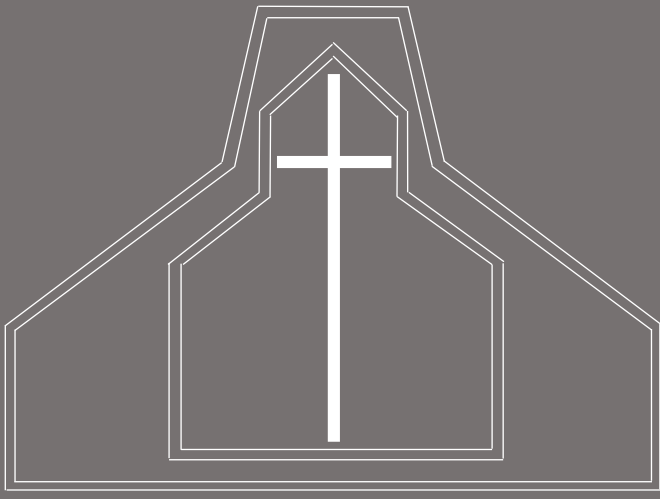


For the eyes of the Lord
are on the righteous and
his ears are attentive to
their prayer, but the face
of the Lord is against
those who do evil.

1 Peter 3:12



Prayer Diary

March 2025

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Saturday 1

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care. Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting or undergoing investigation, diagnosis, surgery/ treatment especially in the current demands upon the Health Service. Give thanks for those who are recovering from surgery/ treatment and pray that they will know increasing strength and wholeness in the forthcoming days. Pray that those who need medical help may receive their required care as promptly as possible and pray for recovery, healing and strength to endure however God provides. Especially remember those known to us suffering from chronic/terminal illness and pain as people seek to live with the constant reminder of suffering. Remember their families and carers who also share in the pain and suffering. Continue to remember and give thanks for all Healthcare staff, especially our local GPs and staff amid continuing great pressures to respond to increasing demands upon them for their help and care. Pray for those in long term care, all NHS and Social Care staff as they seek to provide compassionate care especially in a time of increasing demands.

Sunday 2

St Columba's Hillhead. Continue to pray for the upbuilding of the life and fellowship of the

congregation, especially as we gather together today to celebrate the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper. Pray that the fellowship around the Lord's Table will be a time of peace and gratitude for Christ's death for us. 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.

Monday 3

Men's Group. Give thanks for the Men's Group and for those who have the opportunity to meet together for social activities and friendship in enjoyment and recreation. Remember Jim Kennedy as Chairman and Secretary, Ian Gibb, as they coordinate the week to week activity. Pray that there will be a continuing good attendance and those who come will know the warm welcome and friendship offered as a helpful support, especially as the end of the session is

drawing near as Spring unfolds.

Tuesday 4

The Guild. Remember the ongoing life and fellowship of the Guild as the second half of the session progresses. Pray for encouragement and growth in faith under the current theme for the Year *Sure Foundations*. Remember Gilbert as retiring Convener, and Carol Johnston as his prospective successor, the members of the Committee and members who seek to serve to promote worship, fellowship and service in active faith. Give thanks for another solid year of fellowship and activity as the current Session draws to a close till after the summer. Continue to remember the Guild Projects *Build My Church*, *Let's Build a House*, *Bibles for Bairnes* and *Operation Hope -Egypt* as examples of faith in action that they may be well-supported and attention will be highlighted.

Wednesday 5

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 6

Walk and Talk. Remember the Walk & Talk Group as it continues to enjoy meeting on Thursday afternoons for an hour or so of walk and conversation. Remember those who regularly share together in this hour of gentle exercise and the opportunity to socially share interest in each other and their lives. Pray for those who come regularly and for new members that each will feel welcomed and know the mutual interest and love gained from 'a listening ear'.

Friday 7

Little Fishes and Busy Bees. Give thanks that these Groups continue to be well-attended each week. Pray especially for the Busy Bees Group that those on the waiting list will be understanding of having to cap numbers for reasons of available space. Remember the leaders and helpers of both groups as they plan and oversee the life of these groups especially for safety and wisdom in the outworking of the activities. Pray that those who come along, both carers and children, that they will be aware that they are coming into a warm, inviting place where they are valued and a desire to know more about

Jesus' love. Pray especially for help to set up/clear away the hall with heavy lifting of required, necessary materials each week.

Saturday 8

The Bereaved. Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent/not so recent days and personally known to us. Remember those who have suffered through sudden trauma or chronic illness. Such loss is devastating for anyone who lost a loved one close to them and grieving can be painful and difficult. Pray that the Lord in His compassion will be close to them especially through dark and difficult days and that those surrounding them may be a quiet and sensitive support.

Sunday 9

Sunday Club. Give thanks for the regular attendance by those young people who come to Church on Sundays and seek to know more about Jesus and get to know Him as Saviour and Lord. Pray for the young people where it can be difficult to be different as someone who comes to Church with few peers. Remember the leaders in their commitment of service that they would know wisdom and honour the Lord in their preparation, leadership and encouragement of the young people. Remember Noah's Ark as it meets today and pray that the

families who are coming along may feel welcomed and may have a deepening interest and desire to come along and get to know Jesus more fully. Pray also for discernment in knowing ways of supporting young families in coming to church.

Monday 10

Children & Family Worker. Continue to give thanks for Cassie's presence with us and her involvement in the regular programme of services and events. Pray for Cassie as she builds relationships with young families and furthering already-established relationships and groups. Pray for Cassie as she plans and prepares for activities and becomes more involved in congregational life and the community, especially in the life of the young people's and SU groups at schools that she will be a great ambassador for the Lord in her work and witness. Especially pray for the application to *Seeds for Growth* (Church of Scotland Fund for congregations and mission and outreach) for financial assistance as the small sub-group considers and prepares to present the application to the Church of Scotland. Pray for wisdom and insight for all who have an input into this application that it may be favourably looked upon. Pray also for other sources of funding to be made known.

Tuesday 11

Church Heating. Give thanks for the well-maintained fabric and grounds of the Church and for the time and commitment given by those who keep the buildings and grounds in good order. Give thanks for the worship and activities which have continued in the hall while the Church building has not been in service for the last few months and for new opportunities in relationships which have been fostered during this time. Praise God for the conclusive, positive resolution made to finalise the repair of the Church heating and for the grant of £2.5k received from the Benefact Trust towards the cost following the work done by application by Graham Inglis. Give thanks for the unity in decision-making for financial resources to meet the relative costs involved.

Wednesday 12

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

the ministry of Warm Welcome continues to develop. Pray that relationships will be deepened and people will see the love of the Lord reaching out to them that they may come to know Him in faith, hope and love.

Thursday 13

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.

Friday 14

Boys' Brigade. Give thanks for the number of boys in The Anchor Section and Junior Section and for their continuing attendance, activities and achievements. 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 and a desire to grow in wisdom and maturity as they progress to adulthood.

Saturday 15

Those with Mental Health Issues. Remember those whose mental health is struggling at the moment. Pray that the Lord would draw close to those who are despairing. Especially remember those known to us who may be struggling. Pray that the Lord will give us the right words to say to someone who is suffering and pray for opportunities for healing conversations. Pray for an increase in understanding and empathy for mental health issues in society and within the Church. Pray that those suffering will find comfort and respite and a path to full healing. Remember also those supporting them that they may know patience, love, hope and healing.

Sunday 16

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 17

National and Local Government. Bring before the Lord all those in positions of authority across the United Kingdom across the political spectrum. Remember especially our Prime Minister and First Minister of Scotland and the members of their 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.

Tuesday 18

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

life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Wednesday 19

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. Pray for the ongoing life and fellowship of the Groups 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. Give thanks for these valued groups and for the ministry in sharing Jesus with these valued people whom He loves and cares for.

Thursday 20

Jo Crotty. Give thanks that Jo's passport issues have been quickly and positively resolved which has enabled her to travel back to the UK this month. We look forward to Jo visiting us here at St Columba's Hillhead (planned for Sun 30 March) to share an update with us on her valuable work with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. Pray for the Lord to her equip her with His grace and discernment to share her life, work and witness here with her

supporters she visits here in the UK. Remember her family in Melbourne, Australia, especially her brother, who is suffering from Motor Neurone Disease. Pray for the family as they seek to care for him with this non-curable disease and its debilitating effects. Ask the Lord to give them strength as they seek to compassionately care for him in faith, hope and love.

Friday 21

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

Saturday 22

Middle East. Continue to remember this ongoing complex situation and pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this expanding conflict involving the peoples of Syria, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen. Give thanks for the recent Ceasefire/fragile peace between Israel and Gaza, the release of hostages and for humanitarian aid being brought into Gaza- pray for these to continue. Pray for-
1. *Lasting Peace*- an end to the violence- and remember world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that exceed the fragility of current peace discussions
2. *Safety*- for all civilians, that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people and people with disabilities as they return to Gaza with what that may mean for them. Remember aid workers as they seek to provide vital humanitarian assistance and medical supplies and pray for their protection. Pray for safe access to food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies, fuel and electricity. Especially remember people forced to flee their homes- pray for safe places to stay as people return home.
3. *Hope*- remember those who are terrified and traumatised, mourning and

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

Sunday 23

The Suffering Church. Especially remember those who are persecuted for their Christian faith today as the worldwide Church gathers together for worship around the globe. Give thanks for the work and witness of Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and The Barnabas Trust as they support persecuted Christians around the world. Open Doors reports that 4476 Christians were murdered for their faith last year. Pray for Christians in North Korea which tops Open Doors' World Watch List (it has been No. 1 twenty three times). The situation for Christians has worsened there in the last year following a rise in reported incidents of violence- this coincides with stricter regulations announced by the North Korean authorities in early 2024. Also remember Christians in
1. Kyrgyzstan which has the seen the biggest rise in the World Watch List jumping 14 places to 47.

2. Protestant churches targeted in Algeria.
3. Heightened violence and targeting of Christians in Mexico.

Monday 24

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 and family of prisoners affected by imprisonment and pray for PFS as it seeks to further develop its work within prisons. Remember Rev. Gary Caldwell in his work as Prison Chaplain at Greenock Prison as he serves staff and those imprisoned there. Give thanks for changed lives through God's grace as he engages with those in Greenock Prison.

Tuesday 25

5th Kirkintilloch Brownies. Give thanks for the local Brownie Pack which meets on Tuesday evenings in Hillhead Building and

remember Lynne 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 26

Scripture Union (SU).

1. Pray for SU's ministry in Belarus, Ukraine and the restricted country we support in prayer, giving thanks for the resilience and perseverance of staff and volunteers in the face of attacks, power cuts, poverty, threat and financial challenges. Pray for God's strength.
2. The Leadership Team meet on Thursdays. Pray for Robin, Jackie, Paul, Mike, Zonya and Jenny and the departments they oversee. May the Lord make their love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, and may he strengthen their hearts (1 Thess. 3: 12-13).
3. SU Holidays begin next weekend. Pray especially for Team Leaders and volunteers who may feel things coming against them in the coming week or two. Pray they will be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power and put on the full armour of God (Eph. 6).

Thursday 27

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Praise God for MAF's Recruitment Team and pray for His guidance and wisdom as their personnel seek to find the right candidates for various key roles within MAF. Ask for God's provision and favour over the recruitment events planned for later this year as they seek to attract passionate and skilled individuals for service overseas. Uphold all the MAF staff and volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes. May they feel supported and valued in their roles with their testimonies inspiring many others to join the MAF family. Please pray for the pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers and other technical staff needed to keep MAF's programmes running smoothly. May God bring the right people with the necessary heart and skills for service. Lift up the individuals and families who are considering joining MAF that they may have peace and clarity during their decision-making process.

Friday 28

The Leprosy Mission (TLM). TLM Ethiopia with its expertise and capacity is working with the Ethiopian Government and partner agencies to work towards the reduction of transmission of leprosy in Ethiopia, to prevent and care for leprosy-related disabilities, and to amplify the voices of persons

affected by leprosy and persons with disability. Pray for better livelihoods for persons affected by leprosy in Ethiopia and that TLM's programmes might help to make that possible. Pray that new ways will be found to access new funding opportunities so that TLM can narrow the big demand for leprosy services in Ethiopia. Pray for the laws that protect the rights of persons affected by leprosy to be well-implemented and that TLM will make good use of these legal protections in their work. Ask the Lord to help TLM's team in Ethiopia grow their expertise and skills. Pray that they will have opportunities to do this in 2025.

Saturday 29

Tearfund. Give thanks for Tearfund's work (Transforming Communities) in Bangladesh through the local church in supporting communities to rewrite their own stories and build a future filled with hope and opportunity. Pray for the incredible income-generating activities making a big difference to vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. Praise God for the gifts He has given to create new skills for people to learn new opportunities to earn. Remember widows like Reshma who suddenly find themselves running the family and covering all the expenses alone. Reshma began a tea stall, received

seeds and started a vegetable garden. And during the fishing season she catches fish. Pray that many more people's spiritual and material lives will be changed through Transforming Communities.

Sunday 30

The Bible Society. Praise God for the generosity of Bible Society supporters which means a constant stream of migrant workers are hearing the Gospel in the Gulf. Thank God that countless people are turning to Jesus in China year in, year out. Pray that God will speak to them through the Bible. Pray for the pastors and lay preachers who reach and disciple them to be firmly grounded in gospel truth. Pray that Chinese Christians, many of whom don't have a local pastor, will avoid the lure of the many cults now operating in China. Pray for Bible Society staff and supporters as they seek to embrace future challenges and opportunities to encourage people to engage more with Scriptures.

Monday 31

Christian Aid. In Christian Aid's 80th year, give thanks for the many ways in Christian Aid has sought to bring justice and hope to many communities throughout the world. Pray for the current important focus on climate change to help many poor and

vulnerable nations across the world. Remember Christian Aid Scotland supporters putting their faith into action through climate campaigning, giving thanks for their time and commitment that justice and hope will be fulfilled for many. Pray for groups, churches supporters who are already getting prepared for Christian Aid Week in May that their preparations will have a positive outcome in highlighting the work of Christian Aid and generate much needed income.