

community. Let's pray that they can learn through the love of the volunteers that God cares & has a purpose for them.

FRIDAY 24 DECEMBER Scripture Union Scotland want to develop two key areas - **digital ministry & ministry with disadvantaged young people**. They ask us to pray into the first steps of recruitment, & to pray that new partnerships will emerge.

SATURDAY 25 DECEMBER

A Christmas prayer from Christian Aid for those worst affected by the climate crisis.

Father God, we lift to you the people worst affected by the climate crisis. Please bless them with more secure homes.

Draw close to people hit by disaster, comfort them and help them recover.

Help people to adapt and prepare so that they stay safe.

Please give adults and children opportunities to receive training to be protected and save lives.

*In Jesus' name,
AMEN*

SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER Let's thank God for Love Russia's **Men's Crisis Centre**, which welcomes in men who have ended up homeless, often struggling with addiction. Their basic needs for food, clothing & shelter are met as they aim for full rehabilitation into the community. For more info, go to www.loverussia.org/menscrisiscentre

MONDAY 27 DECEMBER Let's thank God for the charity **Mercy Ships**, which brings safe, affordable surgery to some of the **five billion people** who live in regions where clean water, electricity & medical facilities are limited or nonexistent. And let's pray that they will always have the resources they need to maintain & expand this amazing work.

TUESDAY 28 DECEMBER Please support the essential work of aid agencies by continuing to pray that the huge **cuts in the UK's aid budget** will be reviewed, & that increased funding will be made available immediately to all the countries

concerned. (Last month the UK government effectively put off a decision for 3 years).

WEDNESDAY 29 DECEMBER Let's thank God that **schools** have been able to function reasonably normally since August-after almost 18 months of turmoil. And let's pray that they will offer a safe environment for effective teaching & learning.

THURSDAY 30 DECEMBER Scripture Union Scotland ask us to thank God for young people they see flourishing in faith. They ask us to pray for steady spiritual growth & fruit in the lives of those who are attending their various activities - Spotlight, Equip, Connect Groups, Pupil Leadership Training, SU groups & weekends.

FRIDAY 31 DECEMBER At the end of 2021, **let's thank God for all His many blessings**, & commit ourselves to **follow Jesus & keep our eyes fixed on Him** in the year to come.

2022

SATURDAY 1 JANUARY Please pray for the 11.3 million people of **South Sudan**, where political conflict, economic problems & serious drought have caused massive displacement & dire food shortages. About a third of the population have fled their homes, & twice as many need immediate food aid.

SUNDAY 2 JANUARY Please continue to pray that **Penicuik YMCA/YWCA** ('The Y') will be able to recruit someone with HR experience on to their Board. This is a condition for the release of a large grant they have been awarded to employ a youth worker. That would be a huge step forward.

Please use as many of these suggestions as you can, and please let me know if there is anyone or anything you would like to see included in future months. Bill (billandmag@talktalk.net or 672347).

**St Mungo's Church Penicuik
Prayer Prompts
December 2021**

Welcome to the December issue of Prayer Prompts - some things you might want to thank God for, speak to Him about or ask Him for.

MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER The members of **St Mungo's & of the South Kirk & Howgate** are **uniting to form a new congregation** early next year. Let's thank God for bringing us together in this way, & pray that everything we do together will be in line with what He wants.

TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER Although 52.3% of the world's population have received at least **one dose of covid-19 vaccine**, the figure for low-income countries is only 4.7%. In Nigeria, Africa's largest country, it's 2.8%. Please pray that the rich countries will have a change of attitude, so that this terrible injustice is put right.

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER Let's thank God for the **agreements that were reached at Cop26**, but also pray that where these have fallen short, they will be upgraded to what is needed when the countries get together again next year in Egypt.

THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER

Living God, I pray for those who find faith hard, those who want to believe but can't get past their doubts.

I pray for those whose faith is wavering, undermined by the pressures and temptations of life.

I pray for those who have lost their faith, the fire that once burned within them extinguished.

I pray for myself, conscious that for me too faith can sometimes lose its spark.

Thank you that you still love us and accept us, even with all our doubts and questions.

Lord, speak to each of us in whatever way you choose. Open our eyes and our hearts to the wonder of your love.

AMEN [Adapted from a prayer by Nick Fawcett]

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER Our **local churches** are being given the use of the **FFF Community Hub** building on Saturdays during December. Please pray that we will be able to use these times effectively to tell people about Jesus' love for them.

SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER *Tearfund* ask us to pray for farmers in **Angola**, where food production has been badly affected by climate change, bringing prolonged drought in some areas & floods in others. Pray that the help being given to adapt to these challenging conditions will be effective.

SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER Please pray for protection for **Christians in Afghanistan**, in huge danger now that the Taliban control the whole country. Many have fled their homes & are moving around in hiding, as they may well be killed if they are found.

MONDAY 6 DECEMBER St Mungo's **Congregational Board** meets tomorrow evening. Please pray that they will have God's wisdom in all the decisions they take.

TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER *Christian Aid* ask us to pray for the people of **Ethiopia**, facing escalating military conflict in the north of the country. Pray for peace. Pray for provision of resources. Pray for power to be redistributed fairly.

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER

*Father God,
bless our differences,
for they shape how we might tell your story.*

*Lord Jesus,
break down our barriers
when we cannot see the common ground.*

*Holy Spirit,
lead us to explore
how we might work together.*

AMEN

[Pray Now]

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER **The Leprosy Mission India (TLMI)** delivers healthcare over 10 states, addressing all aspects of leprosy as well other medical specialities. They ask us to pray that they will be able to recruit enough committed Christian

professionals to run these programmes to full effect.

FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER **TLMI** also ask us to pray that their hospitals will always have the resources they need; that their community outreach work will be strengthened: & for good partnership with the Government at district & state level.

SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER

Lord, we praise you for creating, healing and loving us.

*We thank you for seeking - and finding us;
for holding us and renewing our lives.*

*We honour you for all you have done for us, in us
and through us.*

*But we adore you for who you are:
the one true living God.*

AMEN

[David Clowes, *500 more prayers for all occasions*]

SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER Let's thank God for the **NHS** throughout the country, still struggling under unprecedented pressure; & let's ask Him to give it the resilience it needs to cope with all the demands made on it.

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER On the local level, let's thank God for the **medical practices at Imrie Place & Eastfield** & pray that they will have all the energy & resources they need throughout the winter & beyond.

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER **Social care services** are described as being on the verge of collapse in some areas. Please pray that they will be able to function effectively so that people who rely on them aren't left to cope on their own.

WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER *Crossreach* ask us to pray for everyone at **Cunningham House**, which offers **supported accommodation** to men & women experiencing homelessness in Edinburgh. Please pray that anyone who has gone through the **break-up of relationships** will find the strength to work through their feelings of loss & change.

THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER *Crossreach* also ask us to pray that **residents** at **Cunningham House** **living with addictions** will have assurance that there is

a way forward & that they can lead strong, fulfilling lives. And that **those living with mental health conditions** will find the right support & be able to sustain their recovery.

FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER Please continue to pray that the UK government will find a way to restore the **£20 per week** that was removed from **Universal Credit** last month, so that the poorest in society aren't hit even harder just as prices are rising.

SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER Let's remember the residents & staff at **Springfield Bank Care Home**, **Bonnyrigg & Cairden House**, Edinburgh, where some of our members live. Let's pray that they will be well looked after & feel loved & wanted.

SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER **Fifteen Christians in Eritrea** have been re-arrested & taken to a top-security prison. They had all spent years in jail until released in September 2020. About 160 Christians are now thought to be in prison in Eritrea. Please pray for protection for all of them & that the authorities will soften their attitude & release them permanently.

MONDAY 20 DECEMBER Let's ask God for peace in **Yemen**, mired for almost 7 years in a brutal civil war. Pray that the fighting will end, & that those countries (including the UK) who are selling arms to people who commit violence against civilians will stop doing so.

TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER Let's pray too for **people in other places where there is civil war or violent repression**, like Syria & Myanmar; & ask God to bring peace to these countries.

WEDNESDAY 22 DECEMBER *Christian Aid* ask us to pray for **all who have been affected by emergencies** in the past months & years - all who are still trying to rebuild their lives after cyclones, drought & flood. And those who are still enduring food shortages & experiencing extreme hunger.

THURSDAY 23 DECEMBER Let's thank God for the **Bethany Trust's Connect to Community programme**, in which volunteers provide friendship & support to men & women leaving prison to help them live transformed lives in the