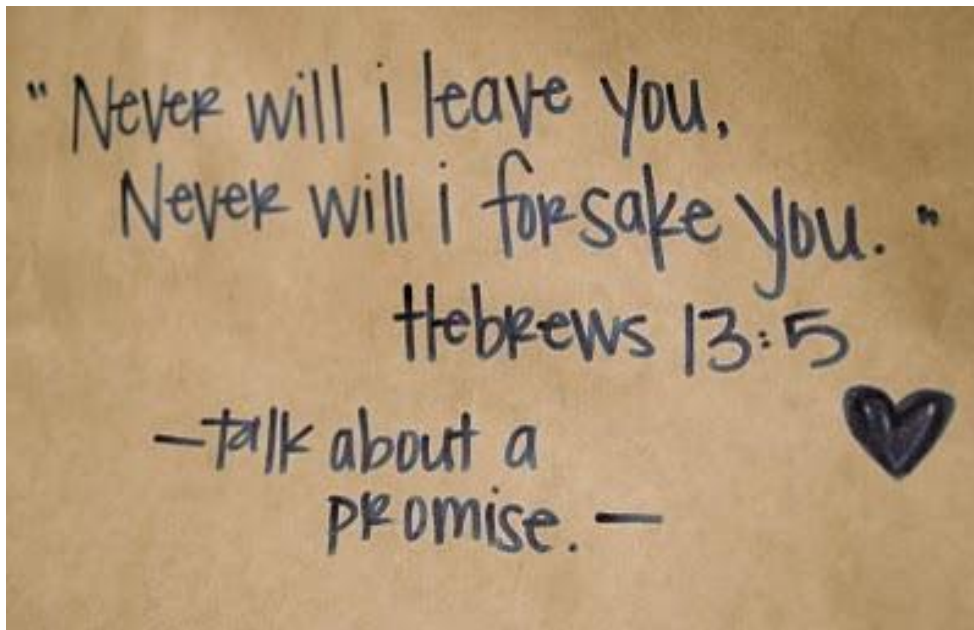


Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles



Prayer Diary

September, October &
November 2020

Ashkirk I/w Selkirk

Please pray for the ongoing discussions regarding the possible linking between Ashkirk with Selkirk and Ettrick and Yarrow.

Please pray for guidance regarding the opening of our churches for prayer and worship.

Bowden and Melrose

Pray for our congregation as we move forward in new ways.

Pray for wisdom as we make decisions about the future and build on our 'lockdown learnings'.

Give thanks for those who are a part of online church.

Pray for a safe return to our church buildings from Sunday 6 September.

Give thanks for a mixed economy of worship – in person, online and by phone.

Pray that people will participate in the way that is right for them.

Give thanks for good neighbourliness and community spirit.

Pray that these will be lasting legacies of this time.

Broughton, Glenholm & Kilbucho I/w Skirling I/w Stobo and Drumelzier I/w Tweedsmuir

We ask for prayer as we continue our discussions towards establishing two new linkings involving the congregations in our charge:

Stobo and Drumelzier as it prepares to link with Eddleston and Peebles: Old

Broughton, Skirling and Tweedsmuir as they work to establish an extended linking with Carlops, Newlands and Kirkurd, and St Andrew's West Linton.

Lockdown presents considerable challenges as we work through all the necessary procedures.

We give thanks for the great blessing that our Worship Workshop has been to us all in providing weekly online worship since the beginning of lockdown and now also in Skirling and Stobo Churches, which have reopened for worship.



Caddonfoot I/w Galashiels Trinity

Give thanks for all who have taken part in online worship and made it possible.

Give thanks for the team who have volunteered to open Trinity Church on weekday lunchtimes for private prayer and to show that the church is alive.

Pray for elders keeping in touch with members in their districts.

Pray for members of the church who feel out of touch with the church and are not online.

Pray for the Interim Moderator that God will continue to grant him the wisdom and the strength he needs, giving thanks for all he has done so far.

Pray for the Presbytery, its Moderator, Clerk, ministers and elders, giving thanks for all they do and trusting that God will show them the way ahead.

Pray for help and healing for all across the world affected by the corona virus.



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

Pray for the leadership, congregations, and communities as they enter another new and uncertain period of their journey of faith:

as the Interim Minister, Stewart McPherson, moves on to a new posting in September.

as the leadership work with a new Interim Moderator and Locum in continuing to strengthen relationships between the congregations and parishes.

as the leadership continue conversations with neighbours of Upper Tweeddale Parishes in shaping their new future together.

as worship leaders carry increased responsibility during vacancy to provide Sunday worship experiences via Zoom format.

as those caring for the church properties discern how and when to re-open safely.

as the communities reawaken and schools reopen, and expectations are matched with continuing caution.

as all seek to discern God's purpose, compassion, and joy within, between, and through the lives of these congregations.

Earlston

Please pray for the Kirk Session as they discuss their plans for opening the church for worship.

Pray that, as we contemplate coming back to church, we may be able to find a way of retaining the interest of the many new people who have accessed our weekly video messages during Covid.

Give thanks for the dedication of elders in maintaining contact with the congregation during lockdown and the local initiatives that church folk have been involved in, through which neighbours have come together in new and unexpected ways.

Ettrick and Yarrow

Please pray for the ongoing discussions regarding the possible linking between Ashkirk with Selkirk and Ettrick and Yarrow.

Please pray for guidance regarding the opening of our churches for prayer and worship.

Pray for members of the church who feel out of touch with the church and are not online.

Pray for help and healing for all across the world affected by the corona virus.

Galashiels Old and St Pauls I/w Galashiels St John's

We pray for our congregations that in these times of change and unusual circumstances that we would look to Jesus to be our Guide and Good Shepherd and that we would care for one another and be sensitive to each other's needs. Praying especially for those who are vulnerable and feeling lonely, many of whom have been shielding and now have more freedom: we pray that they will be confident and trust in the Lord to protect them. Also for those who have been bereaved at this difficult time that they would know the Lord's comfort and peace.

We pray for Street Pastors at this time when they are looking to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in new ways. Pray for heavenly wisdom and guidance for the future. "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it".

We pray for Neil Combe, our Locum Minister, preparing the many aspects of home-based Sunday worship, and ministering to the pastoral needs of the fellowship (and community) as they arise.

We praise and give thanks to our great God for the many opportunities that we have had to hear His word through the wonder of technology. Many people have watched services online, more than perhaps attend church. Prayer Chains using 'WhatsApp' and 'Zoom' meetings have all been bringing our people together. "Let those who have ears HEAR".

Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn

Pray for

- The new Digital Spoke being developed in our Innerleithen Church building, in conjunction with Borders College, which will allow learners in our community gain access to courses from a wide range of locations.
- The newly formed Nominating Committee as it begins its work of identifying a new Minister for the charge.
- Our Locum, the Rev. Sara Embleton, and the Fellowship and Care Team (FACT) as they seek to provide pastoral care in the context of the current restrictions on movement and gatherings.

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

Lyne and Manor

Pray for the congregation as we are not physically meeting for worship but encouraging and facilitating members to take part in a 'DIY service' every Sunday in their homes.

St Andrews Leckie

Please pray for our new Alpha Course by Zoom, that people from outside the church participate and discover Jesus.

Pray for our new youth leader, Sarah, as she begins in October.

Both congregations

Pray for wisdom and inspiration for patterns of ministry and mission in this context.

Eddleston I/w Peebles Old

Gracious and Generous God, to whom we owe our life and all we possess, teach us to respect the earth which you have made fruitful, and to remember our connection with all by whose work we are clothed and fed. Give to the peoples of the world a greater sense of mutual dependence so that the fruits of the earth may be more evenly shared and brought within the reach of all; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who had compassion on a hungry crowd and fed them until all were filled, Amen.

Presbytery

Pray for:

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 give thanks for

- The continued health and well-being of the Borders Street Pastor team
- The willingness and eagerness of volunteers to resume patrols
- God's vision for the new way in which patrols should be conducted
- The current financially secure position of Borders Street Pastors.

Please pray for

- God's guidance for the Borders Street Pastor committee for the safe return of Street Pastor patrols
- God's guidance on how, where and when Street Pastor patrols should recommence
- The safety of our Street Pastors and everyone on the streets of our towns
- God's grace and mercy upon us all.



Pray:

That there is not a second Covid swell within and across the Borders and that this will not overwhelm the annual winter upsurge.

For the mental impact of Covid as this has been as bad as the actual physical menace.

For those who have lost loved ones and have been caused more grief by the difficulty of social distancing protocols.

For those who are lonely and isolated, especially in hospital.

For the emotional wear and tear upon staff and for the loss of staff members.

Give thanks:

For the very large number of selflessly dedicated folk working within this service.

That the Chaplaincy Centre remains open 24 hours a day and that the team remain in good health throughout.



A Prayer for the World

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.

The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.

Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are
working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.