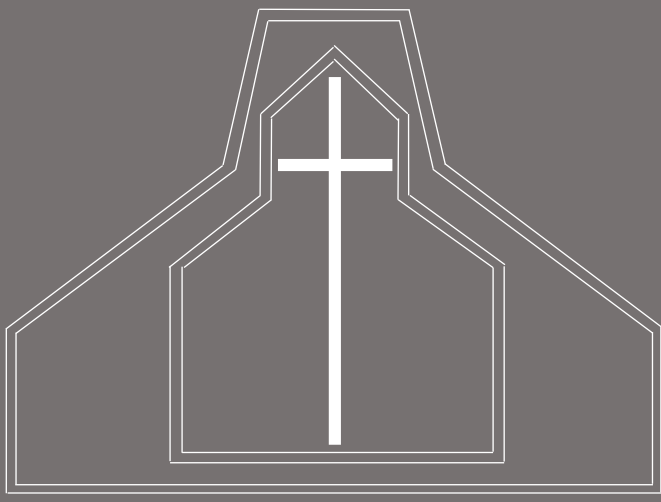


Prayer Diary November 2024

Pray that the Lord your
God will tell us where we
should go and what we
should do.

Jeremiah 42:3



St Columba's
Hillhead
Parish Church

Friday 1

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 for 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.

Saturday 2

The Leprosy Mission. Chris Stratta in his recent visit to St Columba's Hillhead referred to the catastrophic floods which have killed many in Nepal, with countless more missing. He mentioned that Anandaban Hospital had been badly affected by the landslides. The impact on the hospital is worse than the 2015 earthquake. We have been aware that a new updated Research Centre was to be built on the site. Give thanks that people are responding to this emergency and for the Disaster Relief Fund which is being established. Pray for everyone at Anandaban that they will be encouraged by the love and support of people standing with them and that the

caring compassionate support for leprosy sufferers will not be hindered.

Sunday 3

St Columba's Hillhead. Pray that as we gather together today in worship that the Lord will be truly honoured and delighted with the praise of the Congregation. Pray that we may focus fully on Him and be challenged in our life and service for Him. Remember those who cannot be present in person for one reason or another, for those who connect on-line, that they may sense that they are in fellowship with the Lord's people. Pray for the ongoing up-building of the congregation of St Columba's Hillhead in faith and worship, fellowship and service. Give thanks for the willingness to make this happen and pray that we would continue to further this.

Monday 4

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 new Chairman and new Secretary Ian Gibb as they coordinate the week to week activity. Pray that there will be a regular good attendance and those who come will know the warm welcome and friendship offered as a helpful support

through the longer darker nights of autumn and winter.

Tuesday 5

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.

Wednesday 6

Midweek Fellowship. Give thanks for the opportunity to worship God and share fellowship together, in a slightly less formal manner than Sunday worship. Give thanks especially for this time of worship and fellowship for those who may not be able to attend Church on Sundays. Pray that God might continue to bless the ministry of the Midweek Service and give

thanks for the love and encouragement which those who attend find together with each other as they worship God. Remember Philip as he prepares for leading the worship that the Lord will clearly encourage him to speak His message with love and boldness.

Thursday 7

Walk & Talk. Give thanks for those who share together in Walk and Talk on Thursday afternoons. Give thanks for the opportunity to share gentle exercise with the importance of sharing mutual interest in, and concern for, each other in the sharing of lives. Remember and give thanks for Trevor Patterson as he plans and leads each walk so that folks may enjoy the opportunity and the beauty of God's Creation.

Friday 8

The Boys' Brigade. Give thanks for the life and service of the 1st Kirkintilloch BB Company and the weekly meetings of the individual sections. Pray that in each age-group the boys and leaders will delight in their attendance and activities. Pray that there will be a renewed energy for the current session now underway and an excitement and keenness in working towards the attainment of the awards. Especially pray that what is learned in the life of the BB might equip and prepare

the boys for adult life. Give thanks for the leaders and their commitment and pray for them in their preparation and communication for the boys' encouragement and interest.

Saturday 9

Luwero Christian Ministries, Uganda. Give thanks for the work and ministry which is led by Gabriel Kijjambu and for the many people who have come to Christ through this ministry. Especially pray earnestly for Gabriel's 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 steadily improve. 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 - will continue while Gabriel recovers and that the many students and workers will continue to grow in grace and stature for the Lord.

Sunday 10

Armistice/Remembrance Sunday. 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: *Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.* John 14: 27 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.

Monday 11

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF Uganda is offering a unique experience for primary-aged children from its base in Kajjansi. By providing opportunities for children to engage with MAF's aircraft, MAF hopes to inspire and encourage them to achieve their dreams as well as address the need for more pilots in the expected growth of the aviation industry. Please pray:

1. That the children attending these workshops will be encouraged to pursue a career in aviation.
2. That the vacancies for professionals across MAF's programmes in engineering, finance, maintenance and human resources will be met.
3. For MAF to discover new and innovative ways to

inspire people to join MAF so the increasing demands for their humanitarian flights can be met.

Tuesday 12

The Guild. Give thanks for the regular commitment of the members of The Guild to join together in worship, fellowship and service and for the Guild theme for this Session, Sure Foundations, with Jesus as the Sure Foundation on which we, the Church, stand. Give thanks for the current adopted Projects which the Guild supports and pray that they may be a great blessing to many. Remember Rev. Ruth Morrison from St Mary's Church, Kirkintilloch, who is the speaker for today's meeting that she will be used by the Lord to be an encouragement to the Guild.

Wednesday 13

Following Jesus Group/Friendship Club. Give thanks for these invaluable groups which seek to help adults/children and young people with a learning difficulty to come to know Jesus as they meet on Wed. evenings. Remember all those who come along and pray especially for Pat Muir and her team of helpers as they share friendship and fellowship with those who come along. Pray that they may communicate the Gospel message with simple language and through helpful activities as

well as sharing together over refreshments.

Thursday 14

Those who are Unwell, in Hospital or in Care. Remember all those who are unwell, awaiting or undergoing investigation/diagnosis/surgery/treatment. Pray that they may know peace and strength from the Lord at this time. 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 for those who need ongoing medical intervention or prolonged treatment. Pray for patience and endurance and a continued reliance on the Lord. Remember those with painful or debilitating conditions and their family/friends who support and care for them. May they know God's grace day by day.

Friday 15

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.

Saturday 16

The Lodging House Mission (TLHM). Give thanks for the recent Harvest gifts and offerings which were given to TLHM by St Columba's Hillhead and other congregations to support their work in caring for the vulnerable in our society. Pray that they will be a blessing to those who reach out to the TLHM for help and support especially in these darker, colder autumn and winter days and nights. Remember the Manager, Chaplain and staff who provide relational support and encouragement in a variety of different ways and opportunities in the daily life of the TLHM that the service-users will know Christ's presence with them.

Sunday 17

Sunday Club. Give thanks for the regular attendance by those young people who come to Church on Sundays (including some who are siblings of Noah's Ark children) 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. Pray also for discernment in knowing ways of supporting young families in coming to church.

Monday 18

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 prepares for forthcoming events/ Christmas planning. Pray for Cassie as she becomes more involved in congregational life and activity, 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.

Tuesday 19

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 plans now being made for a similar Bill to be placed

before the Westminster Parliament. 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 20

Warm Welcome. Give thanks for and continue to remember the value of Warm Welcome in the community. Praise God for the opportunity of meeting in a warm environment for all ages and for the conversations shared over tea and coffee. Remember the importance of the Kitchen Cupboard operated by foodbank staff and

volunteers. Give thanks for this valuable resource, for the groceries and other items for folks who may need them. Pray that this will be adequately stocked. Pray for extra volunteers who might be willing to help serve tea and coffee even on an occasional basis on a Wed. afternoon.

Remember also the 'Ladies Night' tonight for Little Fishes/Busy Bees Mums/Grans/Helpers as an opportunity to spend time together in a more relaxed setting. Pray for deepening relationships amongst the ladies for an enjoyable evening and also for Cassie and the leaders as they prepare and share together with those present.

Thursday 21

Christians Against Poverty. Pray for the work of Christians against Poverty operating locally. Give thanks for those who serve to help those in need. Times of financial hardship places great pressures on many people and many feel totally helpless for lack of sufficient money to meet necessities especially as the colder months of autumn and winter are upon us with less financial support for heating. Pray that they may receive support when it is needed and remember CAP volunteers as they engage with people to alleviate their financial circumstances. Give thanks for the opportunity to be

involved at the Warm Welcome in Hillhead that this may be a beneficial presence for assistance where needed.

Friday 22

Ukraine. Pray that God in His mercy would bring an end to this war. Pray that violence and oppression may soon give way to peace and justice. Pray for strength for ordinary Ukrainians who are tired and worn down by months of war. Pray for all those who bear the scars of war, whether physical or emotional. Pray for all those who are refugees in foreign lands. Give thanks that even in the darkness, many are finding hope in the light and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Saturday 23

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 24

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 25

Bethany Christian Trust (BCT). As nights draw in and temperatures drop, the need we all feel for a safe and warm home is known all the more keenly by those without. Pray for the work of BCT that it may be able to care for people who are vulnerable this winter. Pray

for their winter appeals and Caring Christmas Tree Project that these may be a blessing to those who receive the care as a result of these efforts. Pray that the work of BCT brings light to the communities they serve in Christ's Name. Remember Rev. David McAdam in his day to day work with BCT to support vulnerable individuals as they settle into new lives and homes on release from prison.

Tuesday 26

Bible Society. The Bible Society in the Gulf serves seven nations - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Yemen. The rich natural resources there have attracted many migrant workers. It is home to over 150 different nationalities and ethnic groups speaking many different languages.

Migrants make up 90% of the population in Dubai, and come from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, and Egypt. They live in difficult conditions. Low paid, they are often abused, in particular the many women domestic workers.

Hrayr Jebejain, General Secretary, testifies that The Bible Society in the Gulf works through Bible-based programmes, "to serve these people, to lift their spirits and give them hope of a better tomorrow... We

work with many agencies that meet social, financial, and medical needs and these are important. But the Bible, is the thing changing their lives. Their circumstances are not changing but the way they are looking at life changes.”

Christianity is tolerated in the Gulf but there are restrictions. Proselytising among the locals is a crime. Yet God has given the Bible Society a huge ministry among non-locals, many of whom come from different backgrounds and are accepting Jesus as Saviour.

Give thanks for this ministry of the Bible Society in the Gulf. Pray that many migrant workers might be touched by God’s Word.

Wednesday 27

Scripture Union (SU). Pray for a good take-up by churches and Mission Team Leaders for the newly-available SU Scotland Holiday Club resource, A Tale of Two Kings, which explores David’s life revealing our true King and the difference Jesus makes. Give thanks for the S1s and S2s who have been faithfully coming along to Spotlight in Edinburgh this session. Pray that the forthcoming gathering on Friday evening goes well and that they will be encouraged and strengthened in faith as they study the Bible together and fellowship with others of similar age. Pray also for the annual

budget process which is underway. Pray for wisdom for the many staff that participate in this, and that God will help SU to align decisions with their strategy as they prepare their individual budgets for the year ahead.

Thursday 28

Christian Aid. Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Pray that donations received will be used speedily and wisely around the world to help families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest. Especially remember the people of the Middle East, Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen who are in great need of humanitarian aid at this time to ease suffering, hunger and homelessness. Pray for the wider work of Christian Aid that it will increasingly be able to help people:

1. claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education
2. ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
3. become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
4. Make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

Friday 29

The Suffering Church. Give thanks that courageous believers like Pastor Barnabas continue to serve their communities in the face of violent persecution and for their resilient faith. Especially uphold 18 Christians who remain imprisoned by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) after being accused of collaborating with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). 26 believers were arrested on 11 October as they tried to leave Khartoum State for the River Nile State to seek refuge from the ongoing fighting. Since then, 8 believers have been released. Pray for the immediate release of the others especially as several appear to be unwell. Pray for God’s healing and for a peaceful end to the civil war in Sudan.

Saturday 30

Christmas Café at St Columba’s Hillhead. Remember the Christmas Café this afternoon from 2-4pm followed by the ‘Christmas Lights Switch On’ from 4-4.30pm. Pray that this may draw significant interest within the community and these and subsequent Christmas events will build strong relationships with the community and communicate the message of Christmas. Pray that people may be drawn to the true light of Christmas as they visit the church.