

## PRAYER DIARY 2025 – DECEMBER

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup>

As we enter December we are conscious of the fact that the shops have been selling Selection Boxes for months and many see this as a time to make profit in business. Pray that people will be given the sight to see the **truth about Christmas** and that we can show our love for Jesus as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Saviour of the World. Pray for our witness to the World and people around us who increasingly ignore Jesus and are hostile to the Gospel. Pray for opportunities to speak about the true meaning of Christmas.

### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Presbytery of North Belfast will be meeting this evening in Abbots Cross Church Halls. It will receive nominations for the **next Moderator of the General Assembly** - voting on these names will take place next February. The agenda will be overshadowed by the recent disclosures in respect of safeguarding procedures within PCI. Pray for all who are working to repair the damage caused to innocent lives and to the reputation of our denomination. Pray that the PSNI will do their job well and quickly. Pray that all that is done is done to the Glory of God.

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Pray for those of other nationalities and faiths who have found their way to Northern Ireland. Many people from NI are suspicious of them and some are openly hostile towards them. Pray for those who work to make them welcome and treat them with dignity and respect. Remember the work of IMP which provides great help and support to people new to NI. Also give thanks for the 'Church Plant' that is **Grace & Hope Church**, which meets each Sunday in the Hopelink Centre at Carlisle Circus and is led by Rev Peter Burke. Over 60 people meet there with many coming from many different countries including Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Syria and beyond. Pray that these strangers and newcomers will see Jesus in our lives and in how they are treated by us.

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

Pray for all who are homeless and sleeping rough. Pray especially for those with addictions and whose lives are totally messed up because of it. Pray for organizations like the Welcome Centre, The Peoples' Kitchen and the Salvation Army as they try to help those who are cold, hungry, lonely or sick.

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup>

Pray for families caring for children or adults with a learning disability. Give thanks for the Special Schools we have especially **Cedar Lodge** which is our close neighbour. Also pray for adult day-care centers, training units and supported employment schemes. Pray for those involved in the provision of these services. Pray also for those in the 'POD' who use Room A in our halls, that our concern and welcome to them and their families will be a witness for the love that Jesus has for each of them.

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

As we approach Christmas ask God to bring healing to those families where there are broken relationships. Pray for all those who will find the celebrations difficult and stressful.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and tradition recognizes that the theme for today is **Peace** - we are all too aware that there is little or no peace in many places across our broken world. Pray for peace

to be found – Pray that our Services today will help us to worship the King of Kings. Also remember the invitation to our Carol Service in our Church at 7.00pm. Pray for all who will take part and all who will attend – especially any newcomers and guests. Pray they will feel welcome and that everyone who attends will be blessed by the Good News of the Coming of Christ.

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the **International Meeting Point ‘Op Shop’** at Carlisle Circus and its outreach to all who enter the shop whatever they have come from. Pray also the work of IMP led by Shirley McGonigle - for the English Classes and Mum’s and Toddlers’ group which meet in the Memorial Hall behind the shop. Pray for those who manage and volunteer in the shop and work behind the scenes to make it work so well. Pray also for more volunteers to come forward and help with the work either in the Op Shop or with the other work of IMP. Give thanks for the property that is there which makes the work possible and the people who have had the vision to make this possible.

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**

Give thanks for all the **Chaplains** that come under the banner of PCI – in Hospitals, Hospices, Prisons, Universities and the Armed Forces. Pray for each of these areas of work and for the chaplaincy teams and supporters involved. Pray that they will be effective witnesses and servants of Christ as they provide holistic spiritual care for those they are called to care for.

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the Mission to Seafarers Flying Angel Centre in Belfast. Pray for all the seafarers who will be in Belfast over the Christmas period. The Chaplain at the Flying Angel is Rev Mark Reid. Pray for Mark and the volunteers who help at the Centre. Pray that the seafarers may find a warm welcome and help and advice from the volunteers and Chaplain especially those who have anxieties about families, sickness, work problems etc. May they find the help they need both practical and spiritual .

### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the superb work of the **Northern Ireland Hospice**. Give thanks for the team of volunteers who give so freely of their time. Also remember those who work hard to raise the funds that keep the Hospice going. Give thanks for the gifts and skills of the staff which they put to such good use for the patients they care for. Pray for those known to us who have been bereaved recently and are learning to cope. Pray for those who will find Christmas a time of sadness and loneliness as the pain of a lost loved one comes to the surface once more. Pray that the comfort and love of friends will be a help to them and also that the love and presence of God will surround all who are sad and mourn their loved ones. Pray especially as we approach Christmas when the loss can feel so acute. Pray that God will hold all who mourn close to Him and that they will know His presence and comfort.

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Give thanks for the **‘Youth Alpha’ course that has been running in the Boys Model School** for 10 weeks. Pray for those who have heard about Jesus for the first time and have been challenged to think about who he really is. Pray for those who have committed themselves to following Jesus. Pray that they will find the help and fellowship they need to grow as young Christians.

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**

The shops will be full today and every day until Christmas and so this is a time when money is a big issue for many families. **Pray for those who feel under pressure to spend money** they can ill afford and fall into debt. Pray for the work of Christian Against Poverty (CAP) in North Belfast. Pray for all those who volunteer and provide high quality professional advice. Pray for those offering both debt help and the job clubs and all sharing their budgeting skills as they try to come along side those who are most in need and seek to share the amazing grace of God our Father.

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>**

**NI Prison Fellowship** asks for prayer for Chaplains and chaplaincy teams. Ask God to strengthen all prison chaplains in the run-up to Christmas. We also pray for the many chaplaincy vacancies across prisons, asking God to call upon those faithful and willing to serve in these roles. We thank God for all the prison carol services taking place this month. Pray that joy will fill the chapels as Christmas carols are sung and that hearts will be warmed by the fellowship shared.

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for **all who are being treated in hospital**. Bring comfort and healing to all who have had surgery or treatment of any kind. Be with all hospital staff who will be working over Christmas. Our hospitals remain under great pressure – Budgets are stretched, waiting lists are longer than ever and the staff are working under great pressure! Pray for those who keep our hospitals going day and night. Pray for the Administrators working on Budgets and plans to reduce the waiting lists. Pray for the Decision Makers – including the politicians that they will work together for the good of all. Remember also the Chaplains of all denominations who work to bring help and spiritual encouragement amid difficulty. Pray too for those dealing day by day with the increasing waiting lists and challenges that our Health Service faces.

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Today our Church building will be full of **hundreds of children and their families as Cavehill Primary School** holds its Christmas Celebration here again. Sadly many of these children attend no church of any kind. Pray that today will be a blessing to all who take part and that the truth of Christmas will be seen and heard. Pray that the Good News of Christmas will be real for all who attend. Pray for the Teachers and Staff of Cavehill PS that God will bless them as they care for the Children. Pray also for the Board of Governors as they give their time and energies for the good of the school.

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the continuing work of the **Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society**.

Pray for all responsible for administering practical help and raise the funds for this work. Ask God to bless all children who have lost one or both parents in the past year and the families who need the help of the Society.

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

It has been decided that a Special General Assembly should be called and it is likely that it will be held today. Pray for the **Very Rev Dr Richard Murray** as he takes up the office of Moderator of the General Assembly at this difficult moment in the history of our denomination. Pray for Richard and all who are working to build for a future that honours God and learns from the past. Pray for the PSNI Officers leading the investigation and all who work with them.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the **Residential and Nursing Homes and Sheltered Housing** provided by PCI and their residents and staff. Particularly remember the work of Corkey House which is in our area and where members of our congregation currently reside. Ask God to bless this work and pray that the Matron and the staff will show Christ's love and compassion as they look after the residents day by day.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for our Global Mission personnel who are far from home and celebrating Christmas very differently from us. Pray for their families and all who miss them here at home. Encourage those missionaries who have had to face the legacy of Climate Change. Many areas have been affected by drought, famine, fire or flood. Pray for all who are in charge and must make decisions in these situations. Pray for wisdom and the knowledge that God is right there with them.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, pray for all attending our service. Pray for any who are worried or distressed. Pray that God will be very close to them. Pray that they may take their problems and anxieties to the Lord and leave them there! Give thanks for the numbers who are staying for tea/coffee after the morning service. Being able to have this time together enables us to catch up and enjoy a time of fellowship with each other.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Pray for all Marie Curie Nurses as they care for terminally ill patients and their families at this Christmas time.

Thank God for their skill, love and compassion. Give thanks for the specialist care they are able to give which often enables families to enjoy their last days together knowing that their loved ones have had pain relief and nursing skills which have helped and supported their family member at this time.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

FEBA have asked for prayer for protection and fruitfulness for FEBA India's work in west Bengal, that brings hope to women trapped in the sex trade. Also please pray for FEBA'S Partners in Yemen who help bring hope to communities ravaged by conflict and warring parties. Pray also for the unreached people in The Horn of Africa, that God will use radio to open their hearts to the gospel and also for FEBA's partners in Iraq, speaking God's love into the heart of their community.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

Many of our Christian Brothers and Sisters around the world are beginning to celebrate the Birth of Jesus today. Help us to stop and praise God amidst the busy preparations we are doing and remember them and particularly those Christians who live in countries where it is dangerous to be seen celebrating Christmas.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

On this day Christians around the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ - Pray for Philip and all who will attend our service on this Christmas morning. As we worship the Prince of Peace we pray for those areas where there has been great destruction and loss of life. We pray particularly for the people of Ukraine and in Israel and Gaza as fighting continues and there is little sign of Peace or Love. Pray for all who bring Aid to those in need and also for all who work to bring peace to our world.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>**

At this time of year many people can be sad, depressed, anxious or suicidal. Pray for the work of the Samaritans and all those working in Social Services and Community Care who deal with those in dire need. Pray for those working with the Homeless especially as numbers are increasing rapidly and the temperature outside decreases.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the work of Samaritans Purse as they distribute the many shoeboxes which have been donated to children around the world who have little or no material possessions. Pray especially for children in war ravished areas around the world. Pray that the distribution of the shoeboxes may bring a little ray of hope and a smile to their faces when they get something just for them.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**

Today is the last Sunday of the year - a time to reflect and give thanks for what 2025 has been – blessings, trials, difficulties that were faced and overcome, and perhaps the pain of loss – Be reminded that God has been with us each and every step of that journey – Psalm 121 states “He never sleeps nor slumbers” and “the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” Give thanks for His unending love and care. Pray that as we meet for worship this morning, we will be mindful of all God has done for us.

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>**

As the year ends pray for **Roy Eakin**, our hard-working Treasurer, as he gathers the details together and produces our Congregational Annual Accounts. Give thanks for Roy’s hard work as well as the gifts and experience which he uses so effectively. Pray also for the members of the Finance Committee as they look after all aspects of our resources.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the urgent recruitment of experienced aircraft maintenance engineers. These skilled roles are essential for maintaining aircraft safety and operations. Ask God to stir the hearts of aviation engineers who have both the training and a heart for mission.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup>**

As the year draws to a close pray for the future of our congregation. Pray for a fresh vision to know what to do in the face of growing secularism, apathy and an aging congregation. Continue to pray for members of Session and Committee as they seek God’s guidance and wisdom to know what God’s will is regarding our congregation and witness in this part of North Belfast. Thank God also, for the blessings that we have received in the last 12 months and the promises that he has kept. Pray that we will each know God’s presence in the midst of the changes and challenges that 2026 will bring.