

Prayer Diary

2020

Bethany Christian Trust  
Ending homelessness in Scotland, one person at a time

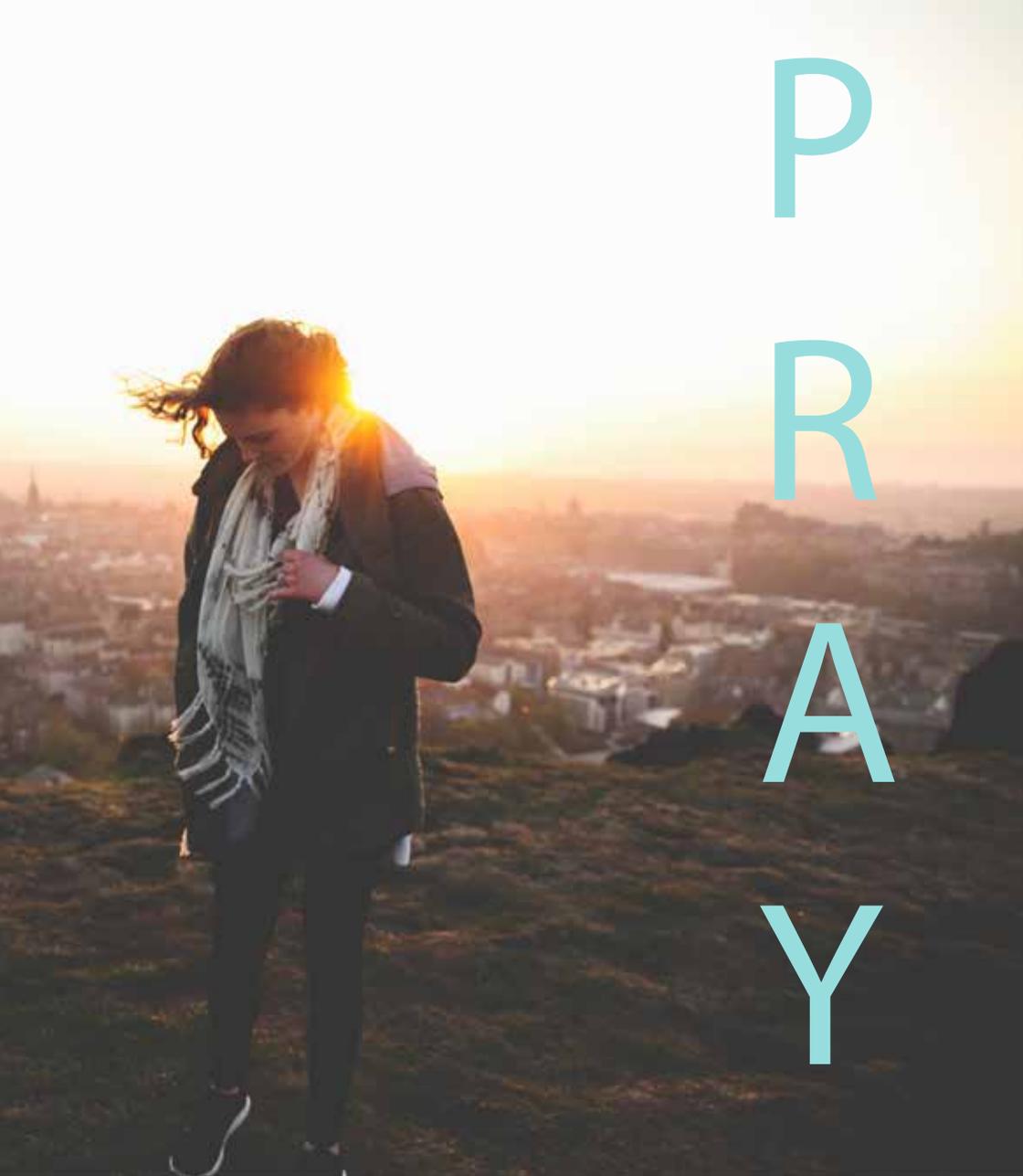


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Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

## Be faithful in Prayer

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Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to introduce this beautiful collection of verses, prayers and reflections prepared by Bethany Christian Trust team members across Scotland.

Prayer invites the kingdom and purposes of God into our lives and our world. Bethany was founded upon prayer and is sustained by prayer. We hugely value your prayer support as we continue to seek to relieve the suffering and meet the long term needs of homeless and vulnerable people throughout the land.

For each month of this prayer diary there is a specially chosen verse, a prayer and an encouragement to commit to action.

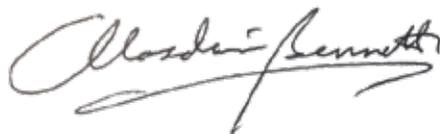
We would love it if you could pray daily for the people we support, for our teams and for our shared mission.

On the third Wednesday of every month the team share in 24 hours of continuous prayer, additional to daily prayers, and we would especially welcome you joining us for this monthly prayer day. Setting aside time to pray for our work on these days will result in increased fruit and provision just as the Lord intends.

This last year we have continued to see prayers answered in miraculous ways in our daily work and we know that it is the impact of a united praying people standing with us and for us in ministering God's heart to people in crisis and in need.

"Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."  
Psalm 115:1

With heartfelt thanks from all the team at Bethany,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexander Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Chief Executive  
Bethany Christian Trust



January

David McAdam

Connect to Community - Reintegration Coordinator



There is a time and season for everything: a time to tear down and a time to build.

—Ecclesiastes 3:3

**PRAY** for the men and women Connect to Community meet in prison and accompany through the gate on their release. Often the lives they have built have been torn down through imprisonment. Sometimes they have to take the decision themselves to tear down their former lives. We believe that there's always a time to build. Pray for the provision of good foundations, in secure accommodation; for the establishment of secure walls, in significant friends; and for the protection of a stable covering, in the birthing of a trusting faith in the living God.

**COMMIT** to mentoring someone who is re-entering into the community? Coming alongside and being a friend creates stability in this time of transition and is a tangible way to demonstrate God's love to those on the fringes of society. Get in touch today if you think your church would be interested email [c2c@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:c2c@bethanychristiantrust.com).



  
Bethany  
Christian  
Trust

## February

Helen Dickie  
Manager of Stockbridge Shop



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

— Matthew 7:7-8

**PRAY** that Bethany would have clear 20/20 vision for the year 2020 as they work to end homelessness in Scotland, one person at a time. Pray for continued support of Bethany through our charity shops, our fundraising team and our donors. Pray for new doors to be opened that will spread the life-saving work of Bethany throughout Scotland. Pray for the men and women who are facing yet another winter on the streets that they will find shelter and be shown love by our staff and volunteers; and for broken families that they will experience God's comfort during difficult situations.

**COMMIT** to decluttering your unwanted household items and donate to one of our Bethany Shops, or take our #ShopToStopHomelessness challenge by refreshing your home with sustainable, locally gifted items.



## March

Nathanael Smith  
Trusts and Grants Fundraiser



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

—Galatians 6:9

**PRAY** for favour among trustees of charitable trusts as they consider where to allocate their funds. Pray that our applications would speak to the hearts of people making big financial decisions and that we'd see an increase in giving from charitable trusts. Pray that people would share our vision to end homelessness in Scotland, one person at a time, through prevention as well as intervention, and that they would be prepared to financially support our full range of services.

**COMMIT** to talking to just one person in your network this month and share your heart for Bethany. This simple action will grow our reach and resources to fund life-saving services and help us plan ahead for a future without homelessness.



April

Kent Chandler  
Manager of Bethany Homes



You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.

—Isaiah 25:4

**PRAY** for the Bethany Homes Team as they aim to provide a safe and secure home to people at risk of, or with a history of homelessness; this can include individuals, single parents, and small families. Pray that the holistic approach in supporting individuals and families in their own tenancies will enable them to build the capacity to prevent further reoccurrence of homelessness, and to learn independent living skills. Pray that Bethany Homes will have a positive impact on each individual, and increase the capacity to house more people and meet their needs.

**COMMIT** to connecting your church with Bethany today. Whether it's at an event, a service or inviting one of our team to speak; sharing some of the inspiring stories from people we support will help us spread the word about our services that are rooted in God's love.



May

Paul Stevenson  
Director of Homelessness Prevention



A friend loves at all times, and  
a brother is born for a time of  
adversity.

—Proverbs 17:17

**PRAY** for the life-saving services of our homelessness prevention work. Every week, our staff and volunteers have the joy of meeting with men and women and sharing life with them in communities across Scotland. We meet together over food and drinks in Aberdeen, Leith, Menzieshill, Moredun, Motherwell, Possilpark, Sighthill and St Georges Cross. Please pray that in each of these places, as laughter is shared and tears wiped away; people may build new friendships, strengthen existing ones, experience hope and know that they are loved. Jesus Christ is our rock and we long for others to make positive changes in their lives by turning to Him and building their lives on his firm foundation.

**COMMIT** to sharing food in community with others is a great way to fundraise on behalf of Bethany. Host an Afternoon Tea event or Bethany bake sale and join your friends and family in supporting our work with homeless people in Scotland. We have lots of fundraising tips and materials so get in touch, or ask any questions, about how to fundraise for Bethany by contacting [events@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:events@bethanychristiantrust.com) today.



June

Mary Clayton  
Individual Giving Fundraiser



And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

—Hebrews 10:24-25

**PRAY** for our team as we grow and establish relationships with our supporters, that we would have wisdom and insight to serve them faithfully. And pray for an increase in regular givers, that we can build life-long partnerships with supporters who champion Bethany's values. Pause for a moment to thank God for all those whose support is vital to the work of Bethany as we seek to Kingdom build and live out the love of God. We thank Jesus for all those who give their time, expertise, support, and who pray for us and our work.

**COMMIT** to making a regular donation to Bethany. For the cost of a daily coffee, invest in long-term development to help us end homelessness in Scotland. And for all who have already supported Bethany faithfully for many years, we'd love to get in touch with an update or offer you a tour of the services that are close to your heart. Call our team today to learn more on 0131 561 8927.



July

Edith Bovo  
Volunteers Coordinator



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

—1 Peter 4:10

**PRAY** for the individuals that come to volunteer with us, supporting and facilitating vital work across the organisation. Volunteers of varying ages, abilities, nationalities and backgrounds contribute to Bethany. Pray that, by volunteering together, resilient foundations are built within and between different communities. Pray that the time given so generously for others would also serve those who volunteer with us; as opportunities to learn, teach and grow.

**COMMIT** to help our work by volunteering today. Volunteers are essential in making sure that our services reach the thousands of people we support every year. We would love to chat about how your natural interests and skills can help restore God's kingdom in Scotland so please get in touch at [volunteers@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:volunteers@bethanychristiantrust.com).



## August

Chris Gordon

Manager of Community Support & Development (West)



Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

— Psalm 91:1-2

**PRAY** for our tenants in Bethany Homes Glasgow. Pray that we will be able to offer the support they need to feel safe and secure in their homes. Pray for each of the five tenants as they strive to make positive steps out of addiction into healthy communities. Give thanks for the partnerships with local churches in Glasgow that allow us to identify and support these tenants and help us to have ears to hear if God is providing a way to increase our accommodation provision in Glasgow.

**COMMIT** to sharing your skills and talents with Bethany. Do you find it easy to strike up a conversation with a new person? One of the ways Bethany fights against the loneliness and isolation that can be felt by vulnerable people is through befriending services, such as Passing the Baton and our work groups. Partner with Bethany today and share your knowledge at one of our sessions by getting in touch at [volunteers@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:volunteers@bethanychristiantrust.com).



September

Sheila Gregson  
Anne Hope House Manager



She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

—Proverbs 31:25

PRAY for our new service Anne Hope House, due to open in early 2020, which provides accommodation for up to 12 previously homeless women. Anne Hope House is a home to these women; a place of safety, family, community, restoration and hope. Please join us in praying that these women would find freedom from the chains that may bind them including the effects of past trauma, addiction and broken relationships. Pray that these women would find the hope of Jesus Christ through this work and that they might know the fullness of the love that God has for them. Please pray for the practicalities of running a new unit and for the team as we grow and learn together. Please pray for protection over the staff and that they would be sustained and held by God as they serve Him in this important work.

COMMIT to leaving a gift in your Will to ensure a safe future for vulnerable people across Scotland. Pledges (from as little as 1% of your estate) can be essential in making sure that needs are met with vital new services. If you'd like to learn more about leaving a gift in your Will, call at 0131 561 8927 or email at [supporters@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:supporters@bethanychristiantrust.com).



## October

Rachel Moreland  
Media and Marketing - Team Lead



Learn to do right; seek justice.  
Defend the oppressed. Take up the  
cause of the fatherless; plead the  
case of the widow.

—Isaiah 1:17

**PRAY** for the fundraising and marketing team as we seek to glorify God's name in all that we do at Bethany. Pray that as we seek to raise more awareness about the life-saving work of Bethany Christian Trust and the appalling issue of homelessness, that we would look to God who is our greatest marketer and advocate. At a time when the church is faced with increased challenges and brokenness in society: rising numbers of people who are rough sleeping, broken families in need of repair, men and women who are bound by the chains of addiction and the excluded who so long to feel a sense of belonging; we pray that through the work of Bethany, that countless lives would be restored and many would find hope in the love of Jesus.

**COMMIT** to becoming a Bethany ambassador this month by following us on social media and sharing our news and updates with your friends, family and colleagues. Why not consider doing a Facebook fundraiser during the month of October to raise awareness about the important issue of homelessness?



November

Kam Cockburn

Community Development Worker (Aberdeen)



## We love because he first loved us.

— 1 John 4:19

**PRAY** for one of our projects in Aberdeen the Toastie club, which offers support, encouragement and friendship to people who are faced with many challenging circumstances such as financial turmoil, relationship breakdown and food poverty. Regardless of who walks through the door; we seek to demonstrate the love of God practically, emotionally and spiritually to our clients. Pray for the dedicated team of volunteers who are building bridges with people thorough listening, serving and engaging with them. Pray that the activities we provide would build trust with our clients and encourage them that they each have a unique purpose in life. Pray for the hearts of these men, women and children that they would realise that every one of us has a gift and talent to share with one another; and that in doing so, real freedom and breakthrough can take place.

**COMMIT** to purchasing a Caring Christmas Tree this year. Encourage your workplace, church and neighbours to join in celebrating Christmas with a locally sourced sustainable Christmas tree that directly benefits some of the most vulnerable people during this time of year. Visit [caringchristmastrees.com](http://caringchristmastrees.com) to learn more.



speaking

December

Ruth Longmuir  
Care Shelter and Care Van Manager



Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on  
whom his favour rests.

—Luke 2:14

**PRAY** for people who are struggling at what should be a joyous time; families that can't afford presents, young people who have never known a happy Christmas, people who will be alone on Christmas Day and those who don't have a bed to wake up in on Christmas morning. Pray for the Care Shelter and Care Van which will continue to operate right through the festive period bringing to people the hope of the Son of God born to save the world. Christmas can be a very difficult time for people, reminding them of what they don't have. No family to celebrate with, no presents to open, no mantelpiece to set a Christmas card on. Pray for everyone across Bethany's services that this Christmas will be a time of joy, love, community, hope and new beginnings.

**COMMIT** to buying a friend or family member one of our Buy a Bed vouchers as an ethical Christmas present. The voucher covers the cost for a warm place to sleep and access to support at the Winter Care Shelter for those who otherwise would be sleeping rough on these cold nights. To find out more, email us at [supporters@bethanychristiantrust.com](mailto:supporters@bethanychristiantrust.com).



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BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST, 65 BONNINGTON ROAD, EDINBURGH, EH6 5JQ  
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