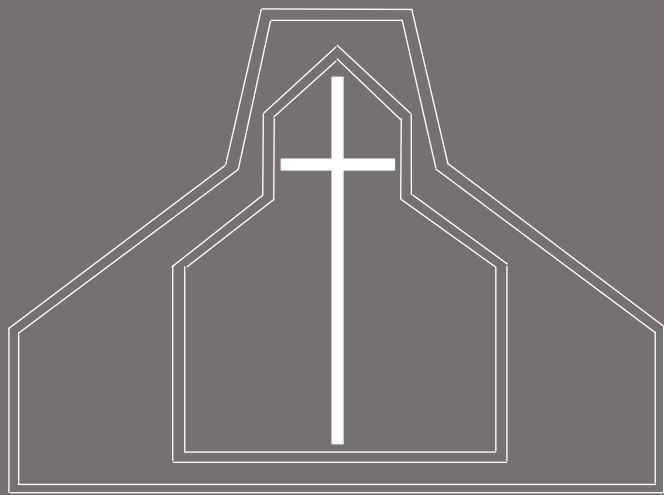


“On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”

2 Cor. 1: 10-11



Prayer Diary February 2024

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Thursday 1

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 2

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 morning. 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.

Saturday 3

Bible Society: Cuba. Christians in Cuba depend on the Cuba Bible Commission as the sole suppliers of Bibles within that country. But because of the Church there is growing rapidly many believers are still waiting for their own copy of God's Word. In 2018, to address the need for Bibles, the Bible Commission began their hugely successful *One Million Bibles* Project where one million copies of the Word of God were put into the hands of Cuban Christians. Since then, many new opportunities have arisen, both to provide Bibles and for people to engage with it. The target of another million Bibles has been set, and by the end of this phase there will be a Bible in every district and church on the Island. Please pray for the safety of the Commission staff as they travel the country distributing Bibles and engaging people with God's Word. Give thanks for the growth of the Church in Cuba, praying for leaders to be equipped to lead and disciple new believers.

Sunday 4

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 5

Men's Group. Give thanks that the Men's Group continues to meet on Monday evenings through the second half 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.

Tuesday 6

The Guild. Remember the ongoing life and fellowship of the Guild as the second half of the session progresses with John Broadfoot as the speaker on Israel today, a very relevant and current topic in today's

life and world. Pray for encouragement and growth in faith under the current theme for the Year *New Wine, New Wine Skins*. Pray for Gilbert as Convener and the members of the Committee who seek to serve to promote worship, fellowship and service in active faith. Continue to remember the Guild Projects as examples of faith in action that they may be well-supported and attention will be highlighted.

Wednesday 7

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 outing to ProBowl as a fun activity with each other and also 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 8

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)

Friday 9

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 10

Scripture Union. Give thanks for the Board of Trustees and pray for wisdom as they oversee the governance of SU Scotland. Pray for sensitivity to the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit at their forthcoming meeting. Remember the Two Cooks Courses which are running alongside each other at Gowanbank next weekend. Cooks play a significant role in SU Holidays, Camps and Missions by providing the essential catering requirements to sustain teams through the duration of these events. One is for new cooks or assistant cooks who feel ready to step into the role of chief cook. The other is for 16- 21 year olds who would like to develop as cooks. Pray for

energy and good teamwork between Janice Aitken, Fiona Richards and others involved in the training and for a fruitful weekend.

Sunday 11

The Suffering Church. Praise God for the 98 MPs who were represented at this year's parliamentary launch of the World Watch List (WWL). They and other peers and parliamentarians heard the latest statistics, updates and first-hand stories about the persecution facing 365 million Christians worldwide, and how they can use their influence to bring vital change. Pray for all those affected by the horrific attacks on Christian villages in Plateau State, Nigeria, by Islamic extremists over Christmas which killed 160 believers and wounded many more. Remember Christians in Iran who continue to face raids and arrests for their faith. At least seven believers in Iran were arrested in a spate of arrests over Christmas as the authorities continue their clampdown on Christian activities. Give thanks for at least nine Christians who were sentenced to long imprisonments because of their faith were released in 2023. Iran is currently eighth on the WWL and is harsh and unpredictable in its nature of justice, making prayers all the more valuable.

Monday 12

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care.

Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting or undergoing investigation, diagnosis, surgery/treatment especially in the current demands upon the Health Service. 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 13

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.

Wednesday 14

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.

Thursday 15

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. 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 16

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 17

Jo Crotty. Give thanks that Jo is now back in Papua New Guinea after her extended time in Australia. Pray for Jo as she continues to work on translating Mark's Gospel into Tok Pisin (the local language) that it will be easy to read by someone who does not have much Biblical language but will stay true to the Scripture, while also being meaningfully succinct and short enough for an app. Especially pray for Jo's fluency in the local language to increase so that she may become more confident in her communication. Pray for the wider work of Wycliffe Bible Translators of which Jo is a part that Bible translation and proclamation of the Gospel will become even wider across the world.

Sunday 18

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.

Monday 19

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF has two operational flight programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), one in East DRC and the other in West DRC. Today MAF is supporting three camps for internally displaced people. MAF recognised the need for trauma support so counsellors were hired to help minister to the needs of everyone who had experienced unimaginable atrocities. Many of the women have never had the opportunity to attend school, so MAF also hired teachers to help them read and write-which means they can now read the Bible. Please pray for:- 1. the violence to end in DRC and for people to rebuild their lives and feel settled. 2. that those living in the camps will draw comfort from the Bible and find Jesus' perfect peace. 3. MAF staff working in the camps. Pray they remain strong and aren't worn down by the sad things they hear from those they are supporting.

Tuesday 20

5th 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. Pray too for Mums from Little Fishes and Busy Bees meeting this evening for a 'Galentine's Evening'! Pray that this would be an opportunity to have fun together and to deepen friendships.

Wednesday 21

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 22

Bethany Christian Trust (BCT). Give thanks for all the trust, foundation, statutory and corporate supporters who through local and national partnerships work together with BCT to seek to end homelessness across Scotland. Pray that as stewards of such responsibility they may be found trustworthy of this

work. Pray that they may God's grace to help develop healthy and robust communities that live right with God and enjoy the results through the hard work of getting along with each other. Pray that they treat each other with dignity and honour.

Friday 23

Children and 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 gives thought to planning events such as the 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.

Saturday 24

Tearfund. Tackling child marriage in South Sudan has been an answer to prayer in South Sudan for schoolgirls in the country. Pray for Tearfund's partner, Food for the Hungry's work through local churches to tackle the root causes of child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence. Pray for Tearfund's training of local 'gender champions' in South Sudan to lead training sessions on reducing sexual and gender-based violence. Give thanks for the production of videos featuring women who have been able to break barriers and excel in life. The hope is that these sessions and

resources will give girls positive role models and a vision for how they can grow up to achieve their God-given potential. Pray that this pilot project can extend throughout the country and beyond.

Sunday 25

The Church and Ministry. Remember the work and ministry of God's servants today, especially Philip, 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 times, 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 26

Christians Against Poverty. Pray for the work of Christians against Poverty operating locally. Give thanks for those who serve to help those in need. The early months of the New Year is a time of financial

hardship for many people and many feel totally helpless for lack of sufficient money to meet necessities. Pray that they may receive support when it is needed. Remember also the local Food Bank and especially the Kitchen Larder at Hillhead that it may continue to be sufficiently resourced to meet the needs expressed to them.

Tuesday 27

The Leprosy Mission (TLM). Praise God for the 150 years of The Leprosy Mission and the work that has been achieved in that time to help the outcast, unwanted and unloved. Give thanks for the vision of one man, Wellesley Bailey, and his wife to whom God gave a heart for people with leprosy. Reflect and rejoice on how God can start a mighty work through small beginnings through the prayers of one man and his wife resulting in a global charity, TLM, that today serves millions. Give thanks to God that a cure was discovered 40 years ago and praise Him that since then the continuing work of TLM enables the furthering of this cure across Africa and Asia. Pray for the coming together of TLM Scotland with TLM England and Wales to consolidate the work of UK Leprosy Mission care that it may be seamless and well-directed for the future well-being of leprosy support and healing across the world.

Wednesday 28

Warm Welcome. Give thanks that the Warm

Welcome opportunity at Hillhead continues to support people and provide Food Bank service. Pray that this opportunity may have a positive impact in the lives of those who attend and build deepening relationships with each other. Pray that God may use the interest in, and caring for, each other to touch people's lives with His grace. Give thanks for the joint working in collaboration with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. Pray also that the Hillhead building will be seen as a beacon of light for Christ in the community and people will be drawn to the light.

Thursday 29

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, especially in these colder, darker months of the year.