

For 4th to 17th April 2021

Prepared by Jean Meek

Each Sunday at 7pm, Christians in every part of the UK join in prayer. Here are some prayer points from Jean that you may wish to focus on.

Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?' But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

Mark 16:2-4

Once upon a time, we enjoyed the age-old custom of rolling hard-boiled eggs down a hill and racing behind to see if the shell got cracked in the tumble. Sometimes we need a 'tumble' to crack the hard, protective shell we build up around ourselves. If left unbroken, it would stunt our growth. Just as the stone symbolised Jesus' power over death, so the cracked shells symbolise our release into new life in Him. Give thanks for the Hope that was born that first Easter morning.

- In Scotland, around **one in five** of us have special needs that require special care, and many are cared for at home by a forgotten army of ordinary people. Pray that there would be meaningful and fruitful activities that would engender a real sense of worth for those who have limitations, and pray for the carers, particularly those who care at home, as they have no respite, no-one coming on-shift to give them some well needed time off.
- Around the world some **7 million people have fled** from corrupt governments, rogue armies or crippling poverty. Pray for refugees who have had to run from just such circumstances, and especially for those in camps where coronavirus has begun to spread. Pray too for those whose homes are not the safe places they should be. May God grant them the hope of a new life and a friendly welcome wherever they end their journey.
- **Climate change** is a very real and potentially disastrous calamity facing the world – and one our children and grandchildren will inherit. Pray for the G7 and United Nations Climate Change conferences, that they will indeed go ahead this year. Pray

they will be united in their decisions and pray for radical decisions that will impact for the good of the world. Pray too that all the peoples of the world would adopt a changed lifestyle.

- When an earthquake strikes or a hurricane hits, **Medecins Sans Frontieres** (Doctors without Borders) is often the first organisation on the scene to bring relief to the injured. Highly trained doctors and nurses with specialised equipment are mobile and ready to respond, not just to disasters but to places where medicine is a neglected commodity. Give thanks, for volunteers working round the world and round the clock to bring relief in the face of the immense challenges brought about by disaster and disease. Ask that God may grant them patience, strength and all the resources they need as they seek to support and heal others.
- Debt is a crippling circumstance that can happen to anyone at any time. Christians Against Poverty (**CAP**) is a Christian charitable company specialising in debt counselling for people in financial difficulty, including those in need of bankruptcy or insolvency work. Like all charities, it needs finance as well as people to continue. Pray that God would bless and resource the work they seek to do.
- Pray for those whose wellbeing is giving concern. Pray that they would be surrounded by people who can give them the time, guidance and medication they need. Give thanks for all who seek to bring comfort and for those who seek to find a cure for the brokenness.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19

In light of the changes facing our Church – not just Brightons and the Braes Churches but the whole Church of Scotland, it would be easy to feel swamped, or dismayed, or indignant, or angry, or afraid, but the Lord tells us **HE** is doing a new thing. The Psalmist says, ‘the Lord is near to all who call on Him’. Now, in particular, is a time to call on Him, to pray for the decision makers as well as every member of all the congregations involved, that we might receive His divine guidance, that we may be gracious, that we need not fear because we are going in His strength along His new way.