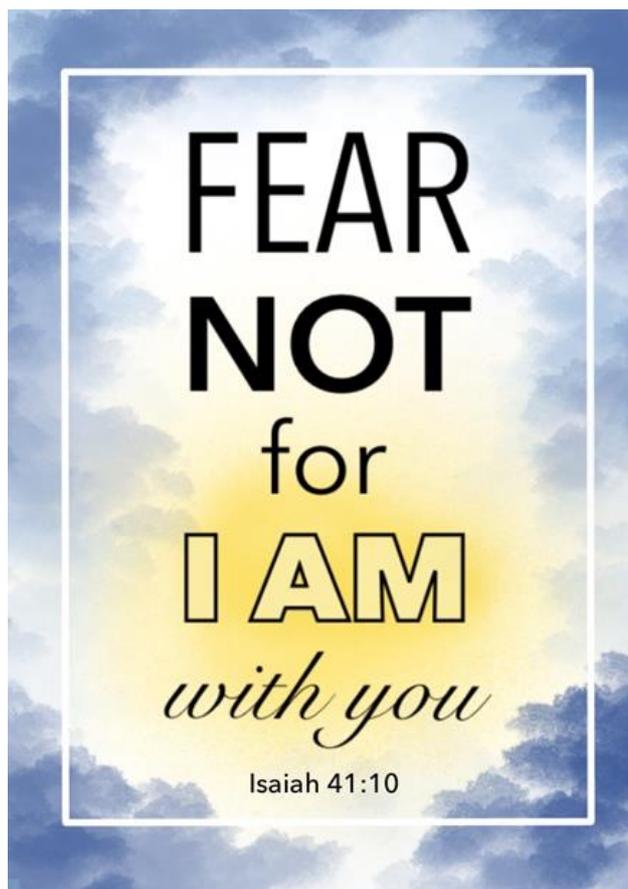


Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles



Prayer Diary
June, July & August 2020

Ashkirk I/w Selkirk

Ashkirk and Selkirk have been “Zooming around” a lot so we give thanks for the technology which allows us to continue our weekly prayer group, bible study, children’s work and Kirk Session meetings.

We pray for those who are accessing our services online who would not otherwise be in church that they might hear and respond to the message of God's love for them that they hear.

As we continue to work together with the churches in Ettrick and Yarrow, we pray that God will lead us as we explore the possibilities of how the cluster will function in the future.

Bowden and Melrose

Give thanks for strong local communities, for good neighbours and people looking out for one another.

Pray for those on the frontline in our parish in these difficult days – the staff at BGH, the staff at the crematorium, our local undertakers, shopkeepers, GPs and care workers.

Give thanks for the challenges and blessings of online church and online Messy Church.

Pray that contacts made will be nurtured, that those not online will still feel involved.

Pray for wisdom and guidance as we return to a new normal, whenever that may be.

Caddonfoot I/w Galashiels Trinity

Give thanks for the recovery from Covid-19 of members of the congregation.

Pray for all who are ill, lonely or anxious.

Give thanks for all health and key workers in our parishes.

Carlops I/w Kirkurd and Newlands I/w West Linton: St Andrews

Give thanks for all those preparing and participating in 'virtual church'.

Give thanks for the folk beyond congregations linking into the different ways we are communicating.

Pray that there will be a renewed interest in what the church has to offer post Covid.

A prayer for listening and being open to the Holy Spirit's prompting on how God wishes our national and local church to emerge from this time in history.

Give thanks for the richness of nature around us and for the community of people caring and sharing with each other through this difficult time.

Pray that both existing and new church goers would embrace this new church we are all discovering - and that we would all re-centre ourselves on our place, as God's people, as His church and that this time might loosen our ties a bit to our buildings!

Give thanks for faith in this period when we find ourselves emerging from Interim Ministry and seeking to create a new linking.

Give thanks and pray for the continuing conversations, though at a different pace, with our neighbours as part of Presbytery planning.

Channelkirk and Lauder

We pray for the worship team and the Kirk Session as they continue to reach out to all in the community, to share the gospel message at present.

We pray for those in our community who during these difficult times are mourning the loss of loved ones, and for those who are living alone.

We pray especially for our Session Clerk, Billy Anderson, and the extra duties he carries out at this time.

Earlston

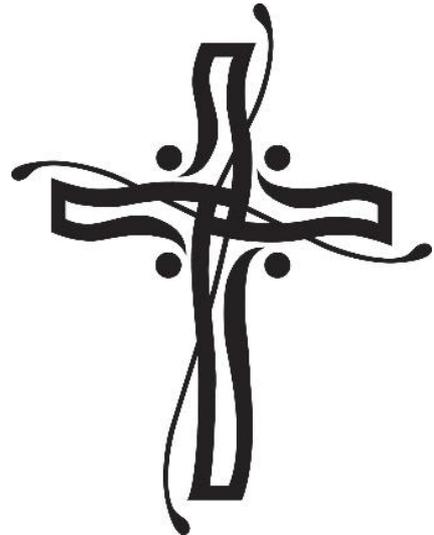
Please give thanks for the continuing work of the Elders in supporting their members during this time of lockdown, especially those who have been forwarding the weekly email video messages or printing out the scripts and delivering or sending to their members. Pray particularly for those who were recently bereaved and have not been able to access the ongoing support they need.

Eddleston I/w Peebles Old

Eddleston:

Gracious God, with sorrow and thanksgiving we remember the Christian life and witness of Lorraine Mulholland, Session Clerk and Organist at Eddleston Parish Church and diligent member of the Presbytery. In our prayers we remember the congregation and community of Eddleston to which she gave such outstanding leadership; we seek comfort for Lorraine's family; and we pray for all who shared the joy of music with her in Eddleston and beyond.

When we come to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony. Amen.



Peebles Old:

Beatitudes for These Days

*Blessed are they who wash their hands,
for they shall hold living water;
blessed are those who keep their distance,
for they shall draw closer to God;
blessed are they who self-quarantine,
for they shall help others;
blessed are those who do not hoard,
for they shall feed families;
blessed are those who sing songs to sheltering neighbours,
for they shall be members of the heavenly host;
blessed are parents who learn to teach at home,
for they shall learn from their children;
blessed are they who shop for older folks,
for they shall receive everlasting thanks;
blessed are the frontline health workers,
for they shall be called healers of humanity.*

Ettrick and Yarrow

We give thanks for the technological knowledge of a member whose expertise allows us to worship together weekly online.

As we continue to work together with the churches in Ashkirk I/w Selkirk we pray that God will lead us as we explore the possibilities of how the cluster will function in the future.

Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn

Give thanks

For all in our Congregation who are supporting the most vulnerable in the community at this time of lock-down.

For the continuing ministry of our Locum, Rev. Sara Embleton, as she makes contact with the housebound, supports families in time of grief and conducts funeral services in a surreal setting at crematorium and graveside.

In these unprecedented times for the assurance of our faith that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:39)

Pray for

Continued guidance, insight and patience for the Vacancy Process Group as it continues to monitor the life of the Congregation in this time of extended vacancy.

A renewed sense of being united to Christ and His people across the nation amidst the isolation of social distancing.

Wisdom, discernment, resolve and understanding for all in leadership in the country, the NHS and the local authority.

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

Lyne and Manor:

Praise God for such a well-connected community that are looking after one another well in the midst of the pandemic.

As we have no services at present, pray that members continue to be strengthened in their faith, through encouraging one another, distribution of the church magazine and alternative online services.

St Andrews Leckie:

Praise God for the team of people who are preparing online services every week and the way that the Lord is using services to reach out to others beyond the church family with the good news of Jesus.

Pray for the "Journey to Profession of faith group" meeting at the moment by Zoom as a group explores what being a disciple of Jesus and becoming part of the church involves.

Maxton and Mertoun I/w Newtown I/w St Boswells

Pray for all in our charge who are coping with isolation, for those who are living alone, for those who are key workers and find themselves being isolated, for those who are missing loved ones, and for those who are missing the routine of joining with others in worship on a Sunday morning.

We give thanks for the work being done by the Kirk Sessions in drafting our Basis of Union and as we work in new ways together in worship and fellowship of our Lord and Saviour.

Stow St Mary of Wedale and Heriot

Pray for:

Our congregation and parish during lockdown.

That God's love would be known in Jesus Christ.

Specifically, for those whose weddings and baptisms have had to be postponed.

For all who mourn.

Give thanks:

That many people have been using our worship resources online and we've been engaging with more members of our community through our new Facebook page.



Presbytery

Pray:

For all our congregations during lockdown.

For God's care and protection, and that we would see God at work in these times of change.

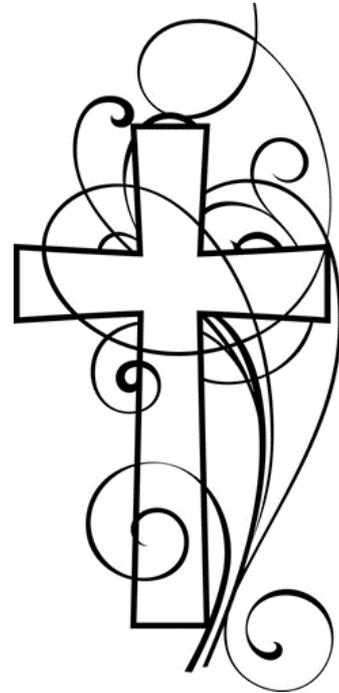
That congregations would support and encourage one another.

Give thanks for:

The commitment of all key workers and their families, especially those in the health and care sector.

The Street Pastors who continue to serve their communities in other capacities, be it through the Church, volunteering, or their 'normal' work.

The continued spread of God's word through other mediums.





Street Pastors

Please pray for:

All those employed in the night-time economy who will be amongst the last to be able to return to work.

Those for whom lockdown poses particular challenges, including loneliness, mental health issues, family and financial strains.

Chris Jewell as he takes over from Sandy Scrimgeour as CEO of Ascension Trust Scotland.

The Street Pastor movement, that it will be able to adapt and flourish in these changed times.



Borders General Hospital

Pray for:

The wonderful and dedicated staff and for their raised levels of anxiety.

Patients who are unable to receive visitors.

Any families of staff members who have lost their lives while serving others.

Give thanks:

For the Chaplaincy staff and that they are still allowed to visit patients.

That the hospital has been able to cope with the patient numbers attending.

For the 24-hour phone support which has been set up for staff and patients.

That the Chaplaincy is open around the clock.

John 14:6 ⁶ Jesus answered, “**I am** the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Exodus 3:14 ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “**I am who I am.** This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘**I am** has sent me to you.’”

Revelation 1:8 ⁸ “**I am the Alpha and the Omega,**” says the LORD God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

