

## PRAYER DIARY FOR 2020 – JUNE

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

As another month begins we turn to God for his help and ask for the help and patience we need to see us through. Pray that we will grow in hope and confidence as we depend on His love and grace for each day.

Tonight will see the installation of Rev Dr David Bruce as the next Moderato of our denomination. (It will be streamed live from 7.00pm).

Pray giving thanks for the leadership that William Henry has given to us throughout the past year, especially in the midst of the Covid 19 crisis.

Pray that David will be given the wisdom needed to lead us through the next 12 months and all the challenges that will come. Pray too for David's wife Zoe, as she supports and helps him during his year in office.

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Today and tomorrow are the two days of business meetings that PCI must have to enable our denomination to function properly. A Standing Commission made up of 25 people has been appointed to carry out this daunting task in the midst of these challenging times. Pray that they will do their job well and be guided by God's Holy Spirit in all their debates and decisions over these two days. In particular remember 'our own' Rev Jane Nelson and Trevor Long who are both part of the Commission.

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Decision Makers

Pray today for the politicians and decision makers who are working to bring us through this time of crisis. Healthcare, Education and our Economy must be key priorities as we face the future. Pray that party politics will be put aside and wisdom and compassion will be the focus for their work. Pray too for those civil servants who advise then and who have to implement the decisions they make.

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Education

Confusion and uncertainty abound still for many of our young people. Some have seen their final day in school pass with a whisper. Exam Grades will be based on predictions - for some this is welcomed for others it fills them with dread! Others face moving to new schools and new classes with all the uncertainties that the current restrictions bring. Pray for the young people as they come to terms with the changes they face and pray for their parents as they support their children and share their fears. Pray too for the teachers as they act professionally and in the best interests of the young people.

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

The loss of a loved one is always difficult to deal with. At times like this the comfort of a funeral service and the presence of family and friends is vital and deeply appreciated - since 'Lockdown' began in March many have lost family members and friends and have not had the comfort we expect and appreciate. Please pray for all who are mourning the death of a loved one - family or friend. Pray that they will find comfort and healing in the sure and certain love that is real and alive in Jesus Christ.

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

As we look back over the last 8 or 9 weeks give thanks for all the front line staff in our hospitals and nursing homes and in the different services which are essential for our well being. Give thanks also for pharmacy staff and retail assistants as they ensure that all our needs are met and food is available. Give thanks also for the district nurses and carers who have continued to carry out their duties despite the risks that may encounter.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

Minister and Elders

We remember our Minister, Philip, his wife Ruth and their whole family today. Pray for Philip, particularly as he provides pastoral care to those who have had a death in the family. Pray he will be filled by the Holy Spirit with wisdom and love that he needs to give help that people need in the midst of grief and loss. Pray also for the Elders as they do their best to care for the congregation despite the restrictions.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

We are blessed to have the love and care that is given to so many in need through the work of the NI Hospice and Children's Hospice which are both located near to us. Pray for the staff and volunteers who make these places such wonderful places of love and care. Pray for them as they work in the midst of the current restrictions and also manage their limited budgets. Pray for all the patients and their families as they receive the care, treatment and advice which is so freely given.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday would usually be the day that our Lunch club would meet and our Minor hall would be filled with the chatter of the folks as they shared lunch and friendship together. Pray for all who normally attend the Lunch Club and now miss the friendship and food that it provided. Give thanks for the great service it gives to so many and pray that it will soon be open again to meet their needs.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Tonight would have seen the meeting of Heart 2 Heart and while they cannot physically be together pray for them as they meet over the internet - Pray for Ruth Davies as she leads and coordinates things. Pray that God will encourage and bless them as they share in fellowship together.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

Perhaps the weekly clapping for the NHS has now ceased but our need has not! We need the care and hard work of our healthcare workers and NHS Staff. Pray that they will have the equipment that they need to do their jobs safely and that they will have the physical energy and mental resilience to cope with what they do.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup>

At this time many seafarers have been unable to get off their ships to change crews and go home. Ports will not allow them to disembark from their ships or handle cargo. There is also the problem of travel by airplane to different countries if they can leave their ship and now 2 weeks quarantine when they return to the UK. Some have been on board for as long as 6 months and are very tired and stressed. Pray for these men and women.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

Pray for the work of Latin Link and particularly remember Strider (short term) Nicola Brown from Windsor Baptist Church in Belfast. Nicola is working as a midwife for 1 year with Adonai International Ministries in the Northern Quiche region of Guatemala.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

Pray for the Leoma people across South Asia. There are more than 15 million people making them one of the largest groups not to have the Bible in their own language. The literacy rate among Leoma people is below 50% and educational opportunities are limited. The translation team of the Wycliffe Bible Translators aims to produce audio as well as written versions of the translation. Pray that these efforts may reach many.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Pray for the work of all the Missionary organisations working hard to help people across the world cope with the Covid 19 pandemic. Funding is even more difficult and challenging than ever and the need grows ever greater.

Pray especially today for the work of Stand by Me with children in their schools in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Columbia, Nepal and Romania. Pray for their teachers and children in the schools and those like the nurse Mitiku in Dembi Dollo who cares for the health of over 500 children and works tirelessly to see they are fed.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

Give thanks for the work of MAF who in partnership with the HALO Trust have been crucial to the success of HALO's campaign to make Angola landmine free. Please pray for the safety of everyone involved in landmine clearance in Angola and the MAF pilots and planes.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

Tonight will see the Installation of Rev Reuben McCormick as the Minister of Glengormley Presbyterian Church. It is hoped that the service of installation will be streamed live this evening. Pray for the practical arrangements surrounding the installation. Pray too for Reuben and his family as they begin a new chapter of their lives amidst the uncertainty that the Covid 19 crisis brings. Pray that Reuben will quickly find a way to minister to and love the people of Glengormley.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

Our BB Company Section would usually have been meeting tonight and plans for their annual camp would be finalised - perhaps to spend a week under canvas in Castlewellan Forrest Park. The Officers and boys will deeply miss the camp and the fun and opportunities for building relationships it always brings. Pray that they will find ways to keep in touch with the boys and encourage them. Especially pray that the Boys will know Jesus as their Saviour and they will grow into 'true Christian men'

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

Care and Nursing Home residents

Pray today for all who are in residential care and Nursing homes. Many of these older people sorely miss the regular visits they once had. Some struggle with dementia and cannot understand fully what is happening. Pray for them all and those who care for them day after day. Pray too for their partners and families who wish for the chance to visit them and hug them once again.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

Myanmar

Pray for protection from Covid-19 for those living near the northern border with China. Most are Kachin Christians and many are displaced. Civilians living in camps will be at high risk if the disease spreads, mainly due to lack of medical facilities and neglect of public health care from the government.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

On this Fathers' Day give thanks for the love we have been able to experience from our own fathers and give thanks that God, our Heavenly Father loves us so much more.

Rev Liz Hughes will today declare the Congregation of Ballysillan vacant. Pray for that Congregation as they face congregational life without a full-time minister of their own and also for Liz as she becomes the Convenor of the Congregation and looks after the people of Ballysillan.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

At this time of year the hospitality industry would be gearing up for the forthcoming season. This year is so different. Let us pray for all who have lost their livelihoods because of the Corona Virus. Remember all hotel owners and B&B owners who do not know if they will be able to continue after the current situation is relaxed, Pray for all cafes and restaurants owners and staff who are currently furloughed and do not know if there will be a job to return to.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Give thanks for those who work in our prison service especially the Prison staff and volunteer teachers who help with numeracy and literacy needs. Pray for all Prison Chaplains who look after the spiritual needs and pastoral care of the Prisoners.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

Bible Society Northern Ireland

Pray for the approval to print and distribute portions of the Scriptures amid stricter enforcement of religious policies in China. Pray also for continued good partnerships with churches in China. The work here is led by Director Wee Seng Kua and his team.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

In this strange time when we have not been able to meet together as a congregation give thanks for Roy and all the extra work that he has undertaken because of the lack of weekly offerings. Give thanks also for Trevor and ask God to give him the wisdom and strength he needs to serve as our Clerk of Session and also Clerk of Presbytery. We are grateful for the many ways that we in the Rosemary family have been encouraged and informed by Philip, Trevor and Roy. Ask God to bless them as they work in God's name.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

Give thanks for the liberating impact Habitat for Humanity has had on the lives of families around the World. Pray for the safety of volunteers and leaders and that the families may be aware after working alongside the volunteers that they are motivated to help because of the love God has for them.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

As the financial situation in the UK and indeed worldwide has been made so much worse because of the Covid 19 virus, pray for all who have lost their jobs, for business owners who will not be able to continue trading because of the lack of income during the last 2 months. Ask God to strengthen, encourage and guide them in the weeks that lie ahead.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>

Wherever you are worshiping today, whether at home or back at church, ask God to encourage you, guide you and to give you a wonderful sense of His presence. Pray for all those in other countries who are forbidden to worship Jesus that they will be kept safe and continue to worship the Living God.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>

Gary and Mary Reid have asked

As the churches are shut, please pray that God's Holy Spirit would teach and guide, reminding his children that their bodies are temples to his Holy Spirit, and preventing people from being deceived, keeping them. That God would encourage his children in Maasailand.

We also ask that you please remember the worship leaders as they seek to encourage the church families through phone calls, not forgetting those who do not have such easy access to communication.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>

Pray for Tom Dowling in Kilkenny. Tom has been serving as an Irish mission worker with Kilkenny Presbyterian Church (his home congregation) since September 2006 and has responsibilities for evangelism and discipleship.

Tom's work involves sharing the "gospel about Jesus Christ" (Mark 1:1), training others to share the gospel, and seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ in many different contexts: Christianity Explored courses / Bible studies in homes and community centres, one-to-one Bible studies, door-to-door visitation, serving at Kilkenny Christian Bookshop, children's summer Bible club, market outreach and StreetLight outreach. He is also an elder in Kilkenny Presbyterian and is involved in various aspects of pastoral care.