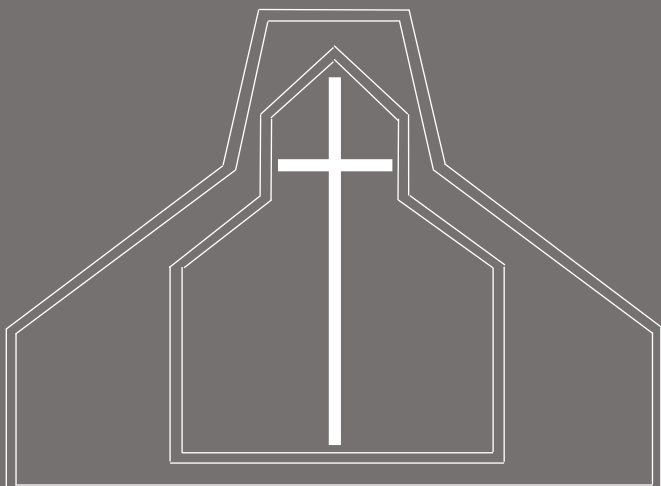


Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1Thessalonians 5: 17-18



Prayer Diary

July 2022

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Friday 1

Ukraine: Continue to pray fervently for Ukraine. Pray for all people affected by the violence and destruction - pray for compassion and support for all; for refugees that they might find a safe place to stay; for provision of essential supplies; for healing for people who are wounded/experienced trauma; comfort for those grieving. Remember those in positions of leadership that leaders on both sides will balance responding to the injustice of the invasion with a firm desire to seek ways to find a just solution and restore global peace and security. Pray that God's power will be revealed through His Church in this situation, bringing a message of love and hope in the darkness. Pray that there will be an end to the horror soon and that peace may be restored quickly.

Saturday 2

Scripture Union: As the summer season of camps and missions gets under way pray for those who will be attending camps - staff, leaders and campers. Pray for a spirit of fun and fellowship as well as confidence for those leading, especially chief cooks, many of whom may not have cooked for large groups for 2 years now. Pray especially for the message of the Gospel as it is proclaimed at these events that many young

people may draw close to Christ and confess Him as their Saviour and Lord and desire to grow as His disciples today. Pray that God's love, joy and peace overflows from volunteers to young people at all SU groups and events.

Sunday 3

Church Worship: Pray for the proclamation of God's Word as the Lord's people gather in worship all around the world today that it may go forth with God's power and authority. Pray that the Lord's servants will be boldly empowered by the Holy Spirit, especially remembering Philip as he brings God's Word to us today. Remember especially those persecuted Christians around the world who worship the Lord but at significant risk to themselves and their families in many lands. Pray for the ongoing life of our recently united congregation of St Columba's Hillhead that we may grow in faith, hope and love together to serve the Lord boldly in our community.

Monday 4

The Bible Society, Laos: Many Christians in Laos live in poverty and come from oppressed minority groups. Owning a Bible is quite simply beyond their means. But thanks to the local Bible Society free Scriptures are distributed to those who struggle financially so that they can grow in their faith.

The Laos Bible Society works in partnership with local churches to identify the villages and churches where the Christians living in extreme poverty live, often in the most remote regions of the country. Often a Scripture distribution programme is run alongside a literacy programme so that anyone learning to read will also have access to a Bible. Pray that God's Word brings salvation to those struggling because of poverty, bringing transformation to their personal lives and their communities.

Tuesday 5

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF): In the first quarter of 2022, Timor-Leste's Ministry of Health reported that dengue fever cases were five times higher than last year with children mainly affected. Without MAF it would take hours rather than minutes to reach hospital by road or boat with MAF flights helping to prevent many more deaths that would have taken place. Pray 1. For a full recovery for those suffering from dengue fever 2. For resilience for MAF's pilots who witness distressing, life-threatening situations on a regular basis 3. For the aircraft engineers who help keep MAF aircraft in the air so medical evacuations can take place 4. That now Timor-Leste is entering a cooler period

cases of dengue fever will decrease.

Wednesday 6

Bethany Christian Trust: UpStream is a befriending and counselling service delivering therapeutic interventions within secondary schools and family support in Glasgow and the West to promote positive mental health and wellbeing to pupils. The pandemic has taken its toll on many young people and families. As people struggle to come to terms with the past 2 years, pray for comfort for those grieving, clarity for those whose lives have changed and support for those processing the impact of lockdown. Pray also for UpStream's therapeutic and family support staff as they provide space and support for young people and families as they navigate their individual challenges.

Thursday 7

Children and Families Worker: Give thanks for the very generous and encouraging response to the congregational appeal. Please pray for grant applications being written for submission and consideration. Pray that this Project will be favourably regarded by Grant Providers as applications are submitted. Give thanks for our first successful grant application, leading to the 'Miss ME Patterson's Charitable Trust' donating £2000 to the project. Give

thanks for all the sterling work which has been done by the Team to progress this thus far and pray for its ongoing development.

Friday 8

The Leprosy Mission (TLM): The National Leprosy Control Programme has difficulty keeping up with new developments in leprosy control and disability prevention. Pray for wisdom and skills for the Co-ordinator so that they can lead the team towards quality work that will be put into practice. Give thanks for the good work done by TLM in Chad so much so that the Government there has given permission to extend the work to the Salamat region where TLM's office is now based and where leprosy work has been neglected and disability work has been almost non-existent. Pray for the Community-Based Rehabilitation health staff in awareness, training and supervision that early case detection can be done and quality treatment given to leprosy reactions. Give thanks also for the sum of £230 sent from St Columba's for the work of TLM from the gifts left in the Vestibule.

Saturday 9

Christians Against Poverty (CAP): Pray for the local CAP Group which exists as a national debt counselling charity that works through local churches to relieve poverty and help people out

of debt especially in these current financially challenging days. Pray for those who offer free debt counselling to people living in our area. Pray that people will seek their help early to prevent further debt increasing and receive practical and emotional support to show people there is always hope. Pray also for the local foodbank, that in the current economic climate those who need and seek assistance with food provision as well as concern for energy costs, may be welcomed and provided for and hearts opened to give gladly to provide food items. Remember those who willingly serve as volunteers to provide this service that they will be safe and secure.

Sunday 10

The Suffering Church: As the Lord's people gather to worship all around the world today give thanks for those lands where Christians have the freedom to worship openly without fear of being arrested. Remember especially those who live their faith in secret and worship the Lord in many lands such as North Korea, Afghanistan and Pakistan where it is difficult to be a Christian. Pray that the Lord may Help His people to know that He is with them in their fears for safety. Pray for their safety and that they feel a sense of His mercy and love. Pray for the work of The Barnabas Fund,

Open Doors and Christian Solidarity Worldwide as they seek to support persecuted Christians around the world.

Monday 11

The Bereaved: Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in 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.

Tuesday 12

Those with Mental Health Issues: The last few months have been difficult for many in loss of social support and encouragement. Pray for those who are suffering mental health issues, especially children and young people who have suffered much during the last two years through loss of social interaction. Remember those who seek to provide caring support. Remember their families who experience pain watching loved ones suffer and often feel helpless and isolated too. Pray for those in the NHS and those in the wider Caring Agencies who are under great pressure from increased demand for

their services through increased waiting times. Pray especially for those known to us who are experiencing difficult times in these days.

Wednesday 13

Church/Grounds Maintenance: Give thanks for those who work to keep the grounds in such good order by regular attention and diligent service. Pray that more helpers will volunteers to participate in this essential work of maintenance. Also remember and give thanks for those who similarly and faithfully labour to keep the fabric of the church building and halls in good repair.

Thursday 14

Those who are Unwell or in Hospital: Remember those who are unwell, awaiting investigation, diagnosis, surgery/treatment especially in the current demand upon the Health Service. Pray that they may receive their required care as promptly as possible. Continue to remember and give thanks for all Healthcare staff amid continuing great pressures to respond to increasing demands upon them for their help and care.

Friday 15

The Lodging House Mission (LHM): Pray especially for the work of the Day Centre which is a vital haven for a variety of reasons to those who are vulnerable. For

many, attending the Day Centre is the first step in reducing the feelings of isolation and loneliness which are often caused by living a chaotic life, homelessness as well as mental illness. Pray especially for the Support Staff and Counsellors as they seek to develop trusted relations to help identify the individual needs and wants of the men and women who seek help and advice.

Saturday 16

Prison Fellowship, Scotland: Pray for the work of Prison Fellowship in Scotland who work with all 15 of Scotland's prisons and where no one is beyond hope. Pray for good relationships with Prison Staff/ Chaplaincy Staff and for meaningful relationships with prisoners, participating in weekly conversational/ bible study groups and for support for families and children affected by imprisonment. Give thanks for volunteers from churches in Scotland who help to make the Good News available to those in Scottish prisons. Pray also for the expansion of the Letter-Writing Programme where trained letter-writers can make a big difference in Christian communication with prisoners who may not receive a single visit from one year to the next.

Sunday 17

Church of Scotland: Pray for the continuing work of the

Church in Scotland and abroad as it seeks to make challenging organisational changes over the coming months in conjunction with changing social trends following Covid. Remember those in full-time ministry who seek faithfully to proclaim God's Word week by week and for their encouragement. Pray for changes within Presbytery structures, and especially for The Presbytery of Glasgow. Pray that they will come together efficiently and purposefully and for reorganisation within Presbyteries that changes amongst congregations will be seen as a strengthening change for mission and development and a commitment to work in creative ways of proclaiming the Gospel.

Monday 18

Tearfund: The local church is at the centre of God's vision for the world, 'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession...' (1 Pet. 2:9). Thank God for local churches and all they do to serve their communities - whether in a city centre in Europe or in a remote mountain village in Nepal. A village in rural Nepal had a contaminated water source. When the local church learnt of the problem they held community meetings to discuss how to protect it. Finally, everyone joined together to take action. 'The church has been

successful in completing this work in collaboration with the community', says the church pastor. 'Now everyone in the village is drinking clean water.' Praise God for this great achievement and also for a similar approach by a church youth group in Saggian, Pakistan, which decided to start up a blood bank database where the youth group arranges blood donations for a person in need. Pray that more amazing youth groups like this will rise up around the world.

Tuesday 19

Our Neighbours: Pray that we might be good neighbours to all those amongst whom God has placed us. Pray that through our inter-connection of relationships and lives the light and love of Christ may be made known. Pray that people may seek to know more about Jesus and be drawn closer to Him. Pray for opportunities to allow this to happen.

Wednesday 20

Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group: Give thanks for the new staff members and Friendship Club members, Lucy and Summer and Cat and those from Baillieston Group in the Following Jesus Group. Give thanks for the great time the Group had at Prospects Across Scotland annual weekend at Tulliallan where there was much joy shared in praising the Lord

in a variety of ways. Give thanks also for the enjoyment shared sailing on the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Seagull Trust. Pray that the forthcoming new session will be a building upon the good work being done and shared in these Groups.

Thursday 21

Young People's Work: Remember the young people within St Columba's Hillhead especially during these summer holiday months. Pray for their wellbeing and looking forward to returning to their participation within Church organisations. Pray for the 5th Kirkintilloch Brownies as they prepare for the new session in September in Hillhead that the young folks will be keen to be involved and for the girls waiting to start in the new Rainbow unit. Pray that new volunteers would be willing to help with this new Unit and pursue leader training. Give thanks also for the resumption of in-person chaplaincy support for Oxbang Primary School and Kirkintilloch High School in the closing days of the school term before the summer holidays.

Friday 22

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks that despite the last 2 years of uncertainty the Session ended for the summer with a sense of 'being back to normal' again with the presentation of

awards at the end of the session. Pray for new recruits in the Anchor Section as a number of boys have moved up to Junior Section. Give thanks too for the commitment of boys, parents and carers and all the staff for their hard work and enthusiasm in making the Session as successful as it has been with a good variety of activities. Pray that there will be a keen desire for those who are still of age to return and for an enthusiasm to progress further in the life of The 1st Kirkintilloch BB Company. For those boys who are moving on to further life involvements pray that they will know the solid foundation of a Christian approach to life.

Saturday 23

Christian Aid: Give thanks for the sum of £695 + Gift Aid raised by the recent Congregational amount from Christian Aid Week to support Christian Aid's work to overcome poverty and injustice wherever the need is greatest. Remember Christian Aid's work in Zimbabwe - pray to strengthen poor and marginalised women and men's resilience and access to inclusive markets. Pray also to promote good governance and citizens' participation in local and national decision-making processes which impact their lives and allow people to live their lives with dignity.

Sunday 24

Sunday Club and Bible Class: Continue to give thanks for the regular joining together of the young people in Sunday worship. Pray that the recent looking at the life of Joseph in the Old Testament where God has a plan for our lives may bear fruit in the lives of the young people. Pray also that the young people may have been encouraged in reading the Bible and how best to read the Bible. Pray that God will reveal Himself to them in their reading of His Word. Pray for children and young people in both groups when they are off on holiday and as Sunday Club and Bible Class take a break over the summer weeks.

Monday 25

Home for Good: Pray for an increase in awareness and understanding of supported lodgings as a provision for teenagers that more hosts will come forward and provide care and support to teenagers in this way. Pray that all local authorities will operate a scheme so that this option can be offered to young people. Ask the Lord for an increase in the number of supported lodgings homes across Scotland/UK so that the number of young people living in supported lodgings may be doubled.

Tuesday 26

The Guild: Give thanks that the Guild has a new

Convener and that the syllabus for the new session 2022-23 is now being developed. Pray that all the preparations will be in place for the start of the new session and for the Committee members as they work together to make this possible. Remember all the Guild members from St Columba's Hillhead as they look forward to meeting together again in worship, fellowship and service at the start of the new session in September and pray that they may be joined by some further new members.

Wednesday 27

Midweek Service: Remember the Midweek Service as an integral midweek time of worship and for those who attend that the worship time and sharing around God's Word may be a delight to the Lord and to each other. Even though the Midweek Service has stopped for the summer remember those in prayer who regularly attend this meeting that they may know the ongoing encouragement and support to and for each other through the summer days as they look forward to its restart on Wed. 17th Aug. Pray that more people may desire to attend and come to share around God's Word.

Thursday 28

Walk and Talk Group: Give thanks for the weekly meeting together of Walk and Talk as an opportunity

to share time and gentle exercise with one another to promote health and wellbeing as well as a social opportunity to listen and talk with each other and share interest in each other. Remember the Lord's walk on the Road to Emmaus where He drew alongside His friends and walked and talked with them and encouraged them as they journeyed together. Ask the Lord to bless these conversations between friends who have an interest in and for each other.

Friday 29

Little Fishes and Busy Bees: Remember the opportunity that these Toddler and Carer Groups provide to engage with children, parents and carers. Pray that meaningful relationships may be established and sustained with those who enter our Church doors. Give thanks for the leaders and their commitment to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for those who come along and pray for wisdom and discernment in planning for the new session that visitors may want to come along regularly and know more about Christ and His love for little children. Pray for sufficient leaders to meet the needs of the Groups.

Saturday 30

Men's Group: Even though the Men's Group, like many other Church organisations

at this time of the year, is in abeyance, continue to remember the men of the Group and their enjoyment in meeting together during the Autumn and Winter months. Pray that the new session as it draws near will be much anticipated and more will feel able to come along after long months of Covid uncertainty which thankfully has greatly reduced.

Sunday 31

St Columba's Hillhead Congregation: Pray for the ongoing life and witness of the newly-established united charge. Give thanks for those who are preaching in both St Columba's and Hillhead today while Philip is on holiday and pray that the Lord will bless the ministry of God's Word. Pray for a spirit of love and unity in the lives of the people as together ministry and mission is developed and practised in life and witness. Pray that the Lord will be greatly pleased to honour and bless the work in His Name. Pray that Philip, Gill and the boys will have a restful and renewing break and be refreshed in their return for the forthcoming new session.