

Hi everyone,

Hope you are enjoying the sunshine!

In Scotland our sunshine ranges between Aberdeen which records on average 1447 hours per year to Tiree which gets 1524. Within the UK Weymouth comes out top at 1904. Across the world Yuma in Arizona records the most sunshine at 4015 hours with some days clocking in 11 hours of sunshine. Those are big numbers, yet compared to some of the other numbers that surround us they pale into insignificance. For instance it's reckoned there are currently 8.1 billion people in the world and there have been 109 billion people who have ever lived. Scientists have worked out that the average adult male has around 36 trillion cells in their body, while average adult females have 28 trillion. Google the number of atoms in the universe and researchers estimate there are between  $10^{78}$  to  $10^{82}$ . Those are huge numbers that our human brains really struggle with. Yet even those numbers pale into insignificance when compared to eternity.

God's promise to us is eternal. He has promised we shall have eternity with him and each other in a world where there will be no more tears, no pain or suffering.

"Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21

When you look out at this amazing world God has given to us, consider the sheer scope of the promises that yet await his people. We truly do have an awesome God!

Remember to uphold each other in prayer this week, we in particular are remembering:

### **Prayer Calendar**

July 14<sup>th</sup> Haddington St. Mary's

We remember in prayer this week the leadership and all involved in the life of this community. community. Pray for the team from Haddington congregations & wider community who welcome visitors to St Mary's during the summer and that those who visit may sense the presence of God and find peace in the sanctuary.

### **Lothian and Borders Presbytery - Youth and Families Worker, Tranent Parish Church**

Tranent are looking for a youth and families worker to join their team. This might be you or it might be someone you know, please share the link around.

For a full job description and details on how to apply, please visit [churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/vacancies-and-volunteering/ministries-council-posts](https://churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/vacancies-and-volunteering/ministries-council-posts)

Closing date: Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024, at 12 noon.

### **Are you the next Moderator of the Church of Scotland?**

The Committee to Nominate the Moderator is now inviting recommendations for who will be nominated as the next Moderator.

Here is the link to the article:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/committee-to-nominate-next-moderator-now-accepting-recommendations>

Please can I encourage you to make this invitation widely known in your congregations and to pray for the Committee in its work.

### **Compassionate Care in Crisis Course**

This collaborative and highly participatory training will equip you to assess and identify signs and symptoms of trauma, develop culturally contextual tools and resources to effectively apply survivor centered crisis care (including active listening skills and stabilization and grounding techniques) for individuals and groups experiencing crisis or critical incident, and discuss and assess the unique nuances of special circumstances of care. See the attached flyer for more details.

### **Manor Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Please see the attached flyer for more info on one of our congregations celebrating their 150 years. All are welcome to join in with the celebration.

### **Read Think Pray Act**

When people think of Presbytery they tend to think of occasional stuffy meetings or committees. Whilst it is true presbytery has meetings and yes it does have committees the best of presbytery is actually the people who make it up. Presbytery is a group of people drawn from a particular region who work together to build both God's Kingdom and God's people in that place. For us that is everyone from North Berwick to Berwick and Dunbar to West Linton.

Statistically in 2022 there were 19923 church members across 97 congregations. Together we are presbytery and together we serve God.

The Mission Committee thought that given we are fellow travellers, it would be good to spend some time travelling through God's word together over a two month period. The idea behind this is that the whole presbytery look at the same scripture each day and pray the same words. Readings are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary.

For each day, read the passage, think about the passage, say the prayer and then consider what impact the passage might have on you. (Read/Think/Pray/Act)

So....

- Pause and be still before God
- Read the passage,
- Think about the passage,
- Say the prayer
- Listen for what God is calling us to do today

(Read/Think/Pray/Act)

After the reading and thinking, we suggest everyone pray this prayer:

*Dear God,  
thank you for your word,  
may it speak to my heart this day.*

*Help me see your Kingdom  
and through my actions, let your kingdom come.  
Amen.*

Sunday, July 7, 2024:	No readings, we worship with others in church
Monday, July 8, 2024:	2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Tuesday, July 9, 2024:	James 5:7-12
Wednesday, July 10, 2024:	John 7:1-9
Thursday, July 11, 2024:	Colossians 2:1-5
Friday, July 12, 2024:	Colossians 4:2-18
Saturday, July 13, 2024:	Luke 1:57-80
Sunday, July 14, 2024:	No readings, we worship with others in church

### **Reminders**

If you have not yet returned your Kirk Sessions thoughts on what training is needed, please do so. Not everyone has yet elected a Representative Elder, you are required by church law to do this! Roger needs your property and manse schedules for annual inspection. If you haven't yet supplied them, please get in touch with Roger. [rogerdodd@btconnect.com](mailto:rogerdodd@btconnect.com)

This email is intended for everyone in Presbytery, please share it around as widely as possible. If you have anything you want advertised or shares, please sent it to Norman.

God Bless and keep enjoying the sunshine!

Norman Smith  
Presbytery Clerk