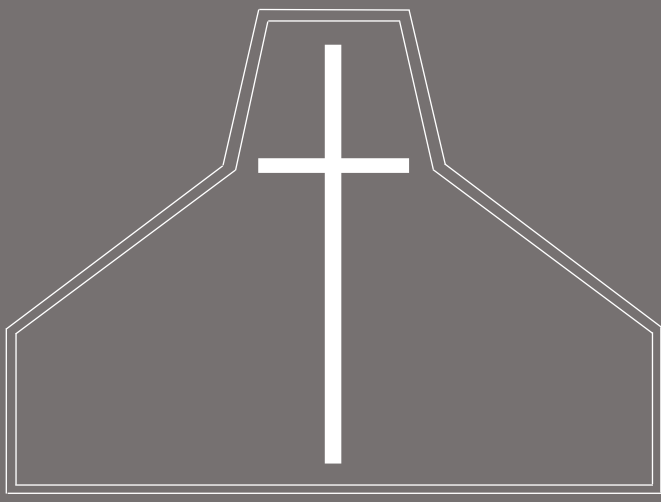


For the eyes of the Lord  
are on the righteous and  
His ears are attentive to  
their prayers

1 Peter 3:12



# Prayer Diary January 2022

St Columba's  
Parish Church

## Saturday 1

The New Year: On this New Year's Day give thanks for the promises of our faithful God who in and through his dearly loved Son, Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday, today and forever. Give thanks for His gracious words "I will be with you always to the very end of the age". (Matt. 28:20). Pray for God's grace and love to guard and guide us now and in the days ahead through the forthcoming year. Pray that we may walk in His ways and be a light to shine for Him as we continue our faith journey through another year.

## Sunday 2

The Church and All Age Worship: Give thanks for the Church family to share in worship together and give thanks for the fellowship we share in Christ and with each other, for the support and encouragement we share and for the blessing that we receive. Pray for the ongoing life and witness of St Columba's at this start of the New Year and especially as the Congregation goes forward in possible union with Hillhead Parish Church. Pray for wisdom and discernment in decision-making.

## Monday 3

The Bible Society, Nepal: The Bible Society in Nepal is using Audio Bibles to share the Good News with blind or visually impaired people to give them the opportunity to encounter God. This technology allows them to have personal access to the Bible rather than only hearing it being read in church. The audio format also allows easy memorisation of verses. Other groups to benefit are those with literacy issues, those in prison and people suffering in hospital. The goal is to reach ten thousand people through this project. Pray that everyone who receives an audio Bible will encounter God and that their lives would be transformed.

## Tuesday 4

The Vaccination Programme: Give thanks for the ongoing aim to have everyone vaccinated against Covid as soon as is possible. Pray that there will be a good take-up of acceptance for community health and safety amongst people so that there will be greater opportunity to engage more fully on a social level with confidence. Continue to pray that there will be great support to help the less well-developed nations have access to vaccination so that there will be greater equity globally to aid world health and interaction and so lead to greater stability.

## Wednesday 5

Bethany Christian Trust: Give thanks that the Buy a Bed Campaign during the Big Give Christmas Challenge reached the target sum of £20k in just 4 hours of the Campaign opening. This will provide extra beds, cosiness, safety and comfort for those who are vulnerable and homeless especially in the cold winter months. Bethany are overjoyed by this speedy response and express their appreciation for the kindness of donations given. We rejoice with them and remember them in prayer for their vital work of Christian care and compassion.

## Thursday 6

The Suffering Church: Today being Epiphany when we remember the Visit of the Magi to the Manger as they were warned by the Lord to return home by another country to evade King Herod and his wrath, continue to remember in prayer the work of The Barnabas Fund, Open Doors and Christian Solidarity Worldwide who seek to support persecuted Christians across the world. Pastor Cung Biak Hum (31) was shot dead by the Myanmar armed forces in Chin State, Myanmar on 18 Sept. The pastor was on his way to help put out a fire caused by an artillery attack which destroyed 19 houses. Chin believers were "deeply hurt and frightened" by

news of the pastor's death. Ten Chin children are amongst those who have been killed by the Myanmar forces since the military coup on 1 Feb. Pray that Chin Christians will not give way to fear but will remember that nothing can separate them from the love of Christ (Rom. 8: 35-39).

### Friday 7

The Lodging House Mission (LHM): Give thanks for the significant work of the LHM and its compassionate involvement in the vulnerability of so many lives due to brokenness and loss of dignity and self-worth. Living in chaos on the edge of society is a struggle - often a fight for survival. Give thanks that the LHM has provided a safe haven and helped them feel empowered to make positive life changes. Pray for the staff and their wellbeing as they engage with the vulnerable and homeless to offer a supportive, comforting hand.

### Saturday 8

Scripture Union: SU's desire is to see every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus with God's help. Pray that the Holy Spirit would direct them in their vision to see this fulfilled. Give thanks for young people who are

flourishing in faith. Pray for steady spiritual growth and fruit in the lives of those who are attending Spotlight, Equip, Connect Groups, Pupil Leadership Training, SU Groups and weekends. Pray for staff at SU centres who seek to help pupils on school residential discover there is a God behind all that they see.

### Sunday 9

Sunday Club and Bible Class: Give thanks for the resumption of Sunday Club and Bible Class after the Christmas break and also for their regular participation in the early part of our Sunday morning service. Pray that our young people may grow in faith and wisdom as they learn more of the Lord's desire to know them more as Saviour and Friend. Give thanks for the commitment of their leaders who faithfully seek to share the Gospel by teaching the young people the Christian message of discipleship today.

### Monday 10

The Men's Group: Give thanks for the Men's Group and for all the members who are able to come together on a Monday evening. Remember those who are not yet fully confident in socialising with a group and with some who have become fulltime carers. Pray for a deepening spirit of fellowship and

encouragement amongst the members and also for safety and security in meeting together amid Covid awareness.

### Tuesday 11

The Guild: Give thanks for ongoing life of the Guild and the regular meetings shared by those who delight in coming together for worship, fellowship and service. Give thanks for the encouraging first half of the 2021/22 session 'Lights and Bushels' with its varied and quite local syllabus. Pray for the second half of the current session that it may be equally encouraging and edifying.

### Wednesday 12

Midweek Service. Pray for the Midweek Service and for those who attend that the worship time and sharing around God's Word may be a delight to the Lord and to each other. Pray for Philip as he conducts the Midweek Service that the Lord will bless the preparation for the preaching of His Word from the Book of Acts. Give thanks that this Service has enabled some folks to worship together who have not been able to do so on a Sunday morning with the opportunity for others to do likewise.

### Thursday 13

Christians Against Poverty (CAP): Pray for the local CAP Group which exists as a national debt counselling charity that works through local churches to relieve poverty and help people out of debt especially in this post-Christmas period. Pray for those who offer free debt counselling to people living in our area. Pray that people will seek help early to prevent further debt and receive practical and emotional support to show people there is always hope. Pray also for the local foodbank, that in the current economic climate those who need and seek assistance with food provision may be welcomed and provided for and hearts open to give gladly to provide food items. Remember those who willingly serve as volunteers to provide this service that they will be safe and secure.

### Friday 14

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks for the opportunity for The BB to meet face to face again and for being able to welcome back some of the boys because of this. Pray for wisdom and compliance with Covid safety restrictions especially in these current days. Give thanks that boys are continuing to work towards their Awards and progressing through ranks. Pray for their continuing development in faith and commitment.

### Saturday 15

Those who are Unwell or in Hospital: Remember those who are unwell, awaiting investigation, diagnosis, surgery/treatment especially in the current demand upon the Health Service. Pray that they may receive their required care as promptly as possible. Remember and give thanks for all Healthcare staff amid great pressures on them to respond to increasing demands upon them for their help and care. Remember especially our local medical, nursing and care staff who are working under significant pressure to deal with patients and provide appropriate healthcare in our area.

### Sunday 16

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 respond to difficult issues resulting from Covid and the consequent work of Presbyteries in working with local congregations.

Pray for the ongoing proposal of union with Hillhead Parish in working together to promote discipleship and mission in our local area.

### Monday 17

Mission Aviation Fellowship, (MAF): MAF has asked us to pray for Mark Draper and his family. Mark is an aircraft maintenance engineer based in Luton, and is the latest MAF recruit to trade airliners for bush planes and be based in Kampala, Uganda. Mark is looking forward to moving to Kampala in 2022 with his wife, Steph and their three daughters, to do a role he has dreamed of since he was a child. Please pray for Mark as he completes his Aircraft Maintenance Licence; that the process leading up to the Drapers moving to Uganda will go smoothly; that when they reach Uganda they will settle in quickly and make friendships within the community.

### Tuesday 18

The Bereaved: Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent days and personally known to us. Give thanks for the recent 'For Hearts that are Hurting' service and remember especially all those who were present. Remember those who have suffered through all forms of loss and those who even after a long time still feel

the pain of loss deeply. 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.

### Wednesday 19

The Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group: Give thanks that these Groups are back and are delighted to be back and have learned that 'Jesus Makes a Difference' in their pre-Christmas meetings. Give thanks that they were able to support filling a number of shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse and also that some from each group attended a Prospects Across Scotland Carol Service in Bridge of Allan in early Dec. Continue to uphold these whom Jesus loves before Him in prayer and their loved ones too.

### Thursday 20

Those with Mental Health Issues: The Pandemic has been difficult for many in loss of social support and encouragement. Pray for those who are suffering mental health issues and those who seek to provide caring support. Remember their families who experience pain watching loved ones suffer and often feel helpless and isolated

too. Pray for those in the NHS and those in the wider Caring Agencies who are under great pressure from increased demand for their services through increased waiting times. Pray especially for those known to us who are experiencing difficult times in these days.

### Friday 21

Little Fishes: Continue to pray for the flourishing of Little Fishes as it seeks to draw close to young children and their carers. Pray for an increasing interest amongst those who attend and for them to spread the word and attract others. Give thanks for the leaders who are involved week by week and pray for winsomeness amongst them as they engage with the children and their carers. Pray for a welcoming and kind environment for the families and for safety, especially at coffee time, in social engagement.

### Saturday 22

Our Neighbours: Pray that we might be good neighbours to all those amongst whom God has placed us. Pray that through our inter-connection of relationships and lives the light and love of Christ may be made known. Pray that people may seek to know more about Jesus and be drawn closer to Him. Pray for opportunities to allow this to happen.

### Sunday 23

The Church in Scotland: Pray for the Church in Scotland today that it will hold fast to its Scriptural authority and honour the Lord in worship and practice. Pray for the renewing power of the Holy Spirit to refresh and revitalise the life of the Church in these days, especially after being under Covid restrictions. Pray for God's Word as it is preached today that it will take root and bear fruit in people's hearts and lives to bring people closer to God and change lives. Pray for the Church of Scotland as difficult decisions have to be taken as the Church readjusts its number of congregations and has fewer ministers for parish congregations.

### Monday 24

Tearfund: Tearfund urgently requests prayer and help for the people of Afghanistan. Children are starving to death as Afghanistan faces the bleakest of winters. The country is in the grip of a catastrophic food shortage-half of the population do not have enough to eat with freezing conditions setting in. Pray that the Emergency Appeal will have a very positive response to assist the people and children of Afghanistan. Pray for an end to injustice and poverty throughout the world.

## Tuesday 25

The Leprosy Mission, Scotland: Give thanks for the launch of 'Cook up a Curry' last year. Pray that people will hold lots of curry-themed fundraisers in appropriate settings to make leprosy a thing of the past. Give thanks for volunteer Board members, speakers, church representatives, community fundraisers and office admin helpers in Scotland. Pray for new volunteers to step forward in key areas, especially for new Board members with the right skills and experience to fill important gaps.

## Wednesday 26

Lammermoor Gardens: Remember the residents and staff in Lammermoor Gardens. Pray that they will be safe and secure especially through the continuing winter months and for visiting by family and friends. Give thanks for the Church's opportunity to meet with folks for a monthly service of worship and provide pastoral care.

## Thursday 27

Christian Aid: Give thanks for the recent gift of £565 + £85 Gift Aid which was raised by St Columba's instead of the usual collection in May 2021 which was not possible due to Covid restrictions. Pray that these funds will be wisely used to combat climate change

consequences in developing countries. Remember countries across continents that are suffering great hardship from severe droughts to homes, crops and livestock destroyed by tropical cyclones which are occurring in increased intensity. Especially remember the people of Mozambique who have been traumatised by Cyclone Idai in March 2019.

## Friday 28

The Housebound: Remember and pray for the housebound who are unable to leave their homes for one reason or another. Pray that they may not feel isolated but have people to call and others to call upon them intermittently to ease their isolation. Pray that they may know that the peace of Christ in their hearts to know that they are not alone.

## Saturday 29

Prison Fellowship, Scotland: Pray for the work of Prison Fellowship in Scotland who work with all 15 of Scotland's prisons and where no one is beyond hope. Pray for good relationships with Prison/Chaplaincy Staff and for meaningful relationships with prisoners, participating in weekly conversational/ bible study groups and for support for families and children affected by imprisonment. Give thanks

for volunteers from churches in Scotland who help to make the Good News available to those in Scottish prisons.

## Sunday 30

The Church Worldwide: Give thanks for the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which will be proclaimed throughout the world today. Pray that the Holy Spirit will empower Christians with boldness to speak for Jesus and remember Christian leaders and pastors who minister to their people that they may be wise and circumspect in their living for the Lord as they lead. Pray especially that the Lord's Kingdom may come on earth as it is heaven as Christians around the world join together to pray and worship today.

## Monday 31

Local and National Government: Continue to pray for those in public service who serve the people of our communities. Pray for wisdom and integrity for those in Government, especially in these difficult days.

Pray for the work of our Local Council in endeavouring to meet the many responsibilities it has to fulfil in its day-to-day outworking in serving our local community.