

### For to me to live is Christ - Philippians 1:20-21

1. Help us as a 1st priority to seek first the Kingdom of God and righteousness. May our lives truly be lived for Christ, at home, at school and colleges, in work and amongst our neighbours.
2. Make us fruitful in every area of our lives and activity, we pray, as we do everything as unto the Lord
3. O Lord, may you be our first thought in the morning, our last thought at night & the motivating power that guides our thoughts & actions at all times

### Effective service - Philippians 1:22-26

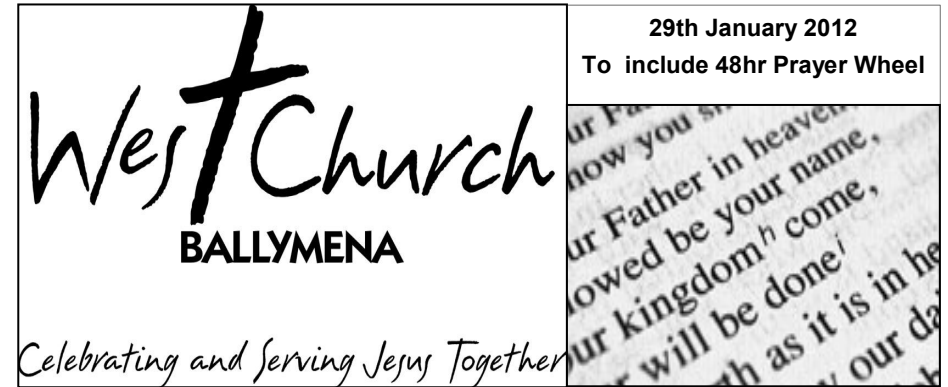
1. Make us doers and not merely hearers of your Word. Holy Spirit, show us the things you have given us the potential to excel in and help us to achieve our full potential in Christ
2. Enable us to stand firm, O God, letting nothing move us, giving ourselves fully to the Lord's work, knowing that our labour in the Lord is never in vain
3. Help us to encourage, build up and equip each other to grow deeper and stronger in our relationship with you, O Lord
4. Help each of us in the various ministries that we carry out, that what we do is effective because it is motivated by our love for you, O Lord

### Stand firm in one spirit - Philippians 1:27-28

1. Help us at all times, O Lord, to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Make us one in your Spirit, O God, leaving no foothold for the enemy in our midst
2. Enable us to overcome any hindrances to unity, so that we may stand strong and experience the blessing and anointing of your Spirit, we pray
3. Cause the roots of our faith to go deep, O God, so that nothing will be able to shake us

### Suffering for Christ - Philippians 1:29-30

1. Give us the strength of character to be able to stand up to any opposition that comes against us because we follow Christ, we pray
2. We pray for those among us who are placed in difficult positions at their places of work because of their faith in Christ; strengthen them and grant them favour
3. No matter what we go through, cause us always to remember, that in every circumstance you work all things together for those who love you
4. Give us the grace we need for each new day, O God, and may we face each trial of our faith with the inner joy of the Lord that no circumstance can take away



The Prayer Team would like to encourage members of the congregation to come along to Prayer Time on Sunday morning. We meet in the Prayer Room at 10.30am and would love to have you join with us. Or why not come along and join us for a **Prayer Breakfast** on the 1st Saturday of each month @ **9.00am** in Montgomery's! - **Sat 11th February.**

## The 48 hour Prayer Wheel - Sign Up 2Day!

YOU DO NOT NEED TO COME INTO CHURCH TO PRAY

The 48 hour Prayer Wheel starts on

**Friday, February 3rd @ 6.30pm until Sunday February 5th @ 6.30pm.**

Anytime in the 48 hours after the starting time, we will give you the opportunity to select a specific time (30 minutes or more) in which you will commit to either:-

- \* pray individually using our prayer points in the comfort of your surroundings eg home, car, walking etc OR
- \* pray interactively with others in our **48 Hours to Celebrate 150** years in the *prayer room at 6.30- 7.30pm Friday, Sunday Prayer times.*

You choose 30minutes slot(s) in that 48 hour period -- starting **Friday, February 3rd at 6:30pm until Sunday February 5th at 6:30pm.**

My Prayer Time is Date \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Encourage your friends to pray!** Our weekly Prayer Bulletin is available every week @ [www.westchurchballymena.org](http://www.westchurchballymena.org) or send your prayer requests to West Church Prayer Team "[westprayer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:westprayer@hotmail.co.uk)"

*So often we begin our prayers with requests, but Paul reminds the Christians at Philippi of the need to say thanks to God.*

*As God's people we give thanks for:*

\* *Our God who never slumbers or sleeps but listens to us day and night*



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- *For the many opportunities in West Church to pray individually and corporately at worship, at set prayer times, in prayer triplets or via the email prayer chain*

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- *Our prayer team who supply us every week with up to date matters for prayer*

- *For many answered prayers that have brought strength, courage, hope and healing to many*

- *For the opportunity to pray for those whom we know, and those whose faces and names we will never know, but whom God loves*

**O Lord hear my prayer**

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May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February be an encouraging weekend as many members of our congregation participate in our prayer wheel and reflect on God's faithfulness in the past. As we spend time in His presence seeking His direction and will for His plans for West Church in the future may we see fruitfulness and blessing in our Church, community and beyond.

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*Father, we thank You that the Holy Spirit is giving vision to men and women in the Body of Christ today. Help Members of our Session as they met on Saturday morning (4th) to seek your guidance and path for the future. Send a spirit of unity and blessing upon their meeting. Give them the courage to be obedient and the wisdom to respond in the way You direct them. Amen.*

**Heavenly Father**

*When praise goes up, victory comes down.*

*When praise goes up, healing comes down.*

*When praise goes up, deliverance comes down*



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**Brotherly love - Philippians 1:7-8**

1. Teach us to love one another, O Lord and help us see the potential in each person and encourage them, O Lord, rather than just see their faults
2. Teach us how we can best help those who are in need, we pray and help us to love those who are naturally hard to love, we pray
3. Give us the wisdom, in seeking to help others in love, to be able to discern genuine needs from those who are merely seeking to take advantage

**The fruit of righteousness - Philippians 1:9-11**

1. Give us clean hands and a pure heart, O Lord. Help us to develop and maintain pure motives in all we do, O Lord. In all our dealings at home and in the workplace may our actions be honourable at all times
2. May we be known by non christians as people who can always be trusted because we adhere to standards of righteousness, O God
3. Keep us in all times of temptation and trial so that we always maintain a good testimony

**Spreading the gospel despite difficulties - Philippians 1:12-14**

1. Cause us to remember that you, O Lord work all things together for good for those who love you, so that we can always see things in a positive light
2. Give us the courage to take a stand for the gospel and righteousness even in the most difficult of circumstances, we pray
3. Teach us how to view our present difficulties, O God, as light and momentary, in comparison with the great glory that we shall experience in the life to come
4. Make us effective in spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ remembering that our work is to be witnesses and the Holy Spirit's work is to convict and save people

**The effectiveness of intercessory prayer - Philippians 1:15-19**

1. Lord Jesus, teach us to pray like you pray
2. Holy Spirit, teach us to wait on you, to place upon our hearts the things you want us to intercede for, so that we may be effective in our intercession
3. We intercede for all the ministers and churches throughout the UK that you would send your fire, Holy Spirit, and raise up an army of God
4. We pray for our government, Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords that you would break all influences of ungodliness in the laws they pass
5. We pray for our church, our borough, our city and our nation that you will bring a mighty revival, Holy Spirit

**Praying the Bible** - There is always so much to thank God for.

**Philippians is a letter that demonstrates that our relationship with God triumphs over all adversities since God is able to work all things together for good to those who love him.** For Paul, there is the joy of the fellowship between him and the Philippian Christians which always encouraged him. He was overjoyed at the opportunities he had to share the gospel despite his confinement, because every eight hours the Roman soldier's shift would change and he would be replaced by a different soldier. What would Paul talk about to each soldier who couldn't escape hearing Paul speak whilst chained to him for eight hours at a time? So Paul writes that the whole palace guard has heard the gospel!

Despite his circumstances Paul writes in this letter, 'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice!' and 'I can do everything through [Christ] who gives me strength' and 'My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.'

As we pray through this letter during our prayer wheel and this week may we learn to allow our faith to deepen, our expectations to increase and our joy in the Lord to triumph over every adversity.

#### **Saints, overseers and deacons - Philippians 1:1-2**

1. Lord, we pray for every person who attends West church that you would watch over, keep, guide and use each one for your glory
2. We pray for all those who attend but do not yet know Jesus as their personal saviour and Lord; cause them to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit
3. We pray for all the Ministry Team, that they would hear from the Holy Spirit and have all godly wisdom to accomplish your plans and purposes for the church
4. We pray for all the elders of the church that you would guide them in all the affairs of showing leadership and management of the church
5. We pray for all those who minister in the practical areas of the church that you would give them the skill and wisdom needed for each task

#### **Partners in the gospel - Philippians 1:3-6**

1. Lord keep us from being individualistic in our ministries and walk with you, O Lord but always to work for the wider good of all in the church
2. Show us how we can work better with others in the work of the Lord so that we can maximise the fruitfulness of all we do, we pray
3. Give us hearts that delight in the success of others in the work of the Lord without feelings of jealousy
4. Teach us to be people who are always encouraging others to achieve their highest potential in Christ in their service and ministries for the Lord
5. Help us to be like the Philippians who were generous in their financial support for the work of the Lord, we pray



**Heavenly Father** we pray for God's wisdom and blessing on weekly activities within West Church. May these fulfil our vision **to be a vibrant growing church whose members of all ages are becoming more like Christ, active in His service and reaching out in His love to our community and beyond. Amen**

***<sup>13</sup>Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5***

Pray for people struggling to cope in difficult life situations and experiencing varying degrees of stress and depression, families who have been bereaved & members waiting for appointments with consultants.

***Information concerning people's illnesses is given with permission, but is personal, and should be treated with sensitivity and respect, and used for prayer only.***

Lord we thank you for our health service and although we know the NHS faces many challenges and criticism regarding staffing and budget shortfalls we thank you for the committed medical and nursing staff. We pray for all those who serve in this way. They are saving lives every day. They are helping those in our community. To-day ask for healing for patients, and those whom we know who are not well at this time \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. We bring the RVH and the families who have been affected by the recent outbreak of infection pseudomonas and **baby deaths** at the **RVH** neo-natal unit. We remember all the different categories of staff who work in the healthcare sector. Amen

## Making the Difference- source Seeds of the Kingdom

**"And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."** Gen 12:3, NKJV

The next time you doubt the influence you are having on those around you and the difference you make to the whole spiritual atmosphere in which you live and work, just take a look at the lives of Jacob and his son Joseph.

Jacob had spent many years in service to his uncle Laban, his family had increased and so had the numbers of their livestock. But when he began to feel it might be time to move on he said this: *"For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming."* (Gen 30:30, NKJV)

In fact, just 3 verses earlier, we read that Laban himself had recognised this and had pleaded with Jacob, *"Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."* (Gen 30:27, NKJV)

It is interesting to note that similar comments were made a generation later when Joseph had been bought as a slave by Potiphar the Egyptian from the Midianites. *"So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake."* (Gen 39:5, NKJV)

Although their circumstances were very different, the presence of God in Jacob's and Joseph's lives was evident and noticed by those around them as it brought Divine favour to the benefit of all. Ultimately, and in a moment of time, God transformed Joseph's life of imprisonment with a meteoric rise to the second in command under Pharaoh, and the influence of the Spirit of the Lord through Joseph saved the then known world - including Joseph's family - from a devastating famine.

In Jacob, the destiny of a nation was at stake. After wrestling with God, his name was changed to Israel and the magnitude of transformation that God wrought in his life radically influenced the generations to come, and thus, the nation of Israel, but also ultimately, all the families of the earth. One man's life blessed a nation, and through it, the world.

Your circumstances may not be of your choosing, but as you walk in obedience to the Lord He knows the way you take and is ordering your footsteps and His very presence within you blesses others and changes the spiritual atmosphere where you are. God is in the business of transforming us and also those who touch our lives every day and His plans are always far greater than we can ever imagine.

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We seek to encourage the mobilisation of God's people to pray for revival in the church and for the transformation of our society throughout our province. Pray this will be accomplished through leadership levels in churches & other networking with supportive volunteers in our community. Pray that we, who are "Called to be Church," may hearken to the promptings of the Spirit with wisdom, courage and hope...

Pray the Holy Spirit, who guides us and renews us as Church, empowers us to share our gifts with great joy & unbounded generosity..... Give thanks for our hamper ministry and the opportunities to help others through the Ballymena Friendship Club and Ethnic forum—winter warmers etc.

Pray for those who feel they are concerned about school, work, unemployment, health, or with financial worry or stress, that they will trust in you and depend on you for everything.

Pray that our community will be filled with the Spirit as we formalise our vision for West Church. May we be awake, alert and attentive to the signs of the times and respond to the movement of the Spirit with openness and love...

we pray for families, relationships, marriages & homes. We bring those homes who are suffering through hard times resulting from redundancies, death, separation or divorce. for the parents who see their children suffer because of addiction, breakups or financial circumstances. Shield many of these families from the drug barons, marital conflict or loan sharks and send your holy spirit to guard in these stressful situations.

### **REDUNDANCIES**

**Loving Father, we live in a society** that often values people according to the work they do and the salaries they earn. Over the past months we have heard of many employees who are facing redundancy. We think of the retail names mentioned thro the media and businesses who are struggling because of "cash flow". You are the God who knows the number of the very hairs of our head. Help those people in these situations both the workers and the owners. People who have worked together for many years and have been faithful and loyal to each other. Lord we are saddened because of this type of news and being human we sometime despair. We know that when we call on you **you** will answer and bring new hope and life. Help us who know them to support them in practical simple ways. We pray for them to regain employment. May they find peace in the knowledge of your love, and the confidence to offer themselves for retraining and employment. Grant them that security in your love which will enable them to bounce back from their sense of rejection, and that delight in your providence through which they may move forward and prosper in new-found work. Amen



**KENYA *Olkinyiei*** – Gary and Mary Reid write, “Two more girls came to the Mission seeking help, as have some others with their mothers or brothers desiring that the Mission will help them.”

- Give thanks that all the people who have come to the Mission recently have been kept safe - some have travelled far, despite the threat of attack from wild animals.
- Pray that God will be glorified in the lives of all concerned.
- Pray that God will touch the hearts of the teachers in the school as these children continue to arrive at the Mission and are taken to the school to be placed in the boarding department.
- Remember the Headmaster of the school who works with the Mission to help and protect these young children. He has many struggles of his own. Pray that he would come to know God.

Over these weeks there has been much sickness in the area especially amongst the staff of PCEA Acacia Grove Mission and amongst Gary and Mary and their family. The sickness has prevented much of the work being carried out, not least the teaching in Bible Study and preaching at church. Please remember the Reid family and staff at this time. Continue to pray that God's Holy Spirit would work in the hearts of the Maasai in Olkinyiei and many would give their lives completely to our Lord.

**Tuum – Stephen Cowan** reports that it is getting very hot and dry, yet there is still some grass and some milk at the homesteads. The monthly adult Bible teaching time has just finished and there are encouraging signs of growth! There was an increased interest among people of Tuum and many young men attended in the evenings. Sadly there are many girls getting pregnant at a young age. The local Elders are accepting that indiscipline has to be dealt with, which PCEA is known to do. There has not been any changes in the leadership at PCEA Tuum Girls’ Secondary School (TGSS), however, a new Board of Governors has been selected and they plan to meet on 3rd February in Tuum.

- Give thanks for good attendance at the monthly Bible teaching time in Tuum and pray that those who attended will grow in their knowledge of and love for God.
- Pray that Christians will be good witnesses.
- Pray for wise decisions to be made at the TGSS Board of Governors meeting.

**The Lord gets his best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction. Charles Spurgeon**

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, Thank you for not only blessing our lives, but for blessing the lives of others around us, even though we are not always aware of it. Help us to realise that where we go, you go and that your great plan of salvation for all is constantly at work, for your greater glory. In Jesus Name, Amen

**Prayer Points:** That we continue to grow into greater alignment with God’s Word and ways, and expect a growing experience of the manifestation of His benefits in our lives .

- \* That we become “treasure hunters” who seek out all that God has prepared for His children
- \* That the demonstration of God’s faithfulness in our lives becomes a witness to those around us, and that we would faithfully share the good news of Jesus
- \* Give thanks for all the home groups and the teaching and learning gained in this environment

**Lord we pray** for our young people in church - help them to be on fire for Jesus wherever they go. May our churches effectively disciple young people through example, attitude and instruction as it states in , Deuteronomy 6:6-7 Amen

*Please pray for the upcoming Discipleship Explored course.*

*Pray Specifically that:*

- 1. Those whose walk with Christ would benefit from the course will be moved to come along. Pray as it starts this Monday evening*
- 2. The Discipleship team will finalise the logistics of the course without any major difficulties.*
- 3. Mature Christians will make themselves available to assist with leading groups*

## **David & Besiana Update!**

please continue to pray for:-

David as he continues to learn the very difficult Albanian language; For guidance for both David and Besiana as they seek to know in which areas of ministry God wants them to serve; and For safety and health for them all as a family as they travel between Prishtina and Peja.

Remember them preparing to return home for their break later this year

Dear God, **I praise you and lift up your name for you are great and greatly to be praised.** Today I am reminded of the many and awesome responsibilities of Daniel our minister. I pray that you will work in Daniel's life to bring about your will. I pray that you will provide wisdom, knowledge and anointing from on high for each day, each decision, each challenge he faces and give him time out to enjoy family-life. I pray for protection from harm and from evil. Please bless Harriet, Charlotte settling back into Uni and Beatrice during exams



In Jesus' name I pray, **amen.**



**Lord we give thanks as we congratulate Phyllis on her 23 years of service in West Church.** We give thanks for her valuable contribution to the life and work of our Church and ask God to reward her openly for her hard work and commitment in Christian service. Help Phyllis as she prioritises her time and seeks God's direction for her ministry. Be beside her as she deals with difficult counselling situations and often delicate circumstances. We ask a special blessing on her each day. We ask God's divine hand to be upon her and David and may they both prosper and be of good health (Jer 29 v 11) Amen

**Please Lord** Be with Elwyn, Mavis and their son. We give thanks for God's continued blessing as Elwyn undertakes his pastoral visitation and brings joy into the homes of many of our elderly. Amen



**Dear Lord** We thank you for Rodney and pray for him and his family as Rodney is now eligible for a call. We ask that you will bless him during this stressful time to hear your voice and have that peace you give. May his time spent in West Church be beneficial to him. We ask for your wisdom as he ministers to the men of our congregation and for him as he visits in hospital etc. May your favour rest upon him, Eimear and the children. Amen

**Dear God,** We give thanks for Sam, our Musical Director, for his faithful heart and his outstanding skills and abilities. Lord we ask you to give Sam guidance and leadership in the development of Inspirational Worship Services. We ask for a richer awareness of the Holy Spirit as we put on the mantle of praise to bring glory to God we ask your blessing on Sam and Laura in their newly married life together. Amen

Lord we thank you for both Myra and Bob. We give thanks for their hard work and commitment to work for you here in West. Bless them each day as they come to work and be close to them always. Amen

God, please show me how you want me to use the skills, spiritual gifts, resources you have given me and the relationships you have allowed me to have to prepare for the great harvest You have planned. I pray that I will be a tool in your hands to draw people to you. With that in mind, I ask you to please forgive me of my sins, sins that stand in the way of a closer fellowship with you and that would be a hindrance to my living testimony. Please help me start fresh and new again right now. Thank you and bless you, Lord. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Faith Author Unknown

Faith isn't anything you can see;  
it isn't anything you can touch.  
But you can feel it in your heart.  
Faith is what keeps you trying  
when others would have given up.  
It keeps you believing in  
the goodness of others  
and helps you find it.  
Faith is trusting in a power  
greater than yourself  
and knowing that whatever happens,  
this power will carry you through anything.  
It is believing in yourself and having  
courage to stand up for what you believe in.  
Faith is peace in the midst of a storm,  
determination in the midst of adversity,  
and safety in the midst of trouble.  
For nothing can touch a soul  
that is protected by faith.

*Lord we hope that you will use our prayer for this nation to  
be united again as a nation under God.*