



# FREE CHURCH *of* SCOTLAND

## Day of Prayer

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Prayer

- Pray for God's help to be a church who call upon God, to make us a people who are faithful, consistent, and persistent in prayer.
- Pray for unity among our denomination, that we would be united in the gospel and united in prayer.
- Pray that God would give us hearts for prayer, that we would be faithful in our prayers for those who do not yet know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and pray that God would bring many to saving faith in Him, for His kingdom and His glory.

### Church Development

- Please pray for many rural churches where there is a significant population and opportunities for redevelopment. Pray for believers in these areas, that they would be granted wisdom and opportunity to share the gospel in their community.
- Pray for work that is beginning in 'brown field sites' where a previous church has closed, and a new ministry is beginning. Give thanks to God for these opportunities and pray that He would richly bless the work.
- Pray for wisdom to know where there is revitalization potential and pray God would provide the resources both physically and spiritually for this to happen.

### Planting new churches

- Give thanks to the Lord for the church plants that are taking place in communities across Scotland. Pray for the vision for 30 new churches by 2030 and the vision for "A Healthy Gospel Church For Every Community In Scotland" in that God will make the paths straight and preparations will run smoothly.
- Pray that God would continue raising up gifted leaders to plant new churches right across the nation.
- Pray for our church planters, that they would be kept fresh and renewed by God's grace. Pray for steadiness as they walk through the highs and lows of ministry. Pray for their families to know God's peace and faith through practical uncertainties they may face. Pray that our existing church plants would grow, that we would see growth through coming to saving faith in Jesus.





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## Training

- Give thanks for all the current ministry candidates, and for their families. Pray that God would be shaping them as Godly leaders and teachers during their studies. Pray for the congregations where our candidates are serving as Ministers in Training. Pray for local supervisors, Kirk Sessions, and other local leaders as they seek to train, equip, and encourage our candidates.
- Pray for Edinburgh Theological Seminary (ETS) and the Board of Ministry as they partner together in the provision of training. Please pray for all the teaching and administrative staff who provide essential work for the training of ministers. Give thanks for external partners, such as the Bonar Trust, who have given a huge support to our training.
- Pray for continued support and funding for the programme. Pray that God would provide more candidates to fill various vacancies across the denomination.

## Evangelism and discipleship

- We pray for boldness, and opportunities to share the good news with our loved ones, colleagues, neighbours and in our communities. Pray that God would give us individually, a heart for the gospel and seeing lives transformed by the good news.
- We pray that we will be purposeful about discipleship to help develop a healthy church. Pray for mentorship relationships between younger and older Christians, partnering in life together.
- Give thanks for God's blessing and provision for the camps that took place over the summer, the Big Free Rally in October and all the young folks that attended. Pray that many would come to saving faith in Jesus and pray that those who are would continue to grow in their love for Jesus, and walk with Him daily. Pray that God would continue to work in the hearts and lives of the youth in our churches and those who attended camps; that home congregations would nurture them and help them to grow in their faith and pray especially for the young folks that weren't connected to a church.

## Partnering with others

- Give thanks to God that we are partnering with other organisations and churches that share the commitment of proclaiming the true Christian message, for the advancement of God's work.
- Pray for our gospel workers across the denomination who are making Jesus known in their communities. Pray for women serving in bible-based ministry, evangelism, and discipleship across the free church. Pray for the wider work of our presbyteries as they support local work.
- Pray for partnerships with local churches that share the commitment of proclaiming the true Christian message to work well together, to be a blessing to the communities God has placed them in and to glorify God in all they do.





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## Finance

- Pray that we as a denomination raise funds to help bring the vision for the revitalisations of congregations, new outreach initiatives and training for ministers into fruition. Pray that we as a denomination and individuals would be generous with our giving to gospel work.
- Give thanks to God for those giving so generously from out with our denomination.
- Pray for the cost of living crisis, for those who are worried and struggling about finance. Pray that necessary means would be provided.

## Global Mission

- Give thanks for Diaspora ministries carried out by the Free Church and other mission partners.
- Give thanks for how God has provided gospel workers globally to us, pray that we would see with more clarity our place in the global church.
- Pray for the persecuted Church globally. Pray that we will see breakthrough in these countries.

## Supporting church leaders

- Pray that the courses offered by Edinburgh Theological Seminary (ETS) would be helpful to lay leaders and church members.
- Pray for all ministers in the denomination. Pray that as Colossians 2:7 says, their roots are planted deep in Christ; that they grow in him, they get their strength from him, and they let him make them strong in the faith.
- Pray that our congregations uphold our ministers and leaders in prayer regularly, praying that God will keep them and guide them.

## Recruiting

- Pray for God to call more men into pastoral ministry. As far as we are able to judge our expected needs, we will need 70 new ministers to be called by God in the next 10 years.
- Pray for the 16 Ministers-In-Training who are studying and involved in serving in churches. Their training roles will come to end between May 2024 and May 2027. Pray that they will grow in faith and seek God for their next steps in their journey to ministry.
- Pray that local congregations will be eager to nurture, encourage and guide people in their congregations to take steps into the ministry journey. Pray for Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, and the Board of Ministry as they carry the responsibility of assessing applications with appropriate rigour and care.





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### **Communication**

- Pray that we tell the story of what God is doing among us to encourage one another and to share the hope we have through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Pray that the church would engage with current affairs graciously and lovingly. Pray for wisdom for the church in the public sphere including the ongoing work of the Public Engagement Group as they respond to government consultations (including consultations on assisted dying, conversion therapy, addressing misogyny).
- Pray that God will strengthen communication between churches, presbyteries, boards, committees, and the office team.

