

- 29 Thu Pray that children might grow up in stable families that worship the Lord. Give thanks for the Christian organisations that promote family values
- 30 Fri Give thanks for the dedication of the District Visitors who faithfully distribute North News, and the Prayer Diary. Give thanks for Alex Boyd and all that he does in the North Church. Pray that there are always people willing to help in this way.
- 31 Sat As Christians around the world are looking forward to a new year, pray that we will all welcome fresh challenges and find new ways of making our faith come alive.



# PRAYER DIARY

1 December – 31 December 2011

Saint Paul tells us that we should "pray without ceasing," yet in the modern world, it sometimes seems that prayer takes a back seat not only to our work but to entertainment. As a result, many of us have fallen out of the habit of daily prayer that characterised the lives of Christians in centuries past. Yet an active prayer life is essential to our growth in grace.

## December

- 1 Thu Pray for all those living with HIV. Pray for better access to treatment and pray for a cure. Pray for those who have lost family members to the disease.
- 2 Fri Pray for the work of Christian Aid assisting people in India and Bangladesh to cope with the effects of Climate Change.
- 3 Sat Pray that in the absence of jobs young people will not turn to alcohol, drugs or crime. Give thanks for the organisations like YMCA working with young people, and giving them hope of the future.
- 4 Sun **Advent is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. It comes at winter time, so fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent. If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer.**
- 5 Mon Today the Guides are off to the Pantomime. Pray that they all enjoy the fun and camaraderie and give thanks for the commitment of the Leaders.
- 6 Tue Pray for the work of the North Church Session Council and the Kirk Session as they consider the budget for 2012. Pray for all Elders, that God would give them wisdom in their decision making.
- 7 Wed Toddle Inn is a new initiative in the North Church for mothers and toddlers on a Friday morning. Pray for its success.
- 8 Thu Pray for Neil and Dorothy Cameron in their work in Malaysia helping local Christians develop outreach into new areas.
- 9 Fri Pray for those who are house-bound and find it difficult to come to church regularly. Give thanks for the opportunity extended today in the special service and for the team who make it possible.

10 Sat More than 10 million people are facing starvation in the East African nations of Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti and Ethiopia. Pray for children too weak to run and play, local churches stepping into the crisis with courage and sacrifice, for governments to fulfil their responsibilities towards their citizens and for Jesus Christ to be present and glorified in every act of compassion

11 Sun **During this Advent season as we celebrate the new relationship between God and his people, may that be mirrored in our renewed relationships with spouses, children, family and those near and dear to us. May we speak tenderly to each other amidst all the rush of the season and transform the shopping days till Christmas into the true Advent of Christ.**



12 Mon Give thanks for new people who come to the North Church, whether to Sunday services or at other times. Pray that we welcome them and are an encouragement to them.

13 Tue Give thanks for the various voluntary agencies in Perthshire who are making up Christmas parcels for those who are in need this Christmas. Remember the group at PKAVS who rely on churches to provide items to fill the parcels.

14 Wed Pray for everyone who is struggling at the moment, especially those in our own congregation. During these difficult times of financial hardship, pray that people may remember that the gift of Christmas is free to all and not measured in monetary value.

15 Thu Pray for all those who support charitable Christmas appeals. Pray that their donations will be transformed into life-changing experiences.

16 Fri Carol Singing will take place at Dobbies tomorrow, raising funds for Christian Aid and bringing the true message of Christmas to shoppers. Pray for everyone taking part – singers and listeners.

17 Sat The Bethlehem Experience will be at the Concert Hall tomorrow. Pray for all taking part, and pray that this re-telling of the Christmas message will reach many who otherwise won't hear it.

18 Sun **Jesus of Nazareth, friend and teacher, your cousin John prepared the way for your coming. May we so follow your teachings at home, at work and at play, that we too may build living pathways for the coming of God's reign of love.**

19 Mon Pray that the shoe boxes of gifts will bring joy and laughter to the faces of the people receiving them this Christmas and through the literature supplied by Blythswood they will come to know Jesus. Pray too that people will support the work of Blythswood by bringing donations to the collection lorry at ASDA on Thursday.

20 Tue In the cold months of the year homeless people are at their most vulnerable. Pray for agencies and volunteers working to provide them with meals and shelter.

21 Wed Tonight is the PACT Carol Service in the Concert Hall. Pray that it will be well attended, and that the Christmas message will be shared by all.

22 Thu As we prepare for our traditional celebrations, let us remember those who will not be looking forward to this festival. Let us remember too how Jesus identified with the oppressed and the homeless. Let the joy of the festival touch more of the people of our world this year than ever before. May God be glorified and may people of good will once again experience His peace.

23 Fri Pray for schoolchildren during their holidays. Pray that they are kept safe during this time of celebration, refreshment and family time.

24 Sat As the Holy Family travelled to Bethlehem on dangerous paths, may God's love make inroads into people's lives that light may shine upon uncertainty and hope may flare into the gloom of poverty, recession and despair.



25 Sun **O God, who before all others called shepherds to the cradle of your Son, grant that by the preaching of the Gospel, the poor, the humble and the forgotten may know that they are at home with you.**

26 Mon Wake up little baby God. Thousands of children have been born just like you, without a roof, without bread, without protection. You were rich, yet for our sake you became poor: move those who are wealthy to share generously with those who are poor.

27 Tue Happy Birthday to all those having a birthday this month. Let us give thanks and pray for God's blessing on their lives.

28 Wed Pray for the staff and residents of Anchor House. Give thanks for the work that is done there and for the follow-up services that exist to give people the chance of a more fulfilling life.