

Current Scottish Issues

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1. [Scottish Independence Referendum](#)

This week the major political story has been the political standoff between Holyrood and Westminster over the wording and timing of the proposed referendum on Scottish independence. Whilst CARE or PPS adopts no view on constitutional matters, we are conscious of the huge significance of the independence issue for the future of both Scotland and the wider United Kingdom.

Potentially the UK is at a constitutional and political turning point. We face also a turning point spiritually and socially as both the UK and Scottish Governments have indicated their support for redefining marriage to extend its definition to include those in same-sex relationships.

Prayer: Please pray for both the UK and Scottish Governments at this crucial time. Pray also for a spiritual revival in this nation, that whatever the constitutional settlement ahead the UK's Christian heritage might be renewed. Pray that God will raise up prophetic voices who will call this nation back to the Lord.

2. [Former Scottish Tory Leader dismisses same sex marriage](#)

The former head of the Scottish Conservative Party, David McLetchie has told constituents he will not be supporting the redefinition of marriage. [see here for full article](#)

Prayer: Pray many more MSP's will have the courage to stand up and speak up.

3. [Holyrood demands urgent action over payday loans](#)

CROSS-PARTY support has been secured at Holyrood for a bid to put pressure on the UK Government into taking urgent action on introducing tighter regulation of payday loan companies. [see here for full article](#)

Current UK and European Issues.

4. [No safe way to allow assisted suicide, admits Lord Falconer](#)

A contentious plan which would allow terminally ill people to undergo an assisted suicide is not without risk, its own chief architect has admitted. [see here for full article](#)

5. [Two men with money and influence are trying to change the law to make dying easier. It's scary](#)

Sir Terry Pratchett is a famous best-selling author. Lord Falconer is a Labour peer at the heart of the liberal establishment. These two men are forces to be reckoned with, and when they want something done, they have the wherewithal to do it. [see here for full article](#)

6. Study: Sons from traditional families do better at school

Boys with a mother and father behave and perform better in classes than sons with single mothers, according to research. [see here for full article](#)

7."Religious literacy" lacking in public life, bishop warns

Britain's Christian heritage is no longer understood in the "corridors of power" the former Bishop of Rochester has said. [see here for full article](#)

8.Sexualisation of childhood and the Coalition Government: A New Year update

The Coalition Agreement published in May 2010 between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats made a very welcome commitment to tackle the sexualisation of childhood (please [click here](#) to read it, on page 19-20, [.pdf]). Readers will know that we have been very much involved with the Bailey Review process, which sought to give expression to this promise. In recent weeks the Government has made statements on the next steps to be taken. To read more, please click [here](#).

Prayer: Please thank God for the recognition by the Government of the need to tackle the sexualisation of childhood. Pray that as changes are made that industry would be willing to act and the Government resolute in compelling them to do so.

Source: Care Impact Direct

9. New President for European Parliament to be selected

The term of office of the current President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek – a committed Christian and former Prime Minister of Poland, expires next week.

You can read his inspiring speech to the European Prayer Breakfast at the end of last year [here](#).

MEPs will be electing a new President for the remaining half of their current parliamentary term (to mid-2014) in Strasbourg next week. The role of the European Parliament President goes beyond that of the Speaker at Westminster. As well as chairing plenary sittings s/he also has to represent the parliament at summit meetings and to the other EU institutions and heads of state.

Prayer: Please pray that MEPs will choose wisely and the person elected will be able and willing to speak for the whole house and not just a factional interest.

For any further information: Contact Anne McIntyre, Director. Anne.pps@btinternet.com www.ppscotland.org 01259 751945. PPS is a prayer group, acting as a catalyst to encourage and inform. It is not a lobbying or party political group so any action you take is your own personal; Church or organisation's response but never under Parliamentary Prayer.

Acknowledgements with our sincere thanks: This update is a compilation of information from CARE, CI, CCFON, Prayer Alert, EA, SCPO and others and our own PPS researcher Neil Brady and edited by Anne McIntyre. Please use in your own Churches and forward to your own contacts. Scatter like seed, water with prayer, reap the harvest.



A Day of Intercession every week for Holyrood. Plan to join us even once! Each week, when Parliament is in session, Parliamentary Prayer Scotland intercessors, men and women, meet on a Wednesday in the Salvation Army's Worship and Community Centre, The Pleasance, East Adam Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9TF. We gather at 10.00 a.m. for 10.30 - 1.00. We then go down to Parliament to silently pray in the Public Gallery before, during and after Time for Reflection. We are in the Parliament until 4.00 p.m. If God is stirring your heart please join us for all or part of the time.