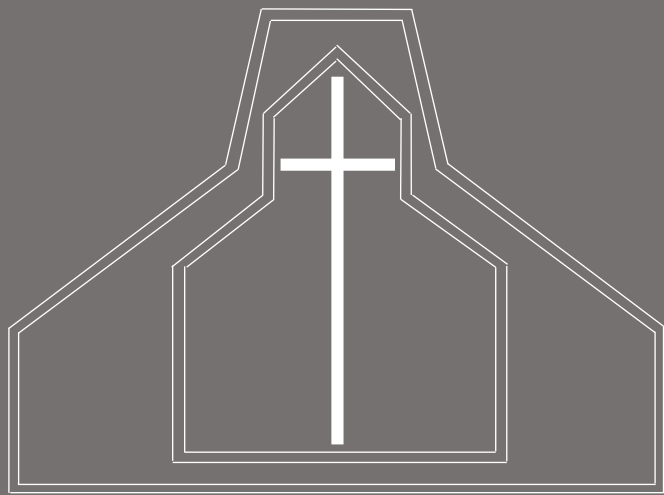


“What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to Him?”

Deuteronomy 4:7



Prayer Diary

March 2024

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Friday 1

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 increased 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. Give thanks also for the Galentine's Evening last month which was an opportunity to share together socially and build up friendships and relationships in a relaxed informal manner.

Saturday 2

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 especially

in the current demands upon the Health Service 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.

Sunday 3

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. As we gather together to celebrate the Lord's Supper today pray that we may come very close to the Lord in his love for us in Jesus' death for the forgiveness of our sins.

Monday 4

Men's Group. Give thanks that the Men's Group continues to meet on Monday evenings towards the conclusion of the session and that the majority of its members are able to come together on a Monday evening and for the support and encouragement given and received in meeting together. Pray for continuing deepening friendship, fellowship and enjoyment in the shared activities. Remember John Clayton as Convener as he leads the Group. Especially remember those who have been unwell over the session and which has meant numbers have fluctuated over the autumn/winter months.

Tuesday 5

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.

Wednesday 6

Following Jesus Group/The Friendship Club. Give thanks that both groups continue to be well-attended and for the encouragement in the progress of some of the members as they learn about what the Bible says to live life God's way. Praise God for the support from parents and carers. Give thanks for the return of the Smarties tubes to support the work of Prospects Across Scotland. Remember Pat Muir and her team of volunteer helpers who faithfully give of their time and commitment to the furthering of this significant work.

Thursday 7

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.

Friday 8

The Boys' Brigade. Give thanks that despite numbers remaining lower than previous years, new members have joined all Sections with no previous BB connection. Give thanks for those boys have returned for another year. Pray that everyone will enjoy the time spent together in the life of the Company. Remember the Senior Boys who completed all their work to qualify for their President's Badges as they take part in a Leadership course as the final event in readiness to gain the Award, a significant achievement. Pray that all the boys will grow in spiritual awareness as well as in maturity and have a desire to grow in the grace and love of the Lord.

Saturday 9

Bible Society: Angola. The Bible Society in Angola has completed the first translation of the New Testament in the Nyaneka language. The Society's vision is that the Bible is for everyone, and the Nyaneka translation is helping to make that a reality in Angola. The New Testament is ready for distribution and the task of holding distribution and engagement events around the region is beginning. On one such visit, Father Vipunga said, "I feel great joy because the translation enriches my vocabulary and helps in the conversion of souls. This translation is needed because all people

should hear the Word of God in their own language to increase their faith." Please pray for the Bible Society in Angola as they launch this translation. Pray too that each community will embrace God's Word and that having the Bible in their heart language will help them to encounter God.

Sunday 10

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 11

Those who serve Tea and Coffee after the Sunday and Midweek Services. Give thanks for all those who

serve tea, coffee and juice after our services, and for those who set up and clear up tables and chairs to make this possible. Pray that they would know the appreciation of the church for what they do, and be encouraged by the opportunity for fellowship that their service enables.

Tuesday 12

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 members of Government that they may exercise 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.

Wednesday 13

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 14

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 15

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.

Saturday 16

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)

Sunday 17

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 18

School Services. Remember the School Service taking place today for Oxfam Primary to mark Easter and the expected service next week for Hillhead Primary. Pray for Philip as he leads these services that he will communicate well with the children, parents and staff and be able to share the hope of the Easter Gospel message. Pray for those attending these services that they might be receptive to the message shared and proclaimed and their hearts touched by grace. Remember teachers and staff in their work of supporting children and pray that the forthcoming holiday break may be a welcome time of refreshment and relaxation for them in readiness for the new term.

Tuesday 19

The Guild. Give thanks for the completion of the current Session and for the worship, fellowship and service shared by Guild members. Give thanks also for the many interesting speakers and subjects which were shared in the course of the meetings. Praise God for the sterling service given by Gilbert, Janet and Sheena in their leadership capacities. Remember the AGM today as office-bearers are reviewed for election and give thanks for Eleanor's willingness to take over the Treasurer's role from Sheena.

Wednesday 20

Jo Crotty: Papua New Guinea. (PNG). Jo requests prayer as follows:- *Give thanks to God for* 1. her safe return to PNG after her extended time in Australia and for all the new immigration documentation received 2. having unexpected extra time with family 3. being able to help with the recent Bible Exegesis course at SIL's Training Centre. *Please pray for* 1. The students who attended the Bible Exegesis course to remember what they have learned and take it back to their villages and that it will enhance their translation work 2. Resettling back into life in PNG with its ongoing challenges including maintaining good physical, spiritual and emotional health 3. God to reveal how He wants to use Jo as the year unfolds- which translation team/project to become involved with, with what workshop involvement and training centre training to be part of.

Thursday 21

Bethany Christian Trust. The Bridge to Freedom provides both group and 1 to 1 support for adults either in or actively working towards freedom from addiction through a Christ-centred recovery programme. Pray for those who are involved in this work that God would give them grace help bring about such change and guide their hearts and minds to be Christ-like in their words and actions. Pray that

God would fill them with His radiance and love to overcome the challenges which they face. Jesus said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God, all things are possible with God." (Mark 10: 27).

Friday 22

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 forthcoming events such as the Easter Holiday Club. Especially remember the planning for this forthcoming Event –Wed. 3rd to Fri. 5th April- that the Lord would inspire the leaders to communicate well in fun and enjoyment while sharing the Gospel message. Pray for Cassie as she becomes more involved in congregational life and activity, especially in the life of the Young People's groups that she will be a great ambassador for the Lord in her work and witness.

Saturday 23

Scripture Union (SU). With the imminent approach of the Easter SU Holiday programme, please pray that volunteers will be coming forward to fill gaps on teams. Remember and give thanks for the support given to SU's team of Regional Workers by Regional Administrators. Their arranging of appointments, preparing resources for residential

holidays, keeping in touch with supporters, and much more, makes a huge difference. Pray for encouragement today for these vital contributors to SU's work and witness. Pray that forthcoming holidays will be well-prepared for, good fun and friendships made and deepened and the Lord becoming known in a personal relationship to many who share in these holidays.

Sunday 24

Palm Sunday. At the start of Holy Week today pray for the Services rotating around the local Church of Scotland churches. Pray that the message of the journey of the Lord as he proceeds to Calvary will be proclaimed and reflected upon in thoughtfulness of the extent of God's love for us in allowing His Son to suffer and die for us, how a crowd could enthusiastically greet the Lord with palm branches and praise and only days later be shouting for Him to be crucified. Pray for ministers proclaiming the message through the preaching of God's Word.

Monday 25

Those with Mental Health Issues. Remember those whose mental health is struggling at the moment. Pray that the Lord would draw close to those who are in despair. Especially remember those known to us who may be struggling. Pray that the Lord will give us the right words to say to someone who is suffering and pray for opportunities

for healing conversations. Pray for an increase in understanding and empathy for mental health issues in society and within the Church. Pray that those suffering will find comfort and respite and a path to full healing. Remember also those supporting them that they may know be filled with patience, love, hope and healing. Remember those who answer telephone calls for help through different agencies that they will respond with grace and wisdom in difficult circumstances.

Tuesday 26

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Remember MAF's work in South Sudan. Thanks to the missionaries' evangelistic work, people are really being encouraged by the Word of God and- despite the hardships they experience- those who have recognised Jesus as Lord and Saviour are filled with great joy. MAF personnel were also delighted to be able to deliver pipes and other materials to the area, enabling the community to access safe, clean water. Please pray:- 1. that the Sudan Pentecostal Church will continue to share the Gospel- with many receiving the Good News as a result 2. That MAF flights will support these and other outreaches by continuing to fly the evangelists and their equipment to hard-to-reach places 3. That the community in Kapoeta will enjoy good health now they have clean water to drink,

and that sickness levels will drop.

Wednesday 27

Warm Welcome. Give thanks for the ongoing significant work at Warm Welcome and pray for God's guidance for any future developments from it. Give thanks also for Christians Against Poverty who will have a presence at Warm Welcome in the next 3 to 4 months as a trial to see if this would be a helpful addition to the work of Warm Welcome. Give thanks for the Kitchen Larder as a helpful contribution to Warm Welcome as food provision and support. Pray that it might be adequately resourced to meet the demand of need.

Thursday 28

The Leprosy Mission. Muzaffarpur Hospital in Bihar State, India, is the only place people affected by leprosy can get the free care they desperately need. The current Out Patient Dept cannot cope with the growing number of cases, and is not equipped to provide the best care. It is not fit for purpose and needs to be rebuilt. Fast treatment for all is the only way to stop leprosy spreading in Bihar. Pray for those who need the help and care of this Hospital that they might be able to access the support they need and for the staff who seek to deliver treatment and care in such difficult circumstances. Pray for the Leprosy Mission as it conducts a fund-raising

campaign to improve Leprosy care in Bihar that there will be a positive response to this fund-raising effort.

Friday 29

Good Friday. Remember the solemnity of this Day as Christians mark the death of Jesus on the Cross. Give thanks for God's love in providing the perfect sacrifice for our sins in giving His Only Son to die to pay the price of sin. Remember the Walk of Witness today in our local area, and also in other communities across the nation and world, as a public marking of Good Friday. Give thanks that these are increasingly growing in attendance and ask God to bless these events as a work of proclaiming the Gospel message.

Saturday 30

Easter Café. Remember the Easter Café this morning and for the opportunity it provides for the church and community to come together. Pray that people will desire to attend and for the opportunity it gives to share the Easter message in fellowship together. Pray for Cassie and others who have been working in raising awareness of the Café at Little Fishes/Busy Bees/BB/Friendship Club/Friends of Jesus Group/Brownies that interest will have been increased. Especially remember the Easter Reflection in the church building that it might be a helpful support and

encouragement to Christians and non-Christians.

Sunday 31

Easter Sunday. Praise God for Easter Resurrection and for Jesus' rising from the Tomb, as the power of death is conquered! Remember all the services and events taking place to celebrate this glorious happening. Pray for the early Easter Sunday walk from Hillhead to St Mary's at 8am with an act of worship at both places. Remember the All-Age Service at 10.30am and the Easter Sunday Songs of Praise at Hillhead at 6.30pm. Pray that all these may be a joyful praise to God and that God would be delighted to receive the praise and worship offered. Pray for all those involved leading these services that Easter joy will radiate from them as they share that joy with each other.