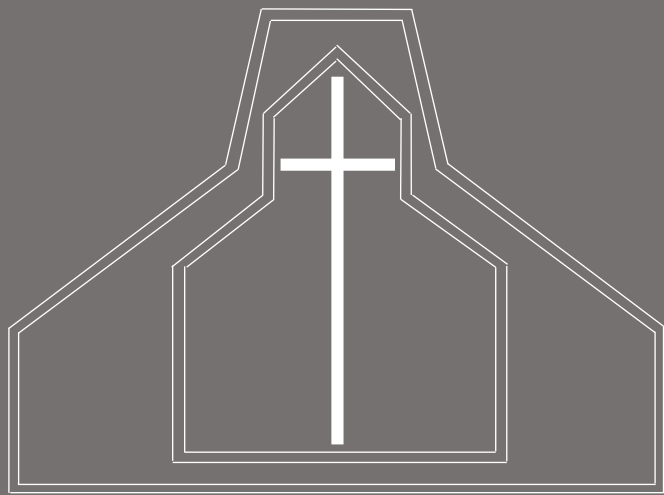


*“On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”*

*2 Cor. 1:10-11*



# Prayer Diary

## April 2024

St Columba's  
Hillhead  
Parish Church

## Monday 1

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care. Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting or undergoing investigation and diagnosis. Pray for those especially known to us who are about to have surgery/treatment, those being carefully monitored following intensive surgery and treatment, which is an anxious time. Give thanks for those who are recovering from surgery/treatment and pray that they will know increasing strength and wholeness in the forthcoming days. Pray that those who need medical help may receive their required care as promptly as possible and pray for recovery, healing and strength to endure however God provides. Especially remember those suffering from chronic/terminal illness and pain as people seek to live with the constant reminder of suffering. Remember their families and carers who also share in the pain and suffering. Continue to remember and give thanks for all Healthcare staff, especially our local GPs and staff amid continuing great pressures to respond to increasing demands upon them for their help and care. Pray for those in long term care, all NHS and Social Care staff as they seek to provide compassionate care especially in a time of increasing demands.

## Tuesday 2

Scripture Union (SU). At the start of the Easter School

Holidays SU camps are taking place. Pray for all those who are attending these holidays that they may be a positive influence on young people and a desire to get to know Jesus in a personal relationship. Pray for Colin Carmichael who is leading this week's Lendrick Muir Study Holiday for S4-S6 pupils. Give thanks for a strong team, many of whom return year after year and pray that the mix of time to study, time for fun and time with God will give each young person what they need in this season. Pray for Elaine Watt and Gavin Thompson who are leading two separate SU Holidays at Lendrick Muir. Pray that the P5-P7s event and the S1-S6s event will be aware of God's presence and peace among them and make new friends and fresh discoveries from the Bible. Remember Jackie Ringan as she travels to different countries and engages with many SU international workers on her Sabbatical Period.

## Wednesday 3

Israel, Gaza & The Middle East. Remember the ongoing conflict and heightened tensions in this region. Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict. Continue to pray for- 1. *Peace*- an end to the violence- and remember world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that lead to lasting peace. 2. *Safety*- for all civilians, that God would protect them from harm,

particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people and people with disabilities. Remember aid workers as they seek to provide vital humanitarian assistance and medical supplies and pray for their protection. Pray for safe access to food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies, fuel and electricity. Especially remember people forced to flee their homes- pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home. 3. *Hope*- remember those who are terrified and traumatised, mourning and suffering in Israel and Gaza and The Red Sea area. Ask the Lord to save them from despair, for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope. Pray that people in Gaza and Israel and those in the wider region wouldn't lose hope, that peace is possible. "*With God, all things are possible.*" (Matt. 19: 26) (from Tearfund) Pray too today for the Easter Holiday Club running in partnership with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church and starting today at the Hillhead Halls. The Restoration Station for primary aged children runs on the afternoons of 3, 4 & 5 April. Pray that the Lord would inspire the leaders to communicate well in fun and enjoyment while sharing the Gospel message.

## Thursday 4

Ukraine. Continue to remember all those affected by the war in Ukraine. Remember especially refugees in neighbouring European countries. Pray for

those families with members that are separated from each other; for those who have lost loved ones and where homes and communities have been devastated. Pray that God in His mercy may bring an end to the suffering and loss of life. Pray for peace and security for Ukraine and pray for world leaders that they may exercise wisdom and discretion and a willingness to see a resolution to the conflict happening. Give thanks for churches in Ukraine that amidst the hardships and challenges they face, continue to hold out the hope there is in Jesus and be able to offer practical help where it is needed. Praise God for the revival that Bible mission workers have seen through the war in Ukraine. Pray that these new believers will remain on fire for God when peace comes. Pray also that the Bible will leave a lasting impact on Ukrainian society.

### Friday 5

Luwero Community Ministries. Remember Gabriel Kijjambu and the work/ministry of Luwero Community Ministries in Uganda. Give thanks that the acquisition of the new 220 acre site is progressing well, that the legal work is progressing well for this and for the 48 acres of land which already have been cleared by hand and which have been made ready for planting crops. Pray for the developments at the new site, which within the foreseeable future include a borehole and construction of

a farmhouse for the farm-manager and a toilet block for workers. Uphold the new church which has opened as a church-plant on the site of the new farm that the new farm will bear spiritual fruit before bearing physical fruit. Pray for the School and its students that they may achieve their potential and be a positive hope for the future in Uganda. Especially pray for Gabriel and his wife, Deborah, and 4 daughters, especially Peggy who has had spells of illness over the last wee while.

### Saturday 6

Those with Addictions. Pray for those who struggle with an addiction which can take many different forms. Pray that they would find in Jesus the strength to overcome their desires to feed their addiction and know freedom and peace. Especially remember family and friends who often bear a great burden for their loved one's struggle and can be emotionally and physically exhausted in seeking to show love and support. Especially remember those who have lost loved ones due to an addiction and are sorely grieving. Give thanks that we are able to host several groups for people with addictions here at St Columba's Hillhead.

### Sunday 7

The Preaching of God's Word. Remember all God's People who will be meeting for worship today. Pray that people will come close to the Lord in reverence to praise Him and that The Lord will be

pleased to receive our worship and delight in people showing love for Him as He seeks to pour His love upon us. Pray for an openness in all of us to read and listen to God's Word as it is preached that we might know God more deeply and share in fellowship with Him and each other. Especially remember those joining in worship online for one reason or another that God may speak personally to them and they may know God is with them.

### Monday 8

The Bereaved. Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent/not so recent days and personally known to us. Remember those who have suffered through sudden trauma or chronic illness. Such loss is devastating for anyone who lost a loved one close to them and grieving can be painful and difficult. Pray that the Lord in His compassion will be close to them especially through dark and difficult days and that those surrounding them may be a quiet and sensitive support.

### Tuesday 9

Jo Crotty. Give thanks for the recent online communication from Jo which was shared at the morning service on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Remember Jo in her work of Bible translation with Wycliffe Bible Translators as she seeks to make God's Word known to the people of Papua New Guinea. Pray that she will become more confident and fluent in the local language of Tok Pisin as she communicates with

the people. Pray for her health and safety as she travels around the country. Pray that people will respond positively to the Gospel and where people are unsure and defensive pray for the Lord's protection and peace to sustain her. Remember also her family in Australia, especially her brother who is suffering from the degenerative condition of MND as they seek to support and care for each other.

### Wednesday 10

Warm Welcome. Give thanks for and continue to remember the value of Warm Welcome in the community. Praise God for the opportunity of meeting in a warm environment for all ages and for the conversations shared over tea and coffee. Remember the importance of the Kitchen Cupboard operated by foodbank staff and volunteers as a valuable resource for groceries and other items for folks who may need them. Pray that this will be adequately stocked. Pray for extra volunteers who might be willing to help serve tea and coffee even on an occasional basis on a Wed. afternoon.

### Thursday 11

Local and National Government. Lift up all those in positions of authority across the United Kingdom across the political spectrum in a time of division and discontent. Uphold our Prime Minister and First Minister of Scotland and their governments that they may know integrity and

wisdom in their life and work. Remember also our local council/workers in the serving of our communities to run essential services amidst difficult financial constraints. Pray that policy-makers will be thoughtful and discerning as they make decisions and draft new policy. Remember the Government's negotiations with public service workers. Pray that frustrations around pay and working conditions can be resolved satisfactorily. Especially lift up Christians in politics. Pray that they will be able to live out their faith in their work and influence Government for good. Ask the Lord to give strength when times are difficult and pressure is upon them because of their faith.

### Friday 12

Children & Family Worker. Continue to give thanks for Cassie's presence with us and her involvement in the regular programme of services and events. Pray for Cassie as she builds relationships with young families and prepares for events such as the recent Easter Holiday Club. Pray for Cassie as she becomes more involved in congregational life and activity, especially in the life of the Young People's groups, and also in her work with schools, that she will be a great ambassador for the Lord in her work and witness.

### Saturday 13

Prison Fellowship Scotland (PFS). Give thanks for the long-standing working partnership with the Scottish

Prison Service. Volunteers wishing to work with Prison Chaplaincy are re-directed to PFS due to the quality of their volunteer processes and training. Give thanks also for the persistent demand for PFS's work in restorative justice, specifically in their 6week 'Sycamore Tree' course which helps offenders look at the consequences of their crimes as this is developed through an increasing number of Scottish prisons. Pray especially for children affected by imprisonment and pray for PFS as it seeks to further develop its work within prisons. Remember Rev. Gary Caldwell in his work as Prison Chaplain at Greenock Prison as he serves staff and those imprisoned there. Give thanks for changed lives through God's grace as he engages with those in Greenock Prison.

### Sunday 14

St Columba's Hillhead. Continue to pray for the upbuilding of the life and fellowship of the congregation. Pray that as God's people within our Church we may work for the Lord together in unity and love and that the mission of the Church will know God's blessing in life and witness. Give thanks for the continued coming together and growth in fellowship of folks from both congregations and for the natural ways in which this happening such as over tea and coffee on a Sunday morning. Pray that this may continue to strengthen and

deepen the love and unity of God's people and that with encouragement to and from each other congregational life will be strong in the Lord. Give thanks for the well-maintained premises we have as a Congregation; pray that they may continue to be well-utilised and that God will bless that use and keep the buildings secure in and for the community.

### Monday 15

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). For the last two years, Papua New Guinea's only aviation supplier has been experiencing financial difficulties and in mid-February it explained that they can't continue supplying fuel to the wider aviation industry. Once their current stocks are exhausted their operation will close. This has led to a countrywide disruption in fuel supply, resulting in MAF strategically reducing its flights operations and prioritising high impact flights such as medical emergency evacuations and transporting health and educational supplies and personnel. Please pray that:- 1. MAF will soon find a cost-effective fuel supplier so flights can resume at full capacity. 2. The remote communities which rely on MAF's services won't be too negatively impacted by the reduction of MAF flights. 3. the political instability and riots will cease and the country knows peace.

### Tuesday 16

The Guild. Give thanks for the end of another fruitful

session and for the worship, fellowship and service of the Guild members and for the excellent attendance each week during the autumn and winter halves of the session. Give thanks for the varied programme of fortnightly afternoons under the Theme Title *New Wine, New Wine Skins*. Give thanks especially for the Convenership of Gilbert and Janet's work as Secretary and Sheena who has retired as Treasurer. We remember Janet as she prepares to compile the Syllabus for the next year and uphold Eleanor as she takes over as the new Treasurer.

### Wednesday 17

Midweek Fellowship. Give thanks for the regular weekly meeting of the Midweek Fellowship and for the opportunity to worship God and share fellowship together, especially for those who may not be able to attend Church on Sundays. Praise the Lord for the love, support and encouragement shared amongst those who attend. Pray for Philip as he prepares for this Meeting that the Word of God may bear much fruitfulness in the hearts and lives of those who attend and pray that more people may desire to come along.

### Thursday 18

Walk & Talk. Remember the Walk & Talk Group as it continues to meet today for an hour or so of walk and conversation. Remember those who regularly share together in this hour of gentle exercise and the

opportunity to socially share interest in each other and their lives. Pray for those who come regularly and for new members that each will feel welcomed and know the mutual interest and love gained from 'a listening ear'.

### Friday 19

Little Fishes & Busy Bees. Give thanks for the good number of children and their carers who attend each week and for the steadfastness of the leaders as they prepare each week to make the environment safe and inviting for those attending on a Wednesday/Friday mornings. Pray for numbers to be maintained and for a spirit of joy and peace in the time of sharing together. Pray that those who attend may be touched by the Spirit of the Lord working in and through the leaders. Remember the leaders who faithfully week by week having to prepare for the meetings and for the work which this regularly involves setting up and tidying away. Pray for wisdom and support for the leaders as they seek to plan and direct the progress of the Groups and build meaningful relationships with the children and carers.

### Saturday 20

Bible Society: China. There is a real hunger for Bibles in China. Since the founding of Amity Printing Co. in 1987, millions of Bibles have been printed in Nanjing and distributed across the country. Chinese Christians are known to love reading the Bible but often lack a

copy of their own. Owning their own Bible will help them to grow in faith, strengthen their understanding of God's truth and resist false teaching and heresy, which is currently a major threat facing the Church in China. Please pray for each Christian who receives a copy of the Bible, that they may read and understand the Word of God. Pray too for every non-believer who receives a Bible, that their heart will be open to the good news of Jesus.

### Sunday 21

Bible Class and Sunday Club. Give thanks for the regular attendance by those young people who come to Church on Sundays and seek to know more about Jesus and get to know Him as Saviour and Lord. Pray for the young people where it can be difficult to be different as someone who comes to Church with few peers. Remember the leaders in their commitment of service that they would know wisdom and honour the Lord in their preparation, leadership and encouragement of the young people. Remember Noah's Ark as it meets today and pray that the families who are coming along may feel welcomed and may have a deepening interest and desire to come along. Pray also for discernment in knowing ways of supporting young families in coming to church.

### Monday 22

Christian Aid. Give thanks for the support being offered to

the people of Southern Turkey and North West Syria in the aftermath of the two major earthquakes which cause much devastation in February 2023. Please pray for the problems being faced by flower growers in Kenya, Colombia and The Netherlands because of climate change. Many of the flowers, particularly roses that we purchase in our shops, are grown in Kenya and severe drought followed by sudden heavy rainfall has caused many plants to die severely affecting the livelihoods of the growers. Many poor communities throughout the world depend on the work of charities such as Christian Aid to provide relief and funding of projects for vital support and education of children. Remember the forthcoming Christian Aid Week in May that a generous response will provide much-needed resources for required aid in areas such as Gaza.

### Tuesday 23

The Suffering Church. Give thanks and continue to pray for the work of Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and The Barnabas Trust which provide invaluable and significant help and support for persecuted Christians across the world. Pray for the 20+ Christians who were injured when a mob of 200 people attacked a church over a road dispute in Telangana, India, and are still in shock after their ordeal. Christians are singled out for persecution as there are

other religious worship places and were also forced to sign documents in the attackers' favour. Please pray for:- 1. the injured and traumatised to heal from the violence. 2. that the right to religious freedom for all religious minorities would be recognised in India. 3. local Open Doors partners to have wisdom as they serve the persecuted Indian church.

### Wednesday 24

Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group. Give thanks for the much-appreciated sum of £470-84 which was raised in St Columba's Hillhead from the Smarties Tube event for the work of Prospects Across Scotland. Give thanks also for the Groups' important involvement in the Easter Café as they welcomed people to the Church at Easter. Pray for the Groups as they learn more about getting to know God and Jesus through the Bible teaching and to know how much God loves them. Remember the forthcoming Annual Prospects Across Scotland weekend at Tulliallan and pray that those who attend will be richly blessed.

### Thursday 25

The Lodging House Mission. (TLHM). Pray for the day to day life, work and mission of the LHM in its varied elements of operation as it gives people the opportunity to get their lives back on track by enabling them to develop new skills and feelings of self-worth. Give thanks for the many services

it provides- educational opportunities and recreational activities, food, essential facilities such as showers, laundry, telephone and internet access, support staff and counsellors, chaplaincy. Pray for continued financial support and funding to maintain these services and remember the manager and staff as they engage with the most vulnerable members of society.

### Friday 26

The Boys' Brigade. Give thanks for the encouragement of increased numbers and subsequent Waiting List in the Anchor Section through the simple manner of a Mum speaking to other mums at School. As attention is directed towards the new Session, pray that they may in due course be welcomed into the wider Church family and that they might develop into confident young boys learning about Christian values and the love of our Lord Jesus. Pray that they will know fun and enjoyment in all the activities as well as working towards programme awards. Remember the Junior and Company Sections in their programmes and give thanks for the consistent high weekly attendance of boys and increase in numbers in the Junior Section. Pray that as thought is given to the new Session enthusiasm will be sustained. Pray too today for the Scripture Union Strathkelvin Weekend Away running from 26 to 28 April and for young

people known to us who may be attending.

### Saturday 27

Tearfund. Our world still has an urgent rubbish problem. Give thanks to God for Christians around the world uniting to take action and for all that they have achieved as part of Tearfund's *Rubbish Campaign*. Pray for the negotiations having taken place this week in Ottawa, Canada, towards a UN treaty on plastic pollution. Tearfund suggests we pray:- *Loving God, we thank you for what the 'Rubbish Campaign' is achieving. Thank you for people around the world working hard to care for your beautiful creation and tackle the blight of plastic waste. Inspire them today, especially those negotiating the treaty. Amen*

### Sunday 28

The Church and Ministry. Remember the work and ministry of God's servants today as they proclaim the Word of God that they may know God's Hand upon them as they serve the Lord. Pray for the Holy Spirit's boldness in preaching and for God's Word to bear much fruit in peoples' lives. Pray that His ministers may be mindful and watchful as faithful leaders of Christ's Church and that God may protect them in their living out of the Gospel in daily life. Pray also for the Church of Scotland as it seeks to engage with Scotland in a new and Biblical way and the consequent work of Presbyteries in working with local congregations in

challenging time, especially remembering The Presbytery of Glasgow. Pray for the ongoing life and witness of St Columba's Hillhead in working together to promote discipleship and mission in our local area.

### Monday 29

Bethany Christian Trust (BCT). Give thanks for BCT's partnerships with local churches and for BCT's reliance on the prayers, donations and support of hundreds of churches across Scotland. Pray for BCT's work on behalf of the poor, needy and oppressed in our society that light will rise in the darkness and that God will supply every need as people work together for the honour of Jesus Christ. Continue to remember also BCT's project *Bridge to Freedom* which provides significant support to both group and 1-1 help for adults either in or actively working towards freedom from addiction through a Christ-centred recovery programme. Uphold Rev. David McAdam known to us in his work with BCT to stand alongside the weak and vulnerable in our communities.

### Tuesday 30

5<sup>th</sup> Kirkintilloch Brownies. Give thanks for the local Brownie Pack which meets on Tuesday evenings in Hillhead Building and remember Lynn Semple as Brownie Leader in her encouragement of the young folks. Pray that the young ones will grow in wisdom as they learn about life and develop life skills for

maturity. Pray that they will know and care for one another and honour the Brownie Guide Code in practice. Pray that they will know the love and support of the Church fellowship.