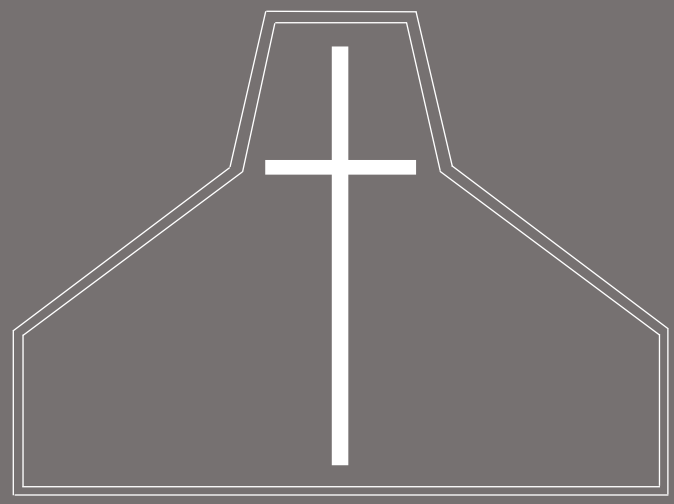


Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:11-12

# Prayer Diary

## May 2021



St Columba's  
Parish Church

### Saturday 1

Bible Society: Panama. Give thanks for the ministry that Bible Society in Panama is continuing to provide. When the country's borders were closed due to lockdown, many migrants were trapped in the country with no work and nowhere to go. The Bible Society provided Bibles and children's Scriptures for them, while churches distributed food and other relief. Please pray for all Bible Societies around the world as they seek to bring the Bible to life. Pray particularly for the team in Mozambique that they will be lights in the midst of extremely challenging circumstances.

### Sunday 2

Sunday Services: Continue to give thanks for the continuing opportunity to worship together now in the Church, online and on CD especially remembering with gratitude those who work steadfastly to make this happen week by week. Pray that God's people will be encouraged in their faith for ongoing worship, fellowship and service to spread the Good News of Jesus. Remember also the annual Christian Aid Service taking place online today, giving thanks for the work of Christian Aid in reaching 1.7m people in fighting global poverty and demonstrating compassion in action to live a full life. Pray that many more may be helped in the days ahead.

### Monday 3

Men's Club: Give thanks for the encouragement shared among the members as they keep in touch with each other by personal contact. Pray especially for those who have been missing the regular fellowship of being able to meet together on a Monday evening throughout the session.

### Tuesday 4

The Guild: Give thanks for all those who have given time to keep in touch with many who are on their own and miss the company of others. As the days are longer in light and spirits are lifted let us still be attentive to those who are feeling alone compounded by the effects of lockdown where a phone chat is much appreciated.

### Wednesday 5

Scripture Union: Give thanks for the SU Leadership Team (Robin, Jackie, Dave, Paul and Lisbeth) and SU Board. Pray for deepening relationships, listening to God and faithfulness to follow where the Lord takes them. Pray also for Centre Managers as they lead their staff and praise God for the encouraging response to the 'Keep our Centres Afloat' appeal and for recent opportunities. Pray for trust for the future and for Holiday events during the summer or online.

### Thursday 6

Scottish Parliament Elections: Remember the work of the Scottish Parliament as the nation goes to the polls today. Pray for all those engaged in the election process as they deal with a very different manner of administration due to COVID-19 and for the resulting awaited outcome. Pray for all parties and their leaders that they may work together with integrity, cooperation and diligence.

### Friday 7

Little Fishes: Give thanks for the ongoing contact with the children and adults through social media and pray for the ongoing work of relationships and further outworking of the involvement of leaders and group participants. Pray especially for wisdom and guidance in decision-making for a possible restarting in some form in the next wee while. Give thanks for the Easter gifts given to the children and pray for their nurture and development as they grow in years and understanding.

### Saturday 8

St Columba's Prayer Day: Pray for this important part of the life of Christ's Church that we would set aside time for engaging with God in prayer which is the heartbeat of His Church. Pray that we would draw very near to the Lord and seek His will for the ongoing life and witness of the Congregation and the wider work of advancing Christ's Kingdom in our parish.

### Sunday 9

Sunday Club and Bible Class: Give thanks for the keenness of the young people to meet together and the leaders who have faithfully engaged with them online over the past months. Give thanks for the opportunity for our young people to now meet face to face outdoors. Continue to pray for their Christian commitment to grow in grace and understanding as they seek to deepen their love for the Lord and to know Him more.

### Monday 10

Start of annual Christian Aid Week for 2021: Pray that the UK Government may play a leading role in building a fairer and greener world for all of God's creation including those mostly affected by climate change in Africa, the Caribbean, India and other parts of the global south. Pray for justice for all that people may be hopeful for a brighter future.

### Tuesday 11

Lodging House Mission: Remember the significant work for the Lord of the Lodging House Mission as the team there continue to engage with vulnerable people and provide essential service to those most in need. Give thanks for those being helped to leave living on the streets and get back to leading fulfilling lives. Please pray especially for the team's wellbeing and health in order that this important work may continue amidst the difficulties of the current times.

### Wednesday 12

Those who have been bereaved: Continue to remember those known to us who have lost loved ones and pray that as the current restrictions are gradually easing it may soon be possible to share company together and provide support. Pray that we may be sensitive to the needs of each other as people start to meet together personally after such a long time of separation.

### Thursday 13

Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group: Continue to remember and pray for all those who miss the regular meeting together of these groups. Give thanks for being able to keep in touch with people from both groups and pray for continuing love and support to and for each other in these times. Pray that somehow these folks may be able to meet together face to face before too long.

### Friday 14

The Boys' Brigade: Now that meetings are permitted to be held outdoors for specified numbers continue to pray that the shared activities will be fun, engaging, educational and enjoyable. Pray that the boys who have not engaged online will be encouraged to meet up in face to face meetings.

### Saturday 15

Leprosy Mission: Pray for the work of the Scottish Leprosy Mission as it seeks to help people with leprosy worldwide and end the stigma of leprosy. Give thanks for the recent Church appeal to aid the Leprosy Mission in its work and the response in practical giving from the Congregation to meet that need. Pray for those who are isolated and abandoned due to leprosy and cared for and treated at the Leprosy Mission's hospitals. Pray for the International Office whose role it is to equip, lead and inspire people across the world to highlight the need to combat and suppress this disease.

### Sunday 16

Small Group Bible Studies: Give thanks for the previous groups which met through the previous few months and pray for the forthcoming studies '7 Psalms' produced by the Scottish Bible Society and running through May and June. Give thanks for the variety of group meetings online and by telephone, and for the expected new 'garden group' (s) this time round. Pray that people will be strengthened and challenged in the sharing of God's Word together and for a spirit of openness and sensitivity within the groups.

### Monday 17

Jo Crotty: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). We are advised that Covid in Papua New Guinea is a real issue so pray for safety for national and expat staff and their families. Under the current government regulations, MAF are not flying passengers as a negative Covid test is required and the limited tests available are reserved for sick people. There is only cargo, medevacs and MAF personnel on MAF planes. Many people are suspicious of the vaccine and so even with a startup of a vaccination programme uptake is low. Pray that people will get correct and reliable information regarding the vaccination programme. Pray especially for safety for Jo in her work for MAF.

### Tuesday 18

Tuesday Morning Service: Remember those who regularly attended the Tuesday morning service and who shared regular fellowship together as they delighted to meet with the Lord in this act of worship. Pray that these folks will know the Lord's blessing in their lives as they miss meeting face to face.

### Wednesday 19

Those who are unwell: Pray for those who are ill, especially those known to us, who are facing health difficulties at this time - those awaiting diagnostic tests; those undergoing treatment regimes; those waiting for and those undergoing surgery; those with mental health issues where the current restrictions have exacerbated their condition; those who have been shielding for health protection. Pray that the Lord's gracious comfort may be their help and strength in these difficult days.

### Thursday 20

Local Schools: Remember in prayer the teaching and support staff at our local Schools as they seek to encourage the children in their learning after many months of virtual schooling and absence from the classroom. Remember the proposed new ASN (Additional Support Needs) school for Waterside and also the residents there as the school will make a significant change to the area and adapting to change can be difficult.

### Friday 21

Lammermoor Gardens Sheltered Housing Complex: Continue to remember the residents there and visitors who seek to keep in touch with them for their wellbeing. Pray also for a way to resume some form of monthly service.

### Saturday 22

Church of Scotland General Assembly (online for a second year): The Assembly starts today until Thurs. 27th when commissioners and other attendees will join together remotely from across Scotland and around the world. Pray for the work of the Assembly through its deliberations that the Lord will be glorified in His Church and the work of His Kingdom will increase in these very different days of meeting together.

### Sunday 23

Sunday Services: Continue to give thanks that we as a Congregation can meet within the Church building and despite limited numbers public worship is ongoing. Pray that there might be an increase in numbers being able to attend and that folks may increasingly be able to worship the Lord together in His House and once again share fellowship together and increase our service in His Name through the wider work of the Church.

### Monday 24

The Suffering Church: Remember our fellow Christians throughout the world who continue to suffer on account of their faith. Pray for two abducted bishops in Syria and for the young in Mozambique who lack hope for a favourable future which entices them into various forms of insurgency.

## Tuesday 25

Myanmar: Pray for the people of Myanmar where more than 730 people have died since the 1st Feb. coup with the military resorting to increasing levels of violence to maintain its grip on power. Remember those who have been forced to flee from their homes, many to neighbouring countries. Pray for a return to peace and stability and a solution to the breakdown of trust in that land.

## Wednesday 26

Ethiopia: Pray for the people of Ethiopia where the people have been subjected to human rights abuses by troops of Eritrea and Ethiopia in Tigray. These include mass killings of civilians, sexual violence, looting and the abuse of refugees. Pray for an independent, transparent and impartial investigation into the crimes reported and that those responsible for these human rights abuses will be held to account and a withdrawal of troops to ease tensions.

## Thursday 27

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.

## Friday 28

The Vaccination Programme: Give thanks for the ongoing effective delivery of the Vaccination Programme and for those who have worked diligently to make this possible. Pray that many will continue to take up the offer of their 1st and 2nd jabs in our land to help prevent further transmission of Coronavirus and pray also for the World Health Organisation and those working for a fair and equitable allocation of Coronavirus vaccines worldwide. Pray especially for the people and Government of India and other countries which are experiencing a severe spread of coronavirus.

## Saturday 29

Bible Society: China. There is a huge demand for Bibles in China. The majority of Christians live in rural areas where most earn less than 2 dollars per day and are unable to afford the cost of a Bible. Give thanks that since 1987 eighty million Bibles have been printed and distributed. The United Bible Societies' China Partnership reaches out to an estimated 40 million Christians with either heavily subsidised or free Bibles. Please pray for each person who receives a copy (and their pastors who act as leaders in the distribution) that as they read they will be nurtured and experience transformation. Pray also for continued permission to print Bibles each year in China.

## Sunday 30

Our Church and Community: Many of our community have been affected by coronavirus and the measures taken to reduce its spread. Pray that we as a Church might be able to respond to some of the needs of our community in supportive and creative ways especially as the restrictions are beginning to ease.

## Monday 31

The Housebound: As restrictions look likely to be further eased for many of us at this time remember particularly those who are unable to leave their homes for reasons other than coronavirus. Give thanks that the recorded services are an encouragement to some of these people. Pray that we would be mindful of them as we now enjoy greater freedom to be out and about.