

PRAYER DIARY 2026 – JULY

A prayer for the month ahead –

Pray for peace on our streets and that those who stir up hatred and division would be stopped. Pray for those who are working to help those that have lost homes or are afraid to leave their houses.

Wednesday 1st

110 years ago over 18,000 British and Allied soldiers made the supreme sacrifice on this day, many of them young Ulstermen. In the Presbyterian congregations that today make up the Presbytery of North Belfast **106 young men died on this day** – many were friends and neighbours and in one case 14 all came from the same Congregation. – The impact of the loss is impossible to grasp. The battle of the Somme raged on for over four months until November 1916. Sadly, WW1 was not “the war to end all wars” as we see on our screens every day! **Pray for Peace today in our troubled world** - Iran, Ukraine, Gaza/Israel, Myanmar, Syria, and Sudan .**Pray for the Peace Makers and the ‘Help Givers’** who risk their lives to bring Aid to those in need.

Thursday 2nd

School is very much over! But work continues for some. Pray for the **School Principals and staff** involved in preparing for next term even now! Interviews for new staff, sorting out timetables and budgets. Pray that all the staff will get the rest and recovery they need. Pray for those involved in **marking exam papers and the moderators who ensure that the same standard of teaching and marking is the same throughout the Province**. Also for all the **Christian teachers**, who work in schools that they may make their witness effective for God.

Friday 3rd

Many people will be heading off this weekend on their **holidays**. Pray for **safe travels** and that the time they spend will be a real blessing to them all. Pray also for those families that will not be able to get away and are struggling for whatever reason. Pray that they find the help and advice that they need. **Give thanks God never takes a holiday** and He is always there for us!

Saturday 4th

As **Keswick at Portstewart** takes place from 4th -10th July pray for all who will attend that their faith may be deepened and that all may enjoy a time of praise, teaching and fellowship together. Pray also for the speakers; **Jonathan Thomas** (evening Celebrations), **Mark Meynel** (Morning Bible readings) **Clive Bowsher** (Evening Celebrations) and all who will speak and lead during the week.

Sunday 5th

As we worship God together this morning, give thanks that we can meet together in peace and safety. Give thanks for **Philip** our Minister, as he leads and preaches and for **Alyson and George** as they lead our Praise. Pray also for the **persecuted church worldwide** and that God will strengthen and empower the Pastors and Leaders as they seek to encourage and build up our brothers and sisters in Christ in very difficult circumstances.

Monday 6th

This week will be a week of **intensive training** and lectures for those men and women who wish to be **Accredited Preachers** within PCI. It is a very demanding week and many of those taking part will have had to give up a week's annual leave to attend. The candidates will have months of work still to do including assessments and placements; **pray they will know God's leading** and that they have the stamina to see it through.

Tuesday 7th

Pray for the leaders of all the **Beach Missions, CSSM Teams and Summer Bible Clubs** which are taking place this month. **Pray for lives to be changed** and for children and young people to be won for Jesus. Pray also for **safety and protection** for both children and Leaders.

Wednesday 8th

Christians in Iran have been caught in the cross fires of war and persecution. Yet the church continues to hope for a better future. Pray for all who have been displaced and have lost family members and friends in the conflict. Pray especially for all who have had to flee their homes and been unable to save any possessions and only the clothes they were wearing.

Thursday 9th

Very Rev Dr Richard Kerr was installed just a few weeks ago as the **Moderator of the General Assembly**. Pray for him as he undertakes the many duties and responsibilities of this office. Pray that Richard will be given the **wisdom and compassion** he needs in the midst of all the issues our denomination is facing and for his energy and patience as he travels around the whole of Ireland and further afield. **Pray for his wife, Brenda**, as she takes a year off work to help and encourage him in all he undertakes. Pray that God will help and protect them wherever they go.

Friday 10th

Pray for the work and witness of the **IMP Op Shop** at Carlisle Circus – For **Tess Lunn and Ruth Annett** as the managers and **all who volunteer** in many different ways. Pray for the team to be encouraged and for **new people to get involved**. **Pray the Shop will be a blessing and witness to everyone who comes in.**

Saturday 11th

The celebrations for the '12th' begin in earnest tonight – Parties, music, bonfires and drink will feature greatly – **Pray for the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance crews and hospital staff** on duty this weekend . Pray that they will be kept safe and that God will help them do the best job possible. **Pray for safety** of everyone who is involved. In particular remember the staff of the **Blue Houses** (Ballysillan Youth for Christ) as they work tonight helping to keep young people safe.

Sunday 12th

As **Philip** leads our worship today pray that God will speak through him so that we will hear a word of guidance, rebuke or comfort. As we praise God help us to be aware of His presence and know that He will be with us as we go into the week ahead.

Monday 13th

Pray for our **Community** today as parades and demonstrations take place throughout NI, pray that all will go off peacefully and pray also for **politicians, peacemakers and PSNI** as they attend and oversee the parades and demonstrations especially in our own area in North Belfast. **Pray that the truth of Jesus will be clear in the midst of all the noise and rhetoric that goes out.**

Tuesday 14th

Rev David Moore has been working hard to establish '**An Tionólann**' as a witness in West Belfast with regular worship every Sunday afternoon and a weekly Bible Study. Give thanks for this great progress and all that has been achieved and also the welcome that **David, his wife Elaine, co-worker Toni Bassett and Assistant Minister, Cillian McNamara** have received. Pray for encouragement and vision as they seek to develop the work and **find suitable premises** they can make 'home' in West Belfast.

Wednesday 15th

Council for Social Witness This Council manages the many elements of our care for those in need, including Residential homes like **Corkey House** – Residential care and treatment of those with addictions in **Carlisle House** and also those released from prison and residing in **Thompson House** – all of these are located within our Presbytery. Please pray for the **Senior Management Team** in the Council for Social Witness who are dedicated to the ministry and work of Social Witness. May they continue to promote integrity in daily practices and may hearts remain full of compassion for those who reside and work in our care home facilities.

Thursday 16th

Give thanks for Gary and Mary Reid who have returned home after more than 25 years of service in Kenya with the Council for Global Mission of PCI. Pray for their next steps as they transition into this new stage of life. Pray also for Nomi Keefe, PCI Missionary, who is home from Brazil for deputation work from July to September.

Friday 17th

Leprosy expertise has been declining across the globe. Pray that, as older clinicians and Leprosy experts reach retirement age, new researchers, doctors nurses and clinicians would choose to serve those affected by Leprosy.

Saturday 18th

We live in a beautiful green and fruitful country even if it does rain a lot!! We also produce wonderful food for our tables but only because of the hard work of **our farmers**. Pray for our farmers who are hard at work at this time of year. Pray for their safety in all they do. Pray for the **PCI Rural Chaplain, Kenny Hanna** who is now in his Fourth year, as he builds on the foundations he has established with farmers and farming families so that he can share the message of God's love.

Sunday 19th

At the **General Assembly** a few weeks ago we were reminded of all **the challenges facing our denomination** including the **many churches without a minister** as well as the challenges of Safeguarding and needing to reassess what our priorities are. Pray for God to **call people to His work of Ministry** and that people will hear and answer His Call. Pray too for the work that is being done to consider fresh ways to reconfigure Ministry and make the best use of the resources we have. May God guide and direct us to see how each Congregation and Presbytery can be effective for Him and reach those who do not yet follow Jesus.

Monday 20th

Tearfund have asked us to join together in praying for the millions of people in Gaza who've endured relentless bombardment and conflict – that life in all its fullness will be restored. Pray that families who have fled their homes will be able to return and that schools will once again be full of students.

Tuesday 21st

Pray for all our Deaconesses, some of whom will be very busy with summer clubs and many different activities to try to teach children about God's love for them. **Pray for safety and protection for both children and Leaders** and that it may be a time of discovery for those children who do not go to church or Sunday School and have very little knowledge of Jesus or his love for them. **Pray that more will hear the call** into this area of Ministry.

Wednesday 22nd

Luz Marina, a devoted leader in Cuba's church community recently received a shipment of Bibles through the Bible Society. Holding them tightly, her eyes shown with joy. She knew exactly who would receive the first Bible – a young girl in her congregation whose family is eager to know Christ.

Thursday 23rd

How many of us know friends or family who are **fighting cancer** at this present time. **Pray for their Treatment** and for **their families** who often feel powerless to help them. Pray also for the work of the **NI Hospice, all patients, day patients and staff**. Ask God to be with all the **nurses, doctors and care-givers** that go out to ill patients in the community. Give thanks also for the wonderful work of **Macmillan Cancer Support Services** and other marvellous organisation which are offering help and advice to cancer sufferers and carers.

Friday 24th

North Belfast Foodbank officially opened at the end of July 2013 and has been serving many people in need over these past **13 years**. Give thanks for the **vision of The Trussell Trust** in seeing the needs of those who were experiencing hardship and hunger. **Give thanks for the organisers and volunteers** here in North Belfast who give time to help in our Foodbank as well as those in various other Foodbanks around the Country. **Pray for our team** that God will bless and encourage them and that **people will be challenged** to see that this help is offered in Jesus' name.

Saturday 25th

Father God as we look around **our world** and see the death and destruction caused by greed and the thirst for power, help us not to lose faith in you. Remind us that you are the **'Prince of Peace'** the Everlasting God who has the power to create the heavens and the earth and that even now we are in awe of all the beauty and complexity of the world which you have created. We know that you are "working your purposes out" and ask for **patience and trust** as we wait on your timing.

Sunday 26th

Please Pray for Philip as he leads our worship today. Give thanks for God's amazing love for us and pray that we will be encouraged by God's Holy Spirit to go out to serve Him in our daily lives. Pray also for all who help to make the service.

Monday 27th

Pray for people who are hurting, worried, stressed and anxious because of work problems financial pressures, health issues or family anxieties. Pray especially for **single parent families** who will be really struggling to provide school uniforms, equipment and all the basic needs of children. Pray for the work of **CAP Christians Against Poverty** as they work to help people to escape debt and rebuild a sustainable life style and that they will see Jesus as a part of this new start!

Tuesday 28th

Today please pray for all those facing **mental health problems**. Teachers tell us that there is a growing problem with many children and young people who suffer anxiety, and other problems, that are expressed in self-harm or suicide. **Pray for those who seek to support**

and help them - parents, teachers, councillors. **Pray that church and youth leaders** will also speak love and hope into their lives and that God will be welcomed into their hearts.

Wednesday 29th

In rural Mali, water scarcity is a deep-rooted challenge driven by a combination of a harsh semi-arid climate, erratic rainfall and a lack of modern infrastructure. Tearfund and their partners Organisme de Developement pour L'Esperancel stepped in to help by providing a sustainable community-based solution of clean water by installing solar-powered water towers. This prevented the need for the women to walk miles for water which was causing sickness from the waterborne diseases it harboured.

Thursday 30th

Pray for the work of the Samaritans. Ask *God to prevent* any young people thinking of harming themselves or taking their own life. Pray that they will receive the help and guidance they need and that lives will be saved or

Friday 31st

New Horizons 2026 takes place from 1st to 7th August on the university campus in Coleraine. Thousands of people will be touched but the event. The Theme "**Christ our Life**" captures the very heart of the Christian faith and invites us to rediscover Christianity not as mere belief or behaviour, but as a living union with the risen Lord who defines who we are and how we live – our whole lives are hidden with Christ in God!" Pray for all the arrangements that have been made and all who will attend. **Pray for all who will speak** and lead this year – Including **Steve Auld, Michael Ots, Rafael Manzanares and Andy Bannister**. Ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit so that many will be challenged and convicted of their need of Jesus in their lives and that those who are Christians will be encouraged to deepen their faith