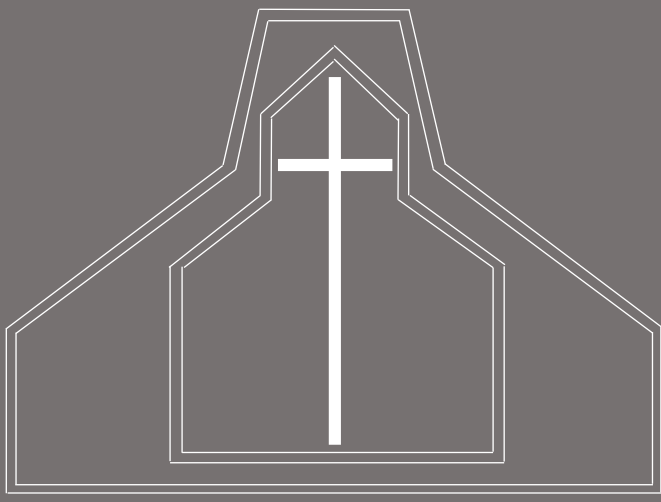


# Prayer Diary February 2025

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 1:10b-11



St Columba's  
Hillhead  
Parish Church

## Saturday 1

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 known to us 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 2

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 been happening such as over tea and coffee on a Sunday morning and weekly activities. 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 3

Men's Group. Give thanks for the Men's Group and for those who have the opportunity to meet together for social activities and friendship in enjoyment and recreation. Remember Jim Kennedy as new Chairman and new 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 autumn and winter.

## Tuesday 4

The Guild. Remember the ongoing life and fellowship of the Guild as the second half of the session progresses. Give thanks for the enjoyable Burns Night on Jan. 21 with the New Day Singers. Pray for encouragement and growth in faith under the current theme for the Year Sure Foundations. Pray for Gilbert as Convener and the members of the Committee and members who seek to serve to promote worship, fellowship and service in active faith. Continue to remember the Guild Projects Build My Church, Let's Build A House, Bibles for Bairnes and Operation Hope -Egypt as examples of faith in action that they may be well-supported and attention will be highlighted.

## Wednesday 5

Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group. Give thanks that both these groups continue to meet regularly and are well-attended and for the members, carers and leaders who all contribute to making these happy and meaningful evenings. Give thanks for the fun-filled outing to Pro Bowl and for the way everyone is able to

fully participate. Pray for the ongoing life and fellowship of the Groups as the New Year progresses that the love of Jesus will encourage and deepen the life of all and especially remember Pat Muir and the leaders that they may be inspired by the Lord to further this significant ministry.

#### Thursday 6

Walk and Talk. Remember the Walk & Talk Group as it continues to enjoy meeting on Thursday afternoons 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 7

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 that 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 and a desire to know more about Jesus' love. Pray especially for help to set up/clear away the hall with heavy lifting of required, necessary materials each week.

#### Saturday 8

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.

#### Sunday 9

The Suffering Church. Give thanks for the work and ministry of Open Doors, Barnabas Aid and Christian Solidarity Worldwide who provide support for persecuted Christians across the world. Pray for the families of two Christians who have been shot and killed in separate incidents in Gujranwala,

Pakistan. Ask the Lord to comfort the families of Suleman Iqbal and Shabana Bibi in their grief. Pray that He will heal Misbah (Shabana's daughter who was also shot in the back and is critically ill) and that she will return to her family safe and well. Pray that the Lord will protect Christians in Pakistan who are at risk of persecution from Islamists, and preserve the faith of His people. Pray also for those who have suffered trauma and the loss of loved ones of 100+ Christians who have been killed by Islamists in the D.R. Congo since mid-October 2024. Ask the Lord to protect His people from those who plan evil against them, and to bring peace in north-eastern DR Congo.

#### Monday 10

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 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.

Tuesday 11

Bethany Christian Trust (BCT). Give thanks for the work and ministry of BCT as they endeavour to remain faithful in the call to ending homelessness one person at a time and seek to deepen their dependence on God. Pray for protection, wisdom and energy for those in the Team, staff and volunteers, who give so much to those whom they serve. Pray that BCT will seek to deepen the roots of their Christian ethos and values and ensure their mission is bolstered by a steadfast dependence on the Lord and a strong support network for their team. Especially remember Rev. David McAdam in his day to day BCT ministry of supporting those who are vulnerable and seeking new beginnings in life.

Wednesday 12

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 13

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). "In Uganda some of the most isolated people live on the islands of Lake Victoria," shares Ruth Jack, MAF's Country Director in Uganda. Scattered across this vast expanse of water are some 3000 islands. Many of these people lack access to education, health services and the Gospel is very limited. MAF is currently seeking to purchase a floatplane- an amphibious aircraft- to serve these communities and transform lives. Please pray :- 1) for MAF's ability to purchase a floatplane docking on Lake Victoria, buy a suitable floatplane and organise training for a pilot. 2) for the connections that MAF will be able to build with the local communities there. 3) for the safety of people travelling by boat while preparations are underway to obtain a suitable aircraft for MAF in Uganda in order to provide islanders with a safer way to travel.

Friday 14

The Boys' Brigade. Give thanks for the number of boys in The Anchor Section and Junior Section and for their continuing attendance, activities and

achievements. Pray that the Parable of the Sower linked to Harvest shared with the boys will bring fruitfulness from the seeds planted in young people to grow into maturity and faith by following Him in the progressing years of age. Praise God for the enthusiasm of the Company Section boys despite low numbers and for the varied and interesting programme of activities and for the excellent range of materials produced by the BB. Remember the leaders as they plan and prepare for each week's meetings that their commitment and enthusiasm will permeate through to the boys and so encourage faith and commitment in them to advance Christ's Kingdom in the Boys' Brigade.

Saturday 15

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 furthering already-established relationships and groups. Pray for Cassie as she plans and prepares for activities and becomes more involved in congregational life and the community, especially in the life of the Young People's and SU groups at schools that she will be a great ambassador

for the Lord in her work and witness. Especially pray for the application to Seeds for Growth (Church of Scotland Fund for congregations and mission and outreach) for financial assistance as a small sub-group considers and prepares to present an application to the Church of Scotland for funding for toddler and associated ministry in the church. Pray for wisdom and insight for all who have an input into this application that it may be favourably looked upon. Pray also for other sources of funding to be made known.

#### Sunday 16

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 17

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 Governments 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.

#### Tuesday 18

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.

#### Wednesday 19

Warm Welcome. Give thanks for the regular weekly opportunity to offer a warm space and caring support to the community at Hillhead Halls. Praise God for the Kitchen Cupboard and pray that it will be adequately stocked to serve the needs of the community and for the help and support available from Christians Against Poverty. Pray that people will know the love and caring support is done in Jesus' name and pray for God's leading as the ministry of Warm Welcome continues to develop. Pray 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.

#### Thursday 20

Scottish/Westminster Parliament: Assisted Dying Bill. Pray for the Scottish/Westminster Parliament as the new bills aimed at legalising assisted dying in Scotland/wider UK progress through the Parliamentary stages with the Westminster Parliament Private Member's Bill moving on to the important next

Committee stage. Pray for all MSPs/MPs as they further consider/debate all the issues raised by this Bill- primarily the long-held stance of sanctity of life, and the proposed desire to change the law to access safe and assisted dying to end life with the wider consequences that will have. Pray for everyone who has an interest in this issue with personal views on this matter. Previous attempts to change the law to enable assisted dying have failed. Pray especially for all those Christians who have submitted contributions to the debate that our heritage based on Christian values will be heard and acknowledged. Remember Christian healthcare staff as they seek to honour the Lord in their desire to uphold the sanctity of life and also those working in palliative care as they deliver end-of-life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Friday 21

Church Heating. Give thanks for the well-maintained fabric and grounds of the Church and for the time and commitment given by those who keep the buildings and grounds in good order. Give thanks for the worship and activities which have continued while the Church building has not been in service for the last few

months and for new opportunities in relationships which have been fostered during this time. Pray that conclusive, positive resolution may be made for the repair of the Church heating and for wisdom in decision-making following a lengthy period of investigation and consultation. Pray for a unity in decision-making and also that financial resources will be realised to meet the relative costs involved.

Saturday 22

Middle East. Continue to remember this ongoing complex situation and pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this expanding conflict involving the peoples of Syria, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen. Give thanks for the recent Ceasefire between Israel and Gaza, for humanitarian aid being brought into Gaza and pray for these to continue.. Pray for

1. Lasting Peace- an end to the violence- and remember world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that exceed the fragility of current peace discussions
2. Safety- for all civilians, that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people and people with disabilities as they return to Gaza with

what that may mean for them. 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 as people return home.

3. Hope- remember those who are terrified and traumatised, mourning and suffering throughout the region. Ask the Lord to save them from despair, for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope. Pray that people throughout the region wouldn't lose hope, that peace is possible. "With God, all things are possible." (Matt. 19: 26)

(from Tearfund)

Sunday 23

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 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 24

Scripture Union. Pray for Regional Workers as they set up Local Ministry Hubs for each of the high schools and associated primaries, bringing local Christians together to pray for schools and explore ways of working together. Pray for an increase of opportunity in our schools and a growing partnership between SU Scotland and churches. Praise God for the longstanding relationship between SU Scotland and Circle, who refer young people affected by imprisonment to SU Holidays. Pray for new developing relationships with Families Outside, Crossreach, and a few Christians Against Poverty debt centres, who are seeking to refer young people from families they support to SU Holidays.

#### Tuesday 25

Jo Crotty. Continue to remember Jo in her work for Wycliffe Bible Translators and her life and witness in Papua New Guinea. . Give thanks for an encouraging Reading Fluency Workshop which was held towards the end of last year in Ukarumpa and the positive outcomes from this in working together to become more confident readers of God's Word and pray that this may deepen and flourish. Pray for Jo's continuing work with childrens' trauma healing workshops that she may know God's grace and sensitivity in preparing and conducting these events, praying especially for the safety and wellbeing of the children. Give thanks for the most recent workshop that was well attended and which touched the hearts of those who were there. Remember Jo's brother who suffers from MND in Melbourne, Australia, and the surrounding family as they support him and each other with love and caring compassion. Pray that Jo will know God's comfort too as she works in PNG while her brother is ill. Remember Jo as she prepares to return to the UK in March and rejoice with her that we shall be able to see her at St Columba's Hillhead during this time to share her work in PNG with us.

#### Wednesday 26

Luwero Christian Ministries, Uganda. Give thanks for the work and ministry which is led by Gabriel Kijambu and for the many people who have come to Christ through this ministry. Especially pray earnestly for Gabriel's health and wellbeing after a recent bad fall resulted in his hospitalisation with bleeding on his brain. Give thanks that the MRI scan was more encouraging in the effects of the fall and that Gabriel will continue to steadily improve, especially praying for a decrease in his blood pressure. Remember his wife, Deborah, and their 4 daughters who will be concerned about Gabriel and seek to support him. Pray that the ongoing life and work of the Community in its many facets- Church, School, Land Development, Clinic-and that many students and workers will continue to grow in grace and stature for the Lord.

#### Thursday 27

The Leprosy Mission (TLM). TLM Nigeria works in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria to support the control of leprosy, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), and the consequences of these diseases on people across Nigeria. Pray that God may inspire TLM Nigeria with innovative ideas and creative solutions to defeat leprosy and support those affected by the disease.

Give thanks for the Call Centre (Wellness Connect) set up by TLM Nigeria to cater for the psychosocial needs of persons affected by leprosy and other disabilities. Give thanks for all who contributed to this Project and pray for the staff of the Wellness Connect. Ask the Lord to give guidance and support to TLM staff as they provide care. May they see the fruits of their labour and be encouraged in times of fatigue or discouragement.

of Ukraine as they have had to suffer much during the last few years of war that they may have a continuing resilience for the future.

Friday 28

Ukraine. Continue to remember the conflict and people in Ukraine, especially as hostilities between Israel and Gaza appear to have reached a more peaceful and hopeful cessation. Pray that there may be a similar just cessation of hostilities between Ukraine and Russia with a just settlement for people to live free from conflict, violence and devastation. Pray for a physical, social and spiritual rebuilding of Ukraine with people not living in fear of bombardment and loss of life and possessions. Remember current world leaders especially as they seek to bring a just conclusion to the conflict- pray for wisdom, integrity and discernment as they seek to make decisions which will have a significant bearing on the future life and living of the Ukrainian people. Pray for the people