

# CROSSREACH

providing a caring future



# Prayer Diary

February - May 2018



The Church of Scotland

Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353

### **CROSSREACH PERINATAL SERVICE, LOTHIAN**

Offers support to parents and families whose mental health is affected during pregnancy or following the birth of a child. We also offer counselling and psychotherapy to mothers and fathers, couples and therapeutic groups.

- Remember the families who are in distress as they try to care and provide for their young children. A simple act of kindness, encouragement or support could help them through this day and bring more hope for tomorrow.
- Give thanks in God's name for all the many professionals in health, social care and education who hold a vision of what support and resources a young family needs in order to be all they can be - for themselves and for their community.
- Pray for expectant families, as they prepare for the stresses and challenges of raising a new generation, who are the future for us all.
- Give thanks to all of our volunteers and staff, as they give help to mothers, fathers and their sons and daughters, at a time of often great difficulty and anguish.
- Give thanks for our committed volunteers, giving freely of their time in our crèche, our counselling rooms and office.
- We pray for the many families living outwith the Lothians, Greater Glasgow or Aberdeenshire struggling with postnatal depression in Scotland, for whom it is difficult or impossible to access services.

### **BEECHWOOD HOUSE, INVERNESS**

A substance misuse service providing both residential rehabilitation programmes from 2 to 14 weeks and also community outreach support for those effected by both alcohol and drug addiction.

- Pray for God's blessings for all the staff of Beechwood House, for their care and dedication in supporting those who come into our service. Pray that we continue to be guided by God's hand.
- Pray for all our past and present service users and their families. May we continue to offer them shelter in their greatest time of need. Through God's love may they find the strength to break free from their addictions.
- Give thanks for our local communities and all other agencies that continue to do good work with people who have addictions.
- Pray that our service continues to provide a safe haven for those in need, and that we would be able to offer help to those in most need.
- Give thanks for our volunteer Angus and our student Rachel. May they always find support and friendship within our service.
- Pray for all CrossReach services which might be faced with challenges at this time.
- Pray that God would continue to bless each one of us every day, remembering that we are never alone and that he is always with us.

### ADAMS HOUSE, ELDELSLIE

Adams House is a home for older people with dementia in Renfrewshire.

- Pray for all the residents here at Adams House, that they would feel safe, comforted and loved in all that they do.
- Pray that Adams House and those within it feel the blessing of God and the Holy Spirit every hour of every day.
- Give thanks for the continuing hard work of our staff and bless them with patience, compassion and good health to continue our work in Christ's name.
- Pray for the relatives of our residents, that they would feel secure and happy with the care provided and we give thanks for their continued support.
- Pray for all of the services under the CrossReach umbrella that in difficult times they will find the strength to carry on and realise the incredibly valuable work that they do every day.
- Give thanks for our Friends' Group and surrounding churches for their time and fundraising efforts which help us provide a better service for our residents.
- Pray for our volunteers and we give thanks that they have been moved by God to come and help us here at Adams House.



### **GABERSTON HOUSE,ALLOA**

Gaberston is a residential care home for adults with severe and enduring mental health needs.

- Pray for all those who use our outreach and residential service. Pray for God's guidance this year and for hope for those of our residents going through difficult times.
- Pray for God's provision for all aspects of the service. Ask God to lead and direct the path of our service and pray for his blessing for the residents, staff and for those who give us support from Charis House.
- Pray for those with mental health issues who struggle with hopelessness. Give thanks for our service and ask that those who receive our support will experience God's peace and know that he is our rock, comforter and support in times of struggle and challenge.
- Pray that God's peace that surpasses all human understanding would be experienced deeply by all those that we support.
- Pray for opportunities and time for recovery and rest for those of our residents who face trials and changing needs relating to their daily lives.
- Give thanks to God for his endless goodness and mercies that are new each day. We praise him for our service and for those we come into contact with each day; may he continue to bless those we support and their family and friends.

### **SIMPSON HOUSE AND SUNFLOWER GARDEN, EDINBURGH**

Simpson House improves the lives of those affected by drug use by providing counselling and recovery services to people in the community and in Edinburgh Prison. Sunflower Garden supports children affected by their parents' drug use.

- Pray for all of the children that we work with that they would have hope for their future, despite their difficulties and that God would bring restoration within families.
- Pray for all the staff that deliver the services that they would be able to offer hope and comfort to everyone that they work with and that God would sustain them.
- Pray that new members of staff and volunteers would settle in to the teams and feel supported and valued.
- Pray for more funding so that we can continue to deliver and develop this much needed service for people in Edinburgh and the Lothians.
- Pray that our building would be strong and safe and not need any further repair work.
- Pray for all of our adult clients that they would find new peace and hope as they engage in counselling here.
- Pray for our relationships with other agencies and partners across the city, that we would be able to work together to make a difference to our clients.

### **BALMEDIE HOUSE, ABERDEEN**

Balmedie is a care home for 31 older people just outside Aberdeen.

- Pray for all the residents and day care clients of Balmedie House. Give thanks for the dedication of staff and all the love and patience they show to the people they care for.
- Give thanks for our Sunday afternoon service and to all who lead and participate during this time of worship, bringing staff, residents, and the community together.
- In times of stress, hardship and pain let those who offer comfort be blessed with God's guidance and take strength from knowing that they are doing his bidding, bringing hope to those in despair, charity to those in need and showing love to all they meet.
- Pray for all the staff and residents and for all their families, and friends who visit them and ask that God would keep them safe.
- Give thanks for God's loving, caring guiding hand over Balmedie House. Pray for the new residents as they settle into their new home, and for the residents who have lived here for a while as they adjust to all the changes round them.
- Pray that our Friends' Group and staff would be a united team all working together with love, patience and understanding in God's name.
- Give thanks for the commitment of staff as they strive to provide a high standard of care and support. Bless them and the work they do supporting them in the challenges they can face.

### THRESHOLD GLASGOW

Supports adults who have a learning disability, some of whom also are on the autism spectrum or have epilepsy. Customers and workers are involved in every area of the service. Training is inclusive which means customers are empowered in many aspects of their life.

- Give thanks for new customers and new workers and pray for everyone's safety in the winter months.
- Pray for people who have lost their loved ones this year and who may be struggling.
- Pray for our customers in Threshold Glasgow who don't have loved ones or family to share good times with. Ask God to place his hands upon them in any time of need.

● Give thanks for those staff and customers at Threshold Glasgow who are involved in planning the learning disabilities National Forum later in 2018.



- Pray for safe travel for workers and customers in wintry driving conditions.
- Pray all our new younger customers who are building and developing new friendships and relationships.
- Pray for everyone living on the streets in the cold winter months and for those who are in time of need emotionally and financially.

### **PERTH PRISON VISITORS' SUPPORT AND ADVICE CENTRE**

The Centre is situated beside the prison and provides a welcoming environment for families of prisoners before and after their visit, and has a dedicated play area for children. It offers non-judgmental help and advice.

- Remember today all the families who use the Centre - those who have been coming for years, and those for whom it is a new experience. Families often say they feel they are serving a sentence too, so pray they may feel supported and able to seek advice which will help them cope and maintain contact with the person in prison.
- Pray for all the people who work in the prison, those with direct supervision of the prisoners, medical staff, those in the education unit, chaplains and those with management responsibilities. May they feel able to give the guidance and direction needed in their work in this challenging environment.
- Give thanks for all those who support the work of the Centre and whose contribution is vital, ranging from financial support, donating goods, giving of their time to volunteer or making the work of the Centre known through talks at various groups.
- Today on Good Friday, pray for a sense of peace and calm in the Centre and prison. Whilst not everyone may acknowledge God's presence, we know his love reaches out to all, whatever the circumstances, and we give him thanks.

### **BUDHMOR HOUSE, SKYE**

Budhmor House is a 37 place residential home for older people on the Isle of Skye.

- Pray for our staff and visitors that they will be safe travelling to and from the home in difficult weather conditions, be it to work or to visit loved ones.
- Pray that 2018 will continue to bring positive news with regards to our new build and that the current updating of the home progresses, improving the environment for all our staff and residents.
- Pray for the manager, deputy and all the staff at Budhmor, that they are blessed this Easter and that they know how appreciated they are by everyone.
- Pray for all those in ill health at this time, that they may know your peace and love in their hearts.
- Pray that this year brings Budhmor House positive staff recruitment, thus reducing the need for agency staff in the home and building on our current excellent staff team.
- Pray for all those less fortunate than ourselves; those who have financial worries at this time of year and those who have no roof over their head. Pray that God would be with them and guide them, keeping them safe.
- Remember all CrossReach employees this Easter as we think of the death and resurrection of your son Jesus.

### **THE MALLARD, THE GARRATT AND GO2, GLASGOW**

Offer a range of services to children and young people with disabilities including those with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory impairments and communication difficulties.

- Pray for The Mallard, the Garratt and GO2 as they go through a time of change as the manager Sandy Russell left the project after 23 years.
- Pray for the new Managing Co-ordinator, Liann Weir, and her team as they continue the well-established services provided by the project and explore new directions. This is an exciting time that requires your prayer and support.
- Pray for all the children and young people who use the service; those who have been coming for short breaks or have lived here for years. Give thanks for their achievements and for the happiness they give to us.
- Pray for the families who desperately need help looking after their children who have complex needs. Praise be to God for providing this service.
- Ask God to be with those whose children are using the service for the first time and are anxious and worried. May we be able to reassure them so that when their children are here can be an opportunity for them to relax.
- Pray for all those we work together with to help our young people to be safe, healthy and included - Social Workers, teachers, the medical profession, and care staff. We thank you that through these people God's will is being done.

### **RANKEILLOR INITIATIVE, EDINBURGH**

Provides temporary supported accommodation in shared flats in central Edinburgh. Support and advice is offered surrounding housing and welfare issues.

- Give thanks to God for the work of Rankeillor Initiative in serving people within our supported accommodation and in their own homes.
- Give thanks for the personal growth and achievements of clients. Pray for this work to continue into the future.
- Pray for the physical and emotional health of staff working with clients with complex needs and that staff will let God be their strength, wisdom and motivation. Pray that they will honour him with all their actions and words.
- Pray for clients as they face challenging circumstances in uncertain times. Pray that they will see Jesus in the actions of staff. Pray that staff will bear witness to a hope that transcends all circumstances.
- Give thanks for an established staff team. Pray that we will continue to build a supportive and encouraging team and that we will continue to develop our service to best support those we work with.
- Pray that staff will have continuing good relationships and communication with partner organisations such as the City of Edinburgh Council, local organisations and the consortium in which we work.

### **CAMERON HOUSE, INVERNESS**

Cameron House is home to 30 people who are at various stages in their journey with dementia.

- Pray that, dependant on God's enabling, we will be able to offer the best care to our service users, thus enabling them to continue to live lives marked by dignity and a true sense of value.
- Give thanks for our new sensory, dementia friendly garden. From the start of this project we experienced a profound sense of God's leading – it is our prayer that this facility will enhance the lives of those who live, work or visit Cameron House.
- Give thanks for the commitment of the care staff at Cameron House. Pray that they will be given the energy, enthusiasm and skill they need for the often challenging tasks of the carer.
- Pray for relationships with the relatives of our service users, many of whom have cared for their loved ones for a lengthy period of time. We look to God to help us to minister to relatives as well as service users.
- As we seek to provide care for those who are terminally ill, pray that we would do so with sensitivity and wisdom. Remember the staff in this role as this can be a time when extreme professionalism is called for, but also a time when staff may require a significant level of support.

Give thanks for Ministers and lay people in our community who come along every Sunday to lead the worship at Cameron House. Pray that we will be mindful that care is about the spiritual as well as the physical.

### **CROSSREACH COUNSELLING: LOTHIANS**

CrossReach Counselling: Lothians provides a generic counselling service to people of all ages across Edinburgh and East Lothian.

- Pray that the service will continue to meet the needs of clients and that they will feel supported and strengthened through some of their most challenging times.
- Give thanks for the skill set and dedication of our counsellors, most of whom work in a voluntary capacity.
- Pray for guidance as we seek to move premises from our current building in Dunbar and that this will be a smooth and seamless transition.
- Give thanks for the skilled staff team who bring a rich variety of expertise to their work, and for the relationships that nourish everyone.
- Pray for the work that takes place in our outreach clinics and remember the counsellors who work alone within these different contexts. Pray that we will be able to continue with our Family Counselling Service.
- Give thanks for the highly valued work that takes place in School Counselling Clinics and pray for the young people who attend these clinics. Pray that funding can be sourced to continue and expand this work.
- Pray that we can continue to keep abreast of cutting edge training in order to provide the best possible service to our clients.

### **CLASHFARQUHAR HOUSE, STONEHAVEN**

Clashfarquhar House is a care home in Stonehaven with 21 residential places plus respite care and day care.

- Pray for our Friends' Group who support our service users with Christian friendship, reminiscence and fundraising events throughout the year.
- Give thanks to our local Ministers under the guidance of the Rev. Rosslyn Duncan who provide Sunday services and Communion throughout the year. We also give thanks to Fyffe, Shola, Mike and Hugh for their support.
- Pray for our service users in Day Care under the guidance of Heather and her staff team and volunteers Moira, Heather and Gibby, as they assist in supporting service users to achieve their full potential.
- Pray for our Activity Coordinator Julie who provides 'Oomph' and therapeutic activities for our service users. Give thanks for all the students, Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, staff and friends who help her.
- Give thanks for our GPs, community dentist and multidisciplinary healthcare team who support our service users to achieve balanced health and wellbeing.
- Pray that our staff group would have health and enthusiasm to enjoy the challenge of welcoming new members of our team.

### LEWIS STREET, STORNOWAY

A Housing Support Service that provides supported accommodation for 5 adults with either a mental health problem or mild learning disability.

- Pray for our service and the staff who work here. Give thanks to God for his provision and pray that all we do would be in his name and done for his glory.
- Give thanks for our local presbytery which pledged to be the first 'Presbytery Friend of CrossReach' and continues to be very supportive of our work.
- Pray for our continued partnership working within the island. Give thanks to God and praise his name that we have been enabled to provide Housing Support.
- Pray for our tenants and their families that it would be a positive experience for those accessing our service, as it allows them the opportunity to build up a supportive network.
- Pray that God would give us all strength to do his will. *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like angels, they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)*
- Pray for our tenants preparing to move on to independent living that staff are enabled to support them through their individual challenges, fears and apprehensions.

### **SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL**

The Social Care Council oversees the work of CrossReach and comprises of 31 people who have a professional background or particular interest in social care.

- Give thanks for answered prayers for CrossReach that were brought before God at this time last year.
- Give thanks for the generous encouragement given to CrossReach by the outgoing Moderator and for all the time he spent engaging with people who either use or support CrossReach services. Pray also for the Rt. Rev. Susan Brown as she takes on the significant role of Moderator for the next year.
- Give thanks for all the many people who support us in diverse ways - giving of time, talents and resources and pray for the plans being laid to celebrate 150 years of the Church of Scotland's role in Scottish social care during 2019.
- Pray for the Commissioners attending the Church of Scotland General Assembly for wisdom in their decision making.
- Pray that Commissioners will feel inspired to speak about the work of CrossReach in their own congregations and Presbyteries and be encouraged to generate practical support.
- Pray for our Chief Executive Viv Dickenson as she leads CrossReach on the next challenging stage of its journey as a major provider of social care in Scotland.

### THE BUNGALOW, STONEHAVEN

The Bungalow is a specialist residential care home for 5 adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Staff maintain a strong relationship with the service users looking to develop person-centred lifestyle plans that enable them to get the most out of the care setting.

- Pray for our team here at The Bungalow as they care for and serve the daily and ongoing needs of our service users.
- Pray for our management and leadership teams within our service and across the organisation. May we demonstrate the love of God to all those who are involved in the life of, or touched by, the work of CrossReach.
- Remember all who suffer, especially those whose ailments are concealed. May God pour out upon them his healing love; surround them with his tenderness, give strength to those in pain and hope and patience to those who are recovering.
- Give thanks for our families and friends. Thank you for God's promise that goodness and mercy will follow them and may they receive his peace each day.
- Pray that our thoughts, deeds and actions might they reflect God today. May God shape the future of our organisation and continue to bless and reveal his great plans for CrossReach.
- Sometimes life gets us down and we find it hard to see things to be thankful for. Open our eyes to see the gifts God has given us. Just for today, help us to remember God.

CrossReach (Church of Scotland Social Care Council) was launched in June 2005 and continues the Kirk's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869, so we have been offering care and support for nearly 150 years.

We employ 2,000 staff in 70 care and support services stretching from Shetland to Ayrshire, making us one of the largest social care agencies in Scotland. Our services help thousands of people in need every day of the year. Our work is split into 3 main areas:

- **Adult Care**
- **Children and Family**
- **Older People**

The Church of Scotland Social Care Council (operating as CrossReach) reports every year to the General Assembly and has the following remit:

- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission.
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church.
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels such as the Church & Society Council, the Scottish Executive and others.

***Thank you for taking time to pray for our work.***



The Church of Scotland  
Social Care Council

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*CrossReach (Church of Scotland Social Care Council) employs around 2,000 staff in 70 care and support services from Shetland to Ayr. Our staff offer care and support to thousands of people every day of the year.*

*This Prayer Diary contains weekly prayers about some of our services.*

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