

Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles

Prayer Diary



**September, October &
November 2021**

Ashkirk I/w Ettrick & Yarrow I/w Selkirk

Praise God for the opening of each church in the linking for prayer and for services.

Praise Him for all the hard work that has been undertaken to ensure this happens safely.

Praise God for a very successful Holiday Club run by Churches Together in Selkirk and the Valleys.

Pray for folk who are reticent about coming back to church that they will be given the security of knowing that safety is paramount.

Pray for the ongoing work of becoming a linking - especially asking God to help folk use their talents in the way services are run.

Pray for the way forward for youth work following the Holiday Club.

Bowden and Melrose



The Eildon Hills lie at the heart of our parish. We give thanks for the many visitors to the hills and the town, some on pilgrimage, some sightseeing, some here to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery, some here for sport. We pray that in the wonders of creation they glimpse something of God the creator.

As a new session begins, we give thanks for time over the summer to relax and reflect. We pray for wisdom in our decision making as we go forward.

As we start a phased return to our family activities, we give thanks for the invaluable contribution of Messy Church helpers who have moved away in this past year and ask for your blessing upon them. We pray for the Messy Church Team as we plan for meetings in October and at Christmas.

Caddonfoot I/w Stow St Mary of Wedale and Heriot

- give thanks for the linking and for all the people of our churches, and pray that we will soon be able to hold a service of linking
- pray that the dry rot problem would be sorted soon in Stow Church so that we can reopen our building
- give thanks for the many people who are coming to our churches for weddings, wedding blessings, baptisms, anniversary celebrations and funerals/memorial services, and pray for God's ongoing presence with all the people involved.

Channelkirk and Lauder

At this time, we try and keep in touch with our family and friends. As the relaxing of the rules continue, we look forward to meeting up and seeing them face to face, and spending time with those we love and respect. A loving relationship with God is of first importance. The responsibility is on all of us to be kind, gentle, loving, and can be summed up in those words of Jesus, "Love the Lord your God and love your neighbour as yourself", and our relationship with God will improve. A poor man with a loving family and good friends is far richer than a rich man who is poor relationally.

Adapted from Christine Brotherston's Guild Message of August 22nd, 2021

Dryburgh District Churches

Maxton, Mertoun, Newtown & St Boswells

Please pray for the congregations of our churches as they continue to get to know each other and find a way forward in spreading the good news throughout our district.

Give us hope that the virus starts to diminish and allows us to come together safely to finally celebrate our union in a special service.

Earlston

Please pray for the Elders and the congregation at Earlston as they seek to be a witness for Jesus Christ, in and around Earlston.

For wisdom in making any decisions regarding the future, and the ability to put into practice any necessary changes which may need to happen.

Thankfulness for the ongoing efforts of so many, doing all they can to encourage and welcome worshippers back to church.

For help in reaching out to those who are hesitant, and for effective ways to welcome, and accommodate ministry, for children and young people.

Eddleston I/w Peebles Old I/w Stobo and Drumelzier

Please remember in prayer our congregations and a suffering world:

- those who are still shielding and do not feel ready to return to worship in church
- the sick and the housebound who are reliant on our online worship
- all those who have worked so hard cleaning and preparing the churches for reopening
- our Nominating Committee and candidates
- our Locum, John Smith, who has worked tirelessly throughout lockdown
- our elders and office bearers
- our partners in Lebanon who report their country is spiralling into chaos
- our friends in Afghanistan whose lives are in acute danger

From the Confession of Belhar:

“We believe... that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways:

... together know and bear one another’s burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ; that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world...”

Galashiels

*O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day
to day. Psalm 96: 1-2*

Give thanks for...

Our God, the creator, and for his wondrous works in all the earth, the beauty of sea and sky, of hills and mountains, of the valleys and glens. For this beautiful borderland that he has placed us in. For his love and provision for us day by day of food, clothing and shelter. Most of all for his wonderful plan for our salvation in sending us his own beloved Son, our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died in our place on the cross and who was raised to life, and is seated at God's right hand, forever interceding for us. Give thanks and praise God, our Father, that His Son has made this sacrifice for us, that we may know the forgiveness of sins and have new life in Jesus' name.

Pray that...

As we come slowly out of this global pandemic, we face many changes. But we have a High Priest in Heaven, Jesus Christ, who understands our deepest needs. As we unite our three congregations into one united Galashiels Church of Scotland we pray that we will serve the God we love by showing love and respect for each other and seeking the Lord's will for the church that has its foundation in Christ, the cornerstone.

We pray with confidence and expectation towards a new beginning together. We pray for the Nominating Committee, as they meet together, that God would bless them with wisdom and clarity for this responsibility in seeking the person who will become our new minister. We pray for each one in the united congregation to be encouraged by God's word to us in the promise that we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Praise the Lord for his marvellous works and deeds. Pray without ceasing!

Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn

We give thanks for:

The reopening of Traquair Kirk and an initial meeting of the Walkerburn congregation.

Temporary accommodation for the minister and his family in the parish.

We continue to pray for:

Peace and a resolution to recent vandalism and arson incidents in Walkerburn.

Wisdom about new ways to connect with the community especially with children and families.

Those who have not yet felt able to come back to Sunday Worship.

Lyne and Manor I/w St Andrew's Leckie Peebles

Pray for

- worship at Lyne and Manor and St Andrews Leckie.
- face-to face-ministry gaining momentum again with the easing of restrictions.

Parishes of West Tweeddale

We give thanks for the diligence and efficiency of our Nominating Committee and are particularly grateful for the great spirit of unity that it has enjoyed as it addressed its task of finding a minister for our newly created charge.

We pray that the same real sense of togetherness may prevail among us all in the Linking as we look forward in faith, hope and love to our future together with our new minister.

We pray for our congregations and for our Minister-elect, who preached for the vacancy at the end of August.

Presbytery

- Pray for all Congregations, especially those in vacancy.
- Pray for our new ministers as they find ways of spreading Your wonderful word throughout their parishes.
- Pray for our newly elected Moderator as she embarks on a new session of Presbytery in such challenging circumstances.



As Borders Street Pastors prepare to go out on the streets again - hopefully in September - we have much to be thankful for. Please remember us in your prayers and especially the following points, thank you!

To give thanks for:

- The continued health and well-being of the team.
- That our finances are still secure.
- For folks who have expressed an interest in Street Pastors.
- The new opportunities to share Christ's love with the people of the Borders.

Please pray for:

- Guidance for the new ways of working, not only with Covid, but for all the changes and challenges that society has gone through over the past 18 months.
- That we are able to make best use of our resources, especially new people who have expressed an interest.
- For everyone involved in the night-time economy, who have had 18 months of uncertainty.
- Please pray for the team, that we keep Christ-focused at all times as we look to take His love into the streets again.



The hospitals have come through (we pray) the worst of this pandemic, for which we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the scientists who came up with a vaccine that has changed both its past and future course, but it has come at a significant cost. Staff shortages are much more regular than before, which affects morale. So, our prayer request would be for the boost of a new generation of folk willing to enter a career in healthcare, for though it is challenging, its rewards are considerable.

God Heals Through Prayer

