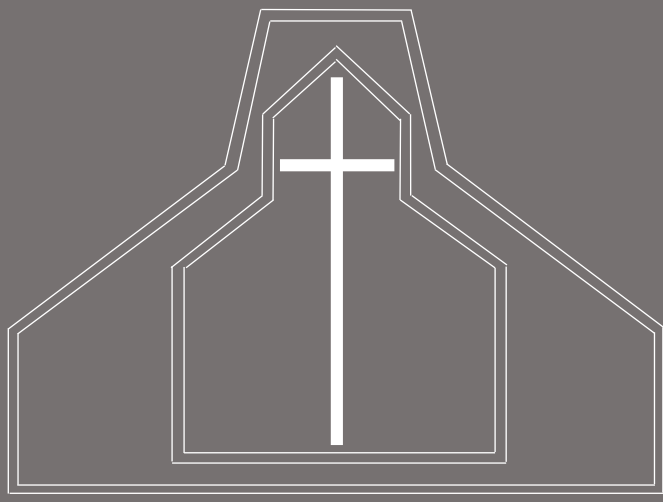


This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14



# Prayer Diary July & August

St Columba's  
Hillhead  
Parish Church

[Sat 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. Give thanks for all the fundraising that has taken place for the new church roof and the generosity of the congregation and others. Pray that the gracious hand of our God might continue to be on this project. Pray that the work to install the roof may go well and be completed in good time before the winter weather sets in.

[Sun 2 Aug]

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Since the Iran War erupted on 28 February, Iran has largely closed the Strait of Hormuz – one of the world's busiest oil shipping channels – which has sent global fuel prices soaring.

In most of the low-income countries where MAF provides a humanitarian air operation, the price of fuel has risen by at least 50%, and there are indications of more increases on the way which is a real concern.

Donovan Palmer, CEO of MAF International writes: *'Most of us are deeply worried about fuel costs, but MAF's flying literally means life or death for some of the world's most isolated communities. Therefore, we can't stop and won't stop flying. We are doing everything we can to continue providing a lifesaving service for the world's most isolated*

*communities. Delivering healthcare, development and essential supplies is a top priority, but the current fuel crisis could put severe pressure on our ability to provide essential connections for the world's most vulnerable in the near future.'*

Please pray urgently for God's provision of the necessary fuel for MAF's important work amongst some of the poorest and most isolated communities in the world.

Mon 3 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 new members who have recently joined the church and for new folks who have come amongst us in recent months. Give thanks for the BBQ we enjoyed in June. Pray that our fellowship may continue to strengthen and deepen and that we might grow as God's people in love and unity.

Tue 4 Aug

'Run the Race'. Pray for the 'Run the Race' event at St Columba's this afternoon for Primary aged children with a parent/carer. Pray that there would be interest in this event and that lots of families would come along. Pray that it will be a time of fun and

enjoyment and follow on well after the Commonwealth Games. Pray too that it will be a good opportunity to share what it means to run the race of the Christian life with Jesus.

Wed 1 July/ 5 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 19 August.

Thurs 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.

Give thanks for the recent LeadUP event where 38 trainee leaders enrolled to deepen their faith and develop leadership skills for upcoming SU holidays. Pray for each of these young

people as they serve God at summer SU Holidays, holiday clubs and missions, and after the summer in local churches and Christian Union groups.

Fri 3 July/ 7 Aug

Little Fishes/Busy Bees/Noah's Ark: Give thanks 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. Give thanks too for the continued ministry of Noah's Ark on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.

Give thanks for New Creations project for young families that is part-funded by Seeds for Growth and has been running for nearly a year. Give thanks that God has already answered our prayer to cause seeds of life in Christ to grow and flourish through this work. Pray for the Seeds for Growth team as they consider our application for continued (although reduced) funding for a further 2 years. The panel is expected to meet and make this decision on Tues 21 July.

Sat 4 July/ 8 Aug

MPs and MSPs: Pray for our MPs and MSPs and those who serve in other devolved governments throughout the UK to act with wisdom, integrity and compassion as they enact legislation and they serve their constituents. Pray that they might be mindful not only of their

responsibility to represent those who elected them, but also of the accountability to God. Pray for Christian MPs and MSPs as they seek to be salt and light in sometimes very challenging circumstances.

Sun 5 July/ 9 Aug

St Columba's Hillhead Church: Give thanks for all those who are leading our Sunday morning worship in July: Lynne Semple (presbytery worship leader and one of our elders here at St Columba's Hillhead), Rev David McAdam (Bethany Christian Trust), and Gary Caldwell (Prison Chaplain). 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 too for Philip and Gill and the family on holiday.

Mon 6 July/ 10 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.

Tues 7 July/ 11 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 and grant funding to date that has support the Children and Families Worker position. Pray that God would continue to provide all we need for this role.

Wed 8 July/ 12 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.

Thurs 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.

Fri 10 July/ 14 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.

Sat 11 July/ 15 Aug

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care: Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting investigation, diagnosis, surgery/ treatment and for those recovering from surgery. 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.

Sun 12 July/ 16 Aug

Bethany Christian Trust: Give thanks for David McAdam from Bethany Christian Trust leading worship at St Columba's Hillhead on [12 July](#), 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.

Mon 13 July/ 17 Aug

On this day in 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/SU presence. Pray that we might be able to continue to be a help a help and encouragement to them.

Tues 14 July/ 18 Aug

Jo Crotty. Continue to pray for Jo and for her work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Pray for Jo as she is currently based in Melbourne, Australia. Pray for Jo as she supports Wycliffe staff members in Australia. Pray for her too as she works towards a Masters degree in Education. Pray also for Jo's brother Greg and his wife Maureen and their family as Greg is now increasingly disabled as a result through MND. Pray for God's grace to surround the whole family. Remember too all those local workers in PNG who have been trained by Jo to deliver the Healing Hurting Hearts Trauma Healing Workshop for Children. Pray that resource and their delivery of it would be a blessing to many.

Wed 15 July/ 19 Aug

Connect Café/Connect Families: Give thanks for all those who help and for all those whom we have been able to serve and get to know through Connect Café (the new name for 'Warm Welcome') and Connect Families (the after-school club held at Hillhead Halls). Praise God for the joint ministry with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church in this avenue of service. Pray for the summer period when those who help with both these groups are having a well-deserved rest. Pray that over the summer period people may continue to find support and help where and when it is needed. Pray that God would lead and guide us as we seek for this ministry to grow and

to develop in a way that honours Him.

Thurs 16 July/ 20 Aug

Middle East: Pray for peace throughout the Middle East and for all who are working to promote peace. Pray for dialogue and trust between nations. Pray for families who have lost loved ones, for those whose homes have been destroyed, and for all who are fearful for the future. Pray that what is impossible for us might be possible with God. Pray that in that part of the world where Jesus the Prince of Peace once walked, that peace might reign.

Fri 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, they will continue to hold out the hope there is in Jesus and offer practical help as they are able where it is needed.

Sat 18 July/ 22 Aug

United Bible Societies, Venezuela: Give thanks that the staff of the United Bible Societies, Venezuela are safe after the recent devastating earthquake. Remember all those who have lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. Give thanks for all those who continue to seek to offer relief. Pray that aid would get to those who need it most.

Pray for the United Bible Societies in Venezuela team. Pray that God would help them and local churches as they seek to offer practical assistance of different kinds, pastoral support, trauma care, Scripture resources, and as they look to encourage communities facing grief and fear.

Sun 19 July/ 23 Aug

Prison Chaplains and Prison Fellowship Scotland (PFS). As Gary Caldwell leads worship at St Columba's Hillhead Church this day in July, pray for prison chaplains throughout Scotland as they minister to prisoners and staff alike. Pray that they might come alongside staff and prisoners alike with kindness and grace. Pray that they would be good listeners and counsellors. Pray that their message of hope in Jesus would be warmly and widely welcomed.

Give thanks also for the long-standing working partnership of Prison Fellowship Scotland 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 some children affected by imprisonment to attend an SU adventure holiday. Pray for PFS as it seeks to further develop its work within prisons.

Mon 20 July/ 24 Aug

The Boys' Brigade. Give thanks for all the boys who belong to The 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkintilloch BB, and for their attendance, activities and achievements over this past session. Remember the leaders as they enjoy a break over the summer months. Pray that when the new session begins, 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.

Tues 21 July/ 25 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. Give thanks for the different groups including Alcoholics Anonymous that we are able to host at our Hillhead Halls.

Wed 22 July/ 26 Aug

Christian Aid. Give thanks for the more than 80 years of Christian Aid's work around the world to seek to eradicate poverty and for the opportunity we have had at St Columba's Hillhead to play a part in that.

Give thanks for the focus during 'Christian Aid Week' on the work of Christian Aid worldwide. Give thanks for the funds raised, including at our own church.

Pray too for the urban farming project highlighted through this year's Christian Aid Week. Give thanks for the training and support for families in Kenya with small plots of land to farm these plots in a productive and sustainable way to provide both food and income.

Pray that the Lord will continue to bless the ongoing need for support through Christian Aid.

Thurs 23 July/ 27 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.

Fri 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.

Sat 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.

Sun 26 July/ 30 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.

Mon 27 July/ 30 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.

Tues 28 July/ 31 Aug

Little Hands, Big World: Pray for the Toddler Holiday Club that is running on Tues, Wed and Thurs mornings this week. Pray for safety, for enjoyment, for good teamwork and for good relationships to grow with young families in our community. Pray that the theme of 'Little Hands, Big World' theme which

encourages us to explore the wonder of God's creation might capture the imagination of all.

Wed 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. Give thanks for all the fundraising that has taken place for the new church roof and the generosity of the congregation and others. Pray that the gracious hand of our God might continue to be on this project. Pray that the work to install the roof may go well and be completed in good time before the winter weather sets in.

Thurs 30 July

Stewarding and Hospitality, St Columba's Hillhead Church. Give thanks for those who serve as stewards Sunday by Sunday. Pray that God might help them in their important role of welcoming folks as they come to church on a Sunday and of looking out for visitors especially. Give thanks too for all who serve tea and coffee at church services and meetings and who cater for other events in the church. Praise God for how this helps nurture an atmosphere of fellowship amongst us.

Fri 31 July

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.