

Sunday 24/12	There are three services today. Many attending the 4pm and watchnight services will not be regular members of our congregation. Pray that they may be inspired to think about the real meaning of Christmas and this time away from the commercialisation may be a time to remember the true wonder of Emmanuel – God with us.
Monday 25/12	..she gave birth to her firstborn a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the Inn. Luke2 7
Tuesday 26/12	Mary, Joseph and Jesus ended up as refugees in Egypt. Let us remember those fleeing from modern tyranny and warfare and in particular the Middle East and Myanmar.
Wednesday 27/12	The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1 14
Thursday 28/12	Pray for those who are homeless especially as the weather turns colder. Pray that they will be blessed with enough food to sustain them, enough warmth to shield them from the elements and God's protection upon them. Pray that hope may touch each homeless heart, spirit and life bringing them the possibility of a better life.
Friday 29/12	Give thanks for the lives of friends and members who have left this life and moved on to the next. Thanks for the privilege of knowing them and for their influence on our lives and on the life of our church.
Saturday 30/12	As we come to the end of the year and as we face the New Year possible with uncertainties, pray about everything--- giving thanks for God's past faithfulness as we ask for his help in the new year. ``Do not be anxious about anything ,but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God ` Philippians 4;6 (NIV)

Sunday 31/12	<p>"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,  "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."  May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all."  Poem quoted by George VI in his Christmas broadcast 1939.</p>
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**Newhaven Church Prayer Calendar  
December 2017**

Friday 1/12	Give thanks for all those who help in the café and for the effect of its ministry, both in the space it gives for some to experience work who might not otherwise cope in the workplace and also for it role in spreading the fragrance of Christ in the community. Pray that their night out will be a happy time together.
Saturday 2/12	Today is the annual ceilidh for Kampi. Give thanks for those who organise it and in particular for the Newhaven ceilidh band. Let's remember the work in Kenya that it is supporting and the care and love given to those who otherwise would be marginalised. Give thanks for the privilege of being able to be part of this project and pray that substantial funds may be raised on the night to support the work.
Sunday 3/12	God delights in giving us what we don't deserve .Pray that we may always show the same generous and open handed love to others that God has shown us.
Monday 4/12	“Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; Tender to me the promise of his word; in God, my saviour, shall my heart rejoice.” (Timothy Dudley-Smith)

Tuesday 5/12	Prelim Exams take place in Trinity Academy this week. Pray that the young people would be able to study free of distraction and free from the anxiety of results. Pray particularly for Christian young people in TA, that they would be salt and light in what is a stressful time in the school calendar.
Wednesday 6/12	Pray for Crossreach (Church of Scotland Social Care Council) staff and volunteers who offer care and support services throughout Scotland. May those who are in residential care and those who use the many services offered, know the peace and love of God within them.
Thursday 7/12	Pray for the logistics of our first ever 'Newhaven Sheep Trail' leading up to our Nativity Service on the 17 <sup>th</sup> December. Prayer that it will be a blessing to local business, as well as an encouragement for families to join in in the life of the church and a topic of conversation locally.
Friday 8/12	The Council of Assembly of the Church of Scotland are considering the future set up of the Church. There is a time of public consultation. Pray that they may discern the way ahead for the church with a shortage of ministers and an excess of buildings. Pray that the Church may adapt to the change circumstances and develop ways to be the body of Christ in our changing society.
Saturday 9/12	Today is the Christmas Extravaganza. This is one of the major outreaches to young people by our church. Pray that along with having a good fun time, they may also be struck by the amazing gospel message of Christmas that God has come among us in human form. Pray for all those taking part to be able in practical ways to illustrate the love of Christ to all the children.

Sunday 10/12	Lord Jesus our Saviour, may the whole earth Resound with the glorious light of Your gospel We worship You with great joy and gladness, longing that all would come to know You as Lord May this be our inspiration as we meet today.
Monday 11/12	Pray that we may find a new cleaner for the church to replace Jeanette who is hanging up her mop after many years of faithful service. Give thanks for all that she has done and the excellent reputation of the church for cleanliness.
Tuesday 12/12	Today is the Toddlers' party. Give thanks for the popularity of the group and that the party will be a happy time both for the toddlers and their carers. Give thanks for this opportunity to serve the community.
Wednesday 13/12	Pray for those who are out with the Care Van every night Of the week in our city, serving food to the homeless. May they know great joy in serving.
Thursday 14/12	Let us also remember the Care shelter in churches at this time of year. The service users will be facings many different crises in their lives. Give wisdom to those seeking to help them.
Friday 15/12	At lunchtime there is the Chatterboxes' party. This is the last Chatterboxes of the session. Give thanks that a good group has been established and also for the co-operation of the school in making a meeting room available. Pray that everyone will return in the new year at the beginning of next term.

Saturday 16/12	“Do you really want God to answer? What if he says what you deserve to hear? Will any pleading change his mind? Or is prayer just a calming reflection, drawing on what is within you? Our practice of prayer indicates our theology. It also reflects how secure we feel in God’s love and forgiveness and how certain we are that he is active in our world without treating us as puppets or chess pieces to be manipulated.” SU Encounter with God on Isaiah
Sunday 17/12	Today is the Sheepy nativity. Pray that the sheep will have got the attention of the community and that many non-church members may come along and join in with the celebration.
Monday 18/12	Let us remember the work of the Haven and the ministry of the church to the older folk in our parish. Pray that we may have a vision of what can be done and also the people who are able to implement it.
Tuesday 19/12	Give thanks for all the work done by Lesley-Anne Weir in updating the church’s website and putting up to date information on it. Pray for her and the communications group as they seek to improve communications among us all.
Wednesday 20/12	Give thanks for the opportunity to be involved in the life of Victoria PS and the relationship we have built with the school. Pray for Cassie as she gives the thought for reflection today to staff, pupils, and parents at the school carol service
Thursday 21/12	Pray for those for whom Christmas is a struggle – those without a home, those lonely people on their own, those with debt after feeling forced to buy things which they cannot afford, those for whom there are sad memories.
Friday 22/12	Open those struggling to know Immanuel, God with us. They are not on their own, there is one who cares. Pray that God will awaken the hearts of those who do not yet know Him.

Saturday 23/12	As people attend carol services and nativity plays, pray that their minds will be open to respond to this amazing story. Pray for Peter as he prepares for our services at Newhaven, pray that he will find clear and relevant ways to present the Love of God shown in Jesus.
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