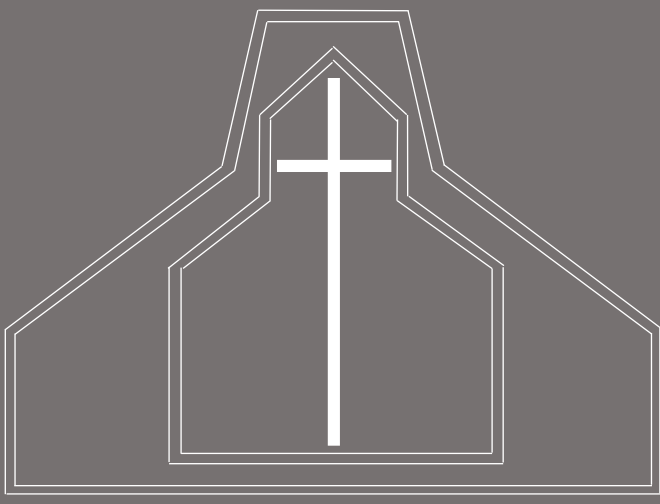


For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Prayer Diary December 2025

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Monday 1

Men's Group. Give thanks for the Men's Group, including the recent new members, who have had the opportunity to meet together for social activities and friendship in enjoyment and recreation. Give thanks for Jim Kennedy as new Chairman and Secretary Ian Gibb as they coordinate the week to week activity. Pray that there will be a regular good attendance and those who come will know the warm welcome and friendship offered as a helpful support through the longer darker nights of winter.

Tuesday 2

National and Local Government. Bring before the Lord all those in positions of authority across the United Kingdom across the political spectrum. Remember especially our Prime Minister and First Minister of Scotland and the members of their Government that they may seek to 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. Especially pray for Christians in political life. Pray that they will be able to live out their faith in their life and work and influence political decisions for good. Pray that the Lord may give strength to them especially

when times are difficult and pressure is on them because of their faith.

Wednesday 3

Following Jesus Group/Friendship Club. Give thanks for these invaluable groups which seek to help adults/children and young people with a learning difficulty to come to know Jesus as they meet on Wed. evenings. Remember all those who come along and pray especially for Pat Muir and her team of helpers as they share friendship and fellowship with those who come along. Pray that they may communicate the Gospel message with simple language and through helpful activities as well as sharing together over refreshments.

Thursday 4

Walk & Talk. Give thanks for those who share together in Walk and Talk on Thurs. afternoons. Give thanks for the opportunity to share gentle exercise with the importance of sharing mutual interest in, and concern for, each other in the sharing of lives. Remember and give thanks for Trevor Patterson as he plans and leads each walk so that folks may enjoy the opportunity and the beauty of God's Creation.

Friday 5

Little Fishes and Busy Bees. Give thanks that these Groups continue to be well-attended each week. Pray especially for the Busy Bees Group that those on the waiting list will be understanding of having to cap numbers for reasons of available space. Remember the leaders and helpers of both groups as they plan and oversee the life of these groups especially for safety and wisdom in the outworking of the activities. Pray for those who come along, both carers and children, that they will be aware that they are coming into a warm, inviting place where they are valued.

Saturday 6

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care. Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting or undergoing investigation/diagnosis/surgery/treatment. Pray that they may know peace and strength from the Lord at this 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 for those who need ongoing medical intervention or prolonged treatment. Pray for patience and endurance and a continued reliance on the Lord. Remember those with painful or debilitating conditions and their

family/friends who support and care for them. May they know God's grace day by day.

Pray too for the Prospects across Scotland Carol Service at 2:30pm today at St Columba's. Pray that will be a meaningful occasion for all, where all who attend can celebrate the birth of Jesus, our King and Saviour.

Sunday 7

The Suffering Church. Open Doors UK publishes that more than 380m Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. One in five of these Christians is in Africa.

More believers are killed for their faith in Nigeria than anywhere else in the world. These militants also destroy homes, churches and livelihoods.

Pray for Christians in Nigeria as they meet to worship today. Pray that they would know God's peace and protection. Pray that the government might do more to protect them and that the power of the militants would weaken.

Remember the more than 300 children and staff kidnapped recently from a Catholic school in central Nigeria, about 250 of whom are still missing. Pray for the deliverance of those staff and students still missing in such traumatic circumstances, and for an end to this horrific practice

of kidnapping and hostage-taking.

Pray also for those attending the Hurting Hearts Service this afternoon at 3pm. Pray that they may know the Lord's comfort and the empathy of each other for wounded hearts and spirits.

Monday 8

The Bereaved. Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent/not so recent days and personally known to us as Christmas draws near. 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

The Guild. Give thanks for the worship, fellowship and service in Christ which the Guild promotes in life and witness as the first half of the Session draws to a close towards Christmas. Especially remember the Guild Projects- Scottish Bible Society, Bear Necessities, Release International and CrossReach - that they will be a positive influence for

advancing Christ's Kingdom. Give thanks for and remember Carol as Convener, Margaret as Secretary and Eleanor as Treasurer and pray for the Christmas Lunch next Tuesday that it will be a time of enjoyment and fellowship for everyone involved.

Wednesday 10

Midweek Fellowship. Give thanks for the opportunity to worship God and share fellowship together, in a slightly less formal manner than Sunday worship. Give thanks especially for this time of worship and fellowship for those who may not be able to attend Church on Sundays. Pray that God might continue to bless the ministry of the Midweek Service and give thanks for the love and encouragement which those who attend find together with each other as they worship God. Remember Philip as he prepares for leading the worship that the Lord will clearly encourage him to speak His message with love and boldness.

Also, remember the Pizza Party today for some of the children from Hillhead SU Group/Warm Welcome that it may be an encouragement in outreach for the Lord to get to know these young folks in a deeper way and that they equally may draw close to Him.

Thursday 11

Those with Mental Health Issues. Remember those whose mental health is struggling at the moment, especially at this time of Christmas. Pray that the Lord would draw close to those who are despairing. 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 patience, love, hope and healing.

Friday 12

The Boys' Brigade. Give thanks for the life and service of the 1st Kirkintilloch BB Company and the weekly meetings of the individual sections. Pray that in each age-group the boys and leaders will delight in their attendance and activities, especially planned Christmas outings and recreation. Pray that there will be a renewed energy for the second half of the current Session and an excitement and keenness in working towards the attainment of the awards. Especially pray

that what is learned in the life of the BB might equip and prepare the boys for adult life. Give thanks for the leaders and their commitment and pray for them in their preparation and communication for the boys' encouragement and interest.

Saturday 13

Jo Crotty. Give thanks for every opportunity Jo has had to serve God with Wycliffe Bible Translators this year in Papua New Guinea. Give thanks for her teaching of her P2/3 class and for her work in preparing teaching materials (and then going over these with local people who will teach them) for the Children's Trauma Healing Course.

Pray for Jo as she heads for Melbourne Australia for Christmas and New Year. Pray too for her brother Greg (who has MND), his wife Maureen, and the family. Pray that God would lead and guide Jo in these days when she is less certain of the path ahead. Pray that God would make that clear to her in his time.

Sunday 14

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, especially at this time

of Christmas when people's hearts and minds are directed towards the joy and wonder of the birth of the Son of God at Bethlehem. Pray for the Holy Spirit's boldness in preaching and for God's Word to bear much fruit in people's lives and that Christ would be honoured and glorified. 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 15

School Service. Give thanks for the Oxbang Primary School Christmas Service taking place today and for the opportunity of the School and Congregation to work together. Remember Philip as a School Chaplain and for the relationship this opportunity presents to share the Christmas story with all those present. Pray that this privilege will be a mutual blessing for those

involved and that the Lord will be honoured and delighted with the young people hearing about Him. Pray for fruitfulness in this opportunity.

Tuesday 16

Christmas Events today. Remember the Guild Christmas Lunch today as folks come together to give thanks for the end of the first half of the Session and enjoy Christmas lunch together which is a pleasant time of fellowship in readiness to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Also remember the Carol Time at Hillhead Halls this evening. Give thanks for the provision of sandwiches and sausage rolls which are being served at 6pm to 6.45pm followed by the singing of carols at 6.45pm. Pray for a good group of folks to come along, including those who come to Warm Welcome and use the building at other times to come together to share food and enjoy some carols together.

Pray especially that those who are present may think about the significance of Jesus' birth and hearts will be touched by His love for them.

Wednesday 17

Warm Space/Connect. Loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for the regular weekly opportunity to offer a warm space and caring

support to the community at Hillhead Halls. We praise you for the encouraging start to the new arrangements, for the way in which the soup and roll format is going well. We especially pray for the 'Food for Thought' slot at 1.45pm that it will be well-received and give thanks for the help and support available from Christians Against Poverty. We pray that people will know the love and caring support is done in Jesus' name and pray for your leading as the ministry of Warm Welcome continues to develop. We ask that relationships will be deepened and people will see the love of the Lord reaching out to them that they may come to know Him in faith, hope and love. We thank you for the team working with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church and especially remember the new work Connect with children in the afternoon from 3-4pm that children will be pleased to come and share in this time together

Thursday 18

Scripture Union. Father God, we give thanks for SU Group leaders who generously give up their time to lead SU groups. We pray that they foster good relationships with their local schools and are encouraged by the response of the children to what they hear of Jesus. We remember all SU Scotland

ministry as it seeks to prioritise young people at the margins. We give thanks for a new partnership between SU Scotland and Home for Good and Safe Families to deliver Chosen, a new weekend event at Alltnacriche for families with adopted children. We pray for Elaine Watt as she leads, and that it will help those who attend to unwind and connect.

Friday 19

The Scottish Bible Society. Give thanks for the resources produced by the Scottish Bible Society that churches and other Christian groups can make use of for mission and discipleship. These include some of the AV material we use here at St Columba's Hillhead and the Luke's Gospel in magazine format that we have available as a 'takeaway'.

Pray that God would equip the Scottish Bible Society to help achieve its goal to make the Bible available in every language, form, and at an affordable price, to enable genuine encounters with God – here in Scotland, and worldwide.

Saturday 20

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Lord God, we give thanks for the addition of the new Cessna Caravan plane to MAF's fleet and for the new opportunities this

provides. We pray for the provision of resources to enable MAF to fly eye specialists to remote areas on a more regular basis. We ask that those who require eye care will be able to access the help they need. We earnestly pray for those who had surgery during the eye camp undertaken in Tanzania recently will continue to recover well and that their sight may be fully restored. We praise you for all the work MAF does across the world and pray for its ability to overcome the daily struggles that isolation causes hard-to-reach people in remote communities.

Sunday 21

Church Worship. Remember the Nativity Service this morning at St. Columba's Hillhead. Pray that it will be a joy and delight to God as the all-age congregation joins in worship and fellowship together. Remember all those taking part that it will unite everyone in a spirit of wonder and gratitude for the significance of the Lord's birth at Bethlehem. Also give thanks for the enjoyment which this Service also engenders as the timeless Christmas story is presented by those taking part. Pray that this proclaiming of the Gospel will draw the congregation closer to Him.

Monday 22

Christians Against Poverty. Pray for the work of Christians against Poverty operating locally. Give thanks for those who serve to help those in need. Times of financial hardship place great pressures on many people and many feel totally helpless for lack of sufficient money to meet necessities especially as the colder months of autumn and winter are upon us with less financial support for heating, as well as the pressure of Christmas spending. Pray that they may receive support when it is needed and remember CAP volunteers as they engage with people to alleviate their financial circumstances. Give thanks for the opportunity to be involved at the Warm Welcome in Hillhead that this may be a beneficial presence for assistance where needed.

Tuesday 23

Those who are Vulnerable. Give thanks for the work of The Lodging House Mission, Bethany Christian Trust and The Salvation Army who seek to draw near and support those who are vulnerable, especially in these cold and dark days of winter. Remember those who have nowhere to go at Christmas and for whom the time will be difficult and long. Pray that the message of Christmas, that God

comes close to us in the giving of His Son Jesus as the Light shining in the darkness and born in the lowliness of a stable, may be a comfort and hope amidst loneliness and isolation. Pray that people's needs will be met in kindness and caring.

Wednesday 24

Remember the Family Christmas Eve Service at St Columba's at 4pm as a celebration of anticipation and expectation of the Coming King. Pray that many of the young families whom we have got to know in various ways through the year might join with us in worship and that together we might approach Christmas Day with joy and wonder as we consider God's great love in sending His Son Jesus as a tiny baby.

Thursday 25

Christmas Day. Give thanks for the Church's celebration of the Birth of Jesus and for the gift of God in giving us His Son. Pray for a joyous celebration of His Birth this morning as the Church family comes together in worship to the newborn King. Pray that many will know Him as Saviour and Lord and that people will not leave the Church without knowing they have knelt down and met Jesus. Pray for families meeting together today to celebrate Christmas that it will be an

enriching time together knowing that Jesus was born into a family life and love at Bethlehem.

Friday 26

Christian Aid. Give thanks for the sum of £1350+ raised at the local Christian Aid Coffee Morning last month as a significant contribution to the work of Christian Aid to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

We pray for the work of Christian Aid in Gaza today. As the ceasefire takes hold, the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire. Clean water, food, medical care and shelter are still desperately needed, and widespread trauma will take years to heal. Give thanks that Christian Aid alongside local partners has been able to provide emergency aid, food, sanitation and water supplies. Pray for a sustainable peace in Gaza and for other areas in the Middle East where there has been, or where there remains, conflict and violence. Pray that many would experience the peace that only Jesus, the Prince of Peace, can bring.

Saturday 27

Ukraine. Continue to remember and pray for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and in other areas of the world, especially in a time of heightened tension and

escalation of the war of words and actions of nation leaders. Pray that a just and lasting solution will be found to end the wars and bring much-needed peace and stability for all, especially for those who suffered under the devastation, loss of life and security for living. Remember world leaders especially through whom much of the resolution will rest. Pray for a mutual understanding and respect, with a desire to end the conflict and live in, and for, peace.

Sunday 28

Luwero Christian Ministries. Almighty God, we give thanks for all the work being done in your name at Luwero in Uganda. We pray for all the different areas of this significant ministry- for the junior and senior school, for the clinic, for the farm, for new developing land with its demanding physical work, and for helping to teach young people to survive amidst the loss of parents through HIV and AIDS. We praise you for the way in which many are being brought close to you in faith through the work of your Spirit and we delight in sharing partnership of the Gospel with Gabriel, Deborah and his family and the people of Luwero. We pray for Gabriel and Deborah in their leadership of the ministry at Luwero that they would be kept safe from harm by the

powers of darkness which surround them. We thank you that Gabriel is getting stronger in health after his earlier illness and we pray for his continuing recovery.

Monday 29

The Lodging House Mission (TLHM). Dear Father God, we give you thanks for the work and witness of TLHM and Glasgow City Mission in their work in caring for the vulnerable in our society. We give thanks for the practical and prayerful encouragement of Glasgow Presbytery congregations that these may be a blessing to those who reach out to the TLHM for help and support at all times. We remember the Manager, Chaplain and staff who provide relational support and encouragement in a variety of different ways of activities and opportunities in the daily life of the TLHM that the service-users will know Christ's presence with them. Especially we pray for all those who are in need of TLHM's services as the darker, colder nights of winter are upon us. May they find shelter, warmth, comfort and hope through all those who reach out to them at TLHM and so know that Jesus cares for them.

Tuesday 30

Seeds for Growth. Give thanks for the Church of Scotland 'Seeds for Growth' grant that we recently

received and for the 'New Creations' project here at St Columba's. Pray that in the coming year, we would know God's help and strength as we continue to seek numerical and spiritual growth in our church, and especially so in and through the toddler groups ministry and with young families. Pray that the Lord would help each one of us on the threshold of a New Year to be people who seek to reach out with the Good News about Jesus. Pray too that God might bless these efforts and that increasingly his kingdom might come in our community.

May this be our prayer today - pray that we will walk into and through the New Year holding the hand of the Lord ever more closely.

Wed 31

New Year's Eve. Let us quietly reflect on the year past and give thanks to the Lord for His gracious presence with us throughout this past year, through its ups and its downs as many of us have known. Let us learn from the past and so be stronger to face the future with what it may hold. King George VI, not usually a compelling speaker, inspired and reassured the nation by quoting a poem in his Christmas message of 1939: "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me light that I may tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God'."