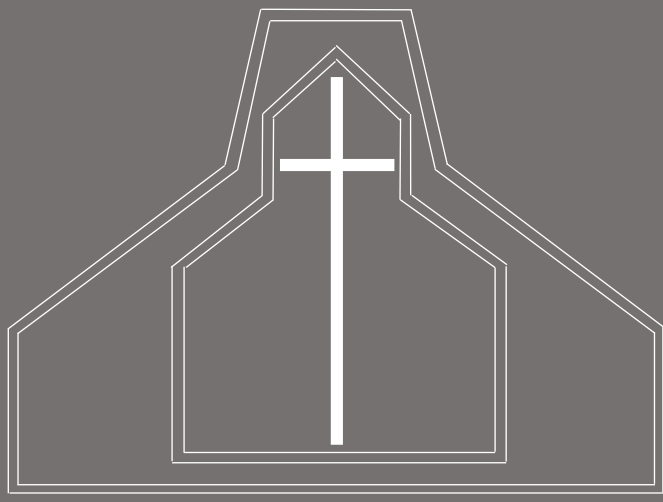


Answer me when I pray,  
O God, my defender!  
When I was in trouble,  
you helped me. Be kind  
to me now and hear my  
prayer.

Psalm 4:1



# Prayer Diary

## November 2023

St Columba's  
Hillhead  
Parish Church

### Wednesday 1

Following Jesus Group/The Friendship Club: Remember the Following Jesus Group which meets this evening at St. Columba's Hillhead, and the Friendship Club on the second and fourth Wed evenings of the month. Give thanks for the continuing development of these Groups as part of Prospects Across Scotland and for the recognition that these Groups give to valuing and supporting people with learning difficulties so that they can live their lives to the full. Praise God that this includes having a relationship with the Lord and understanding the Christian faith. Especially remember Pat Muir and her team of helpers who faithfully lead these Groups on Wed evenings in St Columba's Hillhead in the ongoing work to support people with learning difficulties in our local community and further afield.

### Thursday 2

Walk and Talk: Remember the Walk & Talk Group as it continues to enjoy meeting on Thurs 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 3

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks that the new session is well under way. Especially pray for the continued presence of the Anchor Section in the area. Give thanks for the leaflet-drop round the area and pray that it might have encouraged a desire to know more and an interest to come along and give Anchors a try. Remember all Sections and the leaders who give faithfully of their time and commitment that this will be a positive influence on the boys to regular attendance and a desire to grow in maturity. Especially pray for the need for adult helpers that there will be an interest shown and some willing responders.

### Saturday 4

Scripture Union: Many children and young people in Scotland spend hundreds of hours each year playing online games. Please pray for Andrew Stothard and the Digital Team as they look to begin gaming groups to find opportunities to introduce gamers to Jesus. Also please pray for the current job vacancies. Recruiting staff to SU house and catering teams has proved challenging. Please pray that God raises up people with a heart for these ministries. Give thanks for churches who held missions last year. Pray for Bruce Lockhart as he

works with churches, holds conversations with church leaders, and looks for missional opportunities for the future.

### Sunday 5

St. Columba's Hillhead: Pray for the ongoing life of the congregation and give thanks for the unity and fellowship shared in working together. 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. 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 6

Men's Group: Give thanks for the ongoing life of the current session of the Men's Group. Remember continuing and new members as they gather together and share fun and friendship in the enjoyment of the activities on offer. Pray that there will be a spirit of enjoyment and fellowship in the Group. Remember John Clayton as Convener and pray that he

will know the support of Group members.

### Tuesday 7

Israel and Gaza: In this complex, ongoing situation, our prayers are earnestly requested by believers. A Christian in Gaza asks: *We pray that love and peace will prevail in our country and I ask for a prayer for God's protection over my family and our home, that the war will end quickly, and that the Lord will meet all needs, especially at this time, and that we be can be the light in the middle of this total darkness and reflect the light and love of Christ in Gaza.* Christians in Israel similarly ask for peace and protection, and to be able to shine the light of Christ in an area that is so significant in Jesus's ministry on earth and in the history of our faith. Pray for an end to all violence and injustice in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Pray that the church might be a beacon of hope for the people around through their testimony in words and actions. Pray that the Lord will comfort those who have lost loved ones, or who are waiting to hear about missing family and friends. Pray also that the international community will work towards lasting peace in the Holy Land.

(from Open Doors UK)

### Wednesday 8

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 9

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 10

Little Fishes & Busy Bees: Give thanks for the good number of children and their carers who attend each week and for the steadfastness of the leaders as they prepare each week to make the environment safe and inviting for those attending on a Wednesday/ Friday

mornings. Pray for numbers to be maintained and increased and for a spirit of joy and peace in the time of sharing together. Pray that those who attend may be touched by the spirit of the Lord working in and through the leaders. Remember the leaders who faithfully week by week having to prepare for the meetings and for the work which this regularly involves setting up and tidying away. Pray for wisdom and support for the leaders as they seek to plan and direct the progress of the Groups and build meaningful relationships with the children and carers.

### Saturday 11

Armistice/Remembrance Day: Give thanks for the freedom we have which was won at a price of many lives lost during wartime conflicts. Pray for an end to division and strife in today's world and in relationships with a desire for dialogue and understanding of each other without violence or abuse. Pray for all those affected by conflict and loss of loved ones that they may know quietness and peace as their strength. And remember the words of Jesus today (John 14: 27) Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Pray that hearts today may acknowledge this the greatest peace of all- the peace of Christ taking residence in hearts and lives given over to Jesus.

## Sunday 12

Remembrance Sunday:  
Pray for the Remembrance Service in St Columba's Hillhead and other local churches in our area this morning meeting in Remembrance worship. Pray for all Church services being held today that will reflect the solemn remembrance of those who died during two world wars and other conflicts. Pray for peace amidst the divisions and strife within the world today. Remember Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Syria, Myanmar, countries in Africa where conflict and struggle within these lands is causing oppression and loss of life today. Pray that the God of all peace and comfort will be especially near to all who are under oppression and that many will find Him to be their hope and salvation as He makes Himself known through His Word being proclaimed today.

## Monday 13

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 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.

## Tuesday 14

The Guild: Remember the Guild which has its fortnightly meeting today. Give thanks for the fellowship, support and encouragement shared among the Guild members. Pray that worship, fellowship and service as the Guild's aims are deepened through the life and witness of The Guild in St Columba's Hillhead. Pray for The Guild project for this year, Beat, which St Columba's Hillhead Guild is supporting. Pray for Charlotte Muir, today's speaker from Beat, as she shares about their work to end the pain and suffering caused by eating disorders

and the impact on mental health. Pray for their work to help people in these circumstances get the treatment they need.

## Wednesday 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 in despair. 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 be filled with patience, love, hope and healing. Remember those who answer telephone calls for help through different agencies that they will respond with grace and wisdom in difficult circumstances.

## Thursday 16

National and Local Government: Lift up all those in positions of authority across the United Kingdom across the political spectrum in a time of division and discontent. Uphold our Prime Minister and First Minister of Scotland and their members of Government

that they may 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. Remember the Government's negotiations with public service workers. Pray that frustrations around pay and working conditions can be resolved satisfactorily. Especially lift up Christians in politics. Pray that they will be able to live out their faith in their work and influence Government for good. Ask the Lord to give strength when times are difficult and pressure is upon them because of their faith.

#### Friday 17

The Suffering Church: Continue to pray for the work of Open Doors, Christian Solidarity Worldwide and The Barnabas Trust as they steadfastly work to support Christians and their families who face persecution across the world, training leaders to raising awareness about global persecution. Every day 14 Nigerians are killed for following Jesus. Persecution is getting worse and spreading across the region. Christians like Ming in China face increasing digital surveillance and restrictions. Pakistan's Christians are suffering violent attacks. Believers ask for prayer as thousands flee conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. Give thanks that God is using Open Doors

local partners to help Christians in Jaranwala, Pakistan, who have been affected by the recent violent attacks. Pray for believers facing escalation digital surveillance and persecution to remain strong in their faith, and find ways of gathering despite oppression.

#### Saturday 18

The Lodging House Mission (LHM): Give thanks for the recent Harvest Offering and Gifts given by St Columba's Hillhead and pray that these donations will be a blessing to the work of LHM. Pray for the day to day life, work and mission of the LHM in its varied 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 many 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, especially in these colder, darker months of the year. Remember also the Christian Aid Advent Café today in St Mary's that there will be good support for the work of Christian Aid and its

various projects across the world to support those in need.

#### Sunday 19

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 people's 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 20

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF): Praise God that MAF partner CURE continues to enable disabled children in remote Kenya to receive the operations they need. Members of CURE are playing their part in promoting awareness of the inequality brought about by disability. Pray for



peace and understanding in isolated communities as villagers begin to notice those who are often overlooked, and seek to address their needs. Pray for the team of Congolese pastors who are reaching a previously unreached people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with MAF's assistance. Pray that any contact made will be in the Lord's timing, and will result in peace rather than conflict. Ask God to bless these pastors as they bring the knowledge and love of Jesus to this precious people.

### Tuesday 21

Children and Family Worker: Give thanks that Cassie Carlsen has now started as our Children and Family Worker at St Columba's Hillhead Church. Pray that Cassie might quickly feel settled and at home amongst us. Pray too that God would lead us and her as we seek to make best use of this new role.

### Wednesday 22

The Bible Society, Kenya: Although Christian Religious Education is taught in schools in Kenya, many schools do not have Bibles. Most children come from families who are surviving on \$1 per day – far too little to afford a Bible. 12 year old Nancy wanted to read the Bible for herself but had to wait to borrow one from someone else. The Bible Society of Kenya has managed to give thousands of Bibles to

disadvantaged schoolchildren each year. Now Nancy doesn't need to wait to borrow a Bible: "I keep the Bible in my schoolbag and talk to my parents about what we read. I like reading the Bible before I go to sleep." Please pray that more Bibles will be available so that the children and youth will be reached with the Scriptures. Pray too for positive transformation for the children and their families through the Word of God.

### Thursday 23

Jo Crotty: Give thanks for Jo's joy in her participation in 2 Bible Workshops with local people from Papua New Guinea (PNG) and seeing God at work in these communities and her gratitude in being able to be a small part of the work. Jo is currently in Australia, visiting her oldest brother who was diagnosed with MND earlier this year. Jo's brother has 4 children aged 17 to 25. Jo asks that we pray for him and his immediate family as they adjust to and navigate the changes and for the wider family as they process the situation.

### Friday 24

The Leprosy Mission: For many young people in India, leprosy stops their dreams in their tracks. It stops them from achieving their potential. For young people like Nagajothi there is no plan for the future. When she was diagnosed with leprosy at age 14 people are

so afraid of the disease that leprosy sufferers like Nagajothi are prevented from studying and thrown out of school. Companies are afraid that their businesses will be cursed. Give thanks that Nagajothi and others like her can build a future with training provided at a Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centre. Give thanks that employers are educated about leprosy and graduate jobs will be created, giving students a stepping stone into employment and helping them out of poverty. Pray that these Vocational Training Centres will be adequately resourced to meet these needs and that people will be moved to provide financial support to fund them.

### Saturday 25

Warm Welcome: Give thanks that the Warm Welcome opportunity at Hillhead is being used to support people and provide Food Bank service. Especially praise God for the extension of this service during the Oct. School Week when soup and sandwich lunches were on offer to people and children, in partnership with Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. Pray that this opportunity may have had a positive impact in the lives of those who attended.

### Sunday 26

Sunday Club & Bible Class: 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 Bible Class as they meet - the group is often small - pray that even with small numbers discussion would be good and relevant to all. Remember the leaders in their commitment of service that they would know wisdom and honour the Lord in their preparation and leadership. Remember Noah's Ark as it meets today and pray that the families who are coming along will increase friendships and may have a deepening interest and further desire to come along. Pray for the leaders as they share the Good News about Jesus in an age-and-stage appropriate way. Pray that when those who have been at Noah's Ark on a Sunday morning come up to the Large Hall for refreshments, they may feel welcomed and very much at one with those of us coming through to the Large Hall from the church building. Remember the Evening Service at Hillhead tonight, especially as thought is being prayerfully given as how best to make use of the building as a place of worship.

### Monday 27

Tearfund: Around 80% of people in Burkina Faso rely on farming and income. But the climate crisis and ongoing conflict are making it harder to grow and harvest crops. Pray for the

people of Burkina Faso, for families facing financial challenges and give thanks for Tearfund's partner ODE working to bring peace in communities and providing practical help to people who need it most. Remember families who have experienced trauma and desperation. Pray for political stability and lasting peace throughout the country, and for young people across the country that they would be able to go to school and not miss out on their education, so that people can once again lead fulfilling lives.

### Tuesday 28

Prison Fellowship Scotland (PFS): Give thanks for the long-standing working partnership with the Scottish Prison Service. Volunteers wishing to work with Prison Chaplaincy are re-directed to PFS due to the quality of their volunteer processes and training. Give thanks also for the persistent demand for PFS's work in restorative justice, specifically in their 6week 'Sycamore Tree' course which helps offenders look at the consequences of their crimes as this is developed through an increasing number of Scottish prisons. Pray especially for children affected by imprisonment and 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. Also remember the Songs of Praise in Harestanes Baptist Church this evening that the Lord will be greatly praised and the fellowship of His people deepened.

### Wednesday 29

Advent & Christmas Preparation: Remember the various special services and events over the Advent and Christmas period. Pray that we might have opportunity to invite folks to these events who would not usually come to church and that God would prepare their hearts to respond positively to this. Especially remember the 'Out of the Box' team as they rehearse for their Christmas Musical Mary & Joseph and Donkey called Hank taking place on St Columba's at 6.30pm on Thurs. 14th December. Give thanks for the Operation Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, for the interest shown and boxes received. Pray for their ongoing transmission to their eventual destinations and for the children receiving them that they will know that God loves and cares for them through the delivery of shoeboxes to them.

### Thursday 30

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. Give thanks for churches in Ukraine that amidst the hardships and challenges they face, continue to hold out the hope there is in Jesus and be able to offer practical help where it is needed.

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