



## Prayer Diary for March 2025

### Fairmilehead Parish Church

**Saturday 1st** As we step into the month of March, we thank You God for the gift of new beginnings and the promise of growth. Just as the earth prepares to awaken from its winter rest, help our hearts to be open to renewal and hope. Guide our steps as we journey through this month. Pray that we might all find joy in the small moments and strength in Your presence.

**Sunday 2nd** Tomorrow is World Hearing Day: “Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46. v.10) Father, thank you for reminding us simply to be still and listen to you, and please help us become better listeners to others.

**Monday 3rd** Today Chapters Book Group discusses Samantha Harvey’s unique, prizewinning “Orbital”; pray for everyone involved to be blessed and enriched.

**Tuesday 4th** As we look forward to Lent, Living God, help us to use this season wisely, so that our faith may be deepened, our horizons stretched, and our love for you increased.

**Wednesday 5th** *“There are some moments when we experience the fullness of time, when God is so present, so real, so tangibly near...these are given to us to deepen our lives of prayer and strengthen our lives of service and ministry...so that we can remember them when God seems far away and everything appears empty and useless.”* (Henri Nouwen) On Ash Wednesday, pray that God will bless us this Lent with moments when He feels so very near that our hearts are uplifted and our lives richly blessed.

**Thursday 6th** We welcome Louise as our new Director of Music and leader of the Praise Band and pray for God to be at work guiding the interview process.

**Monday 24th** On the International Day for Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations, pray for victims of the military junta’s 2021 coup in Myanmar/ Burma, since when 28,000 people have been arbitrarily imprisoned, large numbers being Christians and Muslims, and 32 religious leaders have been killed. In November 2024 the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for General Min Aung Hlaing for crimes against humanity. Pray God for the truth to be known worldwide, for justice and an end to this murderous regime.

**Tuesday 25th** On the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing UN Staff Members, remember in prayer the families of 300 UNRWA staff killed in Gaza, praying for food and medical aid to reach all the starving survivors, for the return of all Israeli hostages still alive, and for an end to all violence in Israel/Palestine.

**Wednesday 26th** The Scottish Borders Council says that it provided help to people overloaded with debt to companies by paying off £180,000 of debts in 6 months last year. A similar amount of unrepayable debt was written off in Edinburgh. In Debt Awareness Week, thank God for the help provided freely by Salvation Army’s Debt Advice Service and the Citizens Advice Bureau, and pray for more people to be freed from this crippling burden.

**Thursday 27th** We pray for the innocent lives affected by conflict— we pray today for the children in the Democratic Republic of Congo who long for safety, the families torn apart, and the communities living in fear. Wrap them in Your comfort and protection, and give them hope amidst despair.

**Friday 28th** *“If we are to be true partners with God, we must learn to see with the eyes of God, that is to see with the eyes of the heart and not just with the eyes of the head....when we are quiet, uncluttered, undistracted, still...we begin to see with the eyes of the heart.”* (Archbishop Desmond Tutu) Lord, we pray that this Lent we may see the world with the eyes of the heart, and that our quiet hearts be open to your loving guidance.

**Saturday 29th** We give thanks in prayer today for the gift of communication and the opportunity to share God’s love and our work through our church magazine Crossroads which will be distributed soon. May every word written and every story shared be a beacon of hope, encouragement, and faith to all who read it.

**Sunday 30th** Today is Mothering Sunday: May God, who gave birth to all creation, cradle us in her cherishing tender care. May God, who broods as a mother over her beloved erring children, lift us up with her all-forgiving love. May God, our very first mother, give each of us a huge home-coming hug. May we know how our Mothering God is growing her precious church family in and through little us!

**Monday 31st** Pray for God’s Spirit to “bless us with occasions when we know and experience “God with us” ... the inexplicable works of the Holy Spirit—like snowdrops bursting out from wintered ground...for, in every season, God’s Spirit brings groundbreaking new life.” (Rev. Ruth Kennedy)

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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**Friday 7th** On World Book Day, pray for the health and freedom of Nasrin Sotoudeh, Iranian Human Rights lawyer, winner of the Sakharov Human Rights Award, and author of “Women, Life, and Freedom,” who was sentenced to 38 years in prison and 148 lashes on charges of “spreading propaganda and harming state security” for her work defending young victims on death row and speaking out for women’s rights. After 3 years in prison, she was allowed out on medical grounds with a heart condition.

**Saturday 8th** Human Rights Watch estimates that there are at least 1,000 prisoners of conscience detained in Cuba, and Freedom House estimates that there are 1,500 people detained for their religious beliefs. On International Women’s Day, pray for “Las Dames de Blanco”, ladies who dress all in white while walking to and from church on Sundays to protest peacefully about these unjust detentions. These women are detained for hours by Cuban security forces, preventing them from attending church. Pray for an end to this persecution and for the release of all prisoners of conscience in Cuba. Thank God for 553 Cuban political prisoners released in January.

**Sunday 9th** We pray today for the work of the Church of Scotland Guild and ask for Your blessing upon every gift and every giver as our Guild holds its retiring collection this morning for Operation Hope.

**Monday 10th** Pray God’s blessing on the Barefoot College in Zanzibar which trains women with little formal education in 3 months to become solar technicians, fitting solar panels and batteries to provide electricity for half of the population without electricity, providing employment for “Solar Mamas” as well as vital lighting and power for 1,858 homes too poor to install and pay for electricity.

**Tuesday 11th** The Death of every innocent teenager by knife crime in our land touches our hearts very deeply: Lord, we pray for speedy intervention to end the widespread carrying of lethal knives and to stop these murders.

**Wednesday 12th** In British Science Week and Healthcare Week, pray for the NHS in Scotland and Britain, for rapid progress in adequate funding and staffing, and particularly for speedy provision of adequate community care and nursing home places to free up beds in hospitals and release ambulances from long waits with incoming patients.

**Thursday 13th** Young Carers Action Day shines the spotlight on the invaluable contributions of young carers. Pray that the huge challenges they face in providing constant support for family members with illnesses and disabilities be fully recognised, and help and respite care be provided for the young people themselves, especially in coping with the demands of school work.

**Friday 14th** Our hearts go out to the families in Orebro, Sweden, whose precious members were killed in the shooting at the community college: Lord, hold their hurting hearts and come close with your comfort.

**Saturday 15th** *“Thousands of people are being helped by our prayers even when they are beyond the range of our voices...prayers have opened the doors of men’s hearts around the whole world like an invisible love force ... If you pray for a man a thousand miles away, his unconscious mind may be attuned outward toward you. ...thus you connect that man with God. That helps God to speak to him directly.”* (Frank Laubach: “Prayer, the Mightiest Force in the World”) Lord, convince us how vital our prayers are in opening others’ hearts to You!

**Sunday 16th** This month, pray for the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal and for sufficient funding for the Hospice here in Fairmilehead. Today after worship our church member Judith is collecting for Marie Curie, may our generosity today be a reflection of God’s boundless love.

**Monday 17th** On St.Patrick’s Day, let us remember his total trust in God. Pray God may grow in our hearts his key virtues of faith, hope, and love, and his burning passion to rescue anyone suffering enslavement, as Patrick himself had in his childhood.

**Tuesday 18th** Fairmilehead Community Council, which meets every month on Tuesday in our Church, are looking for new younger members. Pray for suitable people to get involved and for God’s blessing on their work.

**Wednesday 19th** Tomorrow is the International Day of Happiness. *“May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him.”* (Romans ch.15 v.13) Pray that God may *“pour out such hope”* into us that we become people *“who overflow with hope, not glass half-empty people, or glass half-full people, but a glass overflowing people, overflowing with hope in Christ, and the future He has for us.”* (Rev. Tommy MacNeil)

**Thursday 20th** Pray for God’s rich blessings on our Lenten Bible study, starting today at 11.30 a.m. in Caerketton Chapel, with shared insights and a strong sense of fellowship.

**Friday 21st** Today, World Down Syndrome Day, Father, we pray for Down Syndrome children and adults, their families, and caregivers. We pray for each one to be “affirmed”. Let us rejoice in their very special smiles! Help us to cherish those with Down Syndrome as among your most beloved of people, and help them in every way we can.

**Saturday 22nd** About 70% of the world’s freshwater is in the form of ice and snow. World Water Day 2025 focuses on the Preservation of Glaciers, whose meltwater is essential for drinking water, agriculture, and clean energy, but is being disturbed by rapid melting as a result of global warming. Pray for our world to find speedy ways to delay and stop this warming.

**Sunday 23rd** On the National Day of Reflection, pray that we may truly value times of Silence. *“Silence isn’t necessarily an individual thing, but powerfully shared...The Quakers are way ahead of us in realizing the democratising power of silence. Taize, too, offers long periods of silence to hold a thought, a prayer, a word, collectively.”* Pray that we may “open ourselves to the uncontrolled encounter of spirit and mystery, where our questions and priorities come to the surface and are exposed to that which is bigger than us.” (Rev. Roddy Hamilton)