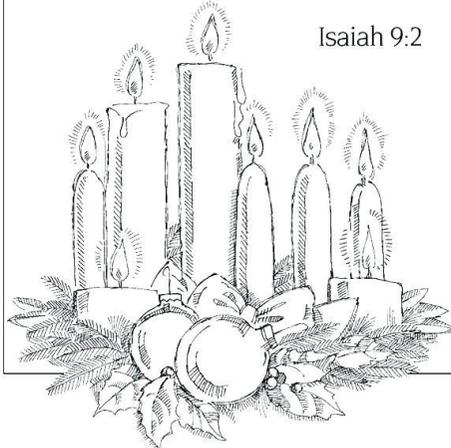


Presbytery of Melrose & Peebles
Prayer Diary
December 2019,
January and February 2020

The people walking in
DARKNESS have
seen a
great light.

Isaiah 9:2



'But you, Bethlehem, Ephratah, you are little to be among the clans of Judah, yet out of you shall ONE

Come forth for ME, WHO is to be the Ruler in Israel...'

Micah 5:3

*'O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
THE everlasting LIGHT
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight!'*

George Gilbert Stocks

DECEMBER

*"And she brought forth her firstborn Son and laid HIM in a manger,
because there was no room for them at the inn"*

(Luke 2: 7)

*'How silently how silently the
Wondrous Gift is given
So GOD imparts to human hearts,
The Blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear HIS coming,
But in this world of sin where
Meek souls will receive HIM, still
The Dear Christ enters in...'*

George Gilbert Stocks

Prayer Requests from the Charges

NB: Since most of the Prayer requests include the Christmas period, perhaps you could adjust your personal rota accordingly.

God Bless you in your faithfulness.

W.M.

Earlston - Rev. Marion Dodds

Please pray for the congregation of Earlston as they face a time of uncertainty, having said farewell to their minister. Give thanks for the commitment of so many of their office bearers in leading worship.

Please pray for encouragement for all those involved, to discover more ways of offering worship.

Please pray for a willingness to develop among the members and to work alongside people from other Churches, in order to keep the Gospel alive in the Leader Vale churches.

Ashkirk l/w Selkirk - Rev. Margaret Steele

Please give thanks to God for the many committed people serving God in so many different ways.

Please pray for the extra opportunities there are to engage sensitively with non-Christians, over the Christmas period. Please pray for the trial services at Ettrick and Yarrow, which will be taking place in January and February 2020.

Carllops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrews - Interim Minister: Rev. Stewart MacPherson

Please give thanks for the ongoing work in our Linkage. Pray for the need for all to be open to THE SPIRIT'S prompting as that work continues. Pray for sensitivity and grace as we look towards the final stages of Interim Ministry in the New Year, while also engaging with Presbytery Planning.

Give thanks for those who have planned and are organising the 'West Linton Sleepout' on 7th December in aid of the homeless.

Give thanks for the leafleting of all three Parishes with the leaflet 'Not Just a Sunday Morning', to raise awareness of community involvement of the church, with the hope that seeds are sown.

Give thanks and pray for all who are undergoing 'Worship Leader Training' across Presbytery and their involvement in Congregational worship.

Please pray concerning a suggestion from our Prayer Group, that there could be a day when all members throughout the Presbytery parishes ask for GOD'S guidance on the way forward for the Presbytery Plan - perhaps on the day when Presbytery meets.

Lyne and Manor l/w Peebles St Andrews Leckie - Rev. Malcolm Jefferson

Please pray concerning our witness over all the Christmas Services with our initiative to share the Good News through the booklet called 'The Gift'.

Please pray for John Allan who has been our Youth Worker and has now become the Borders' Scripture Union Worker.

Give thanks for his work with us as a Youth Worker and pray for him in this new role.

Please pray for a replacement Youth Worker.

Stow St Mary of Wedale and Heriot - Rev. Victoria Linford

Please pray for our Mission Season, that people in our Parish would enjoy our new 'Conversations on Christianity' DVD, which we have made in our congregations, as we show the films in our various tea parties, held in homes in the Parish and in our Church throughout Advent.

Please pray for our discussions with our neighbours in Caddonfoot Church.

JANUARY

'Unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given and the government shall be upon HIS shoulder and HIS Name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty GOD, Everlasting FATHER, PRINCE of Peace.'

Isaiah 9:6

'How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is given

So GOD imparts to human hearts the Blessing of HIS heaven.

No ear may hear HIS coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive HIM,

Still, The dear CHRIST enters in.'

George Gilbert Stocks

Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn - Interim Moderator:

Rev. Dr Miller Milloy

Please pray that all who attend the Parish Church 'Lives to Remember' service, will find solace, comfort and peace. Please pray for our Locum Minister, Rev. Sara Embleton, as she leads the services over the Advent and Christmas Season. Please pray that the implementation of the New Presbytery Plan within the Parish enables the ongoing delivery of the Church's mission.

Galashiels Old Parish & St Paul's I/w Galashiels St John's -

Interim Moderator: Rev. Dr David Donaldson

Please pray for the three Galashiels Congregations: Old Parish and St Paul's, St John's and Trinity, who will soon be voting formally concerning uniting.

Eddleston l/w Peebles Old - Interim Moderator: Very Rev. Dr Finlay MacDonald

In giving thanks for Rev. Calum MacDougall's eighteen-year Ministry, we pray for the Congregations in this time of Vacancy. We pray also for Calum and Janet as they move into their new home and adjust to retirement. We pray for the Congregations in Peebles and Eddleston as they adjust to this time of Vacancy. 'We ask Your Blessing O LORD on those in leadership and on all members and adherents, that they may continue to support their congregations at this time of transition'.

At this time of change we give thanks for the traditions in which we have been nurtured, but also seek an openness of spirit in these changing times. O LORD, may all Your faithful people continue in faith and love, grateful for the past, but also open to new things, new ways and new opportunities.

As we work through the season of Advent, may we recall with joy the Coming of THE LORD as a Child in a manger; and when Christmas Day dawns, may we know a renewal of Christian faith, purpose and joy and join with the herald angels singing glory to The Newborn KING.

Bowden and Melrose: Rev. Rosemary Frew

Please give thanks for our good relations with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and St. Cuthbert's RC Church. Please pray for our united events over Christmas, i.e. our Christmas invitations to the Parish, a Nativity Exhibition, Messy Church and the Christingle Service. In all the Christmas services, concerts and events, please pray for an openness to The Good News at the heart of the Christmas story. Please pray for our local schools - Melrose Primary School, Tweedbank Primary School and St Mary's Primary School. Pray for the Chaplaincy Team in Earlston High School.

FEBRUARY

'And she brought forth her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.'

Luke 2:7

*'What can I give HIM, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give HIM -
Give my heart.'*

Christina Georgina Rossetti

Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels, Trinity - Rev. Elspeth Harley

Caddonfoot: please pray for opportunities for Caddonfoot and Stow and Heriot to get to know one another, hoping that the linkage can go ahead.

Trinity: give thanks for the successful Tearfund Quiz, held jointly with Old Parish and St Paul's.

Please pray for more opportunities for Trinity and Old Parish and St Paul's and St John's to get to know one another as they prepare to unite.

Ettrick and Yarrow - Interim Moderator: Rev. Elspeth Harley

Please pray for the trial sharing of Ministry at new time in January and the joint services in February with Ashkirk and Selkirk. Pray for a joyful Christmas season for all.

Maxton and Mertoun l/w Newtown, l/w St Boswells - Rev. Sheila Moir

As the New Year begins, we give thanks for all who gather with us during Advent and Christmas in worship and praise. Please pray for our Kirk Session as they continue in their discussions towards a Union in our Linked Charge, that they will be welcomed by all the members of

our churches and that we may know GOD'S will for our Charge within our Cluster Grouping.

Channelkirk and Lauder - Interim Moderator: Rev. Sheila Moir

Please hold us in your prayers as we seek to serve Christ and glorify HIS name in our Charge.

We give thanks for our Worship Team and for all who lead Worship in our Church and in our Sunday School as well as for the teachers and the young people who come along.

Please pray that they may know and see love in action.

Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho I/w Skirling I/w Stobo and Drumelzier I/w Tweedsmuir - Interim Moderator: Rev. Calum MacDougall

Please remember this Charge in your prayers as they continue on in their Vacancy, looking for a Minister. Pray for the preparation involved concerning what the Presbytery Plan means for them.

Give thanks for their Interim Moderator and for all the Office Bearers and those involved in leading Sunday Worship and for new skills developing because of this challenging time.

Pray for encouragement for each one of the members and an openness to creative change.

Chaplaincies

'For GOD so loved the world, that HE gave HIS only SON, that whosoever believes... in HIM, should not perish, but have eternal life.'

John 3:16

Love came down at Christmas to earth, to lift us up...

'Little children, wake and listen, songs are breaking o'er the earth.

While the stars in heaven glisten, hear the news of JESUS' Birth.

Long ago, to lonely meadows, angels brought the Message down

Still, each year, through midnight shadows, it is heard in every town.'

Old French Noel (SPCK)

Borders General Hospital Chaplain - Rev. Michael Scouler

Please give thanks for the Borders General Hospital and the dedication of all the staff.

Please pray for them as they cope with increased pressure due to winter accidents and illness.

Please give thanks for the Sunday workers who come along to take Worship Services at the Chaplaincy Centre.

Please pray for Rev. Michael Scouler and all the Chaplaincy Staff for spiritual strength and good health to enable them in their vital work of spiritual care in the hospital, especially remembering the needs of all at Christmas.

'While humble shepherds watched their flocks on Bethlehem's plains by night, and angel sent from heaven appeared and filled the plains with light...'

'and they were terribly frightened, but the angel said to them 'Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you Good News of a great joy which will come to all the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, WHO is CHRIST, THE LORD...'

Luke 2

They hurried to Bethlehem to see...

They found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger...

They told others about it...

And they returned to care for their sheep, glorifying and praising GOD for what they had seen and heard.

Street Pastors - Leader in The Borders: Duncan Cameron

Please give thanks for:

- two Patrols per month in Hawick
- new volunteers who have come forward
- training opportunities both locally and in Edinburgh
- the prayerful support of the Borders Christian community

Please pray for:

- the safety of Borders Street Pastors over the Christmas period
- enough Street Pastors to maintain the Galashiels Patrols and for more Patrols in Hawick.
- planning for local training for the New Year.
- the continued strength and unity of the Street Pastors' Committee and GOD'S guidance
- for their work and decision making.

PRESBYTERY IN GENERAL

'Praise GOD from WHOM all blessing flow. Praise HIM all creatures here below.

Praise HIM above, ye heavenly host.

Praise FATHER, SON and HOLY GHOST.'

Praise GOD for HIS plan of redemption and for light breaking into our darkness through HIS Word.

Thank HIM for HIS plan for the people here in the Scottish Borders and HIS work through the Presbyteries down through the years through faithful servants.

Thank HIM and praise HIM for the work of THE HOLY SPIRIT in the hearts and lives of the people here in the Borders today, as well as agencies brought into being to spread HIS Word, sowing seeds of faith and putting love into action.

Pray for each person serving in Presbytery today and thank HIM for all the possibilities in that service.

Pray for wisdom and discernment and courage for each member. Pray for each Charge, unique in its setting and calling and witness.

Pray for the Ministers and Locums, Interim Moderators, office bearers and members, each in their own calling, especially...
in the wonder and light of HIS coming down to us on earth, leaving all HIS glory, fulfilling HIS Word to enable us to learn to become servants:

Pray for those known to you who are in difficult situations.

Give thanks and pray for those who:

are hungry, and the addicted,

are needing work and income,

need the security, shelter, and relief of a place to call home.

Pray for those who find Christmas difficult, especially the lonely.

Pray for those who go carol singing, that the words and music may awaken faith and sow new seeds of faith.

Pray for your own family members at this time.

Thank GOD for the opportunities that abound at this time to reach out in love.

Pray for children who need to know that they are loved, valued and respected.

Thank HIM for all the ways that love comes into our personal lives and for the power and gift of forgiveness through HIS SON.

Please pray for the staff and pupils of Peebles High School in all their needs at this difficult time.

Pray for creatures in need in the Borders and thank GOD for the gift of them.

'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven?

This same JESUS WHO was caught away and lifted up from you into heaven, will return in the same way in which you saw HIM go into heaven.'

Acts 1



'I know that my Redeemer liveth and at the latter Day shall stand upon the earth...

...and my eyes shall behold HIM.'

Job 19