

Prayer Topics for July 2010

- 1 Thu. The Church of Scotland website, "On This Day" feature today suggests we recall the witness to our faith of Serf, fifth to sixth century saint. So, today, let us link in prayer two of our parishes located at almost opposite ends of our Presbytery; St Serf's, Lochgelly and Benarty, (Rev Elisabeth Stenhouse) which recently suffered multiple bereavements and Culross and Torryburn (Culross linked very much with the Serf and Kentigern legend) where Rev Jayne Scott recently completed her first year as minister.
- 2 Fri. Today, "On This Day" asks us to recall Helen Wilson, missionary and nurse to China. Let us link that into our prayers for the work of the Church World Mission Council and pray that the Holy Spirit guide and comfort Andrew McLellan as he commences his two year term as Convener of that Council.
- 3 Sat. Pray today for the parish, congregations, minister (Rev Rosemary Smith) of Townhill and Kingseat.
- 4 Sun. **Pray today for the mission of your own church. Pray that it will welcome through its doors soon some who have not been to church for years, some who have never been to church. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your congregation how best to reach out into its own community with the Good News of Jesus.**
- 5 Mon. St Leonard's, Dunfermline Holiday Club starts today at Pitreavie Primary school. Let us pray for the St Leonard's team, that they are inspired by the Holy Spirit such that through them all children attending and their families get a glimpse of Our Lord through the week.
- 6 Tue. Today is the 550th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Edinburgh. Although the treaty was between the English and the French, we should give thanks that in its freeing of Scotland from both French and English troops it provided the political background for the triumph of the Reformation. It also effectively ended the 'Auld Alliance' between Scotland and France and led to an end to the frequent and costly wars between Scotland and England. Let us link this event in prayers for peace and an end to long term conflicts in the world.
- 7 Wed. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Donald McCorkindale) and officers of Dalgety Church.
- 8 Thu. Pray for single parent families; for couples and families involved in the trauma of separation or divorce; pray for the innocent children caught up in these situations.
- 9 Fri. Give & Gain Day is the UK's largest day of action for employee volunteers. Managed by Business in the Community, Give & Gain Day mobilises employees to volunteer their expertise and time during work hours. Pray for the success of this initiative and that it grows and contributes more to society as it becomes more recognised.
- 10 Sat. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Alistair Jessamine) and officers of Dunfermline: Abbey.
- 11 Sun **Once again, let us just thank the Lord today for our church and everything about it which brings us to Him. At the service we attend let us rejoice in His love and the companionship of all with whom we share His Presence.**
- 12 Mon. Pray that all events pass off peacefully today in Northern Ireland and that there are no outbreaks of sectarian violence.
- 13 Tue Pray for our Armed Forces that they might help preserve peace, defend liberty and the rights of people everywhere and come home safely to their families.
- 14 Wed Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Iain Sutherland) and officers of Dunfermline: Gillespie Memorial.
- 15 Thu. Give thanks today for the retired ministers who are members of our Presbytery. Give thanks for their continued contribution to the church and the help and assistance they provide to sometimes overstretched parish ministers. Pray for their peace of mind in retirement.
- 16 Fri Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Ian Thom) and officers of Dunfermline: North.
- 17 Sat. Today, "On This Day" asks us to remember Jane Haining, the only Scot who perished in a Nazi concentration camp (Auschwitz) when she refused to desert her girls of the Scottish Jewish Mission in Budapest. Let us link her memory in prayer for all being oppressed and persecuted for their beliefs.
- 18 Sun **Thank our Loving Father for all the love he pours out on us. Give thanks for friends and family. Give thanks for all we meet who brighten our day and pray that we too can be a blessing to all who encounter us.**

Prayer Topics for July 2010 (Cont'd)

- 19 Mon. Rev John Chalmers recently took up the post of Principal Clerk of the General Assembly. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless his new ministry. And pray for a happy retirement for his predecessor, Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald.
- 20 Tue. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Ann Allison) and officers of Dunfermline: St Andrew's Erskine. Ask for the Lord's blessing on Ann at this time as she recovers from recent illness.
- 21 Wed. Remember those in prison today. Pray for prisoners, prison staff, prisoners' families, particularly vulnerable children and the victims of crime. Pray for new thinking by our governments on penal policy and that justice shall be the prime motivator of reform.
- 22 Thu. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Andrew Philip) and officers of Dunfermline: St Leonard's.
- 23 Fri. Give thanks for the Street Pastors of Dunfermline as they tend the late night revellers on a Friday and Saturday. Pray for their safety.
- 24 Sat. Pray for couples who are about to be married; that they may understand the solemnity of their vows; pray for couples whose marriage is going through difficult times.
- 25 Sun Pray for all who lead worship today; ministers, readers, prayer leaders, organists, choirs and praise bands; may all be filled with a desire to truly serve and praise God.**
- 26 Mon. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Iain Greenshields) and officers of Dunfermline: St Margaret's. Pray for the success of their SU Share Care initiative in bringing Patrah from Uganda to help outreach to children in the parish.
- 27 Tue. Pray for single parent families as they try to balance looking after children and securing their income. Pray that they may feel loved by God and valued in the community.
- 28 Wed. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Elizabeth Fisk) and officers of Dunfermline: St Ninian's. Ask for the Lord's blessing on their efforts to raise the funds needed to entertain their guests coming from the Czech Republic.
- 29 Thu. Pray for families in tension because of the financial crisis; for those unsure of the future, if jobs will be safe and if they will be able to fulfil commitments they have made.
- 30 Fri. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Andrew Morrice) and officers of Dunfermline: St Paul's East. Pray for their work with children during these school holidays.
- 31 Sat. Saturday, the traditional day for sporting activity. Give thanks for all the pleasure sport provides for participant and spectator. Pray for the safety of all.

Prayer Topics for August 2010

- 1 Sun **Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19, 14 NIV). Remember children and young folk generally today. Pray for all our church's activities involving the young. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we take the Good News message of Jesus to them and pray they will hear that message.**
- 2 Mon. Gillespie Memorial week of outreach to Wellwood gets underway today with the erection of the mission tent/marquee. Give thanks for the work Gillespie members have put into this activity over the years and pray for the blessing of the Holy Spirit on this year. May it serve to bring Jesus Christ to more residents of Wellwood.
- 3 Tue. Dalgety Children's Holiday Club runs from 2nd to 6th August. Let us pray for the Dalgety team, that they are inspired by the Holy Spirit such that through them all children attending and their families get a glimpse of Our Lord through the week.
- 4 Wed Pray today for the parish, congregation and officers of Saline & Blairingone. Pray for the Lord's reassurance and comfort as they contemplate the future at this time of vacancy and that the Holy Spirit guides them and applicants in their selection process. Pray for a peaceful retirement for the outgoing minister, Rev Bob Boyle. Remember the Children's Holiday Club being run by this congregation.
- 5 Thu. Pray for our Emergency Services as they work to and keep our communities safe and peaceful and to preserve our rights and freedom.
- 6 Fri. The Church of Scotland website, "On This Day" feature today makes the following dramatic contrast: "Today is the traditional date of remembrance of The Transfiguration when on a mountain top some of the disciples had a preview of the eternal glory of Christ (see Matthew 17:1-9). It is also the grim day on which the atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, effecting another kind of transfiguration and ushering in another kind of world on earth." Pray for peace, for meaningful disarmament and for the Holy Spirit to guide governments and rulers throughout this world of which we, mankind, are the stewards.
- 7 Sat. Thinking about one source of conflict, pray for justice & fairness for those in poverty; our world produces enough food for all yet millions still starve; pray for affluent nations to share resources with poorer ones.
- 8 Sun. **Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. (Psalm 150 NIV).**
- 9 Mon. Today is International Day of the World's Indigenous People. It is appropriate that we again remember the work of the church's World Mission Council and let us pray today for its work in Asia.
- 10 Tue. Pray for the congregation, parish and officers of Carnock & Oakley. Pray for all assisting them in their continuing vacancy and that the Holy Spirit guides them in the quest for a minister to lead them.
- 11 Wed. Give thanks today for the elders of the church who are involved in pastoral care in the parish, who give generously of their time to visit the sick, the frail and the elderly.
- 12 Thu. Pray for the congregation, parish, minister (Rev Chris Park) and officers of Inverkeithing Parish. Lift Chris up to the Lord in prayer as he overcomes recent illness. Thank the Lord for the help he has already given and for those who have kept the parish work running.
- 13 Fri. Today the church website "On This Day" feature asks us to remember Ira D Sankey who died on this day in 1908 and was the musician who accompanied his fellow American Dwight L. Moody in several evangelistic tours to Britain. It is an appropriate day to give thanks for the writers, both words and music, of our hymns of praise. Let us rejoice that their works can help us unite in song to praise our Creator and thus bring each of us closer to Him.
- 14 Sat. Saturday – a day for getting out and about. Give thanks that we can. But let us pray today for housebound people; pray for them to know God's presence in their lives and that they are never truly alone; give thanks for those with pets who provide companionship.
- 15 Sun. **Give thanks today for family, friends and neighbours. Rejoice in the companionship which the Good Lord provides, particularly within the congregation with whom you share worship. "Love your neighbour as yourself."**

Prayer Topics for August 2010 (Cont'd)

- 16 Mon. The new school term starts (for teachers today, pupils on Wednesday). Pray for the schools within your parish, and the involvement of school chaplains in the schools. Pray for all the staff and for the pupils. Pray for safe travel and conditions conducive to study and learning.
- 17 Tue. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Jayne Scott) and officers of Culross and Torryburn.
- 18 Wed. Pray for our Ministers & Auxiliary Ministers, Readers and Deacons, Students & Enquirers, that they grow in their personal spiritual journeys and prayer life.
- 19 Thu. Presbytery business resumes today after the summer break with its Committee meetings. This will start a critical year for Presbytery and our individual parishes as the historic decisions of the General Assembly 2010 are implemented at the Presbytery level. Pray for today's Presbytery Committee meetings. Pray that all present are guided by the Holy Spirit and feel the confidence and joy that comes from that guidance. Pray also for those unable to attend. And pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance of Presbytery throughout the coming year.
- 20 Fri. Pray today for the parish, congregations, minister (Rev Rosemary Smith) of Townhill and Kingseat.
- 21 Sat. Pray for all who are sick and in pain and for their carers and families who are worrying about them; pray for health and healing; pray for all medical staff – from cleaner to surgeon.
- 22 Sun. Pray that we all welcome Jesus into our lives and follow Him every day not just on Sundays. "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3, 14-15, NIV)**
- 23 Mon. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Kenneth Donald) and officers of Tulliallan and Kincardine Parish. Give thanks for the minister's recovery from radical surgery and pray for a full recovery to good health. Pray that the Session can find someone to fill the Clerk's position.
- 24 Tue. Pray for those who prepare and lead services in Care and Residential Homes for the Elderly; especially when *apparent* response of the listeners is not encouraging.

- 25 Wed. Pray for the congregation, parish, minister (Rev Chris Park) and officers of North Queensferry Parish and extend prayer to the Forth Churches Grouping, giving thanks for the grouping's involvement in assisting during the minister's illness.
- 26 Thu. Thank God for his Holy Word; pray for all house groups in the Presbytery. May God's guidance and presence be felt in their discussions as they study and learn and pray together.
- 27 Fri. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Lee Messeder) and officers of Kelty Parish and for the ministry of their Outreach Worker.
- 28 Sat. Pray for all who are chaplains in our hospitals, clinics and hospice; may they have the right words to say and a ready ear to listen to those who are troubled.
- 29 Sun. Pray for all who cannot have the joy of coming to the church to worship today for whatever reason. Pray for those struggling with doubt in their faith, those who feel too depressed to leave their homes. Give thanks for those who cannot get to church because they are manning essential services. Pray they still feel the presence and comfort of the Lord.**
- 30 Mon. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Violet McKay) and officers of Rosyth Parish. Pray for the Lord's help in raising the funds they require for major essential maintenance and renewal in the Parish church.
- 31 Tue. Let us have in our prayers today all who are close to death and awaiting the Lord's call, at home, in hospital or hospice. May they feel the comfort and presence of Jesus. Pray for their families, those who tend and keep watch. "The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."(Psalm 121, 7-8 NIV)

Prayer Topics for September 2010

- 1 Wed. Pray today for the parish, congregations, minister (Rev Elisabeth Stenhouse) and officers of Lochgelly & Benarty: St Serf's Parish.
- 2 Thu. **Presbytery** meets tonight. Pray for wisdom and compassion in all decisions; may the advance of Christ's Kingdom and the spreading of the Gospel be paramount.
- 3 Fri.