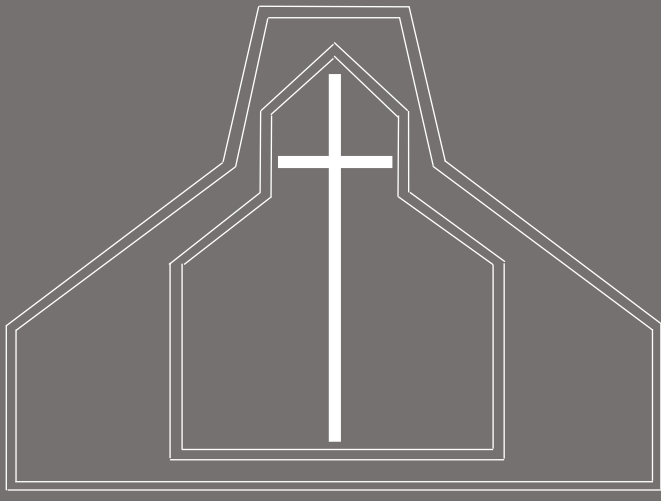


Be joyful in hope, patient
in affliction, faithful in
prayer. Share with God's
people who are in need.
Practise hospitality.

Romans 12: 12-13



Prayer Diary

May 2025

St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Thursday 1

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 2

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 equipment each week.

Saturday 3

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

Sunday 4

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 for discernment in knowing ways of supporting young families in coming to church. Pray also for young people known to us who may be sitting exams.

Monday 5

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.

Tuesday 6

Myanmar. Remember the people of Myanmar and surrounding countries such as Thailand where communities have been devastated by the magnitude of the earthquake which struck the area in recent days. Give thanks for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) which quickly set up relief support and especially give thanks for Tearfund which is an integral member of the DEC and actively engaged in relief efforts to assist. Give thanks too for our opportunity as a church to donate £320 to this fund raised at the recent Good Friday Café. Please pray for safety and strength for Tearfund's partners in the area as they respond to the growing need and that God may comfort and heal the people of Myanmar and the surrounding region whose lives have been fractured by this disaster. Pray that there will be positive response from the international community to work together to alleviate the suffering of the people.

Wednesday 7

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 8

VE Day Anniversary. Give thanks for the 80th Anniversary of the end of the 2nd World War in Europe and for the fortitude of the declining number of veterans in their selflessness to serve the War effort. Give thanks that we have lived through relative stability and peace through these years and remember the current world situation where the world order is changing where previous long-standing relationships between nations are changing and in a state of flux. Especially uphold world leaders that they may uphold wisdom and integrity for the wellbeing of the world and exercise caution and restraint in their actions.

Friday 9

Children & Family Worker. Continue to give thanks for Cassie's presence with us and her involvement in the regular programme of services and events such as Little Fishes, Busy Bees and Noah's Ark. 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 SU groups at schools that she will be a great ambassador for the Lord in her work and witness. Especially pray for the submitted application to Seeds for Growth (Church of Scotland Fund for congregations to promote mission and outreach) for financial assistance. Pray that the submitted application may be favourably looked upon. Pray also for other sources of funding to be made known.

Saturday 10

Scottish/ Westminster Parliaments: Assisted Dying Bill. Pray for the Scottish/ Westminster Parliaments 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. Remember the Scottish Bill put forward by Liam McArthur as it comes towards the voting stage. Pray for all MSPs/MPs as they further consider/debate all the issues raised by this Bill- primarily the long-held stance of sanctity of life,

and the proposed desire to change the law to access safe and assisted dying to end life with the wider consequences that will have. Pray for everyone who has an interest in this issue with personal views on this matter. Previous attempts to change the law to enable assisted dying have failed. Pray especially for all those Christians who have submitted contributions to the debate that our heritage based on Christian values will be heard and acknowledged. Remember Christian healthcare staff as they seek to honour the Lord in their desire to uphold the sanctity of life and also those working in palliative care as they deliver end-of-life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Sunday 11

Christian Aid (CA). Give thanks for the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Christian Aid and for the significant work which has been undertaken and fulfilled by Christian Aid during this time to help to eradicate poverty and fight injustice around the world and latterly help communities affected by climate change. Give thanks for the 80th Anniversary National Celebration in the Royal Albert Hall, London, that CA's work will be highlighted and promoted for God's glory. Pray for the ongoing work of Christian Aid that

this work will strengthen even more so and remember Christian Aid Week this week that people will respond positively to help make lasting change for many vulnerable communities suffering in poverty and injustice across the world.

Monday 12

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 Governments that they may seek to exercise integrity and wisdom in their life and work, especially in these current days of world uncertainty and change. Pray that policy-makers will be thoughtful and discerning as they make decisions and draft new policy for the wellbeing of the nation. 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 13

Luwero Christian Ministries, Uganda. Give thanks for the work and ministry which is led by Gabriel Kijambu and

for the many people who have come to Christ through this ministry. Especially pray earnestly for Gabriel's continued health and wellbeing after a recent bad fall resulted in his hospitalisation with bleeding on his brain. Give thanks that the MRI scan was more encouraging in the effects of the fall and that Gabriel will continue to steadily improve, especially praying for a decrease in his blood pressure. Pray that he will soon be able to drive again. Remember his wife, Deborah, and their 4 daughters who will be concerned about Gabriel and seek to support him. Pray that the ongoing life and work of the Community in its many facets - Church, School, Farm and Land Development and Gabriel's oversight of 16 pastor-colleagues - will continue while Gabriel fully recovers and that the many students and workers will continue to grow in grace and stature for the Lord.

Wednesday 14

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. Pray for discernment to know God's will in how best to see the work of Warm Welcome grow and develop, serve the people of Hillhead, and share the Good News about Jesus.

Thursday 15

Jo Crotty. Give thanks for Jo's visit to the UK and for her visit to StCH to share with us her work and witness for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. Especially remember the 29 children who attended the Healing Hurting Hearts Workshop that God would continue to work in their hearts. Pray also that the revised materials for the trauma healing for children and writing the training materials will be steadily achieved. Give thanks that Jo was able to do the Glasgow Kiltwalk on Saturday 26th April walking 14 miles from Clydebank to Balloch to raise funds for MND Scotland to support research into Motor Neurone Disease which her brother Greg suffers from in Melbourne, Australia and continues to physically decline. Pray for Greg, his wife Maureen and their children as they adjust to the

next stage of life and give thanks for the drop-in centre he is able to participate in. Give thanks for Jo having access to good health care in Scotland and remember her as she will be travelling quite widely over her time of leave that her journeying will be safe and smooth and that her baggage will accompany her as she travels. Especially pray for Jo to know stillness and renewal of her body and spirit during her time of furlough in the UK and US.

Pray for Jo as she returns to PNG – for her physical; and spiritual wellbeing, for good friendships (especially as staff come and go), for safety in travel, and for the role she plays alongside others in medevac teams.

Friday 16

The Lodging House Mission (TLHM). Give thanks for the work and witness of TLHM and Glasgow City Mission in their work in caring for the vulnerable in our society. Give thanks for the 50 Easter eggs given by StCH to support the work of TLHM and also for the practical and prayerful encouragement of other Glasgow Presbytery congregations that these may be a blessing to those who reach out to the TLHM for help and support at all times. Remember the Manager, Chaplain and staff who provide relational support and encouragement in a variety of different ways of

activities and opportunities in the daily life of the TLHM that the service-users will know Christ's presence with them.

Saturday 17

General Assembly of The Church of Scotland. Pray for the General Assembly of the Church as it starts today. Give thanks for the Moderatorial year of the outgoing Moderator, Rev. Dr Shaw Paterson. Pray that the witness of life and faith in Jesus Christ may have been highlighted. Remember the Moderator Designate for this forthcoming year, Rev. Rosemary Frew as she becomes the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad for the next 12 months. Pray that she may moderate the Assembly meetings this week with grace and wisdom, discernment and sensitivity. Pray that the difficult issues facing the Church will be deliberated upon with the Lord's guidance and the Assembly will know the Lord's purpose in the ongoing life of His Church.

Sunday 18

The Suffering Church. Give thanks for the recent parliamentary debate on a crucial issue last month (and for the MPs who attended); the global persecution of Christians. Give thanks for the work of Open Doors-whose research was widely quoted during the debate-

and Christian Solidarity Worldwide and The Barnabas Trust. Pray that God will bless David Smith MP in his role as the UK's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief. Pray that the results of this debate will continue to gain momentum and that more MPs will invest in this work. Give thanks that Scripture was quoted directly in the debate at least seven times within the hour-and-a-half long debate and that the Bible will still be seen as a power and relevance in the UK Parliament. Pray that those who pass the floor of Central Lobby may reflect on the words there in Latin: *Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain* (Psalm 127:1).

Monday 19

Scripture Union. Those who are looking to start a gap year with SU Scotland in August will be fundraising and preparing for it. Pray that God will amply provide for them. Pray too for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as John and Ewan seek God for what comes next. Also, Motiv8 holidays are advertised locally to priority young people by youth projects working in partnership with SU Holidays. Pray for invitations that are going out to parents - that forms will be filled in correctly and returned on time, and that young people will commit to come. Give thanks that Elaine Tait, Additional Support Needs Development Coordinator

has been training staff and volunteers these past months and creating bags of fidget toys for use at Weekends and Holidays. Pray that these will be well-used by Team Leaders and will be a blessing to those young people who use them.

Tuesday 20

The Bible Society (SBS). Give thanks for the work of the regular volunteers who contribute to the day-to-day work of SBS. Pray for the many churches that SBS staff have visited in the last 5 months, and ask God to encourage those churches through their reading and hearing of the Bible. Field Guide to the Bible is an excellent youth resource giving young people an overview of the Bible. Ask God to use it to bless young people. Remember the Peace and Justice Bible Programme in Lebanon which is designed to train and equip children and youth with biblical principles of peace and social justice. Pray for those on this programme that their lives would be deeply impacted.

Wednesday 21

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 22

Bethany Christian Trust (BCT). Give thanks that BCT has a progressive action plan to deal with homelessness based on adherence to Scripture and Christian values which it is seeking to work through in action. Please pray this month for a Warm Welcome and Positive Pathways to underpin relationships with people who BCT engages with. Pray that BCT will ensure accessible and trauma-informed services offer a clear path to independence, with ongoing support being available and achieving positive life outcomes for those who receive BCT's services. Pray that God will continue to lead and direct BCT on the right path to deliver services that positively impact the lives of vulnerable people across Scotland. Remember Rev. David McAdam in his frontline work with vulnerable people as they seek to settle to a new beginning with his support and encouragement.

Friday 23

The Leprosy Mission (TLM), Timor-Leste. *Misaun Lepra Timor-Leste* works in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, local churches and Organisations of Persons with Disability. *Misaun Lepra Timor Leste* is currently running two programmes - one to end leprosy transmission and the other focussing on preventative health and community empowerment in particular areas. Give thanks for *Misaun Lepra*'s Board who are willing to support TLM's work and pray for their health and for wisdom in their leadership. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom upon government officials who are overseeing leprosy work in these particular areas and ask the Lord to grant safety and wellbeing for TLM's staff and those in the communities they serve. Pray for the strengthening of the partnership between *Misaun Lepra Timor-Leste* and the government and ask the Lord to bless this collaboration and lead to positive outcomes for the people TLM serves.

Saturday 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.

Sunday 25

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 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.

Monday 26

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). For residents of the Loita Maasai community in Kenya the construction of a much-awaited bridge marks the beginning of a new era - one where floods no longer isolate families, children can attend school without anxiety, and medical emergencies are no longer do-or-die life-or-death situations on the riverbank. MAF has been involved with other agencies in this construction work with MAF flights carrying engineers, stakeholders and materials to the remote location. What would have taken 7-10 hours by road took only 30 minutes by plane, bringing the right people and materials together to make the vision a reality. Please pray that:

1) the bridge remains strong and secure for many years to come so future generations can benefit from it.

2) there will be a way for MAF to support other remote areas so they get the infrastructure they need.

3) give thanks that this bridge that was once only a dream is now a life-saving reality.

Tuesday 27

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 28

Ukraine. Continue to remember the conflict and people in Ukraine, especially as peace talks are being undertaken. Pray that there may be a just cessation of hostilities between Ukraine and Russia with a just settlement for people to live free from conflict, violence and devastation. Pray for a physical, social and spiritual rebuilding of Ukraine with people not living in fear of bombardment and loss of life and possessions. Remember current world leaders especially as they seek to bring a just conclusion to the conflict-pray for wisdom, integrity and discernment as they seek to make decisions

which will have a significant bearing on the future life and living of the Ukrainian people. Pray for the people of Ukraine as they have had to suffer much during the last few years of war that they may have a continuing resilience for the future.

Thursday 29

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. (Matthew 19:26)
(from Tearfund)

Friday 30

Those with Mental Health Issues. Remember those whose mental health is struggling at the moment, especially young people suffering from social media and life issues. 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.

Friday 30

Tearfund, Cambodia. Give thanks for the positive impact that savings and loans groups are having on some of the most vulnerable people. When Yon's husband died she didn't know how she'd manage without his income, but help came when she joined a church group with others facing economic hardship. Pray for others like Yon who have lost loved ones and are struggling to support their families alone. Yon is now in a savings group with 13 others and they meet and pray together once a week. If a member is in difficulty the rest of the group discusses how they can help them and gives them a loan if needed. Nobody is too poor now. Give thanks for the power of community in this situation.

Saturday 31

CARE (Christian Action Research Education). CARE's vision is to see Politics Renewed and Lives Transformed to create a society where everyone flourishes exactly as God intends. CARE seeks to equip politicians with high quality research, producing briefings and drafting speeches for MPs, Peers and other politicians from all parties and faith backgrounds in Westminster, Holyrood and Stormont. Pray for a new

generation of Christian leaders to be empowered as future leaders to serve Jesus in their careers. Pray that the Leadership Programme will provide young Christian graduates with the opportunity to experience a study programme and an internship in Parliament or with a leading NGO (non-governmental organisation). Pray that the contributions made by CARE to political issues and debates such as Assisted Dying, Free Speech and Gender Issues will be regarded with integrity and authority.