel at the thought that you, who created all that is, care for each one of us and have granted us the privilege of being partners in the work of your Kingdom.

Holy Spirit, we often feel powerless as news of disease, crime, oppression and abuse of all kinds and in all parts of the world reaches us daily. Remind us that we have the power of prayer.

There are so many things, Lord, which we want to pray for; for the disruption to lives brought about by Covid 19, for the people desperate enough to cross the Channel in small boats, for the workers in low-paid jobs who deserve more respect and money, for those who are hungry, cold and lonely, for those for whom Christmas is a time of painful memories, and along with all of these things and more, our prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings we enjoy. Help us this year and every year to devote time to deepen our relationship with you through prayer.

In Jesus's name, Amen.