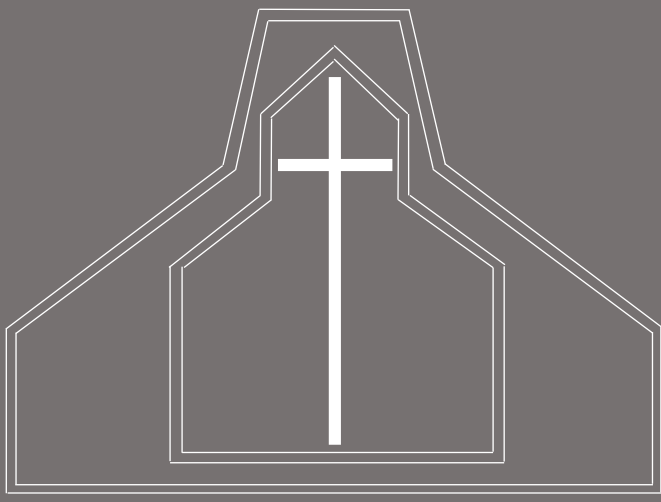


# Prayer Diary

## January 2025

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.  
Ephesians 6:18



St Columba's  
Hillhead  
Parish Church

## Wednesday 1

The New Year. On this New Year's Day give thanks for the promises of our faithful God who in and through his dearly loved Son, Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday, today and forever. Give thanks for His gracious words "I will be with you always to the very end of the age". (Matt. 28:20). Pray for God's grace and love to guard and guide us now and in the days ahead through the forthcoming year. Pray that we may walk in His ways and be a light to shine for Him as we continue our faith journey through another year.

## Thursday 2

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. 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 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]

## Friday 3

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.

## Saturday 4

The Bereaved. Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent/not so recent days and personally known to us, especially at this time of the year when emotions can be accentuated. 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 5

St Columba's Hillhead. On this first Sunday of the New Year 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 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 6

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, especially at the start of this New Year.

## Tuesday 7

The Guild. Give thanks for the very enjoyable Christmas lunch at Hayston Golf Club in December. Remember the ongoing life and fellowship of the Guild as the second half of the session resumes today with Philip, our Minister, as the speaker. 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 as examples of faith in action that they may be well-supported and attention will be highlighted.

## Wednesday 8

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 9

Walk and Talk. . Remember the Walk & Talk Group as it continues to enjoy meeting on Thurs. 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 10

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.

#### Saturday 11

Jo Crotty. Give thanks for the 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. Praise God for His sustaining power in enabling Jo to fulfil what she has done in 2024. Pray that Jo may have had rest and renewal over the Christmas and New Year Season and especially pray for getting the materials sorted for the trauma healing for the children's workshop that Jo and her colleagues are hoping to deliver in late January. Pray especially that Jo and her colleagues will be enabled to deliver this significant Children's Healing Hurting Hearts Workshop with sensitivity, grace and wisdom. Especially pray for the children who will be a significant part of this.

#### Sunday 12

Sunday Club. Give thanks for the regular attendance by those young people who come to Church on Sundays

and seek to know more about to 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 13

Leprosy Mission. Pray for the Leprosy Mission and especially remember its work in India. People affected by leprosy often rely on begging to survive. Some earn as little as 50p per day to survive. Many are elderly, and face the abuse from passers-by. Ask the Lord that as Jehovah Jirah, the Lord who provides, their daily needs will be met and more. Pray that He will protect and soften hearts towards them. Many of those living in the leprosy colonies have been abandoned by their families. The emotional impact of this rejection can last a

lifetime. Pray that the Lord will surround these precious people with His love and peace. Pray that He will raise up new champions to continue their legacy. As we approach World Leprosy Day on Sunday 26 January pray that global and national decision-makers will listen to people affected by leprosy and will be moved to act.

#### Tuesday 14

Those with Mental Health Issues. Remember those whose mental health is struggling at the moment, especially at this time of a new year with the aftermath of Christmas emotions. 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.

#### Wednesday 15

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. Praise God for the sharing of The Christmas Story and for party fun and for the Groups' welcome to all those who attended the Christmas Café at the end of November. 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 16

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 places 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.

#### Friday 17

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 18

Tearfund. Transforming Communities is about revealing hope where things feel hopeless. It is about local people facing crushing poverty creating lasting change themselves-families and communities breaking free from extreme poverty. Especially pray for the expansion of Tearfund's Transforming Communities work across South Sudan that people would experience a deep sense of God's love for them in these challenging times. Pray also for an end to poverty for the people of Rwanda and give thanks that the country is now enjoying peace. In Rwanda the seasons are less reliable than before, leading to longer dry spells and regular flooding during short and hard rainy seasons. Pray for those most vulnerable to damaging weather conditions and for Tearfund's work in the face of these changes.

#### Sunday 19

The Suffering Church. For some churches in the north of Bangladesh it will have been hard to feel joy at Christmas. Christians have been threatened by local Muslim extremists to attack their Christmas celebrations-including threats of murder. The lengthy letter of intimidation sent to churches not to practise their faith caused panic for safety, especially among

those with a Muslim background. The threatening message caused a much higher degree of fear because in Bangladesh's current political unrest, security is still a big concern for minority groups. Pray for God's divine protection on the lives of believers in Bangladesh, especially in this time after Christmas. Pray for worshippers will be protected in attending Church and united in praying together to the Lord. Pray for godly wisdom and guidance for the Church leaders as they shepherd their congregations during this time. Pray for the authorities to take proper action to protect the Christian community.

#### Monday 20

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Praise God for the case against MAF pilot Ryan Koher being finally dismissed after his arrest in Mozambique in November 2022, having been falsely accused of supporting rebel insurgents there. Praise God that MAF was able to play a vital role in bringing pastors of the Gut Nius Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea together for a powerful conference that addressed the need for reconciliation and unity and pray for MAF's work in PNG. The flights saved some of the pastors a 4week walk from remote locations. On average, PNG aircraft carry

out four medical emergency flights a month- the time saved often meaning the difference between life and death. Pray for MAF pilots as they perform what can sometimes be an extremely challenging or traumatic flight. Pray also for MAF's Cessna 208 floatplane as preparations continue so the aircraft can begin serving isolated communities across PNG's hard-to-reach wetlands. Give thanks that MAF is there for everything from medical emergencies to simply providing a safe trip home. Pray for each flight to safely overcome the barriers caused by treacherous terrain.

#### Tuesday 21

Burns Night. Remember the Burns Supper organised by The Guild this evening. Pray that it will be an enjoyable evening for all those involved. Remember all those involved in the planning and preparation for the Evening that everything will go smoothly. Pray for The New Day Singers who will be providing a programme of entertainment. Pray that the engendered spirit of togetherness and harmony will further deepen the unity and love of the fellowship of the congregation.

#### Wednesday 22

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. Give thanks for the Carols at Hillhead on Tues. 17 Dec. and pray that this evening may have deepened further fruitfulness in the relationship between Church and Community In Hillhead.

#### Thursday 23

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.

Friday 24

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.

Saturday 25

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 are deliver end-of-life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Sunday 26

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 27

Luwero Christian Ministries, Uganda. Give thanks for the work and ministry which is led by Gabriel Kijjambu 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, Farm and Land Development- will continue while Gabriel recovers and that the many students and workers will continue to

grow in grace and stature for the Lord.

#### Tuesday 28

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 29

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 the Management and Staff of all these agencies that they will be shining lights of hope and compassion and that all the services they provide will be adequately resourced. Give thanks that the hoped for sum in the Buy a Bed Appeal for Bethany Christian Trust in December was reached very quickly by supporters and sponsors.

#### Thursday 30

Scripture Union (SU). Pray for inspiration for those leading SU groups in primary and secondary schools and delivering Bible Alive sessions which use storytelling, music, drama, puppets, quizzes, activities and costumes to bring the Bible to life. Pray that children will have 'ears to hear'. Remember John and Ewan as they continue to serve God on their Gap Year placements as well as preparing and planning for their SU Mission trip to Hungary in July.

Applications are now open for the 2025-26 Gap Year intake. Pray for good applications and for the advertising to be seen by the right people. Remember 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.

#### Friday 31

Bible Society Scotland (SBS). As we have entered into 2025, please pray for all the new plans and projects that SBS and their colleagues around the world will be undertaking this year. Pray that their mission to share the Bible will be increased and that

more ways of sharing the Bible together will be created. Give thanks for the courage of Iranian Christians who risk danger in sharing the Gospel. Pray that they will be empowered to share the gospel among their friends with increasing openness because of their confidence in God. Pray for peace within Iran and its relationship with other countries. Ask the Lord to intervene to protect and help the oppressed and soothe tensions. Pray that the truth of the Gospel will change lives and radically transform Iran. Remember refugees who receive Jesus as their Saviour that they will be able to build good lives in this country. Pray that they will shine light in their workplaces and neighbourhoods.