

**Please share Presbytery Prayer News with your congregation**

# September 2022 Prayer News

## PRAYER TOPICS FOR THE MONTH

**This month pray for each of the four proposed Mission Districts**

Week start	September prayer topics
4	<b>Nairnshire/West Moray:</b> <i>Alves &amp; Burghead, Cawdor, Croy &amp; Dalcross, Dallas, Daviot &amp; Dunlichity, Dyke &amp; Edinkillie, Forres St Laurence, Forres St Leonard's, Kinloss &amp; Findhorn, Moy, Dalarossie &amp; Tomatin, Nairn Old, Rafford, St Ninian's &amp; Auldearn &amp; Dalmore</i>
11	<b>Inverness South and East:</b> <i>Ardersier, Culloden: the Barn, Inverness Crown, Inverness East, Inverness Hilton, Inverness Inshes, Inverness Old High St Stephen's, Inverness St Columba, Petty</i>
18	<b>Inverness Central and West:</b> <i>Inverness Dalneigh &amp; Bona, Inverness Kinmylies, Inverness Ness Bank, Inverness Trinity, Kilmorack &amp; Erchless, Kiltarlity &amp; Kirkhill</i>
25	<b>Loch Ness:</b> <i>Urquhart &amp; Glenmoriston</i>

Contact [inverness@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:inverness@churchofscotland.org.uk) with your prayer news.

## Have We Forgotten the Holy Spirit?

The silence is deafening—and astounding. We face one of the most crucial stages in the history of the Church of Scotland, and as a Presbytery of the Church, yet not one request has been received to urge congregations and the Presbytery to pray for the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the face of such a drastic reform that has been presented to every one of our Kirk Sessions in the Presbytery Mission Plan.

Is this because we really do not believe that even the Holy Spirit can do anything about it, or that we will do it ourselves and do not want his help, thank you very much? Have we really finally lost sight of Christ as the Head of his Church, which we enact at every General Assembly, as it appears, as an empty gesture?

Perhaps we really are congregational independents, only caring about ourselves but not anyone else. Do we think that it is only us that are concerned and no one else cares about us?

It certainly is not because we are all happy with what is proposed, or even that we do not care about it. There is a lot of hot and bother around—especially since the proposal for the closure of buildings has been revealed. Unless, of course, the Press has got it wrong and misjudged the concern.

It is hard to believe that any of these scenarios are true of us, but that is how it appears. Surely our relationship as brothers and sisters should have urged at least

pastoral care for each other in all the pain and hurt we feel all around us. The pain is surely obvious to us all. We cannot be so isolated that we did not know.

The mystery is why we have no one expressing care or concern. Is this highlighting our basic problems as a Presbytery and even as a denomination, showing us what are the real problems that we dare not own up to?

Unless we face our demon problems and change what is happening to us ourselves just now it is sounding the death knell of the Church of Scotland. If we do not care about each other it would perhaps be better if we did die out. How can we reach a desperate Scotland with good news if we do not even care for ourselves and the household of faith.

If we do not believe that Christ is with us and that the Holy Spirit can direct us all with wisdom then perhaps we ought to die out because we have ceased to be the Church.

If we do not believe that we can talk to God and lay before him our pain and hurt and call out to him for ourselves and for others then God is not real to us so why would we want to perpetuate a sham and keep the Church?

Even if you do not want to ask for prayer, please, please do pray about our present situation and for others.