

**Wednesday 23rd** *“The line separating good from evil passes... through every human heart.”* (Alexander Solzhenitsyn). At the crucifixion, Jesus recognised the capacity for good in the thief beside him and promised him forgiveness and paradise. Pray for someone in the world who has very clearly committed evil to have his/her heart changed by Jesus’ love and to deliberately choose good.

**Thursday 24th.** *“When we know sorrow and suffering, we can come to Jesus and he knows what we are feeling and what healing we need...The fact is we are all wounded healers and our healing is ongoing.”* (Rev. Tommy MacNeil). Ask God’s blessing on Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Groups which work in churches and communities to explore ways of helping our emotional wholeness and mental wellbeing.

**Friday 25th** In 2023, Malaria caused 597,000 deaths worldwide, mostly in Africa. But immunization campaigns have dramatically reduced the global burden of malaria, preventing 2.2 billion cases and saving 12.7 million lives. On World Malaria Day, in World Immunization Week, pray for the necessary staff and resources to become available to end the grip of this deadly disease on poverty-stricken countries.

**Saturday 26th** On World Veterinary Day, in World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week, pray for all who handle animals to have deep love for them and ensure they are not mistreated or put through pain. Pray for the suffering of animals in laboratories to be replaced with new non-animal-testing scientific techniques.

**Sunday 27th** On South Africa Freedom Day, listen to Desmond Tutu, one of its prime movers: *“My own prayer has been the staff that supported me in the darkest periods. In prayer I have been challenged or chided. In prayer I have been comforted. Because I treasure the friendship with God that has developed in those times of prayer, the habit of choosing right has been reinforced.”* Pray for one world leader who needs to be challenged or comforted, that God would work in him/her to ensure the habit of choosing the right is reinforced.

**Monday 28th** Pray for God’s warm blessing on the Seeds For Growth initiative in the Church of Scotland, supporting 16 projects to develop and nurture faith in young people up to the age of 39, engaging in inter-generational approaches to develop new worshipping communities and grow existing congregations in new ways, to include people at present unconnected with church.

**Tuesday 29th** On Stop Food Waste Day, in National Gardening Week, pray that the Lord would help us to enjoy using our hands and the earth we are given to grow all that is good, natural, wholesome and beautiful.

**Wednesday 30th** On International Guide Dogs Day, thank God for these lovely animals who completely transform the lives of their owners; but there are just not enough of them. Pray that more dogs can be trained so that more people whose lives are blighted by sight problems can be given a life-changing companion.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[Philippians 4:6-7](#)

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## Prayer Diary for April 2025

### Fairmilehead Parish Church

**Tuesday 1st** *“God is transfiguring the world right this moment through us, because God believes in us and because God loves us...God is looking at you and noting how deeply concerned you are...God says “you are beginning to wipe the tears from my eyes because you care...I have no one except you..”* (Archbishop Desmond Tutu) Ask our Lord to use each of us as a small shaft of His Light in the surrounding darkness, transfiguring with His love some little evil about which we care.

**Wednesday 2nd** On International Children’s Book Day, pray for a child you know to find a lifelong joy in reading.

**Thursday 3rd** Pray for the Guild’s chosen charity, Operation Hope, which serves poverty-stricken Christians in Upper Egypt, providing families with basic living needs, such as beds, toilet facilities, kitchen appliances, food, and funds to help with constructing homes. Thank God for the funding of micro-businesses and provision of spiritual care through regular visits and discipleship programmes.

**Friday 4th** We all long for an end to the killing in Ukraine. Pray for peace, and for the necessary finance to rebuild the country. On the International Day for Mine Awareness, remember that every hour one person is killed or injured by explosive remnants of war. Pray for the complete clear-up of all such munitions in Ukraine.

**Saturday 5th** Bring before God our local Presbytery Plan, in which Fairmilehead Church will be part of Parish Grouping with Greenbank and Morningside, praying for the Lord’s Spirit to inspire well-focussed discussions looking at ways for the churches to work together.

**Sunday 6th** Remember in prayer all married couples facing separation and divorce, especially where they have children. Pray for couples to listen very carefully to marriage guidance counsellors, and for couples with faith to listen with all their hearts for God's guidance; and pray for God's love to be deeply at work in their hearts.

**Monday 7th** On World Health Day, in Stress Awareness month, pray for God's blessing on all the often heavily burdened staff working in care/nursing homes and hospices, asking for them to be encouraged, strengthened and to feel truly appreciated.

**Tuesday 8th** "When I look back on all these worries, I remember the story of the old man who said on his deathbed that he had a lot of trouble in his life, most of which never happened." (Winston Churchill) Let us place any worries we have in our loving Father's hands and trust Jesus' promise, "Come unto me all you who are heavily burdened and I will give you rest."

**Wednesday 9th** On World Parkinson's Disease Day, praise God for developments in treating Parkinson's Disease, especially the Deep Brain Stimulation (using electrical impulses to the brain) which has achieved remarkable improvements in reducing tremors. Pray a special blessing on those who live with Parkinsons and their carers, who meet at the Crossroads Café on the third Wednesday each month.

**Thursday 10th** Pray for the vital work of Mediterranean Hope continuing to welcome desperate refugees arriving in Lampedusa, Sicily, and Southern Italy, and helping them with asylum applications, accommodation, health, travel and safe work opportunities.

**Friday 11th** Rev Rosemary Frew is the Moderator Designate who will be installed in May to preside over this year's General Assembly. Pray for God's blessing and guidance and strengthening for her as she leads the COS at such a difficult time.

**Saturday 12th** Children living in poverty are at very great risk of kidnapping, sex-trafficking and exploitation. On the International Day for Street Children, pray for God's rich blessing on the work of Christ-centred charity, Compassion International, supporting and protecting endangered children.

**Sunday 13th** On Palm Sunday, Lord, may your historic entry into Jerusalem inspire us to welcome you into our hearts anew. We rejoice in your entry into the world and into our lives! Lord, as we wave our palm branches in spirit, help us to lay down not just palms, but our pride, our fears, and our burdens at Your feet. Teach us to follow You with faithfulness.

**Monday 14th** Ask God's blessing on the "Moderator's Challenge", launched last December, to fund solar-powered lights for pupils in Malawi, helping them to do their homework in Winter. Pray for generous contributions to this fund.

**Tuesday 15th** 54% of adults do some voluntary work each year, with 16% volunteering every month. Yet our 10-yearly state census asked no questions about anything but paid work. On Micro Volunteering Day, pray for God's blessing on every volunteer and for more people to offer their time to help others, especially in filling many roles within our churches.

**Wednesday 16th** In Gaza, 1,500 Palestinian medical staff have been killed, 260 have been detained, while seven most senior doctors have given harrowing testimonies of torture, beatings and starvation during months of unjustified Israeli imprisonment. Gaunt Israeli hostages recently released by Hamas, recount being regularly beaten, abused, starved and shackled, rendering them unable to stand up. Pray fervently for a complete end to this savagery and torture of innocent detainees.

**Thursday 17th** Lord, as we remember your words at the Last Supper, we understand that you willingly sacrificed your life for each of us. Jesus, your eternal love was fearless in the face of death. Even as we face pain and suffering, give us your peace. Lord, when we face the crosses in our own lives, give us your courage and strength to say "Yes" to the will of our Father.

**Friday 18th** Consider prayerfully these testimonies for Good Friday: *"We have to believe that Sunday will come; I know it's a long Friday... but if we forget that Sunday will come, and if we lose hope, then it's our Christian faith that is at stake."* (Rev. Munther Isaac, Christmas Church, Bethlehem) *"This Friday is long, it is hard, and it is dark. But we are a people that hold the hope of resurrection and restoration. We hold the hope of Sunday, while we live through Friday, with the gritty hope of what is unseen, the First Light of Sunday."* (Jess Hall, Christian Aid).

**Saturday 19th** Lord as we wait for Easter, draw us closer to the cross. May we reflect deeply on the meaning of Christ's journey, from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the sorrow of Gethsemane, from the agony of the cross to the glory of the empty tomb.

**Sunday 20th** On Easter Sunday, in a world that often feels uncertain, we pray we have hope that never fades, a future that is secure, and a love that never fails. We pray that the joy of the Easter story reminds us that our hope is found in You, that no darkness is too great, no burden too heavy, no sorrow too deep that Your resurrection power cannot overcome it. Just as Jesus rose from the grave, lift our hearts from doubt, fear, and despair into the joy of Your promises.

**Monday 21st** On this Easter Monday, we step into the world with resurrection power. We pray Lord, that you fill us with the same excitement that the disciples felt when they realised Jesus was alive. Let the joy of Easter overflow in our words, our actions, and our love for others. May we be living testimonies of Your love and grace, sharing the hope of the risen Christ with everyone we meet.

**Tuesday 22nd** Today students, teachers, and staff return to Buckstone Primary school after the Easter holidays. Bless the teachers with encouragement and energy and may all the young people return with a renewed focus and a desire to learn and grow. May each classroom be a place of kindness, respect, and discovery.