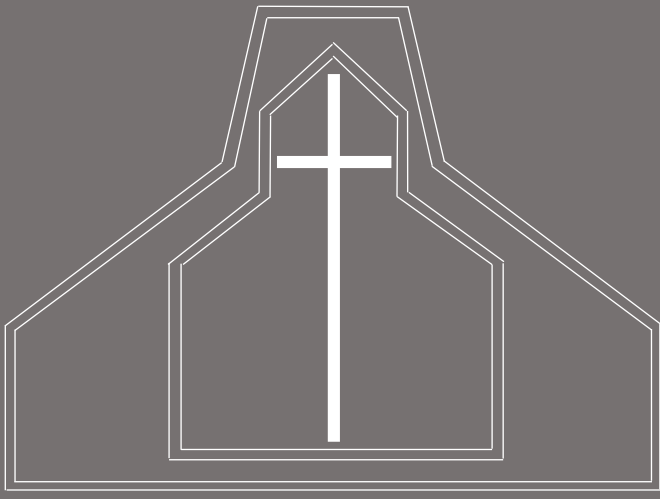


This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14



Prayer Diary July & August

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

[Thurs 1 Aug]

Church/Grounds: Give thanks for those who look after the fabric and grounds of the buildings and for the good order in which they are maintained. Pray for the opportunity to catch up on some maintenance work at St Columba's and at the Hillhead Halls in the quieter weeks of summer.

[Fri 2 Aug]

Mission Aviation Fellowship: 'Brass for Africa' staff regularly fly with MAF to bring hope to traumatised refugees in Bidibidi, northern Uganda – the world's second largest refugee settlement. Twice a week, their music programmes bring joy to hundreds of people who are suffering from the horrors of war. Created in 2016, Bidibidi Settlement is 'home' to at least 270,000 mostly South Sudanese refugees who fled South Sudan's six-year civil war, which broke in 2013.

MAF flies the team from Kajjansi Airfield, near the capital Kampala, to Arua on their shuttle service, which flies to Arua four times a week. MAF can also arrange short term visits to the project in case of emergency. Give thanks that this enables more time for 'Brass for Africa' staff to spend on the ground with those who need it most.

[Sat 3 Aug]

Kirk Session and Office Bearers: Give thanks for

those who serve as elders in the church and for those who have particular areas of responsibility. Pray that they would know God's help as they carry out their different duties. Pray too that over the summer period, when there are fewer scheduled activities in the church, it may be possible for them to enjoy some rest and refreshment.

[Sun 4 Aug]

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 – and in the Church Walk/Cycle Ride/BBQ we enjoyed in June. 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.

Mon 1 July/ 5 Aug

Little Fishes/Busy Bees/Noah's Ark Fun Morning: Give thanks for the Fun Morning on Fri 28

June held at St Columba's. Give thanks for the enjoyment of the morning, especially from the Fire Service visit. Thank God for those who organised refreshments and crafts, and who arranged the baby & toddler area.

Thank God too for all the young families whom we've been able to serve over this past year both through Little Fishes and Busy Bees. Pray that they may remember the church as being a warm and friendly place. Pray too that they would return after the summer.

Tues 2 July/ 6 Aug

Scripture Union: Scripture Union has been organising holiday events for P5-S6 children for over 80 years. The aim is to give young people a superb holiday experience and provide a simple introduction to the Christian faith. Children and young people of any faith, and none, are welcome at all SU holidays. Pray for all the SU holidays that are taking place across Scotland this summer: for great fun and enjoyment; for new friendships to grow; for safety; and for young people to explore the significance of Jesus today.

Wed 3 July/ 7 Aug

The Midweek Service: Give thanks for the fellowship, teaching and prayer there has been during the Midweek Service this session. Pray for those who will miss meeting together

to worship on Wednesday mornings over the school summer holidays. Pray too that over the holiday period, some might consider joining the worship of the Midweek Service when it recommences on Wed 21 August.

Thurs 4 July/ 8 Aug

On 4 July, the United Kingdom goes to the polls to vote for a new intake of MPs and to decide who will form the next government. Pray for new MPs to act with wisdom, integrity and compassion. Pray for Christian MPs as they seek to be salt and light in sometimes very challenging circumstances. Pray too for those who serve as MSPs and in other devolved government throughout the UK.

Fri 5 July/ 9 Aug

Jo Crotty: Continue to pray for Jo in her work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. Continue to pray for Jo's safety and health and that of other Wycliffe staff from day to day. Give thanks for the many translations of the New Testament or of other parts of the Bible that have been completed into some of the local languages in PNG in recent years. Give thanks for the 'Bible Dedication' in Enga Province on 1 to 3 July that Jo was planning to attend.

Sat 6 July/ 10 Aug

Children & Families' Worker: Give thanks that God in his grace has led us to have Cassie as our Children and Families Worker. Give thanks for the way Cassie has been able to support existing work with Children and Families as well as developing new opportunities for ministry and mission with Children and Families. Pray that Cassie might have an opportunity for rest and relaxation over the summer. Give continued thanks for the sacrificial giving for this project.

Sun 7 July/ 11 Aug

The Suffering Church: In countries all over the world, Christians face a stark choice: remain hidden, or be attacked, abused or even killed.

In some places, Christians must hide both their identities and their faith. Sometimes, they will be targeted or even killed by the state because of their faith. Other times, the threat comes from family and community, and may include both attacks and intense pressure. If their secret faith is discovered by the wrong person, they could lose their livelihood, their home, their family or even their life.

While their stories and backgrounds are different, most of these secret Christians share the same reality: they are following Jesus alone or with a very small group of people. But

the reality is they are not alone: they belong to a global body of Christ. Give thanks for the work of Open Doors, Barnabas Aid and Christian Solidarity Worldwide who support secret believers, including by showing them they have a global family and by encouraging them through local ministry.

Mon 8 July/ 12 Aug

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.

Tues 9 July/ 13 Aug

Those with Mental Health Issues: Remember those whose mental health is ailing at the moment. Pray that the Lord would draw close to the broken-hearted. Remember especially those known personally to us who may be struggling. Ask the Lord to give us the right words to say to a person who is suffering and pray for opportunities to have 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 respite and a path to full healing. Remember those supporting them that they may be filled with patience, love, healing and hope.

Wed 10 July/ 14 Aug

Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group: Give thanks for two much enjoyed canal trips in June – for Following Jesus group and for the Friendship Club. Give thanks for those in the Seagull Trust who once again made this possible. Pray for the leaders of both groups, that they might be refreshed over the summer break and have renewed energy and enthusiasm for the session ahead. Pray for families with members who have learning difficulties. Pray that the LORD might meet their needs. Pray that as a church we might continue to learn more about how we can support and befriend people with learning difficulties.

On this day on August, pupils are due to restart schools in East Dunbartonshire after the summer break. Pray for young people in our church family and known to us, that they might know the Lord's help and support in this new school year. Pray too for teachers and support staff as they begin a new school year. Pray for our local schools and especially those in which we have a

chaplaincy presence. Pray that we might be able to continue to be a help a help and encouragement to them.

Thurs 11 July/ 15 Aug

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care: Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting investigation, diagnosis, surgery/treatment especially in the current demands upon the Health Service. Pray that they 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, those who work in palliative care 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.

Fri 12 July/ 16 Aug

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks for the session that has now ended for BB: for all the boys of the Anchor

section completing their work in time and gaining their respective year badges; for the fun and excitement the Junior section enjoyed, including an end of session trip to Peel Park; for raft building and model aircraft flying for the Juniors; and for activities including Ultimate Frisbee in Luggie Park for the Company and Senior Section with the better towards the end of the session. Pray that boys and leaders alike might enjoy a restful and refreshing summer. Pray that all the boys have heard from week to week about Christian faith and discipleship might remain with them. Pray that the activities and the teaching of The 1st Kirkintilloch Boys' Brigade might help equip and prepare the boys for adult life.

Sat 13 July/ 17 Aug

Bethany Christian Trust: Give thanks for David McAdam from Bethany Christian Trust leading worship at St Columba's Hillhead on 28 July and 4 August, and for the opportunity to hear more of the work of Bethany Christian Trust. Give thanks for the work of Bethany Christian Trust which continues to work to end homelessness, as it has done for the last 40 years. Loneliness, poor mental health, employment issues, family breakdown and problems with drugs and alcohol are just a few of the

reasons that people become homeless in Scotland. Bethany Christian Trust's Homelessness Prevention teams exist to address these issues and help increase people's resilience to the causes of homelessness before it occurs. Pray that God might use these teams to bring light and hope into people's lives when they are facing darkness and despair. Pray for staff members, as they seek to put Christian love into action and to demonstrate the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sun 14 July/ 18 Aug

Summer Noah's Ark and Sunday Club: Give thanks for those that are willing and able to lead Noah's Ark and Summer Sunday School over the summer weeks. Thank God for Children's Ministry on Sundays right through the holiday period. Pray for children and young people in our church family. Pray that they might feel part of the church family as they are. Pray that they might grow to know and love the Lord Jesus for themselves. Pray for young people known to us with the many choices and pressures they face in today's world. Pray that they might make good choices and that they might seek to follow Jesus in the decisions they make from day to day.

Mon 15 July/ 19 Aug

Warm Welcome: Give thanks for all those who help and for all those whom we have been able to serve and get to know through Warm Welcome. Praise God for the joint ministry with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church in this avenue of service - for Kitchen Cupboard (run through Food Bank), for Children's Ministry and most recently for Christians against Poverty, all run through Warm Welcome. Pray for the summer period when activity may be less but people's needs still require to be met. Pray that people may continue to find support and help where and when it is needed.

Tues 16 July/ 20 Aug

Israel and Gaza: A Prayer for Israel and Gaza published online by Tearfund...

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their

healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

Amen.

Wed 17 July/ 21 Aug

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. 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.

Thurs 18 July/ 22 Aug

Bible Society, Vietnam. The Bible Society Vietnam aims to make the Bible available to everyone and is reaching out to the next generation of Vietnamese. Evangelism is difficult in Vietnam and Bible Society projects are at risk of censorship. This project could be viewed as serious religious activity because it encourages young people to interact with God's Word. The Bible Society project partners with local churches to provide Bibles, resources and events that will help young people engage with God's Word in a holistic way. Partnering with the churches is the best way to minimise the risk since it will be a church event. Please pray for Bible Society Vietnam as they reach out to young people with God's Word in difficult conditions. Pray too that each young person receiving a Bible will see the value of spending time reading or listening to God's Word and sharing it with others.

Fri 19 July/23 Aug

Christian Aid, India: Christian Aid has supported local organisations in India for more than 50 years, initially providing relief to people affected by natural disasters, and now supporting long term development.

Pray for Christian Aid:

1) as it seeks to focus on long-term development,

addressing structural causes of poverty and promoting social inclusion.

2) To support communities in strengthening livelihoods and access their rights and entitlements from the state, and promoting human rights.

3) To provide humanitarian aid to people affected by natural disasters; and promote disaster risk reduction.

4) To promote human rights, advocate for policy change in favour of the excluded and increase accountability of public institutions.

Sat 20 July/ 24 Aug

Those with Addictions. Pray for those who struggle with an addiction which can take many different forms. Pray that they would find in Jesus the strength to overcome their desires to feed their addiction and know freedom and peace. Especially remember family and friends who often bear a great burden for their loved one's struggle and can be emotionally and physically exhausted in seeking to show love and support. Especially remember those who have lost loved ones due to an addiction and are sorely grieving.

Sun 21 July/ 25 Aug

St Columba's Hillhead Church: Give thanks for all those who are leading our Sunday morning worship

throughout July and August: Rev David Vogan (Minister, Harestanes Baptist), Rev Norman Liddle (Scottish Bible Society), Lynne Semple (Worship Leader and one of our elders here at St Columba's Hillhead), Rev David McAdam (Bethany Christian Trust), John Nicolson (Reader, CofS), Rev Gary Caldwell (Prison Chaplain), Rev Iain Morrison (Retired), and Isaac McCleary (Reader, CofS). Pray that they themselves might be blessed as they worship with us and that their ministry might in turn be a blessing to us.

Pray for Philip and Gill and the manse family on holiday, and that Philip would then have a useful and productive time on Study Leave.

Mon 22 July/ 26 Aug

Prison Fellowship Scotland (PFS). Give thanks for the long-standing working partnership with the Scottish Prison Service. Volunteers wishing to work with Prison Chaplaincy are re-directed to PFS due to the quality of their volunteer processes and training. Give thanks also for the persistent demand for PFS's work in restorative justice, specifically in their 6week 'Sycamore Tree' course which helps offenders look at the consequences of their crimes as this is developed through an increasing number of Scottish prisons. Pray

especially for children affected by imprisonment and give thanks for the sponsorship of 30-35 children affected by imprisonment to attend an SU adventure holiday. Pray for PFS as it seeks to further develop its work within prisons.

Tues 23 July/ 27 Aug

Scottish Parliament: Assisted Dying Bill. Pray for the Scottish Parliament as the new bill aimed at legalising assisted dying in Scotland continues its passage through the Parliament. Pray for all MSPs 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 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.

Wed 24 July/ 28 Aug

The Lodging House Mission (LHM): Pray for the day to day life, work and mission of the LHM in its different 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 variety of 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.

Thurs 25 July/ 29 Aug

Men's Group and Guild: Remember all those in the Guild and Men's Group who miss the regular friendship and fellowship of these groups. Pray that they might have rest and refreshment over the holiday period. Pray too that they may enjoy the company of others. Pray that others might come to join and benefit from the Men's Group and Guild when the new sessions begin in the autumn.

Fri 26 July/ 30 Aug

Walk and Talk: Give thanks for the Walk and Talk Group as it aims to continue through the summer. Pray that the friendship, company and gentle exercise might be a blessing to all those who come. Pray that the conversations might be meaningful and helpful, and be used to build one another up. Give thanks for Trevor Patterson who takes the time to test out each new route on his bike to make sure it is suitable.

Sat 27 July/ 30 Aug

AV & IT Team: Give thanks for all in the AV and IT team at the church and for all that they do to support the worship and witness of the church. Give thanks for the live-streaming capability we have at St Columba's Hillhead, for those who record the services each week, and for all those who access them that could not easily get to church otherwise. Pray for those who cannot get to church for various reasons, that many might be blessed through the livestreamed services and feel better connected to the fellowship as a result.

Sun 28 July/ 31 Aug

The Church and Ministry. Remember the work and ministry of God's servants today wherever 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.

Mon 29 July

Church/Grounds: Give thanks for those who look after the fabric and grounds of the buildings and for the good order in which they are maintained. Pray for the opportunity to catch up on some maintenance work at St Columba's and at the Hillhead Halls in the quieter weeks of summer.

Tues 30 July

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 – and in the Church Walk/Cycle Ride/BBQ we enjoyed in June. 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.

Wed 31 July

Mission Aviation Fellowship: 'Brass for Africa' staff regularly fly with MAF to bring hope to traumatised refugees in Bidibidi, northern Uganda – the world's second largest refugee settlement. Twice a week, their music programmes bring joy to hundreds of people who are suffering from the horrors of war. Created in 2016, Bidibidi Settlement is 'home' to at least 270,000 mostly South Sudanese refugees who fled South Sudan's six-year civil war, which broke in 2013.

MAF flies the team from Kajjansi Airfield, near the capital Kampala, to Arua on their shuttle service, which flies to Arua four times a week. MAF can also arrange short term visits to the project in case of emergency. Give thanks that this enables more time

for 'Brass for Africa' staff to spend on the ground with those who need it most.